

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
PSAC LOCAL 70125 (EXTERNAL AFFAIRS)
HELD AT 53 QUEEN STREET ROOM 14

MARCH 19, 1979

While members present awaited a quorum, Eleanor Ryan, PSAC National Director for Ontario spoke on the recommendations made by the PSAC Structure Committee, which she had been a member of. The Committee travelled across Canada to hear briefs submitted by members proposing changes to the present structure of the PSAC.

1. The President called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Françoise Maher
Joan LaMarsh
Hélène Goyette
Joan Sparks
André Laporte

President
1st Vice-President
2nd Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Treasurer

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Ruth Hutchinson
Frank Haigh
Ed Walsh

Foreign Service Directives
Publicity
Steward

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Paul Nyznik, AS Chairman
Charles Landon AS Delegate

GUEST

Eleanor Ryan, PSAC National
Director for Ontario

2. AGENDA M/S/C C. Landon/A. Laporte that agenda be accepted as presented.
3. MINUTES OF LOCAL MEETING FEBRUARY 19/79:
M/S/C C. Landon/A. Laporte that Minutes be accepted as presented.
4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Re job description of the Local office clerical position, C. Landon said that a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to review the statement of duties.

The President commented that the Local has not yet received a final reply concerning Couriers' Local membership. However, she has been informed that CM Local 70371 does not expect any additional dues to be transferred from Local 70125.

The President also reported that a letter was sent to the Component regarding the election of Ruth Hutchinson as FSD Chairman.

Regarding item 8, the President, on behalf of the Local Executive, confirmed Bob Phillips as Chairman of the Welfare Committee and commended him on his good work in this area.

5. CORRESPONDENCE - See Annex A page 6

Item 1: Letter addressed to National Component dated February 12 from Alain Couture, President Local Z0251 (London) re trusteeship. There was discussion about the status of members while the Local is not functioning and the possibility of transferring those members to Local 70125 for service. It was suggested that the Local Executive investigate arrangements made with the Component some time ago when Local 70125 provided information and assistance to members in Brussels while that Local was in trusteeship.

M/S/C A. Laporte/P. Nyznik that Local 70125 write the National Component regarding the possibility of reactivating Local Z0251 or returning its members to Local 70125.

6. REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Presented by Françoise Maher (SEE ANNEX B page 8)

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Joan LaMarsh said her activities had been covered in the President's report.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Presented by Hélène Goyette

La réunion du 2 mars dernier, présidée par Carolyn Combs, fut réussie qu'en à la participation des membres, (60) compte tenu du court délai entre l'avis et la réunion elle-même.

Comme demandé à cette réunion, des griefs furent formulés. En tous une quarantaine.

Le même après midi je faisais parvenir à chaque secrétaire de direction de tous les bureaux, un exemplaire de la formule a grief à utiliser, et à faire circuler à leur personnel.

Harold Ade, du Protocole (COPD) a accepté volontairement, de recevoir à titre temporaire copies des griefs et de renseigner les gens, au besoin.

J'ai par la suite canalisé toutes les formules de griefs. Après consultations avec Bob Phillips et Harold Ade, sur la deuxième étape, Bob Phillips représentant du local a signé des fiches de transmission des griefs.

Ces fiches furent envoyées à chaque signataire de grief, afin de les compléter et les retourner pour le second niveau. Je canaliserai également ces formulaires.

Avec l'envoi de ces fiches, j'ai inclus une note indiquant la marche à suivre, selon qu'une réponse fut reçue ou non, suite à la présentation du grief.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Presented by André Laporte

SEE ANNEX C - page 9

Question was raised about the need for use of a postal box. Reply: There is not always someone in the Local office and the box is needed for safe-keeping of mail which would otherwise be put through the door slot and left loose on the floor to be picked up by whoever happened to enter.

In reply to a question regarding stationery and supplies, André Laporte said he intends making a quarterly report on expenses in each item to provide details of expenditures.

