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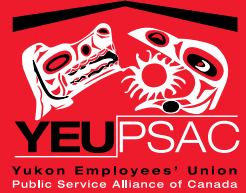
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YEU

NEWS

All About YEU – Your Union

April 2008



Posted on www.yeu.ca Apr. 17

Special YEU Convention approves major upgrade project Work begins on Union Hall renovations

Delegates to the last YEU Triennial Convention gathered at a Special Convention on April 5, to consider proposed renovations to the YEU Hall at the corner of 2nd and 4th avenues in Whitehorse.

The delegates were able to tour the facility in the morning. They then met in the afternoon to debate and vote on the renovation design package.

Delegates elected to represent YEU members at each Triennial Convention serve as the final decision making authority until the next convention. Special Conventions can be called throughout the three year mandate of the Executive to make critical decisions or vote on modifications to convention resolutions.

Following debate on the only motion before the meeting, members voted overwhelmingly to approve the modified budget, and



The design for renovations to the YEU Union Hall was unveiled on Saturday, April 5, before a special YEU Convention.

instructed the Executive to initiate work immediately.

PSAC National President John Gordon travelled to Whitehorse to address the delegates. He joined the building tour, and expressed PSAC's support for the project.

PSAC will pay for the leasehold improvements to their rental suite in the building. Gordon also confirmed that PSAC has committed to providing a loan to the YEU should it

be required to complete the project.

“The 2005 YEU Triennial Convention gave the go-ahead to the Executive to research the viability of a building renovation”, said President Butterworth. “Since that time we have worked to complete an analysis of the structure, consider renovation alternatives, select an architectural design firm and tender the

project”, he explained. “The vote of the Special Convention authorizes the Executive to proceed immediately with the project.”



YEU President Laurie Butterworth addresses delegates at the Special Convention.

New YEU Executive Members Elected

The Executive of the Yukon Employees' Union is pleased to announce the election of three new executive members. The new representatives were elected to serve out the terms of several positions that became vacant, and will hold office until the 2008 YEU Triennial Convention on October 24, 25 and 26.

The new members are Eric Peterson, Tom Renwick and Julie Docherty. Eric and Tom will both serve as members of the Building/Building Association committee. Each new executive member has been assigned liaison responsibility for a YEU Local:

- Eric Petersen – Whitehorse Transit Local Y022
- Julie Docherty – Whitehorse Correctional Centre Local Y016
- Tom Renwick – Yukon Utility Workers Local Y024.

2008 PSAC National Conference for Racially Visible Members

YEU delegates representing racially visible Union members attended the 2008 PSAC National Conference for Racially Visible Members in Montreal, Quebec, on March 7 to 9. The theme of the conference was *Be the Change: Create a Better World*.

The conference objectives were to:

- educate, politicize and mobilize 'racialized' members (*those facing characterization by race*) by making links between the union, the workplace and the community;
- create and/or strengthen networks within our union and our communities;

- enhance and support leadership development of racialized members in our union and workplace; and
- help define racism, assess its impact, and plan how to fight against it.



Attendees at the 2008 PSAC National Conference for Racially Visible members, left to right: Anthony Ikpong, Yoshiko Atkins, Shehnaz Ali, Tony Thomas, Jo- Anne Smith (on behalf of YEU President Butterworth) and Jennyta Pugh.

Women's Committee Supporting Shelters

Whitehorse Regional Women's Committee (RWC) continued its



annual International Women's Day support for identified needs at Yukon women's shelters, and for the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre lunches. Sadly, need is increasing rather than decreasing.

Pictured on the left are committee members: Renee Claude-Carrier, Donna Prince, Jo-Anne Smith, Sue Christianson and Ruth Borgfjord as they finish organizing 'Starter Kits' – laundry baskets filled with pots,

pans, dishes, cutlery, cooking utensils, etc. – to help women leaving Kaushee's Place to start a new life. As well, over 20 bags of clothes, sheets, comforters and other items were sent to the Help & Hope Shelter in Watson Lake.

PSAC women-members interested in knowing more RWC's work, or becoming involved in this or any of the other committee activities are welcome to join the monthly meetings. They are held the first Monday of each month at 12 noon in the YEU Boardroom. Contact Nancy Debrececi at 667-2331.

YEU from the President



Your Executive met in March for a retreat and planning session. This was the second time in our man-

date that we gathered to review activities, identify unfinished business and develop an action plan for the remainder of the year. The upcoming Triennial Convention was foremost on our agenda.

I encourage all our members to participate in the convention process. YEU is your union, and the convention is the primary decision-making forum for the membership. You can take part by helping select delegates or letting your name stand to become a delegate, and by helping develop resolutions for presentation to the convention.

Community Outreach

We are continuing our community outreach program in May with a return visit to Watson Lake, and trips to Mayo and Haines Junction.

