

**General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

**TELEPHONE TOWN HALL**

The General Membership meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jeff Traeger, President, who chaired the meeting.

1. **Roll Call of Officers Present:** Jeff Traeger, **President**, Bea Bruske, **Secretary Treasurer, Recorder** Deborah Jones, **Vice-President** Ted Bacalzo, **Vice-President** Sandy Barylski, **Vice-President** Tom Biebrich, **Vice-President** Kathy Brnjas, **Vice-President** Alex Ciumac, **Vice-President** Wes Connell, **Vice-President** Laura Cote; **Vice-President** Charlene Desjarlais, **Vice-President** Dianne Gibson-Pierce, **Vice-President** Rob Jessup, **Vice-President** Darlene Kernot, **Vice-President** Frank Manaignre, **Vice-President** Jeremy Miller, **Vice-President** Dean Rodwell, **Vice-President** Roger Siemens, **Vice President** Malcolm Welch

2. **2021 Town Hall Meetings:** President Traeger requested that before the meeting is formally started he would like to say Thank You to all of the members who continue to work on the front lines during this pandemic.

President Traeger then reviewed the format for the Telephone Town Hall meetings where the President and Secretary-Treasurer's reports as well as the minutes from the previous Town Hall meeting are available on the UFCW Local 832 website for members to read and will be asked to vote and approve as posted.

3. **Special Guest: Loreto Gutierrez – Member Engagement and Organizing Coordinator for Local 832**

Director of Operations, Marie Buchan, introduced the newest Member of the UFCW Local 832 team.

Loreto Gutierrez discussed how she became involved in the labour movement and how being a former employee of the St. Boniface Hospital and a member of Local 832 helped prepare her for this new role. The vision for this role and possible challenges that could be faced were discussed.

- Looking forward to meeting members and learning from them.
- Being involved. Unions are strong, but they are stronger with a very active membership.
- The strengths include passion and motivation to make every job situation better and to celebrate each other. A victory for one worker should be received as a victory for all.

- If there are any questions or more information required members are encouraged to contact Loreto (contact information on the Local's website).
4. **m/s/c TO accept the minutes of the previous meeting of Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. as read on-line.**
  5. **Special Guest: Phil Kraychuk, UFCW Local 832 Negotiator**  
 Director of Operations, Marie Buchan, introduced Local 832 Negotiator Phil Kraychuk. Phil's current territory includes negotiating on behalf of members who work in the assisted living sector. This works out to about 1500 members of the roughly 19,000 members of Local 832. This area has been affected due to the funding issues and government negligence towards people with intellectual disabilities and we were able to start an "Assisted Living Campaign". Topics discussed included:
    - Meeting with the employers, shop stewards, bargaining committee members to discuss what is happening in this sector. We were able to create a group to educate ourselves as a union and to have a better understanding of the funding model, where it comes from and what the issues and problems are.
    - The number one issue is the wages. Assisted living members are doing work that health care aides would do including administering medication or restraining someone who may have violent tendencies. Training is an issue as well.
    - The focus on the campaign is properly funding the assisted living sector. We're hopeful the louder we are, we'll succeed in making people listen.
    - We have to keep fighting and pushing until we are able to achieve better wages and better training for these members.
    - Members working in this sector are encouraged to contact their union representative or e-mail Phil Kraychuk to provide input on this ongoing campaign (contact information is on the Local's website).
  6. **m/s/c TO accept the Financial Report for the 8 month period ending August, 2020.**
  7. **Presidents Report:**  
**m/s/c TO accept the President's report as posted.**
  8. **Special Guest: Sandy Forcier, Local 832 Union Representative**  
 Director of Operations, Marie Buchan, introduced Union Representative Sandy Forcier who represents more than 2,000 members in security as part of his territory. Sandy discussed the Security Guard Empowerment Project, which started in late spring of 2019. Some of the issues that are taking place in that sector included:

- Educating our security members on their rights under their collective bargaining agreements and legislation in Manitoba through the activists and security guard leaders who are participating in this project.
- Building a better understanding between those working as front-line security workers and the communities and property that they protect.
- The members are spread out over hundreds of sites throughout Winnipeg and the province – which makes it difficult to engage the members. As well, the current government has brought forth new challenges in the sector since they froze the minimum wage for security guards that Local 832 lobbied more than a decade for.
- There is a large number of new immigrants who work in this sector and we are trying to engage and be more diverse with this project.
- Future plans for this project include:
  - Mandatory 40-hour training improvements.
  - Developed a survey which will be sent to members in the next 7 – 10 days for feedback on which improvements they believe are important and necessary.
  - Running courses for project leaders and members in this sector who are interested and want to become more involved.
  - Continue to build our team of activists and advance the issues and goals of the members in this sector. Host Facebook Live events and hosting servicing meetings via Zoom. Anyone interested in joining is asked to contact Sandy Forcier (contact information on the Local's website).

## 9. **Open Questions**

Throughout the meeting there were 7 questions taken from the members on the line and all but 2 questions were answered. All questions asked and responses provided are recorded and kept on file. The meeting was adjourned with 2 unanswered questions in the queue and Union Reps for those members were instructed to contact those members to answer their questions within 24 hours of the meeting.

**m/s/c to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m.**

**Recorded by Deborah Jones, Recorder**

//lh cope 342

*A full transcription and a list of members taking part in the telephone town hall are kept on file in a binder and stored with these minutes.*