

## Association Executive Report 2017

Chris Clausen

Thank you for attending this year's Uvic Chapter AGM. First I want to congratulate our two new Table Officers: Susan Dempsey who was elected to Second Vice President, and Melissa Doyle who was elected to secretary-treasurer at this year's convention. Second, I want to thank Kristen Ficke for filling in for Melissa Doyle as our chapter representative until we find a permanent replacement.

The Association Executive consists of the President Frank Kholberger, First Vice-President Sheldon Martell, Second Vice-President Susan Dempsey, Secretary-Treasurer Melissa Doyle, and representatives appointed by each of the PEA's chapters. We meet a minimum of every six weeks throughout the year, alternating between Victoria, Vancouver, and remote teleconferencing. Executive members also serve on additional committees, alongside staff and members-at-large from other chapters.

A lot happened this year and I'd like to highlight some of this year's key activities:

- We added a new chapter to the PEA bringing in 145 new members. The Hospital Employees Union Staff Union decided to certify with the PEA after Unifor decided to stop representing the staff of B.C. Unions. All unions have administrative staff and they are all, unsurprisingly, unionized. We are proud to step in to provide representation.
- The B.C. Nurses union lost their Supreme Court appeal which means their attempted raid on our Health Science Professionals psychologists was not legal. BCNU was assessed damages so PEA will be able to recover some of our legal costs. We were worried that the B.C. Nurses union would try a legal raid on our Health Sciences Professionals chapter so we hired a temporary organizer position to prepare. Fortunately the BCNU decided not to raid the HSP but the organizer was able to build relationships with the HSP members that will allow us to respond to raids with more agility in the future.
- Six PEA members attended the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School and learned valuable lessons on leadership, bargaining, health & safety, and labour law.
- Our Okanagan Regional Libraries chapter successfully ratified a collective agreement that includes a 2% wage increase, establishes a joint job classification committee, and establishes a health & safety plan.
- The Giving Back program has been amended to remove preselection and allow members to vote on all qualifying charities that are recommended by members.
- The PEA funded a study by Evidence for Democracy (E4D) called "Oversight at Risk" which evaluated the impact of government policy on scientific integrity in BC, which was reported on by the CBC.
- Convention 2017 saw 12 resolutions passed, including calls for action to oppose raiding by BC unions, encouraging the engagement of younger PEA members, advocating for initiatives to support mental health and improved safety in PEA workplaces, lobbying the government to increase the number of PEA scientists in the public service, and improving the quality of mental health services. In addition the constitution and bylaws were revised to require participation by at least 50% of the membership in any vote that would change membership dues.

The dedication of our volunteers is what makes our union strong, and we are seeking 5 members for the following vacancies:

#### PEA Awards Committee

One Member-At-Large Position

The Awards Committee assesses the applications for PEA scholarships, bursaries and the nominations for the PEA Service Award. Work involves up to two teleconferences per year in addition to the review of submissions.

#### PEA Education Committee

Two Member-At-Large Positions

The Education Committee makes recommendations regarding the biennial Education conference, local representative training and other educational opportunities for members. The committee meets two times per year for one-hour teleconferences.

#### PEA Equity and Diversity Committee

Two Member-at-Large Positions

The mandate of the committee is to work to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the workplace, in the union, and throughout society. The committee meets up to three times a year via teleconference.

We will be hosting the 2018 Education Conference at Laurel Point on April 13 & 14. This year's focus is on "Making your Union Stronger" and we hope to see you there!

I'd like to thank our outgoing secretary-treasurer John Foxgord, who stepped down this year, for his service on the association executive. He was a steadfast advocate for sound fiscal policy and his good judgement will be missed.

Finally, I'd like to thank Scott McCannell and our PEA staff for the excellent support they provide the Association Executive, we wouldn't be able to do this without you!