

Local 349 General Membership Meeting
Full-time support staff (including Appendix D and G)
May 2, 2012, 5 p.m.
H106, Barrie Campus

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to order was made at 5:08 p.m. by Pat Stupka, Chief Steward.

2. STATEMENT OF RESPECT

The Statement of Respect was read by Pat Stupka.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

One amendment was made to the agenda to include budget under the Committee Reports. The agenda was adopted as amended. (1. Ian Anderson 2. Amanda Duncan).

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Jan. 31, 2012 meeting were adopted as presented (1. Craig MacKenzie 2. Cathy Torella).

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. BY-LAWS

Elaine introduced the by-laws explaining that the local has never had OPSEU-sanctioned by-laws before. By-laws are important in order to frame, on paper, how the local conducts business. These will also be helpful for future union executives. There was great discussion around the by-laws and a few key suggestions were made. It was decided to defer voting on the by-laws until the next GMM. Elaine will incorporate the changes and send them out to the membership for further feedback.

ACTION: Update by-laws and send to the membership – Elaine

ACTION: Forward any suggestions/feedback about by-laws to Elaine – All

ACTION: Add by-law approval to next agenda – Elaine

b. CONVENTION

Nick reported that four members of the local attended convention (Nick O'Connell, Pat Stupka, Elaine Murray and Kailey Thompson). The proposed union dues increase was rejected, impacting the budget with a \$3-million deficit. The members approved a motion to apply any dividends/revenue from the strike fund to the budget's bottom line. Further cost-saving amendments were also approved resulting in a balanced budget. A few regions were not happy with some of the cuts and walked out Friday afternoon in protest. The convention ended early allowing Nick, Elaine, Pat and Kailey to attend the Ontario Federation of Labour rally at Queen's Park on April 21. Nick reported that OPSEU didn't endorse the rally at convention and aren't paying dues to the OFL currently due to some disagreements on the operation of the OFL (Ontario Federation of Labour). There were over 15,000 union members in attendance but could have been larger with more people attending from the OPSEU convention; the rally was quite inspiring. Nick stressed it is important, especially during these times of stressful union negotiations, for unions to stand together.

c. BUDGET

Cathy reported that the books are now balanced as of December 31 and the audit for the period of July to December has been completed.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. VICE-PRESIDENT ELECTION

Craig Mackenzie was acclaimed in the position of Vice-President (nominated by Patricia Stupka). Nick and the executive extended their congratulations to Craig.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Nick reported that he and Pat have been attending the Barrie Labour Council meetings. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings. There is also an Orillia Labour Council meeting. If anyone is interested in attending and would like more information, they should contact Nick. Pat and Nick also attended an information picket on behalf of KINARD.

ACTION: If interested in attending labour council meetings contact Nick – All

The CAAT Divisional meeting takes place May 5 and 6. Five members will be attending (Nick O'Connell, Elaine Murray, Pat Stupka, Cathy Torella and Craig MacKenzie). Nick will be presenting a short report on Georgian's strike experience. There is also an important motion on the table with regards to appointing four mobilizers in preparation for the next round of bargaining. It was suggested that the local prepare a survey to ask members what they want to see in the next round of bargaining.

ACTION: Prepare survey to ask members about bargaining issues – EXECUTIVE

Nick reported that a step 3 hearing will be held this week with regards to two support staff positions being moved to administrative. If it is not resolved, it will be referred to arbitration.

The new Collective Agreement will be available in electronic format by the end of May; hard copies will be available in another six months.

Craig reported that the Joint Health and Safety Committee is asking for clarification for support staff roles that have health and safety in their job descriptions and/or who supervise other staff or students.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment was made at 6:36 p.m. and passed (1. Craig MacKenzie 2. Cathy Torella).