

Bulletin Board

October 8, 1982

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, October 19, 1982

12:30 p.m.

B9201

Agenda

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Announcements
3. Report on the Special Provincial Convention
4. Notices of motion re By-Law amendments arising from the Provincial Constitution amendments at the Special Convention of September 25-26, 1982:
 - 1) D. MOVE TO amend the fifth sentence of "D" to read: "When a member becomes unemployed she/he shall retain full membership rights for a maximum of 275 days from her/his last payment of dues."
 - 2) D. MOVE TO amend the sixth sentence of "D" to read: "Members unemployed for more than 275 days from their last dues payment, and members employed but not working in bargaining units, may maintain membership rights by paying not less than \$4.00 each month."
 - 3) D. MOVE TO delete the seventh sentence of "D".
 - 4) E. MOVE TO delete "and the two Provincial Representatives" from the second sentence of "E".
 - 5) F.3 MOVE TO add "and shall be responsible for referenda as per Section 7c of the Provincial Constitution" after "elections" in the first sentence of F.3.
 - 6) F.7 MOVE TO amend F.7 to read: "The Executive shall appoint one (1) member of the Executive and one (1) member of a standing committee to serve as the two (2) continuing members of the Provincial Council. Two (2) Local Association members shall be elected by the membership at a general membership meeting prior to each Council meeting to serve for one meeting only as rotating members. Rotating members may be re-elected."
 - 7) G.4 MOVE TO amend the second sentence of G.4 by deleting "and Provincial Association" and by deleting the "s" from "Executives".
 - 8) N. MOVE TO change the section number in the first sentence of N. to "14".
 - 9) O.2 MOVE TO change "executive" in the second sentence of O.2 to "Council".

A REMINDER TO AUCE 2 DIVISIONS:

By-Law F.5 "...Each of the Divisions shall hold an October election meeting of all stewards within the division for the purpose of electing one steward to be division steward, who shall serve as a member of the local association executive and as one of the members of the grievance committee. ..."

REPORT FROM THE DELEGATES TO THE SPECIAL PROVINCIAL CONVENTION HELD
SEPTEMBER 25-26, 1982

The structure of the Provincial Association was set up as an executive composed of table officers elected at large from the total membership of the Provincial Association and two representatives elected directly from each local. The purpose of this structure was to include representation from all locals plus officers with specific duties -- President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Trustees. This body had full responsibility for decisions of the Provincial Association and approval of all expenses between annual conventions, as directed by those conventions. An office and two full-time paid employees were to carry out the day-to-day activities of the Provincial Association. These activities included: organizing new locals, education workshops and seminars for all locals, specific resource help to locals, central facilities for meetings and research (a library), and a strike fund. A per capita tax from each member of the Provincial Association paid for all these activities.

Over the past few years, much of the time and effort of the Provincial Executive was spent on the issue of affiliation to the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). The membership, by referendum, made it clear that they wanted into the CLC intact as AUCE. The CLC said that we were welcome only if we joined another union. Provincial Executive members went to the B.C. Federation of Labour convention last fall and the CLC convention to lobby the delegates to allow AUCE to affiliate. This was a waste of time.

During the process of trying to join the CLC, Local 5 at the College of New Caledonia, joined the Confederation of Canadian Unions (a CLC rival). They joined this group because in doing so they were able to receive the support needed to win a strike. Our local refused to give them any support. Charges were laid against Local 5 for contravening AUCE Provincial policy. Local 5 decided that their future with AUCE had ended and they joined the Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada.

Local 4 at Capilano College had been at odds with the Provincial Executive for a long time. Local 5 joining the CCU was the last straw. Local 4 walked out of the 1981 convention and started the process of seceding from AUCE. After a vote by the Local 4 membership, it was decided that they would leave AUCE and they are now on their own.

Local 1 at UBC was also very dissatisfied with the way Provincial was working but they put off any decision on leaving until they finish their present contract negotiations.

The Provincial Executive tried to do their best. They took seriously the fact that \$3.25 per month, from each member, was entrusted to them. The Provincial library was built up, but nobody used it. Contract, arbitration, and steward seminars were set up, but nobody came. The Provincial became a bureaucracy that serviced no one.

The 9th Annual Convention, held in June, was poorly attended. There were no delegates from Locals 4 or 5, and Local 1, our largest local, had only two delegates present. One of the first items of business was the annual report from the President and the Vice President, expressing dissatisfaction with the structure and function of the Provincial Executive. As table officers, their main concern was that the Executive had become, through its very structure, isolated from the locals and a bureaucracy whose main business was perpetuating itself. The motives of the Executive were noble, but its structure prevented the accomplishment of its goals. As a result of this report, and of the general sentiment of the convention, a motion was passed approving the concept of a Provincial Council and mandating a committee to draw up proposals for changing the structure of the Provincial Executive to a Provincial Council of locals, with representatives elected from each local. Little other business was done at convention. No audit was available, thus no annual budget was drawn up. There were no nominations for any of the table officers,

Special Convention Report continued...

thus leaving us with no Provincial officers after August 31. A Special Convention was called, to convene in September and whose primary item of business would be the report of the Committee to Investigate a Council Structure.

This committee met for approximately three hours every two weeks for the balance of the summer. Representatives from Locals 1, 2, 6 and 7 were present, giving balanced input to the committee. The ensuing heated arguments resulted in a report which consisted of a complete revision of the existing Provincial Constitution, incorporating the new Council structure and function. The committee agreed unanimously on this report, leaving only one significant item without recommendation.

The Special Convention on September 25-26, 1982 had almost a full complement of delegates from the locals of AUCE. The Committee to Investigate a Council Structure gave a brief report on its activities during the summer, then presented the two most important sections of its revised constitution, which were accepted in principle by convention. New Section 6 replaces the Provincial Executive with the Provincial Council, consisting of four members from each local: two members from local committees, and two members elected from the membership. The Council's function is to "ensure communication, co-operation, and mutual support among the local associations". The new Section 12 on Revenues and Finances replaces an annual budget of \$90,000 (with many budget items) with a Council Fund which has a ceiling of \$30,000 on annual expenditures limited to four budget items to cover expenses for: travel to attend meetings and conventions, organizing new locals, conventions, and audits. Per capita tax is replaced by a set contribution from each local based on the percentage of its members within the Provincial Association and the amount necessary to meet the Council Fund. Paid provincial positions have been eliminated; the AUCE Provincial office will be disbanded. Locals can and are doing their own servicing -- they will now have more money with which to do this.

After discussion and approval of all sections of the committee's revised constitution, convention instructed an interim committee to: close off the old books and set up a new accounting system; inform the locals to cease remitting per capita tax after September 1982; inform the locals of the amounts required to top up this year's Council Fund of \$15,000; disband the office and equitably distribute its furniture, equipment, and resource materials to the locals. All this is to be done by December 31, 1982. This interim period is to allow the locals to amend their by-laws, alter their budgets, and elect their Council members. On January 1, 1983, the Provincial Council will assume its responsibilities.

Report prepared by Bob Mcadie,
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Local 2 Convention Delegates

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