

Southern Vancouver Island Area Council

Meeting March 16, 2023

Attendees:

Trish Martin – President, CEIU 20975

Ernest Hooker Vice President, UCTE 20220

Ian Wiggs Treasurer, UNDE 21008

Leanne Hughes Scribe, CIU 20042

James McAllister UNDE 21008

John Davies DCL 20500

Denis St-Onge UNE 20280

Angel George- guest PSAC BC Administrative Assistant

James Little PSAC BC Staff Rep

Meeting start: 6:11 pm

Trish Martin called for a motion to accept the agenda.

mover Ernest Hooker

seconded James McAllister

any opposed - No

motion passed.

Trish Martin asked for a motion to accept the January 2023 minutes.

Ian Wiggs moved.

Leanne Hughes seconded.

any opposed- no,

motion passed.

Ian Wiggs provided a brief verbal financial report that there was \$3735.23 in the bank.

Discussion around Saanich Fair, should we book it now, sort out volunteers later, buy a couple more wrist bands, note we pay for volunteers' lunch, Saanich fair a 10 by 10 spot it's approximately \$800 for the three days Saturday, Sunday, Monday till 6:00 PM

Good way to inform the public what public service does and what PSAC is and what we do as workers in the federal government from border services, Coast Guard, DND rocky point, looking for more than six volunteers this year, because that last year was tough on the volunteers hoping to get a couple more to help out for four hours ,hopefully we'll have better communication for the volunteers created a new contact list with all the presidents and secretaries of each local to help push out any messaging so we can get the word out to the president's and the secretaries of the locals to get volunteers to help us at the Saanich fair

Discussion around emails how to better get people to subscribe and learn and engage on what PSACBC does.

Trish Martin discussed the nominations for PSACBC regional awards.

Would like this council to nominate someone under each of the categories every year so for next meeting or at future meetings, I think it's really important, I feel like our volunteers get little recognition for all the work they do, and it keeps them engaged in doing stuff to get recognized by the region. At the convention there is supposed to be a recognition of the people receiving awards during the BC triennial convention in May. Trish Martin reiterated she would be bringing it up in future meetings for the area council to submit names for nominations.

A description of the awards was then given.

#### THE FOUR YEARLY AWARDS

**Emerging Activist Award:** Awarded to a member of the BC Region who has proven themselves as a future leader of our union. Someone who has recently gotten more involved with our union and is taking on positions, learning more about our union and their collective agreement and is dedicating their time to justice for workers. This person should be a PSAC member in good standing and a member who works and lives in the BC Region.

**Community Champion Award:** Awarded to a member of the BC Region who is active and involved in their community. Someone who participates in community events, dedicates time to volunteer work, and works towards making their community a better place for everyone. This person should be a PSAC member in good standing and a member who works and lives in the BC Region.

**Mobilizing Mentor Award:** Awarded to a member of the BC Region who is active and involved and makes room for others to grow. This person has a kind heart and recognizes the value of mentorship and invests time into others' success. This is for a person who leads by example, fosters positive energy and promotes positive change. This is a member who dedicates a portion of their time to teaching others and leading by example, encourage others by passing on their knowledge and experience, and is inclusive and makes an effort towards succession planning. The recipient should be a PSAC member in good standing who works and lives in the BC Region.

**Union Warrior Award:** Awarded to a member of the BC Region who takes on tough challenges or situations in the workplace without hesitation. Someone who consistently follows through with responsibilities and helps educate members on their collective

agreement and rights. Someone involved in bargaining or organizing in their workplace or dedicated to making their local and workplace a better place. A member who makes a difference. This person should be a PSAC member in good standing and a member who works and lives in the BC Region.

The four awards are on the PSACBC website.

<https://psacbc.com/nominate-deserving-psac-member-psac-bc-regional-recognition-award/#:~:text=The%20PSAC%20BC%20Recognition%20Awards,and%20mentors%20for%20our%20members>

Trish Martin followed up.

