

Local 70125

external affairs



PLEASE CIRCULATE

VEUILLEZ CIRCULER

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1994

ASSEMBLER MENSUELLE
LUNDI, LE 20 JUNE 1994

7:30 P.M.
246 QUEEN STREET
ROOM 202

7:30 P.M.
246 RUE QUEEN
CHAMBRE 202

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
4. MINUTES OF MAY 94
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS
5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM
MINUTES
6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. REPORTS
Executive
Committees
8. NEW BUSINESS
A) H & S
B) Computer
C) Office location
D) Public Works
9. ADJOURNMENT

1. OUVERTURE DE LA RÉUNION
2. APPEL NOMINAL DES
DIRIGEANTS
3. PROPOSÉ ORDRE DU JOUR.
4. COMPTE-RENDU DU MAI 94
ASSEMBLÉE MENSUELLE
5. DÉBAT DU COMPTE-RENDU
6. CORRESPONDANCE
7. RAPPORTS
Executif
Comités
8. AFFAIRES NOUVELLES
9. FERMETURE

Section Locale 70125

affaires exterieures

ASSEMBLEE

MEETING

October 17 - meeting

MINUTES OF JUNE 20/94 MONTHLY MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Present: E. Dubé, C. Pyl, P. Coupland, L. Cundell, A. Sipos,
J. Davidson, W. Gloss, J. Kruithof, H. Brooker

Absent: G. Doherty, for personal reasons

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M/Gloss S/Brooker Carried

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Health & Safety
- 2) Computer System
- 3) Office Location
- 4) Public Works Situation

MINUTES OF MAY 1994 MONTHLY MEETING

M/Kruithof S/Coupland Carried

In response to a question regarding the absence of Laura Burgess from the Convention, President Dubé stated that Laura had been contacted by Suzanne Charbonneau of the EO Committee. Laura claimed that she did not receive the Convention or the EO material. President Dubé was assured by Suzanne Charbonneau that the material was indeed sent, thus the matter appears to lie with the Embassy mail system. This message was relayed to us by our Service Officer, Mary Ramsay.

President Dubé or G. Doherty will be contacting Laura Burgess to determine whether she will attend the next EO meeting, and if not, whether she will wish to retain the position of EO Representative.

CORRESPONDENCE

Reminder Invoice re PSAC Boardroom: President Dubé mentioned that Doug Chalk, President of the Component, had told her that the bill did not have to be paid since a resolution was passed to that effect.

Letter of 24MAY94 from the FTQ re Seminar on Socio-Economic Development: In response to a question, President Dubé gave a brief translation of the letter. As to whether we would send someone to the seminar, it was decided not to, in view of the high cost, especially of accommodation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M/Dubé

S/Cundell

Carried

In response to a question from the Second VP as to why the union was called in for the Special Operating agencies (SOAs), President Dubé stated that as these Agencies report through our Deputy Minister, their employees are considered as employees of our Department and can thus apply for any competitions that come up. The desire of the SOAs is to set up their own grievance and appeals system; regional offices would handle them. President Dubé expressed several concerns. The staff relations function should work along the same lines as that in all other Departments. Under the proposed new system, there would not be staff relations input at the Local or Component level. This means that business would not always be conducted in a proper fashion: employees would not be properly represented; they could be here one day and gone the next. President Dubé also mentioned that we would not always be kept informed of what was going on. She also stated that the management/employee relationship cannot be separate and also expressed concern as to who would address various problems that come up - e.g. technological change and training. In short, she felt that the status quo should be maintained until a new system is put in place that is as good, if not better. An organization chart has been received, but it is by no means final.

She also stated that once permission was given to the SOAs (via an DIC from Privy Council) to break away, our Local would work hard to make them a separate Local under the Component, with their own Executive, etc.

President Dubé attended a meeting on MAY 25. She stated that the new human resources person appears to be willing to play by the rules and be "above board". It was mentioned, however, that employees are afraid to come forward and participate at meetings because it was felt that they would not be dealt with fairly and that there would be repercussions. It is hoped that members will come to the next meeting.

The Second VP mentioned that his SOA held a meeting to explain the concept and which things would change or not change. Personnel/Management issues would not change. Management reaction was quite good.

President Dubé expressed appreciation to our departing Secretary, Anna Sipos, for her contributions and said that she could always be counted on and would be missed.

do not need the health units. Plus, there are legal connotations.

In response to a question as to whether management on each floor is supposed to have training, President Dubé said no, that this was a responsibility of the Health Unit. First aid kits are required on each floor. The Second VP said that according to management, that the floor wardens do not have any mandate to do any kind of first aid, that commissionaires in the Pearson Building are all trained in first aid and it is their function.