M/S/C A. Laporte/R. Hutchinson that report be accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FOREIGN SERVICE DIRECTIVES - Presented by Ruth Hutchinson

The new FSDs have been released in the Department and copies are being circulated as of today. As you know the substantive part of these revisions had been decided upon in consultations between October and January which was before I became chairman of this Committee. There have been two meetings of the NJC on FSDs in the last half of February. These dealt with non-substantive issues only i.e. with the wording of the new FSDs. The first on February 20 was attended at my request by Agatha Morrey as observer on behalf of this Local. The second meeting on February 22, I was unable to attend due to a misunderstanding on time and place.

The new FSDs are still scheduled to be discussed at the FS Community Associations Meeting on March 26. I plan to attend this meeting for my own information. Other employees who may wish to attend will be welcome as I understand the meeting is open to all.

I am still in the process of learning the 'ropes' and meeting with people involved with FSD consultations. In the past month, I have had lunch with Bob Alexander, National Director Countries Outside Canada and still hope to meet with Jim Hope, past representative of the FSD on his return from Bagdad. I will also meet with Chris Dann next week.

MEMBERSHIP

In the absence of Joan Jeakins, Membership Chairman, the President reported that income tax dues receipts had been completed in only two evenings under the excellent supervision of Leone Kemball.

(SEE ANNEX D)

PUBLICITY

Frank Hai reported that an issue of the COURIER is well underway. A new format is planned in both English and French, highlighted with items of special interest. There was some discussion regarding the kind of articles that should be carried, with particular attention to the interest of members abroad.

GROUP REPORTS

PRC - Presented by Ed Walsh

Since the last meeting of Local 70125 I attended two meetings covering the new security measures concept at which there were representatives from PSAC. Nels Rosen for the Couriers of External Affairs, George Holub, DND, R.A. Cochrane, Chief Negotiator, PSAC, Dave Riffel, PSAC Services Officer, Ernie Phillips and myself for the PRC Group.

Representing Treasury Board were John McCann, Dave Brush, Bob Couture, Armand Rattle and Clem Holden.

I also attended a first level grievance with Chris Dann and two meetings re the bilingual bonus cut off.

M/S/C E. Walsh, H. Goyette that report be accepted.

AS - Presented by Paul Nyznik

SEE ANNEX E -

Paul Nyznik then queried the possibility of presenting the request for an observer as a late resolution at the PSAC Convention in July. After discussion on this point it was agreed that, since similar resolutions would undoubtedly have been submitted by other Locals, 70125 delegates should support the resolution(s) on the convention floor.

M/S/C P. Nyznik/C. Landon that report be accepted.

It was pointed out by P. Nyznik that the new AS executive will focus on the observer question. C. Landon informed the meeting that a letter has been drafted for the Local to send to the Area Council in order to inform other AS committees about the action being taken.

SCY - (Not available at the time of typing Minutes)

OTTAWA HULL AREA COUNCIL REPORT - Prepared by Jean Edwards
Presented by Joan Sparks

At the meeting of the Area Council March 14, results of votes on delegates, observers, etc. to the PSAC Convention are as follow:

Delegate: Linda McLaren, President
Observer: Rick Taylor
Alternates: Rick Taylor, Ron Dixon and Brian Fitzpatrick.

The President spoke of a proposal to have a May day rally in Ste Anne's Hall. A motion was made and passed to ratify the plans, with J. Paul Perrault a tentative speaker.

Motions were passed concerning the following subjects:

1. Exchange of reports on activities with Ottawa District Labour Council.
2. Meeting with Local RVPs and \$150. for costs.
3. Meeting with other Area Councils in Ontario and Quebec before Convention to discuss their role in political action groups, etc.
4. Assist political action, groups to arrange all-candidates meetings prior to federal election.
5. Preparation of questionnaire for candidates regarding PS issues.
6. Reimbursement to OHAC Executive of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred to attend meetings.

(This motion was opposed by Local 70125 delegate and passed on marginal vote.)

7. ELECTION OF SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Hélène Goyette (3rd Vice President) nominated by J. Sparks and seconded by André Laporte. Elected by acclamation.