I was joined in Watson Lake last month by Y010 President Del Young and YEU 2nd Vice-President Steve Geick. I'm returning to that community on May 1 to attend the founding General Meeting of what will become our newest Local. There will also be training sessions held on the two days following the meeting.

Vice-President Lorelee Kesler will join me on May 5 at an information session in Mayo for all YEU members in that community.

We will also be travelling to Haines Junction to explore the possibility for forming a Local in that region. A meeting with members there will take place on May 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Correctional Centre

Issues have again arisen between management and WCC Local Y016. I met with Deputy Minister of Justice Dennis Cooley to raise our concerns, and attended two all-member meetings with the Local. I'm optimistic that the recent management staffing change will help resolve many of the concerns at the facility.

WCC Local Y016 held its AGM this month, and elected a new team of Local representatives. My congratulations to new President Tracy Foss, VP Cory Birss, Sec-Treas. Michael Szakszon, and, Bob Clark, who will serve as Chief Shop Steward.

Workers' Compensation

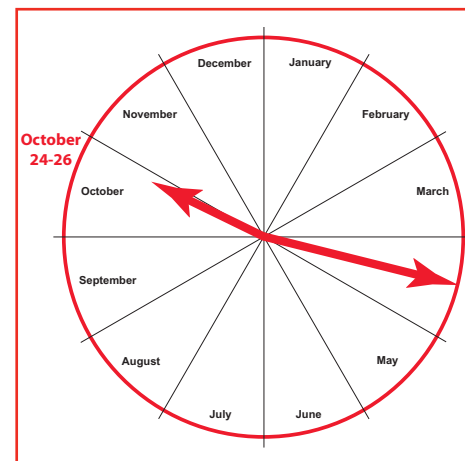
I continue to participate on the YWCH&SB policy working group and the Workplace Harassment Prevention Office policy working group.

After many years, it appears that a new Workers' Compensation Act might be passed by the legislature. We are currently working on related policies and have scheduled meetings from now until the fall to get this job done.

Union Hall Renovations

As our cover story shows, renovations on your Union Hall are final-

YEU Triennial Convention *The Clock is Ticking*



ly under way. A Special Convention was required to approve changes to the budget and finalize the design. My thanks to convention delegates for coming together on such short notice.

This Special Convention underlines the importance of our upcoming Triennial Convention. Delegates serve throughout the three-year mandate of our Executive to make critical decisions relating to the operation of your Union.

Hospital Workers Local

Members of Local Y025 held their AGM this month. Congratulations to the new Executive.

New Executive Members

Welcome aboard Eric Petersen, Julie Docherty and Tom Renwick! I'm delighted to have the three of you join us on the YEU Executive. Your help and advice will be most welcome as we approach the upcoming Convention.

Locals active with meetings and AGMs

Local Y016

Workers at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre Local Y016 met on April 14 for their AGM. Their new Executive includes Tracy Foss, President; Cory Birss, Vice-President; Michael Szakszon, Secretary-Treasurer; and Bob Clark, Chief Shop Steward.

Local Y017

Human Services Local Y017 holds their AGM on Wednesday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Local Y023

City of Whitehorse Local Y023 will meet for their AGM on Wednesday, May 7 at 5:35 p.m. at the Canada Games Centre.

Local Y025

Whitehorse General Hospital Workers Local Y025 met April 9 for their Annual General Meeting and election of officers.

Local Y028

The founding General Meeting for Watson Lake Local Y028 is scheduled for Thursday, May 1. Training courses will be offered for the new executive and interested members over the next two days.

Mayo Meeting

YEU members in the Mayo region are scheduled to meet with YEU President Butterworth on May 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Curling Club.

Haines Junction Meeting

A general information meeting will be held in Haines Junction to discuss the possibility of forming a Local there. It takes place May 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Elias Centre.

YEU calendar

Talking Union Basics (TUB) Course

April 25-26 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Local Y017 AGM

April 30, 7:30 p.m.

Local Y028 Founding AGM

May 1, 7-8:00 p.m., Watson Lake Hospital

Mayo Meeting with Executive

May 5, 7:00 p.m., Mayo Curling Club

Local Y023 AGM

May 7, 5:35 p.m., Canada Games Centre

Haines Junction Meeting with Executive

May 8, 7:30 p.m., St. Elias Centre

Duty to Accommodate Training

May 9-10, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

YEU Triennial Convention

October 24, 25 & 26

Workers' Compensation Courses

Presented by YFL. Call 667-6676

Shop Steward Round Tables

Monthly, every second Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. until noon, YEU Hall

YEU Monthly Executive Meeting

2nd Thurs., 6:30 p.m., YEU Hall

Local Y010 Monthly Meeting

2nd Wed., 5:00 p.m., YEU Hall

Local Y017 Monthly Meeting

4th Wed., 7:30 p.m., YEU Hall

Local Y025 Monthly Meeting

2nd Tues., 4:30 p.m., YEU Hall

Local Y026 Monthly Meeting

3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m. Dawson City



YEU News is published by the Yukon Employees' Union.

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