FSD COMMITTEE REPORT

M/Gloss

S/Kruithof

Carried

Under FSD 50.06 (shipments), there was some question as to what was negotiated - how many kilos per person would be allowed. Finance Division refused to acknowledge fact that dollar amount was set, stating that it is not written in the FSDs. W. Gloss stated that it was not properly written up because the intent is to set a dollar amount and ship as many kilos as possible within that. He contacted ABMA and obtained copy of minutes of Working Group "B" meeting. This group said that the intent of the directive was that a dollar amount be established. W. Gloss asked Finance if they would be telling the missions. Finance said it would be done on a request basis only. He suggested that we send a fax to the missions stating that there would be a dollar amount and that enquiries be directed to ABMA (ABMA refused to send fax). It was agreed that a fax be written up and sent.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

M/Davidson

S/Brooker

Carried

J. Davidson raised the problem of two term employees, both long term, approaching the four-year mark. These terms were being bounced around and were badly needed. It was suggested that there be a protest or petition or grievance. Positions should be filled with indeterminates from the surplus list of Public Service Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Health & Safety

President Dubé mentioned that not enough notice is given as to courses - e.g. Health and Safety course on June 20. Notices are not received until after courses have already started, so then nobody shows up for them. Management then says that there is a lack of interest and use this as an excuse for not giving courses in the future.

There have been complaints about the stairs in the building. Railings are at the edge only, but there should be a couple of railings in the centre too. There have been some complaints of people having falls and President Dubé intends to file accident report with respect to her own fall.

There is just one commissionaire for the whole of Place Vanier. President Dubé will put in a call re elevator and nurse.

2) Computer System

The handout was discussed. With a new system in place, we could use the component's cassette on membership to update our records. Our system right now is inadequate. A modem goes from \$400 to \$600 on average. It was agreed that cost was less important than just getting a good system that will last a long time. The Second VP mentioned that WordPerfect 6.0 has too many bugs and that DBASE and Lotus are not as good as QuattroPro or Excel for spreadsheets. We should have Windows for everything. However, we must keep in mind that we will all be trained on the standard set by the Department. This topic will be dealt with again in September; a report will be prepared and a price will be indicated.

In response to a question as to what plans for our own computer were, President Dubé said we could trade it in, or donate to school boards or charity.

3) Office Location

Anna Sipos spoke to Bob Langley, Secretary Treasurer of Local 180 of Ottawa-Hull District Federation of Musicians at 45 Bank Street. They are interested in us sharing space and rent with them. Right now they pay over \$700 in rent. Their problem is that due to karaoke and DJs, membership has dropped off. A lot of musicians have left Ottawa and many cannot get bookings. The office is not used in the evenings. There is enough space for all our equipment and there is a very large boardroom. It was suggested that someone be designated to meet with him to discuss this possibility. The President and Treasurer will look into this option.

4) Public Works Situation

The letter from Public Works was read out by President Dubé. The main concern here was the cleaning of the building at 350 King Edward. NCRSO and IMS are two of the groups who are tenants there. The request is to contract out the work and bring in this change by April 1, 1994. President Dubé mentioned that in our Department, the contractor does not do as good a job as the Public Works people.

President Dubé welcomed John Kruithof back and was glad to see him going forward as National Director. This written nomination was moved by Gary Doherty and seconded by Bill Gloss. Nomination forms will be signed. As to Alternate Director, it was not decided on at this time since we would know better by September who was coming back from posts abroad.

5) Honorarium Report

John Kruithof read out the report which was prepared by Keith Wilson. The following people received honorariums:

Eunice Dubé - \$100	Jacques Quinn - \$65
Corrie Pyl - \$75	Peggy Coupland - \$65
Anna Sipos - \$85	Les Cundell - \$65
Tom Rainboth - \$65	Jim Davidson - \$50
Bill Gloss - \$50	David Delaney - \$40
Michel Labreche - \$40	

Report was signed by Keith Wilson. Honourable Mention also went to Neil Clarke and Bob MacVicar.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT Submitted by E. B. Dubé

Since our last regular monthly meeting, we have been busy attending meetings at the Passport Office in Hull to discuss their plans for the future. On May 19, 1994 Mr. Fucile, Mary Ramsay and I attended the initial meeting where Management explained that although the Passport Office was a single Operating Agency, they still reported through the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and that employees of the Passport Office were eligible to compete for positions in the area of Foreign Affairs. Their "framework" document currently in use was under revision and we would be provided with a copy once completed. At this meeting, I expressed concern at removal of Staff Relations' function from Foreign Affairs. According to Management nothing conclusive had been determined in this area although it seems to be the intent to break away from the Department so far as grievances, etc. are concerned. A second meeting was scheduled for the 25th of May and because I was on scheduled vacation, Brother Doherty attended. I was not present but was briefed on what transpired. A slide presentation was made on the history of the Passport Office and new plans for the future. Expected technological changes were also discussed as concerns production of passports and other travel documents. Requirement for passports and other travel documents would seem to be on the increase. No date was set for future meetings, but it was hoped that regular UMCs could be set up. I received a personal letter from G. Laflamme, Director, Human Resources at the Passport Office commenting on the meeting which was held and providing me with documents I requested May 19 as well as indicating that she looked forward to working with us in the near future.

The rest of my time has been filled with grievances at the first level and union - management discussions on a variety of issues ranging from A to Z.

This report will end on a sad note because a valuable Member of our Executive will be heading for Hong Kong this summer. I am pleased for her but saddened for the Local. However, I am sure that she will be keeping us posted on what is happening in Hong Kong.

SO LONG ANNA SIPOS - WE WILL REALLY MISS YOU!!! Please keep in touch!!! My thanks again to Doug for the lovely posters he produced for our Christmas party and my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Local for all the good work completed for us over the years. Your shoes will be very hard to fill!!!

June 20, 1994

