

Melissa Doyle

Thank you for attending this year's UVic Chapter AGM. I also wanted to thank those on the UVic Executive who also serve on the Association Executive: John Foxgord (Secretary-Treasurer) and Kristen Ficke. The Association Executive, together with staff, meets a minimum of every six weeks throughout the year. Meetings alternate between Victoria, Vancouver and web/teleconference. Executive also each serve on committees, alongside staff and members-at-large from other chapters.

As a quick refresher, the Association Exec consists of table officers, representatives and observers from many chapters, such as the Government Licensed Professionals (GLP), Health Science Professionals (HSP), St. Margaret's School (SMS), Okanagan Regional Library (ORL), Prince George School District (PGSD), Law Society Lawyers (LSL), Legal Services Society (LSS) and Family Maintenance Enforcement Program Lawyers (FMEP).

There is always a lot happening at the chapter and association levels, so for today's AGM I wanted to highlight some of this year's key activities and initiatives, and upcoming points to consider:

November-December

- PEA signed a letter with other supporters calling for whistleblower protection
- PEA sent five delegates to BCFED convention for the first time in our union's history – PEA's resolution, encouraging greater strategy and coordination in the next round of bargaining, was supported and passed by delegates
- PEA made a submission to the Mount Polley Inquiry calling for increased staffing
- PEA launched an advertising and awareness campaign that highlighted provincial government cuts to post-secondary education – visit bcpriorities.ca to find out more
- Legal Services Society (LSS) chapter reached a five-year tentative agreement

January-July

- GLP chapter reached a five-year tentative agreement
- PGSD entered discussions on a possible transfer to the BCTF
- PEA Convention held in Victoria
- Official unveiling of PEA's new logo
- PEA created a new committee for Equity and Human Rights
- PEA members and staff participated in the Victoria Pride Parade
- PEA members and staff attended the Victoria Labour Day Picnic

August-present

- Scholarship and Bursary Winners – ten winners out of 26 applicants. The 2016 essay topic is posted online and the application deadline is March 15, 2016 (additional details online)
- Grants and Donations "Giving Back" program – nominations and voting broken down by region/population for the first time, and voting is currently underway
- Local Rep Training Oct 19-20 (Advanced) and Nov 16-17 (Basic)
- CLC Winter School – invitation sent out to members
- PEA Staff and Association Executive met for two days of strategic planning in early September
- LSL currently in bargaining

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Our **2015 PEA Convention** requires a bit more than a single bullet point, so I wanted to elaborate on some of the highlights from our April event here in Victoria. Convention provides an opportunity for representatives from local chapters to come together, from all over the province, to discuss union business and direction for the future. One way that members can set direction for their union, or ensure that specific issues are addressed, is to bring forward motions (resolutions) at convention. Resolutions at this year's convention included the following:

- Resolution to support the BCFed's "Fight for 15" minimum-wage campaign (passed)
- Resolution to oppose Bill C-51 over concern that this federal legislation would erode individual privacy rights (passed)
- Resolution to consider providing student employment opportunities at PEA office (passed)
- Resolution to broaden the regional distribution of donations made through the PEA grants and donations program (passed)

Additional convention points:

- Service Awards were presented to Joanne Montgomery (HSP) and our very own Vincent Connor – Vincent has served on the chapter executive since 1998
- Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) President, Hassan Yussuff, attended as our keynote speaker
- Election of Table Officers

Finally, I wanted to touch on the subjection of our trial affiliation with the BC Federation of Labour (BCFED). In June 2013, PEA members voted in support of a 3-year trial affiliation with the BCFED. This trial affiliation ends in May 2016. There will be important opportunities for discussion at the chapter levels and on membership forums with regards to whether the PEA should continue its affiliation. **Members will be asked to vote in early 2016** on whether they want the PEA to continue to affiliate with the BCFED and, as a requirement, affiliate with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). PEA staff and executive are in support of ongoing affiliation with the BCFED and CLC.

In closing, I'd like to thank several of our PEA staff. Our organization is stronger because of their individual efforts and support.

- **Toshie Arakawa** provides outstanding "above and beyond" service to almost every PEA committee. I sometimes wonder if she's mastered the art of being in two places at once!
- **Tammy Bouchard** is another customer service and organizational superstar at the PEA office
- **Teresa Husband**, from overseeing PEA finances, to her ability to spot and resolve even the smallest of numerical inconsistencies, we're glad to have her back from leave!
- **Brett Harper** continues to improve our reach and impact through print and social media. Brett won several labour media and print awards this year for his work on The Professional.
- **Scott McCannell** provides leadership, guidance and an unwavering commitment to our organization and its members. Scott is incredibly active in engaging the public, politicians and other labour representatives on behalf of the PEA.
- **Melissa Moroz** is passionate and connected when it comes to education and the labour movement. Melissa provides outstanding service and support to us here at UVic, and to the other chapters in her portfolio. Thank you!