

Victoria Regional Women's Committee

General Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2013

Attendance: Virginia Vaillancourt, Brenda Esplen, Cindy Little, Kay Ahmadi,

Teleconference: Vanessa Miller

Virginia Vaillancourt called the meeting to order at 5.30 PM.

Introductions

Round table introductions of the members in attendance.

Review of February 7, 2013 Minutes

A review of the previous meeting minutes took place at this time. Virginia advised Vanessa that we had previously made a motion in our minutes to become a member of the "Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and we are now sending in our application and our \$75 membership fee.

Virginia said regarding the reference book "Feminism for Real", we asked the other committees if they were interested in purchasing a copy and only the Okanagan women's committee indicated that they would like a copy, therefore we will be purchasing three copies, two for our committee and for the Okanagan.

Virginia mentioned that she would find her bank statement for the nail clippers and forward it to the treasurer. These were nail clippers that were purchased for one of the transition houses as a donation from the committee.

Motion: Cindy Little made the motion to accept the previous minutes.

Seconded: Kay Ahmadi

Carried: Unanimously

Debriefing of the PSAC BC Regional Women's Conference

The conference was held on May 3rd to May 5th, 2013 at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC. The theme of the conference was "*PSAC BC Women Hold More Than Half the Sky*".

Virginia asked the other two participants of the conference what their thoughts were about it.

Kay - Found it informative, even knowing the subjects we were going to cover, it was very depressing and felt upset all during the presentations. We did not get a chance to talk about how we were going to improve the situation of what is happening to aboriginal women. She also found the presentation on the \$10 Childcare was not as detailed as the one we had in our regional office.

Vanessa - Felt it was very good and powerful to see all the presentations but we did not get a chance to dive deeper into them. There was a lot of information to take back to our regions. Vanessa mentioned she attended the leadership workshop and found it very interesting-what makes a leader and how we can improve as a person and foster the movement in our area/region.

Virginia mentioned the organizing committee had not had a chance to debrief yet, they were planning to meet some time in the following week.

Virginia felt the workshops were too short; people were being rushed or cut off while they were talking. She attended the "Supporting our Sisters" workshop and the stories that we read were so powerful that some members had to hold back tears while reviewing the stories we went through and there was no opportunity to debrief after the session. The workshop was 1.5 hours long, by the time the actual introductions were done there was very little time to read through the material/stories that we were given and report back to the group.

The conference was quick pace, good job with some of the speakers, it went well and members enjoyed most part of it but they too found some of the topics depressing and heavy.

One of the presenters was Tina House - a self trained video journalist, who showed a film regarding the murder of a young girl and how the police did not do anything or file the report in time. It turned out the young girl was Tina's cousin and now there is a RCMP enquiry about the case. An interesting development was that one of the members attending the conference found out she was related to Tina (cousin). After Tina's presentation a lot of the people in the room and couple of the organizing members were in tears. It was hard and Virginia did not know if there was a better way to set up a debriefing. The plan was to have safe rooms where members could go to over the weekend and talk to a harassment coordinator but unfortunately it was only available one day. PSAC will review the evaluation sheets and forward their findings to the organizing committee.

Cindy asked if after the presentations if we had anything to turn the situation into a positive one. Virginia said no, due to the workshops being so short.

Donation to the Pride Parade

Virginia mentioned the Victoria Island Human Rights Committee (VIHRC) is currently working organizing an event for the July 7th Pride parade. The members of that committee will be sent an email in the next four days to vote on swag/beads/etc. they need to purchase for the parade.

Virginia indicated two years ago the beads were ordered off shore but she has found a Canadian company that can supply them and she also recommended the committee gets some buttons. There is a company in Nova Scotia that provides work opportunity for adults with learning/mental disability and it would be a good organization for us to support.

The VIHRC has not done a official donation request but we understand the Victoria Area Council had made a \$200 donation to VIHRC to help with the parade costs. The registration fee is being covered through the REVP office by National PSAC and VIHRC is looking to see if the auto workers would rent a bus and provide a driver, if not it will be a walking event.

Virginia advised the committee our donation limit for the year is \$200 and was wondering if we should also make a donation as VIHRC supports our events.

Motion: Cindy Little made the motion to donate up to \$100.

Seconded: Vanessa Miller

Carried: Unanimously

2013 PSAC National Equity Conferences

Virginia advised the members the theme of this year's conferences is "Equity groups are all affected".

