

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 – Kristen Ficke, who has recently stepped down after two years of service, and Chris Clausen, our newly appointed UVic rep – along with John Foxgord, our association's elected secretary-treasurer. The Association Executive, together with PEA staff, meets a minimum of every six weeks throughout the year. Meetings alternate between Victoria, Vancouver and web/teleconference. Executive members also each serve on additional committees, alongside staff and members-at-large from other chapters.

Quick refresher! The Association Executive consists of table officers (elected at convention) and representatives and observers appointed from our many chapters, such as the Government Licensed Professionals (GLP), Health Science Professionals (HSP), St. Margaret's School (SMS), Okanagan Regional Library (ORL), 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 of some of this year's key activities and initiatives, and upcoming points to consider:

November-December

- New education plan implementation that includes: revised training curriculum for local reps; opportunities for members to attend Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Winter School; opportunities for members of the PEA's Equity & Diversity Committee to attend training on how to ensure that members from equity-seeking groups receive strong representation.
- LSS in active bargaining; ORL and SMS chapters preparing for bargaining
- Responded to BC Nurses Union's (BCNU) attempt to raid HSP chapter – we won the initial Labour Board's ruling, but BCNU has challenged this ruling and has indicated that they will ramp up raiding activities for winter 2016. Note: the BCNU's history of raiding (of other health sector unions) has previously resulted in their expulsion from the BCFed and CLC.

January-July

- Members voted to continue affiliation with the BCFed and, by extension the CLC (85% of voting members chose to affiliate)
- Staff continued to seek opportunities for coverage in the media that would benefit our members. These included articles in the [Global and Mail](#) (Mt. Polley dam) and [Vancouver Sun](#) (importance of public service professionals to safeguarding BC natural resources).
- Executive approved transitioning the PEA's website and database to a new platform, primarily as a means to eliminate administrative redundancies, and to provide more effective and relevant communications to members across the province
- Members attended day of action at BC legislature to raise awareness of growing student-debt
- Members and staff participated in the Victoria Pride Parade & Victoria Labour Day Picnic
- FMEP chapter collective agreement finalized
- The Prince George School District (PGSD), after months of discussion with the BCTF, Labour Relations Board, opted to move its members into the BCTF. This was the best option for PGSD members as many members, under the BCTF salary grid, would receive significant pay increases. We wish the PGSD all the best!

Melissa Doyle

- This year's **PEA Education Conference** in April focused on increasing communication skills and member-to-member connections with the theme "We're stronger when everyone is involved." The conference attracted 68 delegates and, in alignment with the 2016 strategic plan to prioritize training and education, added an additional half-day of workshops. We value the input of members on what *you* want to learn at our education conferences!
- Beginning in June this year the PEA began including a summary of our financial position as a feature in The Professional. Audited statements from the previous year are posted online at pea.org/financials – financials not final until approved by delegates at the 2017 convention.

August-present

- Scholarship Winners – 5 high school winners and 4 university winners; there were no bursary applications this year. The [2017 essay topic is posted online](#) and the application deadline is March 15, 2017.
- Grants and Donations "Giving Back" program – nominations and voting broken down by region/population for the second time, and voting is currently underway. The number of nominated organizations was low this year so we're looking to voter turnout, and conversations at our World Café session today, to help guide us on the fate of this program.
- Local Rep (Basic) Training held in October
- [CLC Winter School](#) – invitation sent out to members for two young worker (30 and under) spots and two 'regular' member-at-large spots (deadline November 15th)
- PEA Staff and Association Executive met for two days of strategic planning in early September
- Continuing efforts to defend against raiding of HSP chapter members by the BCNU: hired term PEA labour organizer to work with HSP members and executive, and coordinate with other impacted (targeted) health unions within the BCFed; voted to support the "[Know a Nurse](#)" information campaign; and continue to consult with our legal counsel in response to BCNU challenging the December 2015 decision that went against them.

In preparation for 2017 Convention (May 12-13 in Victoria), we're looking for volunteers to sit on the [Table Officer Nominating Committee](#). The committee meets 2-3 times by phone in the lead up to convention with the role/responsibility of finding suitable candidates to run for the four table officer positions: President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, and Secretary-Treasurer.

In addition, in the lead up to convention, this is also a great opportunity to nominate a PEA member who goes above and beyond for a PEA Service Award. [Details online](#).

In closing, I'd like to thank *all* our PEA staff. Our organization is stronger because of their efforts and talents.

In particular today, I'd like to thank Sam(antha) Montgomery for joining the PEA as our newest labour relations officer. Sam has adapted quickly and integrated seamlessly within our PEA family while representing members, not only at UVic, but the LSL and LSS chapters as well while Melissa Moroz is on leave. Scott McCannell our Executive Director, is also here today and I'd like to thank him again for joining us and for his continuous drive and commitment to the PEA. Scott is thoughtful and insightful when it comes to issues that impact our members and our staff, and incredibly active in engaging the public, politicians and other labour representatives on behalf of the PEA.