

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR DIVISION D SHOP STEWARDS AND REPRESENTATIVES

There are 27 shop steward positions and 6 committee-representative positions to be filled.

We need SHOP STEWARDS serving as links between membership and executive, providing information, encouraging our participation in union activities, and assessing how best to use and defend the rights provided for in our contract.

We need a Division EXECUTIVE REP. to represent us at the Union executive level, to see that the Division is well informed and that an efficient shop steward structure is maintained.

We need DIVISION REPS. for each of the GRIEVANCE, CONTRACT, COMMUNICATIONS, and STRIKE COMMITTEES to allow us to have input to these bodies and to keep us informed about the activities of such bodies.

The outgoing Division Reps. and shop stewards think that we also need to elect two executive alternates to share the Executive Rep.'s work so that the latter may concentrate on the organizing aspect of her duties. One of the Executive alternates would become the DIVISION NEWSLETTER DIRECTOR, and the other would become the EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR of the Division; both of them working closely with the Division Executive Rep.

WHAT DOES BECOMING A SHOP STEWARD OR A DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE IMPLY?

It implies a desire to strengthen our Union: read the contract, be willing to talk to people, and be able to give a couple of hours of your time once a month to the Union.

All shop stewards' meetings take place during lunch time and are seldom held more than once a month. Special provisions in the contract protect shop stewards in their work, such as Article 7.01 which entitles a steward to take time off work without loss of pay to contact people at work and Article 8.03 which entitles shop stewards

to investigate and process grievances and to perform other duties proper to their position during working hours.

Division Reps. do have to attend after-work meetings but this seldom happens more than once a month.

At every committee of the Union and here in Division D there are people willing to share their experience with you and to benefit from your ideas and initiative. So don't be afraid of running!

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INITIAL REPORT FROM OUTGOING EXECUTIVE REP.; SHOP MEETINGS TO BE HELD DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

Since February 1979 we have held approximately 8 shop stewards' meetings, published 7 Division Newsletters, held 1 class series on our contract (3 meetings at Division level), and had 4 Division meetings. We worked on two grievances: Hyacinth Wettasinghe's on involuntary discharge (Forestry) which is still waiting to be taken to arbitration, and Judy Blair's on employee files (Education) which we won at the labour-committee level. Hyacinth Wettasinghe's grievance was publicized by us through Across Campus. This enabled us to make the circumstances surrounding the grievance (harrasment by supervisor) known to all our members and gained support for the case. A general membership meeting voted overwhelmingly to take the case to arbitration. A statement in support of Hyacinth was issued at one of our Division meetings and published in Across Campus. The impact of Hyacinth's grievance was such that another Union member (not from Division D) sought Division D's assistance on a similar grievance which was successfully settled.

The organizing drive of the past year has made the Division as a whole more aware and has gained for us 16 active shop stewards whose shops include people from throughout the Division. Thus, we have been able to

DIV. D MEETING: MARCH 4

12:30 - 1:15 SCARFE 205

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Executive Report and Discussion (10 min.)
2. Closing of nominations for Div. representatives and shop stewards. Elections. (5 min.)
(It will be proposed that we vote on each of the candidates even if there are no alternate candidates.)
3. Affiliation. Presentation to be made by Discussion. (20 min.)
4. Other business. (10 min.)

talk to many members we couldn't reach in the past as well as to orient new members.

The outgoing shop stewards will be calling meetings of their shops during the month of February to discuss with the Executive Rep. our functioning as a Division over the past year. These small meetings should serve to get our members' comments and ideas as to how to strengthen our Division and the Union. The theme of affiliation may also be touched upon in preparation for the coming Division Meeting.

--Lissett Nelson

AFFILIATION WITH NATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION TO BE DECIDED IN APRIL

At a special Provincial Convention on April 12th and 13th delegates from the locals of our Union will be making a decision on whether or not AUCE is to affiliate with a national labour group and, if so, with which labour body. The most likely affiliation would be with the Canadian Labour Congress, the strongest Canadian labour organization. The other option is the Canadian Congress of Unions, a much more nationalistic but smaller labour group. We are considering affiliation in order to bring us into the mainstream of the labour movement, helping to erase any vestiges of the image of our union as "a bunch of secretaries and their employee association." The result would give us far more clout and more support in our bargaining with the Universities and Colleges of this Province. This strength is becoming more and more important because of the current trend toward cutbacks in the public sector, and will be especially important in the universities and colleges as stable, and in some cases declining, enrollments cause our postsecondary institutions to look for acceptable cutbacks (and we all remember what has been found to be the most acceptable cutback in the past!).

The questions we will be asked to think about and the answers we come up with could spell the difference between the survival or demise of our union. If we do not join with a national labour organization, what is our future likely to be? Might we be forced at some time to seek affiliation when we are not able to bargain from a position of strength? How much of our resources would be required by the national parent body? What would we receive in the benefits of support and

organizational ability in return for these resources? What effect would the national body's constitution have upon our own constitution and democratic organization? Must AUCE affiliate as a local (or locals) of CUPE, BCGEU, or OTEU, or should we pursue affiliating as a separate entity?

Our Division Representatives to the AUCE Local 1 Affiliation Committee are Jet Blake and Lissett Nelson. Local 1 representatives to the Provincial Affiliation Committee are Lissett Nelson, Lid Strand, and Helen Glavina. This committee meets twice each week and observers are welcome to attend any meeting. Call Lissett (4535) for the next time and place.

Be sure to attend the Division D meeting on March 4th where you will be able to ask questions and make your opinions known.

--Lexi Clague

A F F I L I A T I O N M E E T I N G

There will be an ALL-AUCE informational meeting on Affiliation. Come hear reports from the Affiliation Committee. Hear advocates speak on affiliation options. Ask questions; join the discussion.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9th
12:30 to 4:00p.m.
Robson Square Media Centre

***This Newsletter was prepared with the assistance of Jet Blake and Ray Galbraith.