8. NEW BUSINESS - Local Representative to OTTAWA-HULL SEMINAR April 28-29/79.

The President recommended that the Local send a member to attend the the Component Seminar, preferrably a delegate to the forthcoming PSAC Convention in Quebec who has never attended such a seminar.

The Component will pay expenses of one delegate from each Local but, although it would be desirable to send observers also, there are no provisions for such expenses in the Local's 1979 budget. Therefore, if any members wish to attend as observers they must do so at their own expense (which would be nominal).

Bylaws Committee

The President spoke of the need for revision of the Local's bylaws, one of the many reasons being the creation of the CM Local.

M/S/C H. Goyette, E. Walsh that the Executive appoint a committee 'pour reviser les règlements de la section syndicale Locale 70125.'

M/S/C P. Nyznik, R. Hutchinson that the meeting be adjourned. Done at 10:00 p.m.

Joan Sparks
Recording Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Presented by Françoise Maher

Since last meeting the Local representatives have been busy looking after current matters while learning, sometimes the hard way, how to deal with them. Some of the points mentioned in this report will be developed by members directly responsible for each matter.

The President was asked to see that group representatives have some input for negotiations and attend scheduled meetings.

On February 28, the 1st Vice-President and the President attended a meeting called by the National Component to introduce Regional Vice-Presidents and new Local Executives, update contents of latest National Executive meeting, discuss possible input for Spring Component Seminar and discuss Component resolutions to PSAC Convention. Locals were well represented and meeting was most interesting. A meeting will take place to study Convention procedure; there will be an in-house Chief Steward course in June; announcement of the National Component seminar at the end of April was made. It was suggested to pass on to the National Component a copy of the minutes of EAJC meeting so that requests could be monitored. Carolyn Combs of the Regional Office gave the participants an idea of the PSAC programme in protest of the abolition of the bonus for bilingualism. Another meeting on that subject was scheduled for March 1.

An LMC first meeting was held on February 19 on diplomatic passports and privileges for staff members abroad. Lloyd Fucile and Chris Dann of the Component and Maurice Lambert, President of Local 70371 and myself attended. Some exchange of view resulted and it was agreed that minutes of future such meetings would have to be agreed to by both parties and that Management would prepared a written report on the legal justification for issuing or not issuing diplomatic passports. Another meeting will take place possibly before the EAJC meeting in May.

The Special meeting called for March 12 to approve the Budget of the Local for 1979 took place. After discussion by the 10 members present, the budget was accepted and no increases in dues since some bonds will be cashed.

On March 14, the 1st Vice President and the President attended an EAJC meeting. Regarding the Foreign Service Concept, preliminary management reports on Havana, Belgrade and Hong Kong are encouraging. The writing of the code of conduct is well on its way and staff side will be consulted soon on the subject. Temporary installation of lights near the Japanese Embassy has already improved pedestrian crossing on Sussex Drive in front of the Lester B. Pearson Building. As to the appraisal reports, the Local had some valuable input specially as regards to SCYs and CRs. As far as Management is concerned, awarding of contracts for personal services are done with great care. Local representatives have made some recommendations relative to the circular document on the assignment process of the support staff and an LMC will be held on March 20.

On March 14, a meeting was held to discuss the programme of the Local for the year 1979. The main points of emphasis for this year will be education, participation and publicity in connection with the Local. It was further agreed to confirm Bob Phillips in his capacity of Welfare Committee Chairman.

Late in February and early in March, dues receipts were sorted out and distributed under the direction of our Local office secretary whom should be

congratulated along with all people who participated in the success of that operation.

I would like to mention at this point that Local 70371 in its minutes of the General Membership meeting of February 14, copy of which was received on February 27, expressed its thanks to this Local for the support and consideration given to their members in allowing them to form their own Foreign Service Communicators Local.

