



MINUTES FROM UNDE LOCAL 30908  
MONTHLY MEETING 27 Feb 2019  
WAINWRIGHT COMMUNIPLEX

Chairperson:	Joel Ezinga	President
Executive Committee:	Bill Long	Vice President (absent)
	Gerard Mercy	Chief Shop Steward (absent)
	Debra Barnett	Treasurer
	Karen Matyjanka	Secretary
	Joel Hildebrand	Health & Safety Officer

In attendance: Recorded in attendance register.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Brother Joel called the meeting to order at 1617 hrs.
2. Sister Shelley read the UNDE Harassment policy:  
Harassment contact for this meeting is Brother Joel Hildebrand.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

3. The previous minutes were reviewed.
  - 3.1 Errors – the previous meeting states that the meeting was adjourned at 1510 hours. The correct time was 1710 hours.
  - 3.2 Omissions - nil

Brother Tom moved to accept the minutes.  
Brother Dan seconded.

ACCEPTED

FINANCE:

4. Treasurer's report was reviewed for period ending Mid-January 2019. Sister Deb explained that the GIC's are set in place should a strike ever be implemented. The current amount of GIC's would maybe last for three days to support members, should a strike vote take place. The only other expenses over the past month were bank fees, and expenses for a bereavement gift to a member.

Brother Mike moved to accept the report.  
Brother Dan seconded.

ACCEPTED

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

5. VICE PRESIDENT: (Absent) nil

6. SHOP STEWARD REPORT: (Absent) nil

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT: nil

8. EDUCATION REPORT: nil

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

9.1 **President's Conference** - Brother Joel attended the Conference February 23-24 in Ottawa.

- a) The Fire fighters will be getting new gear in the New Year.
- b) Brother Joel, along with other UNDE members were able to have a meeting with Minister Philpot. It was a brief meeting, which only lasted for approximately 20 minutes, but the Minister understood that the work in which a fire fighter does over their career has detrimental impacts on the individual physically and mentally.
- c) They are looking at setting up a National Young Worker Committee
- d) Bargaining: There has been a small move in the right direction:
  - i. a 1% wage increase, with no wage freeze
  - ii. Pensioners would receive a higher wage increase
  - iii. We asked for an additional 3.75% per year wage increase
- e) The next bargaining meetings will be held from March 19 to 21 in Ottawa for Treasury Board, TC Group, SV Group, PA group, and EB Group. Chris Aylward would like a General Federal Strike, but also stressed that contracts need to be signed before the election.
- f) Members are advised to take PSAC Mobilization Training, the only issue with this training is that Wainwright has been excluded for the reason that Wainwright is outside of the 100 km radius of the City of Edmonton.

- g) Fire fighter pensions were the third largest campaign that PSAC has had in recent history. This was a result of having almost every fire fighter, along with many friends and family signed the petition.
- h) Out of approximately 40,000 Public Service employees, only 30 members showed up to the March last fall in Ottawa. PSAC is encouraging all brothers and sisters to wear black on Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> for Day of Action. Wearing black shows our push for immobilization, and Management has the responsibility of reporting this information to Ottawa.
- i) Members of Parliament are home for three weeks in March. Brother Joel E. and Brother Gerry plan to go to Vegreville and wait in Kevin Sorenson's office. Let either Joel or Gerry know if you would like to join them on this visit. The purpose of this meeting will be to get him to set up on his commitments.
- j) There is a replacement in the works for the Phoenix pays system, but it is anticipated to not be ready for roll out for another five to seven years.
- k) There are over 280,000 cases in backlog from the Phoenix pay system. Although it appears that the number of cases are decreasing by 8,000 cases each month, new claims still continue to be submitted.
  - a. A tier system has been implemented for damages as a result of the Phoenix Pay system, for example, Tier 1 is for damages less than \$100.00
- l) Paystubs have been revamped, and everyone should see the changes in the very near future. The changes to the pay stubs will make it much easier for employees to understand their paystubs.
- m) The current Phoenix Pay System does not recognize retro pay, therefore it is entered manually into the Pay System.
- n) A flow chart has been created to help employees understand issues with their pay. Pensioners will be Priority 1 for pay issues.
- o) Joel inquired with Megan Lee regarding what the National Office did three years ago, Joel's opinion was that PSAC has not done anything.

9.2 **Education position** – This position is still vacant. Sister Deb suggested Tammy Benoit as a candidate for the position, as Sister Tammy had expressed interest in this role.

## 10. OLD BUSINESS:

10.1 **Essential Positions** – The list of Essential Positions is created by the employer then signed off by UNDE at the National Level. If you or someone you know has been told that their position has been deemed essential, please be advised that this list has not been verified yet.

## 11. NEW BUSINESS:

**11.1 Local Bylaws** – There are some changes that need to be made to our Local Bylaws. The Bylaw committee will meet before the next meeting to discuss these changes, and a vote will be scheduled for the next meeting to accept or reject these proposals. Potential changes include:

- a) **Monthly meetings:** the executive would like to replace the current monthly general meetings, with monthly Executive Meetings. Quarterly General meetings would be scheduled in the months of February, May, August and November (which would be scheduled as the AGM). Other Locals are already conducting business in this way, and with so much information available online for our members to access, it does not justify for many people to take time from their personal lives to attend the local meetings. The Executive would look at posting Executive meeting minutes online through Social media such as Facebook, or the UNDE Local Webpage. As a result, this would save the Local money with the reduction in meeting room rentals because the Executive would be able to conduct meetings in a venue what would be at no cost to the Local (i.e.: personal residence)
- b) **Financial Section:** currently, if a member were to travel to Edmonton for Union business, (training excluded), it is at the expense of that member to do so. It is proposed to reimburse members when conducting Official UNDE business, but receipts must be submitted.

**11.2 UNDE / PSAC Pictures on DND property** – effective immediately, all UNDE / PSAC photography on base has been banned which may refer to protesting/propaganda. This decision was made by Maj. Reiten based on the fact that we are currently in collective bargaining, and the Union has since been notified of this decision. Brother Joel has not seen anything stating that group photos were not to be allowed. However, all other bases across Canada appear to have an open policy on UNDE / PSAC photography.

**11.3 Mobilize shops** – The UNDE President is currently in talks with our labour relations officer as to what our rights are in regards to the base commanders new policy on photography. Chris Aylward has been begging us to go outside our place of work during lunch and take a picture for the bargaining team, but this is not possible at this time with a blanket “ban” from Management.

**11.4 2019 Summer BBQ** – it is time to begin the planning for the UNDE Local 30908 BBQ. Things that will need to be discussed are location, time and date, menu. The executive is seeking a volunteer to spearhead this function. If you are interested, please notify someone from the executive.

OPEN DISCUSSION: nil

NOTIFICATION OF NEXT MEETING:

Next regular monthly meeting on 27 Mar 2019 at the Communiplex 1615 hrs

ADJOURNMENT

Brother Joel E. motioned to adjourn.  
Brother Dan seconded.

ACCEPTED

The meeting was adjourned at 1642 hrs.



Joel Ezinga  
President  
UNDE Local 30908

Distribution List

Executive Committee  
Shop Stewards/UNDE Website

June Winger  
UNDE National President

Brian Meakin-Rendon  
UNDE Regional Vice President Alberta/North