You can nominate them from the website or your local can nominate or the area council can. I would like our area council to nominate three people. Last year John, Curtis, Nancy Sermons all got awards for their work on getting their members out to vote and unionize the work site in the middle of a snowstorm. I want to ensure we're utilizing the awards and I was on the dash committee that created these awards for the local membership so it's nice to see them being utilized and it's nice to see the members appreciate being appreciated for the work they do.

The first snack and chat is this Saturday and I'm organizing it at the coffee shop across the street here, Kinder Cup from 10 until noon and anybody can bring any calendars, swag for their locals and we're handing them out to the members when they show up. We are going to ensure we have PSAC information to hand out and chat with people and we will have everybody signed in and we will give them two tickets so one will be for a beverage of their choice and one will be for a food item and we have set up a \$10 to start for coffee and a muffin it was super great last weekend for my local and the staff were fabulous there, they looked after everybody super well and it went really quick. The proprietor said she will do some extra baking and stuff on Friday night as she stays late and will make an extra batch just so she's sure she has enough treats for all the people which is super nice, and they are great to work with and I look forward to working with them again.

Hoping to arrange the next couple in May and July and hoping Patrick will be able to get the information on Facebook and on the website for us. Hoping to have one to coincide with the June 3rd training that James Little will be putting on.

We generally bow out of the Labor Day picnic which is generally held in downtown Victoria limited amount of people go there the last couple times they were there and it was just no real impact for us, that being said, we do have additional flags and stuff if anybody wants to go there and represent the area council let me know you are welcome to it, more than willing to help you set up but this area council does not go and support that picnic as we find we get a better return for our investment at the Saanich fair where we can talk to approximately 4000 people or more over of the weekend. We are looking for swag from the locals that we can give out at the Saanich Fair as well as any information you have on your components, we'll get Patrick to do up some speaking notes so if there's anything you want included, please reach out far in advance as possible and we've already started a box of swag thanks to Angela.

Hoping to get the owl in to the RO regional office so that we can do hybrid meetings it works very well they have at the Vancouver office, and it has a screen so we can see who's speaking.

Round table is next and to start the round table Denis, welcome back.

Denis St-Onge I was part of another local and we just had our AGM last night and the UNE local for the gulf islands has just been reactivated and we have a full executive that they had been without since 2016, the other part is the folks from Fort Rodd hill that I was in , there's a component on the mainland but now separated so it has about 60 folks, six new executive.

Ian Wiggs- Harbour Master in Esquimalt, same problems.

James Little - some education courses we're working on right now looking at getting some tub courses wanting to get some basic courses done. ABC' of UMC's, Tub courses and CA basics.

Ernest Hooker – staff are begrudgingly returning to the office; most don't want to.

Trish Martin they're letting the processors have an extra year at home but they're sending some people back to the office so they can collaborate with their co-workers on MS. teams all across Canada instead of from home on MS teams. Now our NHQ staff is reporting to offices in Victoria, and they've changed the baffles, so they are low, so it'll be interesting to see the hearing affects and interference with the lowered baffles.

Discussion on how and why employers do this, saving the downtowns of the cities etc.

Leanne Hughes- on March 8th I was in Vancouver we had union management meeting and after the meeting on International Women's Day we did a demonstration at the Douglas border crossing against the CBSA, my employer, shame on them, are going after all the part time agreements in the region right now and it's just disproportionately affecting women so we had a big demo and got some media coverage so that was good. On the return to work most of my FB members have been at the office all throughout COVID, there are still a few employees working from home and I think it will be interesting is some people have relocated during COVID and one of them is reporting to a mainland office so they're curious how they will have to commute from the island to mainland for the hybrid work, two days a week.

Ian Wiggs- believes he has a similar case and there's a bit of fighting going on about where they're going to work and how they are going to work.

Trish asked for a motion on the amount of money for a basket for the raffle at the upcoming PSACBC convention.

John Davies moved a motion of up to \$200 dollars for the basket for donations

Seconded by James McAllister,

Any opposed – No

Motion passed.

John Davies , we have a new CEO for the Commissionaires. At our AGM we recognized a 95-year-old commissionaire who had 37 years with the military and 43 years as a commissionaire

Angela George- should be in the new building in July.

Motion to adjourn.

Moved by James McAllister

Seconded by John Davies

None opposed.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 1918 hours.