

May 13, 2015 – Local 432 OPSEU Minutes

General Membership Meeting 920 Princess Street OPSEU Resource Room

Attendance: Bonnie Sweet; Shirley Tyrrell; Erin Kemp; Karen Warne, Krista Willis; Louise Alfred; Michelle McMurray; Tracey McCallum; Bethany Edwards; Judy Vallier, Dale Schroeder

1. Call to Order – Bonnie Sweet 5:20 pm
  2. Statement of Respect – via video on computer
  3. Member introductions made
  4. Agenda: reviewed Motion to adopt agenda Judy Vallier seconded by Michelle McMurray
  5. Review of April 8, 2015 meeting minutes. Update to those minutes: Krista Willis finished the treasurer's course and indicated the training was excellent. Our local donated \$50 to Smokey Thomas' re-election campaign at 2015 Convention. The food bank drive for May 1<sup>st</sup> fell off the radar and will be reviewed again in the fall prior to Thanksgiving. Form B's need to be submitted asap – revised form with banking information.
  6. Treasurer's report. No update available
  7. Correspondence: Lots of correspondence to review
- (a) Saturday June 20, 2015 Annual picnic (see flyer). It will be held in Ingleside OPSEU region 4. Save the date
- (b) Fire It Up video played for members. Consensus was it was well done. OPSEU is in the process of trying to have it played on the radio or via other forms of social media sites / forums
- (c) Privatization of Hydro: everyone is asked to look at "Youpaytheprice.ca"
- (d) New Steward Training June 6<sup>th</sup> at 920 Princess Street 9 to 5 pm. Registration deadline May 29<sup>th</sup> mileage, child care covered and local membership will be given a \$50 per diem
- (e) Provincial Youth Conference August 12 to 14 in Toronto. Details on main website. 2 ½ day conference at the Courtyard Marriott. Very specific to youth (up to age 35). All expenses paid

END OF CORRESPONDENCE

#### 8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

- (a) Website: Lots of complaints about OPSEU main website due to upgrades to google chrome. The day before convention a fix was implemented and now it should be easier for members to access the site and locate tools. Refresh your screen to get newest version. It is much easier to search now as well.
- (b) Bylaws: deferred
- (c) Bursary and Awards: deferred
- (d) Social committee: Christmas party revisited. There was a very lengthy discussion regarding the Christmas party. Many people were upset that a Christmas Party was not held last year. The LEC decided to hold off due to impending possible strike. There were many ideas bantered about including BBQ's, boat cruises, morale, back to Christmas party. We will continue to discuss options. We have to decide whether or not we will have one. To discuss again in June. However, go ahead and organize your own BBQ's and social activities. The local will pitch in with expenses.

## 9. New business

BPS Conference June 5 to 7, 2015 at Toronto Sheraton. Our BPS members work in the Public Health Labs on Barrie Street. No one has stepped forward to attend and outgoing steward Sherry Corbay was unable to attend. It is expensive for LEC members to support our BPS members at this event because we are OPS members and therefore the Local would be required to pay all expenses. A bone of contention because Bonnie Sweet can represent BPS members at a grievance hearing but cannot attend the conference. This issue has been forwarded to our EBM for further discussion as other Local Presidents have also expressed this concern. OPS members can attend the plenary but none of the other events where a vote may be needed, which is understandable, however with the increasing numbers of BPS/OPS combined locals this issue will continue.

## 10. Food drive

We will try again in the fall. We are not sure why this fell off the radar (May 1<sup>st</sup> food drive). We will ask local 468 to help. Perhaps prior to Thanksgiving.

## 11. Kingston and District labour Council and Area members

If you know someone who is interested let Bonnie or LEC know

## 12. Bargaining update

Caucus at Convention indicated that nothing has changed. ESS (essential services) still ongoing. This is a huge and lengthy process. The last Table Talk said it took up to 2 years to complete ESS which upset lots of people. They forgot to add that the next time ESS were negotiated, it took 5 months. This waiting is very stressful for members. Some people mentioned that their colleagues feel deceived. People are asking: what about capitalizing on Parks and Pan Am games? Events are still happening across the Province and it is up to the members to organize & maintain a focus in worksites or at the least in our community.

