

Okanagan Area Council

March 4th, 2025

Attended: Jeanne Olineck - Chair (CEIU 20914), Kelly Megyesi (CEIU 20972), Brigitte Willman (USJE 20069), Nadia Sokal (AGR 20043), Ashley-Rae Snape (UTE 20026), Ajay Athwal (UTE 20026).

Guests: Jamey Mills – REVP BC Staff: Varinder Johal

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement – Jeanne Olineck



Agenda – accepted as presented **m/BW, s/NS** – all in favour

Previous minutes

Both AGM and last minutes presented (previously passed). Motion not required to move AGM minutes until next AGM.

Treasurer report – Very little activity on the account. There have only been monthly service charges that will be reversed at the end of the year. Kelly has started the process for the change in signing authorities and to move to more electronic services. This is a difficult process with Interior Savings. Options to be explored next year. The \$100 change of signing authorities was waived by branch manager. **m/KM, s/BW** – all in favour

REVP report- Jamey thanked the council for the invitation to attend and would have liked to join our AGM but was on a flight at that time. A discouraging report on issues facing our union and our country.

- Phoenix even after 9 years is still a problem with some members receiving 0 pay
- Trade Wars – impact on economy and our members
- BC Budget – very lucky in BC to have a progressive government who believe in labour and public services.
- Overview of work being done nationally and regionally
- The importance of political activism with upcoming elections. Great Q&A with council.
- Campaigns – FOR YOU CANADA, launched last week
- Bargaining Update – Jamey mentioned some of those selected for bargaining. Key areas will be Job Security, Remote Work, Fair Wages, Leave Improvements

Events / Political Action

Activism in the ARTS –



Ashley gave a full update on this project including budget. The working committee includes members from the Penticton area. Save the date Saturday June 28th, 2025. The area council continues to support the event and will be promoting the event as well as checking into possible transportation options for getting members there. Laura is looking into busing from the coast for some of their USJE members. Motion for the area council to pay the first deposit of \$981.69 **m/AS, s/NS** – all in favour. Ashley to get Kelly the information as payment due prior to May 12, 2025.

Community Events it was agreed that a key to engage community and members was through community events. The group brainstormed ideas such as Pride Events, Labour events, Farmers Markets, IWD events etc. Jamey offered PSAC BC support.

Political – with an upcoming federal election and issues with the US, the Activism Summit that PSAC BC is hosting in March is timely. Discussion on current issues and concerns.

Roundtable

Kelly – Reached out to MLA that voted against Stand Together. It is a great opportunity to have a voice especially against those pushing the right.

Ashley-Rae – Voted in as president of her local .



Nadia – Terms are not being renewed within their department. It is an unsettling time for membership. Consultation seems to be non-existent and there may be 150 positions lost that would be eligible for WFA.

Jeanne – Shocked about government lay-offs and stopping of term rollovers. Will look into community events in Kamloops. Suggested that we may want to have a group What's App for the area council

Varinder – Talked about and promoted BC PSAC education. Area council encouraged to let PSAC know of courses that they would like offered in the Southern Interior. Warm welcome to Hetty who has been term assignment to replace Robert as the Regional Representative for the Southern Interior.

Jamey – asked members to let him know if they hear of any lay-offs or cuts. Also discussed education such as health and safety & local officer training. Reminder of his contact information.

Motion to Adjourn

m/BW, s/AJ – all in favour

Next Meetings

April 12th 7pm - location tba