ANNEX C

TREASURER'S REPORT - Presented by André Laporte

RECONCILIATION FOR FEBRUARY 1979

CASH on hand as of January 31, 1979	1,011.24	CR
REVENUE for February 1979	1,680.00	CR
EXPENDITURES for February 1979	1,507.86	DR
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EQUALS Cash on hand as of February 28, 1979	1,183.38	CR
Outstanding cheques as of February 28, 1979	338.95	CR
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EQUALS Bank Balance per statement of Feb. 28/79	1,522.33	CR

FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash on hand (in Bank)	1,522.33
Petty Cash Advance	50.00
Saving Certificates	6,000.00
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	7,572.33
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT Prepared by Leonne Kemball, presented by Françoise Maher

On Friday Feb. 23, 1,895 membership dues receipts for 1978 were received in the Local Office for distribution. Membership records had been updated and labels ordered from Alphatext Limited.

On Monday Feb. 26 the sorting exercise with the help of volunteers was started in the Local Office. Each receipt is identified by name, social insurance number, departmental acronyms or post code. This exercise was carried out on two evenings for a total of 11½ hours.

The help of the following volunteers was very much appreciated. They were: George Stewart, Jean Edwards, Diane Sutherland, Colette Grenier, Françoise Maher, Maurice Lambert, Paul Paquet and Pat Lambert.

Barry Kemball, past Chairman of the Membership Committee, had arranged with Miss Lise Lepage of the Passport Office, Personnel Section, to do their own distribution. This arrangement and the cooperation from the Passport Office proved to be of great help to the Local Office. Maurice Lambert, President of the CM Local did the distribution to its members.

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, mailing was done to all Bag Posts. On March 1st the non-bag posts were mailed from the Post Office.

We had three noon sessions for distribution of dues receipts for the Ottawa-based members. Each session lasted from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. These sessions took place at the Lester B. Pearson Building on March 5, 6 and 7.

Again, our appreciation to the following volunteers who were: Keith Wilson, George Stewart, Bruce McNeely, André Laporte, Lucie Lachance and Bob Phillips.

Today, March 13, receipts for members who have retired, separated, etc. were returned to PSAC, National Component. A list of receipts returned is on File 35.

Approximately 125 members have still not claimed their receipts. They are being kept in the Local Office until March 30 at which time they will be returned to the National Component.

AS GROUP REPORT - Presented by Paul Nyznik, Chairman

Contract negotiations on behalf of the AS Group have collapsed and on Feb. 27 the Alliance applied for the establishment of an arbitration board. Among the items which will be submitted to arbitration are rates of pay, hours of work, overtime (for ALL AS levels), vacation leave with pay, standby and shift premium. We are seeking a 10% pay increase in a 1-year contract.

For some months now we have been exploring the possibility of having a member of the AS group attend as an observer at the negotiating sessions between Treasury Board and the PSAC. The Group was strongly of the opinion that such attendance would be educational and informative and, with the full support of the Local, made representations to the National Component who referred the matter to the PSAC. The letter of response from the Alliance reads, in part, as follows:

"We have repeatedly declined requests for the attendance of observers at these sessions. There is little that is secretive and nothing sinister concerning developments at the bargaining table and I can appreciate that requests such as yours may have educational value to those who might participate as observers.

"Nevertheless, the process of collective bargaining and the need to make representative decisions in caucus by as many as seven individuals on a negotiating team is difficult. I am certain you can appreciate our concerns that the attendance of observers and considering their developing interest as negotiations proceed, may tend to make the decision-making process even more difficult. The degree of interference would obviously vary with the number of observers in attendance.

"After considering and weighing the advantages and disadvantages of requests such as yours, a policy has been established to deny the participation of observers at the bargaining table."

As an occupational group, and presumably as a Local, we do not accept the premise that attendance of observers at these sessions would be disruptive or would "interfere" or impede negotiations in any way and we are considering further action, probably including placing the question before the forthcoming PSAC Convention.

The election of a new AS Group Committee is under way and mail ballots should soon be in the hands of members, who are asked to return completed ballots by March 30. Eight individuals have agreed to allow their names to stand for election to the five committee posts:

They are: David Dodge, Win Finnie, Barry Kemball, Charles Landon, Stan Mason, Paul Nyznik, Helen Royce and George Stewart.

Paul Nyznik