CUPE BC Convention 2015

DELEGATES REPORT

OVERVIEW

The CUPE BC Division holds an annual convention, and this year was the 52nd convention, which was held in Vancouver at the Westin Bayshore. The purpose of convention is to set the direction for the organization over the next year, including who will be elected to the Provincial Executive Board, and what type of work and campaigns we will develop and focus on.

DELEGATES

CUPE 1004 sent 11 delegates to the convention. This number was based on the amount allowable by CUPE BC based on number of members within the local, and our locals has 3500+ members, which entitled us to 11 delegates, The following delegates were sent on behalf of CUPE 1004:

CUPE 1004 delegate badges

Andrew Ledger, President
Gary Parker, Vice-President
Dennis Donnelly, Communications Officer
Frank Lee, Secretary-Treasurer
Frank Warwick, Unit Chair
Bonnie Lynn Duncan, Unit Chair
Michael Lupo, Unit Chair (Sergeant-at-arms)
Andy Healey, Unit Chair
Sarah Silvester, Unit Chair
Kyla Epstein, Trustee
Stephen Tyers, Member-at-large

Resolutions

Resolutions brought forward and approved at convention set the direction for CUPE BC Division for the next year. The resolutions touched on a number of areas including education, young workers, Committee Against Racism and Discrimination (CARD), political action, etc.

Delegates from CUPE 1004 spoke on a number of resolutions that dealt with issues in the areas of multi-materials BC, public libraries, pensions, bill C-51, and etc.

Andy Healy (CUPE 1004) speaking to a resolution

Elections

A number of positions within the CUPE BC Division were up for election. The successful candidates were:

- President: Mark Hancock

- Secretary-Treasurer: Paul Faoro

- Vice-Presidents: John Hall, Trevor Davies, Cindy McQueen, and Karen Ranalatta

- Treasurer: Jose Van Berkel

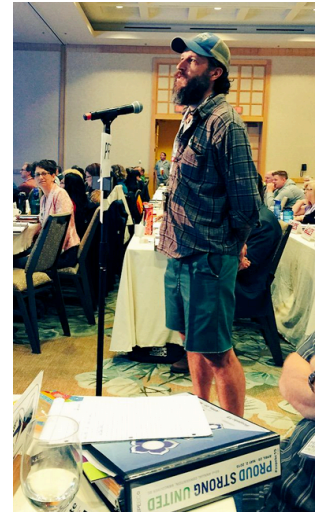- Regional Vice-Presidents: Frank Lee (CUPE 1004), etc.

The CUPE BC Division is also looking to implement electronic voting at future conventions. A test was conducted with delegates with the Simply Voting software, which is the same system that we use at CUPE 1004. It seemed like a success and may be what is used in future elections at the CUPE BC Division conventions.

Forums

A number of forums were held to provide additional information to delegates outside of the regular convention schedule. The forum topics included details for new delegates, information on pensions, tips about communication tools available to locals, and an update by Paul Moist (CUPE National President) on the political climate within Canada.

Guest Speakers

There were a number of guest speakers who provided valuable information on different campaigns or challenges within the labour movement in Canada. One of the prominent topics was the upcoming Federal election and the importance of electing a progressive government that is not dismantling the Canada that we know. The various guest speakers included:

- Libby Davies – MP, Vancouver East

- Stephen Lewis – Professor of Distinction, Ryerson University

- John Horgan – Leader of Official Opposition, BC NDP

- Iren Lanzinger – President, BC Federation of Labour

- Reyna Mateo – Regional Coordinator, CODEMUH (Honuran Women's Collective)

Socials

A Young Workers Task Force Cruise was organized and at least 6 members from CUPE 1004 attended the 3-hour social event. Young workers (30 years and under) are encouraged to get involved as much as possible.

Young Workers Task Force Boat Cruise attended by CUPE 1004 members

CUPE 1004 DELEGATION HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting with Paul Moist

A meeting was arranged with Paul Moist (President of CUPE National) and the delegation from CUPE 1004. Some highlights from the meeting with Paul include:

- He is delighted to see the Executive of CUPE 1004 working together since the Administration has been lifted,

- We discussed challenges with the multiple fires at the Maritime Labour Centre and how that will impact our local. Paul shared that there are experts within CUPE National that can assist us with looking into what office options are the best for our local.

- We discussed the Municipality conference that is coming up and Paul stressed the importance of CUPE 1004 representation and how insightful it is to learn from others in the same sector across the country.

OUTCOME & RECOMMENDATIONS

Convention pre-planning:

For future conventions and conferences, it is recommended to clearly set out the expectations for all delegates. This information should be built into the procedures manual so it is the expectation across the board. Expectations will include attendance at all events, workshops, etc., as well as that a report will be submitted within 30 days of attending, and to provide the membership with a brief verbal update.

If there are any resolutions that CUPE 1004 members would like to recommend, they do not need to wait until convention to submit, as the resolution can be forwarded to any appropriate CUPE BC committees for review.

Expenses:

As the convention was held in Vancouver, the costs were minimal and included the following:

- Delegate fees: $175/delegate x 11 = $1,925
- Per diems: full-day without meals $43/delegate x 11 = $473
- Hotel: 2 rooms @ 3 nights

Action items:

- Connect with CUPE National to try to see if the free website template that they offer will work with our local's needs.
- Connect with CUPE National to arrange for advisors to assist with looking into other office options in terms of leasing or buying alternate space to the local's location at the Maritime Labour Centre.
- Develop language within the procedures manual for expectations of delegates, including reporting.

HOW WILL THIS HELP THE LOCAL?

It is important for CUPE 1004 to send delegates to the CUPE BC Division conventions as it is our opportunity as a local to speak out on issues that are important to us, provide direction to the CUPE BC Division, to network with other CUPE locals, and to build community and teamwork amongst our delegates.

For more information on the convention, visit:
www.cupe.bc.ca/events/conventions/convention-2015