

The Association Executive

PEA membership stands at 2475, up 136 from a year ago. Membership growth was led by UVic, with 77 new PEA members and the Government Licensed Professionals with 36. UVic's PEA membership now stands at 654, entitling us to a second member on the Association executive. John Foxgord joins Bill McGhee as UVic's representatives on the PEA Executive. This year the PEA is stronger than ever as a result of the support of so many during last year's campaign to keep the union intact. To build on that momentum, the PEA executive held a two day strategic planning retreat last spring. As a result we are working to increase membership involvement, to build strategic alliances with other groups, to improve communication and to develop better support for our staff. A recent survey of the membership shows the high level of satisfaction members have with the PEA and the degree to which they prefer being in the PEA to any alternative.

Our recent experiences during the teachers contract dispute, during which the Association executive met almost daily, helped us hone our skills for the year ahead. Given the government's treatment of the teachers there will be difficult bargaining ahead for the PEA chapters whose collective agreements expire in 2006: the Government Licensed Professionals, Family Maintenance Enforcement Program, Paramedical Professionals, Community Health Service and Support Chapters and the University of Victoria. The PEA's very healthy financial reserves will stand us in good stead.

The 6th annual convention of the PEA was held in June in Richmond, B.C. and UVic was

represented by Bert Annear, Vincent Connor, John Foxgord, Tom Gore, John Hall, Roger John, Sheryl Karras, Laurie Keenan, Leslie Kenny, Bert Klatt, Kim Lewall, Bill McGhee, Joe Sparrow and John Verrault. Convention delegates voted to move to a Biennial Convention with a conference in the off year with educational programs and executive reports. Vice President Andrew Wheatley was promoted out of the GLP bargaining unit and Pat Giommi of St. Margaret's was elected 2nd Vice-President to replace Andrew.

The executive decided to not renew the Burnaby PEA office lease and instead to move to smaller premises in Surrey. Our fiscal reserves have just passed the \$7,000,000 mark and the association awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships to children of members whose essays were selected as the best on the topic "How can a union with a politically diverse membership become involved in political action" In addition to the scholarship program, a new PEA Bursary program was introduced, as called for by a resolution at the 2004 Convention. The Association executive decided not to pursue affiliation with the B.C. Federation of Labour this year.

In addition to support from the PEA executive, the UVic PEA must especially acknowledge all of our dedicated staff: Executive Director Jodi Jensen, Labour Relations Officers Tony Bute, Jennifer Duprey and Barinder Rasode and Marianna Crawford, Caroline Ward and Joanne Petersen who provide administrative support.

Tom Gore
Secretary Treasurer