There will be five conferences in one:

1. Racially visible members - "Together : Our strength is in our differences".
2. Members with disabilities - "100% participation - it's everyone's right"
3. Pride - "Pride history in the making"
4. Women - "Telling our stories"
5. Aboriginal people - "Indigenous sustainability for all"

The application was on the PSAC national website, the registration dead line was June 7, 2013 @ 4pm eastern standard time and the date to submit resolutions was June 7, 2013

too. The conference will be held in Toronto from November 18 to 22 and interpretation will be provided in English, French and Inuktitut.

Delegates will be eligible to participate in all workshops and vote on resolutions. PSAC members in good standing may apply to be a delegate to these conferences. Priority will be given to those union activists who are leaders and activists on human rights issues. The selection of delegates will also take into account representation (Region, Component, language, gender, youth and other equity group representation). Delegates will be selected by their respective Regions and Components. Delegate costs to the conferences will be fully covered as per the 2003 PSAC Triennial Convention decision and the PSAC Travel Directive.

PSAC members in good standing may also attend the conferences as observers; however, observers will be responsible for all costs associated with their participation.

Virginia mentioned as our next meeting was not until June 13, 2013, if the members wanted to work on some resolutions by the end of May 2013 and do a quick email vote so we can submit them for the conference. The Resolutions should be aimed at strengthening and improving the Union's work and at advancing PSAC objectives.

Resolutions will be discussed, debated and voted on at the Resolutions Sessions for each equity group and subsequently submitted to the appropriate bodies including the next PSAC National Triennial Convention in 2015.

1. The traditional resolutions process will be utilized for the 2013 PSAC National Equity conferences (i.e. resolutions committee, debate at the conferences).
2. All PSAC constitutionally recognized bodies will be entitled to forward resolutions to the 2013 PSAC National Equity conferences.
3. A maximum of five (5) resolutions per body and per regional women's conference (for the National Women's Conference) will be accepted.

Virginia advised the members that at the most recent women's conference there were eight resolutions, the top five should be submitted and maybe other women's committee can submit the remaining three.

At our last meeting we talked about submitting a resolution to make "Family Day" a nation holiday so everyone can spend the day with their family. It seems this resolution does not meet the guidelines for this conference, therefore we need to submit it to the triennial conference. Virginia will email members to see if they have any equity issues that they would like to put forward.

Delegates at the 2013 National Equity Conferences will elect two members (one man and one woman and two women from the Women's Conference) as delegates to the PSAC Triennial Convention as well as one Alternate to these positions. Nominations for these

positions may be accepted from PSAC members (in good standing) who identify from the respective equity group and who are unable to attend the Conferences.

Faceless Doll Project

Virginia advised the members that at the BC Regional Women's Conference in the hospitality suite, some participants got together and made eight faceless dolls. The pictures of those dolls will be forwarded to "NWAC". One thing our committee can do is to make as many dolls as we can to utilize in an October event to remember the missing and murdered aboriginal women and have a small vigil for them. Virginia mentioned a member in Vancouver advised her if we have a vigil, she would like to attend it. Virginia will check with the aboriginal centers here to see if a vigil will be set up that we can join. If there is none, we can do a small one ourselves as it is important to do it following what we learned and the information we heard at the women's conference. The police have 582 aboriginal women missing or murdered registered but according to their families it is over 2200 across Canada.

Virginia wanted to know if the members wanted to make some of the faceless dolls at an upcoming meeting and if we wanted to purchase the supplies remaining from the conference at the cost of \$84.59.

A motion was put forward that \$84.59 to be reimbursed for craft supplies for the faceless doll project to be utilized at a future date by our committee.

Seconded: Vanessa Miller

Carried: Unanimously

National Elisabeth Fry Society and Mental Health Week

Virginia mentioned that she had sent an email to members regarding this - homeless women and girls are often caught up in abuse, trauma, poverty, mental health and crime without access to a safe home that they can afford, that is why "Homes for Women" supports National Elisabeth Fry Society week and Mental Health week which runs from May 6- 12, 2013. We need to join in and send our member of parliament a E-postcard from Homesforwomen.ca asking them to pledge to end homelessness of women and girls in Canada.

Round Table

Kay mentioned there was a request for a \$25 donation for "Shannon's Dream - aboriginal school at the women's conference. Virginia stated we will table this until next meeting as she needs to some research on the resolution that was passed at the 2012 triennial convention.

Virginia advised the members that she is still trying to see if we can get the co-ordinator of the Victoria transition house to come to one of our meetings and is still looking at the "diva night" at the ceramic place for the women's committee but unfortunately the owner recently lost her husband and is in the process of opening a second store in Sidney.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.30 P.M.