

VICTORIA AREA COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 23, 2022, 6PM

Attendees:

Ernest Hooker- Vice President- UCTE 20220

Ian Wiggs - Treasurer - UNDE 21008

Leanne Hughes -Note Taker- CIU 20042

Marcelo Lazaro- UNDE 21016

Emily Craddock- CEIU 20975

Charles Walker- DCL 20500

Lindsay Harkness- UNE 70404

Jessica ? - UNE 70404 ?

Chris Dahl- UTE 20028

Dennis Oliphant- UNDE 21008

James Little PSACBC Rep

Regrets:

Patricia (Trish) Martin -President - CEIU 20975

James McAllister- UNDE 21008

Kristina MacLean- UNDE 21008

Joe Walsh -GSU 20001

Minutes of the meeting:

Ernest Hooker as the Vice President of the Victoria Area Council will chair the meeting tonight as Trish Martin sent her regrets.

Ernest welcomed the newcomers to this meeting of the Victoria Area Council.

Ernest mentioned the boardroom at the PSACBC Victoria office is where we would normally hold our meetings there pre -covid

It can be booked for other union events through Rosemary at the office and he introduced Ian as the treasurer.

Ernest welcomed everyone and said it's a great place to get involved and participate if you wanted to, there is lots to do.

Ian has been active for 16 to 18 years in the union and he always finds something new to learn every day.

James Little gave an update on the boardroom and the PSACBC office that James, Rosemary and Megan are currently working in or from, that they were trying to have a hybrid meeting tonight but that is hard with the technological challenges if some are in the office, and some are on zoom or are calling in.

There were difficulties when the office changed over to voice over internet for the phone, so the conference phone was unavailable for tonight's meeting but luckily this meeting was all on zoom.

There are safety protocols in the office that must be observed and adhered to.

You must make an appointment to meet somebody there from PSACBC there and to do that you can reach out to Rosemary and request those appointments be booked.

Ernest asked about the vaccine mandate being observed in the office in the regional office and James confirmed that PSAC is doing everything it can to protect the members and staff while at in person meetings they're checking the protocols for capacity limits and whether food can be brought in etc.

These details will be hammered out and hopefully soon it will get back to normal.

Ernest asked for a mover and a seconder to move the minutes from the AGM in February

Mover Charles Walker Seconder Dennis Oliphant no objections, so motion passed

Ernest called for a mover and a seconder for the May minutes

Mover Emily Craddock, Seconder Dennis Oliphant

Ernest called for any corrections Leanne pointed out that the adjournment time for the main meeting will need to be notated

There were no objections, so those minutes passed

Ian as treasurer gave a brief verbal report stating there would be no report as the amount of money in the bank remains the same as it was at the last meeting in May and that amount is \$4683.75.

Saanich Fair:

Ian gave a brief overview and confirmed the booth was booked for September 3-5, 2022

Setup taking place on the 2nd and take down not before 6:00 PM on Monday the 5th.

There will be 9 bracelets available for the volunteers and we can get more if necessary

We always provide \$20 for the volunteers for lunch

The Saanich Fair is a good way for us, as public servants to inform the public, what we do every day for Canada

We usually ask for four hour shifts from the volunteers, and we are usually given a reasonable location.

The fair includes crafts, animals, agriculture and a carnival or midway and music.

James stated it will be our first appearance since COVID and all the political parties have a booth there to talk to their constituents.

The bracelets that we provide to the volunteers let them take part in the fair before or after their volunteer shift

PSAC provides swag and literature to be handed out and would include information on issues like the Thirsty for Justice campaign.

The area council is the political action arm of the PSAC.

You can join your family and friends after you shift and explore the fair.

Marcelo spoke of the previous rental of a popcorn machine and that it was a huge success with fair goers and children.

It is a good place and opportunity to speak with your elected officials.

Marcelo has made plans for that weekend already or else he would be there and sends his regrets.

September will be interesting as the tables are in bargaining.

Members worked throughout the pandemic and inflation rates have increased dramatically, and members deserve compensation for the work that we do.

Marcelo provided a bargaining update from the common issues and SV table, and that treasury board had offered an average of 1.75% over 4 years.

They are waiting to see if the board will go ahead with the Public Interest Commission (PIC).

They will be trying mediation between some of the meetings

Treasury board came to the tables with concessions these were a high priority for them and gave the tables the feeling they could be going on strike in the fall.

Marcelo said you have to fight for your rights and members need to know that, and no one else is going to do it for you.

To motivate members may have to show them what Treasury Board wants to take away. Have to fight to keep our rights and gains that we have made in our collective agreements.

One example they want to have discipline stay on your file, for any time you are on leave without pay which could extend the time the discipline is supposed to stay on file (2 years) by months or years.

SV table got a market adjustment done at the beginning of the year, and it was between 14-27%, they have presented it to Treasury Board, who have done nothing with it.

The faces of treasury board around the bargaining table have changed quite frequently.

Marcelo suggested that members visit the PSAC bargaining page or sign up for updates.

[Bargaining | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](https://psacunion.ca)

Next on the agenda was the snack and chat:

Ernest relayed that specific coffee shops had not yet been chosen and if you know of a good local, non-chain coffee shop to recommend for these informal get togethers send an email to Rosemary McKenzie at the PSACBC regional office and she can forward out to the area council executive to let them decide where and when to meet.

Charles added that now coming through covid these meet ups are a good way of connecting with members who might not want to commit to attending a more formal union meeting. It is a good way to engage with the members and a good opportunity for everyone.

James added that social events were successful in Vancouver and included get togethers after work on a Thursday.

Leanne provided an FB update as a member of the previous bargaining team. The team met to exchange demands with Treasury board at the end of April and the latest information was on the PSAC FB bargaining page.

Round table:

Marcelo alluded that Treasury board might be visiting and there was some thought of having a welcoming committee for this event. Stay tuned for more information. Good way to practice engagement and to mobilize the members.

Leanne said the Customs Immigration Union President will be visiting the island at the beginning of July and it is always a good opportunity to bring out some swag and bargaining information to display in the sites as you are visiting as this gets reported back to Treasury Board.

Jessica- said she was glad to attend this meeting and had lots of research to do.

Ian talked about the dropping of the vaccine mandate and how those people are slowly returning to the workplace, Ernest mentioned some people had been let go over it but were engaged in the grievance process over it.

Next meeting scheduled for August 11, 2022, to finalize plans for the Saanich Fair, volunteers can reach out to the VAC -Victoria Area Council executives or Rosemary at the PSACBC Victoria office if they are interested in volunteering.

Motion to adjourn, no objections, meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

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