

Victoria Area Council May 26, 2026

Attendees in Person

Trish Martin VAC President CEIU 20975

Monica Racz VAC Vice President UNDE 21008

Ian Wiggs VAC Treasurer UNDE 21008

Leanne Hughes VAC Scribe CIU 20042

Marcelo Lazaro RVP UNDE

Warren Wulff UHEW 20076

Jessica Degasso -PSAC Rep

Guest Damian Dorschner UVAE 20035

Guest Tracy Arrowsmith UTE 20002

By Zoom

Nicole Petrie DCL 20500

Chad Duggan UCTE 20220

Virginia Vaillencourt UVAE 20030

Danielle Dardengo UNDE 21011

Josh Peterson UNDE 21009

Darcy Gasena UNDE 21008

Meeting opened 602 pm

Trish needs a motion to accept the agenda

Moved by Monica

Seconded by Warren

None opposed, passed,

Trish would like a motion to pass the minutes from

Mover Monica

Seconded Ian

None opposed, passed.

Trish did the land acknowledgement

Welcome & Reminders

2. Saanich Fair Planning & Staff Support Issues

- **Event Logistics:**
 - **Setup:** Friday (between 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM). A larger SUV or pickup truck is requested for Friday and Monday to haul supplies in one trip.
 - **Fair Hours:** Saturday (9:00 AM – 7:00 PM), Sunday (9:00 AM – 7:00 PM), and Monday (9:00 AM – 6:00 PM). Teardown cannot begin until 6:00 PM on Monday.
 - **Shifts:** Approximately 4.5 hours per shift, requiring a minimum of 2–3 people per shift.
 - **Admission:** Volunteers will receive admission armbands. Non-member volunteers (e.g., family members) are permitted to assist.
- **Per Diem:** Reminded attendees of a \$25 per diem for shifts (meals).
- **Contact:** Members are requested to send names and available dates to **Trish** so she and **Monica** can finalize volunteer schedules.
- **Loss of PSAC Staff Support:**
 - **Trish** noted that materials will be mailed directly to her house because PSAC staff will no longer provide overtime or administrative support to compile/organize materials as in previous years. The formal response from PSACBC leadership indicated that staff presence should not be at the front of public-facing events.
 - **Trish** is taking a vacation day on Friday, September 4th to handle the setup, using her alternate budget to prevent an extra cost to the Area Council.
 - **Member Feedback:** Several members (**Josh, Nicole, Virginia**) expressed strong frustration over the lack of staff assistance, noting that member dues

pay for this support. It was suggested that the Council provide pushback to the national/regional office regarding this lack of collaboration.

- **Public Outreach Focus:** The booth will focus on educating the public on federal public service roles (CRA, SPPC, food inspectors, border services), giving bargaining updates, and campaigning for clean living water as a human right.
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3. Labour Day Picnic

- **Background:** The Council previously withdrew support for the Labour Day Picnic due to safety concerns at its old James Bay location but resumed participation once it moved.
 - **Current Plan:** Due to a lack of staff support and limited resources, the Area Council will focus entirely on the Saanich Fair over that weekend.
 - **Committee Takeover:** It was agreed that if another committee (Women's, Human Rights, or Young Workers) wishes to run the Labour Day Picnic booth, they are fully welcome to do so, but the Area Council will not manage it.
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4. Solidarity Saturdays & Public Service Week Barbecue

- **Solidarity Saturdays:** The council plans to revive these monthly/bi-monthly events at local coffee shops to encourage engagement, chat about bargaining, and answer local questions from members.
- **Scheduling Conflict:** Finding a Saturday in June or July is difficult due to prior member commitments. A barbecue or Solidarity Saturday is tentatively proposed for **Saturday, June 20th** (during National Public Service Week).
- **Barbecue Planning:** Departments/agencies have no budget for events this year. **Monica** will reach out to **Bert Farwell** to check his availability and coordinate logistics, ensuring someone with a valid "Food Safe" certification oversees the cooking.

5. Bargaining update from SV team member Josh Peterson.

6. Round Table Updates

Leanne- we're the volunteer side of PSAC and if PSACBC is not willing to support this volunteer outreach at the Saanich Fair with staff, like they usually do at rallies and demonstrations, and for past Saanich Fair events, why are we going out of our way to promote PSAC when they're not going to support us? Our dues go to support them and pay staff and who makes that decision regionally or maybe it's made at national I think we need a little bit of push back saying we're reevaluating our presence at the Saanich Fair due to the lack of support from staff that we depend on and work closely with. We have always been able to rely on each other to put on this super successful once per year event.

Other Roundtable comments

- **CR-4 to PM-1 Grievance Win:** Exciting news was shared regarding a 2008 job description grievance. While the employer initially avoided paying out back pay to members who hadn't signed the original grievance, the union won the appeal. An additional 2,500 members of the CR-4 group will now receive their back pay.
- **Return to Office (RTO):** Concerns were raised regarding the transition to a 4-day return-to-office mandate, noting that the physical workspace cannot comfortably accommodate the volume of staff.

From PSAC staff update:

- **Workforce Adjustment (WFA) Session:** A WFA session is scheduled for **May 28th**. Members noted that while general information sessions are helpful for those outside the process, they often fail to answer specific questions for members actively going through a workforce adjustment.
- **Upcoming Committee Meetings:**
 - **Regional Health and Safety Committee:** Members encouraged to email and join.
 - **Vancouver Island Regional Women's Committee:** Meeting on **June 23rd** at 4:00 PM (focusing on increasing participation and planning for the Dec 6th Memorial event).
 - **Vancouver Island Young Workers Committee:** Meeting on **June 24th**.

6. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for **June 16th**, same time and place.
- **Adjourned: 709 pm** Motioned by **Monica**, seconded by **Warren**. All in favor.