As a side note: the day of mourning was very poorly attended in Kingston.

ERC, MERC, LERC, etc have all stepped down. That however, does not mean that if something is happening in your office, you should not hesitate to contact the members for advice. Randy Robinson the OPSEU economist gave convention members a talk on the language our employer uses which we all need to be aware of and pay attention to. The language is an attempt to sway the public sentiment. We have asked head office to ensure information passed to us be written in plain language. We need to talk about what we do, who we help, the impact of privatization etc. Keep your wages out of it. We need to share the highway maintenance issue (i.e. the impact privatization had on our highway plowing and so forth). There was a discussion about the 10 year contracts the private company's received without proving they were meeting standards. Reporters are not asking the right questions: i.e. how many pieces of equipment do you have on the 401. There is no teeth in the contracts/agreements with the private company's unless the government can prove gross negligence.

Use the privatization of MTO as a point in conversations about why privatization is bad for all Ontarians. We have lost some of our momentum. Politicians are done at Queens Park in a few weeks so visits to local MPP's offices would keep our message in the forefront. We need to keep working on ideas and plans to get the message about privatization, selling of Ontario Hydro, fair negotiations etc.

A no board report cannot happen in the bargaining process until the ESS agreements are settled. There are approximately 1600 work sites but not every ministry has an ESS agreement. We don't want business as usual during a strike. These ESS are very important. The government can go to the labour board anytime and ask for a no board report. The answer from the labour board should be NO. You have legislation. CO's (correctional officers) are trying to create their own bargaining unit within the union.

We are awaiting confirmation that the bargaining teams can take vacation in August. To reduce the stress of the long bargaining process we need to live our lives and take vacation. We continue to ask people not to take management positions.

### 13. Attendance Support Management Plan

Martin Sarra, our regional rep, is working on training dates for our Local and possibly Region 4. LEC will keep everyone posted. The union is pushing to have the training through the week, if possible, to increase participation at training on this new program implemented this year at all OPS worksites.

### 14. Belleville rally May 1, 2015

The Ontario Small Urban Municipal convention where Kathleen Wynne was a keynote speaker was well attended by OPSEU and other union representatives from ETFO, retirees, Paramedics. Kathleen Wynne ran in and out.

### 15. Plans for strike Headquarters

This cost and site were approved before the cut off deadline by head office and therefore will remain an accepted expense until a new agreement is established. It will be paid for through the strike fund. We have our organizers who will discuss this later. None were available to attend this meeting.

### 16. Memorial Donation for Gail Williams

Our former president Gail Williams passed away on May 1, 2015. The newspaper suggested lung association or charity of your choice. She loved Christmas. A donation to the Lung association festival of trees or a donation to St. Elizabeth health care in Gail's name was discussed. A motion was made by Erin Kemp to support a \$100 donation to St. Elizabeth health care in Gail William's name. This was seconded by Judy Vallier.

### 17. Convention report

Rhonda McCall wrote a brief report on her experiences at Convention. This was read to the LEC by Erin Kemp. Rick Mercers received the Stanley Knowles Humanitarian Award. Andrea Horvath NDP was there as well. Not all of the submitted resolutions were completed and will be discussed at upcoming EBM meetings. A number of issues were defeated such as having union members be card carrying NDP supporters, or having credit cards for the locals. Finally, electronic voting will be in place for next year's convention. Although it is costly it will save an abundance of time which can be used to deal with many more resolutions. Head Office is looking at renting the service. Convention 2016 reservations have already been made for our local for April 14 to 16, 2016 at the metro convention centre. The timing has been changed for 2016 to avoid overlap with NUPGE convention.

Motion to Adjourn by Judy Vallier. Seconded by Karen Warne. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Next meeting June 10, 2015 5:15 to 7:00 pm. 920 Princess Street. That will be the final meeting until September.