

Association Executive Report - 2008

The Professional Employees Association Executive is made up of members from a variety of Chapters who meet roughly every six weeks to manage the affairs of the Association. The Executive sets policies for the Union and is responsible for finances and operations. UVic members are represented on the Executive by Tom Gore and Cliff Haman. In addition, John Foxgord was elected at Convention as the Association's Secretary-Treasurer. Our members also serve on a number of Association Executive committees: John Foxgord serves on Grants & Donations and chairs both Finance and Investment and Policy Review. Cliff Haman is on Policy Review, Table Officer Nominations and Scholarships while Tom Gore is on Finance and Staff Relations.

The last year saw the PEA grow by 111 members to a total of 2,836 members. The UVic chapter also has continued to grow and now has 760 PEA members, 68 more than a year ago. By September of 2008 the Association's revenues are more than \$7,000 over budget and expenses are \$55,000 below budget. With the lease of our Victoria office expiring soon active investigation into purchasing office space is ongoing. If we proceed, it would result in diversifying some of the Association's investment reserves into real estate.

PEA activists from all chapters gathered in Kelowna on April 11th and 12th to fulfill the mandate of the 2007 convention, which was to identify and develop methods to encourage member engagement and participation in PEA activities. Seventeen members from UVic looked at strategies to increase member buy in and involvement, especially by newer members. This included an examination of systemic barriers to participation in the work of the union and examined an evolving model that would take members from having a transactional relationship with their union, to having an affiliation with it and finally to finding mutuality with their Association.

Both the *Professional* and the Association web site <http://www.pea.org/> have been extensively revamped since Kyle Russell joined the Association last spring as Communications Officer. His work includes a PEA blog at <http://peablog.wordpress.com/>, a Facebook presence, a new member welcome package and a member photo contest. Entries for the contest should be sent to photocontest@pea.org by November 30th and details are at <http://www.pea.org/photocontest.html>. Future plans include webinars and "brand" ads in a variety of publications in order to increase the visibility of the PEA and aid in the recruitment of new bargaining units of professionals. All of these will be supported by the Association's new slogans "***Professionals Making a Difference***" and "***I am a Professional. This is my Union.***"

Looking forward to next year, the Association's ***8th Constitutional Convention*** will take place May 1st and 2nd, 2009 in Victoria. UVic will send some fifteen delegates and I hope many members will put their names forward when the call goes out in January.

Tom Gore, Association Executive