

AGM 2021

Meeting called to order: 3:00pm

Roll call of officers

Matthew Fields – President

Mike LeBlanc 1st Vice President

Kelly Velazquez 2nd Vice President

Bob Barclay – Treasurer

Jennifer LeBlanc – Secretary

Candice Carroll – Interim Communications Officer

Matthew Fields – “Have we all had a chance to view the minutes from the last two meetings that we shared? If so, can I get a motion to approve the minutes? Bob Barclay makes a motion to approve the minutes, Gerry Finnigan seconds the motion.

President’s Report

Matthew Fields – “So I’ll move on to the President’s report. Honestly 2020 has been a quiet year for the local. All the committee work was pretty much paused. We’ve dealt with local work and grievances. We were able to provide funds to support the Crisis Centre in Shediac, we are always excited to be able to support them. We continue to meet with management and the ADM to push the concerns of the membership. Can I get a motion to approve the president’s report?”

Candice Carroll makes a motion to approve the report, Mike LeBlanc seconds the motion.

Treasurer’s Report

Matthew Fields – “Ok we will move on the Treasurer’s report.”

Robert Barclay – “Hello, like we said, not much to report this year. The straight fund grew to \$205,000. The strike fund now has \$217,521 which will support \$50 a day for 400 members for 10 days with a reserve of \$17,000. The closing balance this year on the chequing account was \$66,000 so that just shows how much we didn’t do this year. The expenses were way don, we didn’t have social gatherings like we normally do. We did provided funds for the International Women’s day so that was \$622. Donation to Crisis center in the way of gift cards which really helps their clients. We did the 12 days of giveaways on the Facebook for \$300. So, the 2021 Budget includes estimated revenue of \$66,350, of that \$17,000 is from dues.

Matthew – “Can we get a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report?” Gerry Finnigan makes a motion to approve the treasurer’s report and the Candice Carroll seconds.

Matthew – “I did forget at the beginning to get a motion to approve the agenda. We would like to make an amendment to the agenda to add somewhere a call for delegates to the GSU convention. Can I get a motion to amend the agenda to add GSU convention call out?” Mike LeBlanc makes a motion to approve, Candice Carroll seconds.

Matthew – “Can a get a motion to approve the audited financial statements?” Mike LeBlanc makes a motion and Debbie Lewis seconds

Randy – “Sorry to interrupt Matthew, so you have received a motion and a second to approve the audited financial statements, now you need to ask if questions or comments on audited financial statements for the Treasurer.”

Matthew – “Does anyone have any questions?”

Randy – “You also need to ask for a vote to approve. So, if anyone has comments or questions, they can put their virtual hands up”

Matthew – “Does everyone approve? Any questions/comments on budget? If no questions, any nays? Seeing no nays, the budget is approved.”

Motions

Matthew Fields – “So we will move on to the motion to amend bylaw 6. Jason can you put the motion up on the screen. I will read the motion in English.”

Motion to amend bylaw 6.01 & 8.05

Whereas, the Chief Shop Steward currently has a voice but no vote

Whereas, the Chief Shop Steward is appointed within the network of Shop Steward

Be it resolved that the position of Chief Shop Steward be elected at an AGM with the membership present

Be it further resolved that the new Elected Chief Shop Steward be a full member of the Executive and has voice and vote

Matthew Fields – “Mike can you read the motion in French please?”

Mike LeBlanc reads the motion in French

Matthew Fields – “Can I get a motion to approve this motion?” Mike LeBlanc moves the motion; Matthew Fields seconds the motion.

Matthew Fields – “Any questions or opposition? And do we have to vote on that? Can we have a vote”

Gino Doiron – “Just a comment, I think this is a great idea”

Monique Roy – “Question, why was it like that before that they didn’t have a vote?”

Matthew Fields - “I don’t know why it was like that in the past.”

Monique Roy – “What does a chief shop steward actually do?”

Matthew Fields – “They coordinate shop steward meetings, first point of contact on grievances, attend conventions and conferences. Attend all executive meetings with a voice but no vote. Currently, this is to give he or she a voice and a vote. Any questions? Can we vote? Anyone against? No, we will take that as approval then. We can move on to the motion to add a communication officer. If we can get that motion up on the screen, please Jason.”

Matthew read motion in English.

Motion to add position of Communications Officer to Local 60018 Executive Committee:

WHEREAS GSU Local 60018 Executive Committee currently consists of a President, a 1st Vice-president, a 2nd a secretary and a treasurer.

BE IT RESOLVED that GSU Local 60018 motions to add position of Communications Officer to local Executive Committee

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the motion is passed, the communications officer will be subject to the same bylaws as the current Executive committee and receive an annual honoraria equal to that of the Treasurer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Communications Officer shall:

a) Act as an information conduit between the union and the membership to assist in the collection and maintenance of contact information for the membership

b) Promote all union events

c) Be responsible for updating the local’s website, bulletin boards and posting to social media (Face Book, Twitter) any information determined by the Executive

d) Engage in political action and public relations on matters of concern to the membership

e) Will monitor the locals email account and advise of any member concerns

Mike LeBlanc read the motion in French.

Mike LeBlanc moves to accept the motion. Gerry seconds.

Question from the chat – Why do we need this position?

Matthew Fields – “It allows us to do things that we haven’t in the past. We asked one of the shop stewards to come forth and temporarily occupy the position until we could have an election, it’s been Candice Carroll and she’s done a fantastic job. It allows us to have a stronger social media presence, to have a social media at all really. I can only take up so much of my nights and weekends, doing union work. So, it takes some of that strain away, we’re a massive local, one of

the largest in the Maritimes. So, it's just something we all agreed was needed. That it was time for the local to modernize and come ahead to do these things and offer better service to our membership. Does anyone else have anything to say about the position? Go ahead Mike."

Mike LeBlanc – "Well I think in this last year we showed that it's very important to keep in touch, especially with what's going on this last year and the social media presence is important. I think it's important that they are part of the executive"

Gerry Finnigan - "In agreement with Mike and Matthew's statements. I think it's a needed position especially this year"

Matthew Fields – "any opposed? No one opposed – motion passed. Ok so I will send it over to Randy for the elections for the 2021-2023 executive"

Elections

Randy Howard – "Hello brothers, sisters, friends. I'll give an example of what happens with the elections. All positions are up for vote. So, we will vote on President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and now Chief Shop Steward and Communications Officer.

I'll call for nominations 3 times and then Jason will run the anonymous vote. Any questions?"

Questions from Jean-Marie Brideau – "I thought these positions were elected half at one meeting and half at the next meeting? Both for periods of two years? Have things changed?"

Randy Howard – "When I was here it was always the complete executive. There were suggestions to do that but to my recollection that was never adopted. I'll ask Matthew to expand if that has changed."

Matthew Fields - "Thank you Randy, and no that hasn't changed we have been at two years for the whole executive the whole time I've been here"

Randy Howard - "They are for two-year terms is that right?"

Matthew Fields – "Yes, that's right"

Randy Howard – "1st call for nominations for President" Mike LeBlanc nominates Matthew Fields – Gerry Finnigan seconds the nomination

Second call – "Nominations of local president" – none

Third call – "Nominations of local president" - none

Randy Howard – "Seeing and hearing none, I call nominations closed. Brother Fields you have been duly nominated and seconded for the position of local President. Do you wish to leave your name stand?"

Matthew Fields - "Yes I do"

Randy Howard - "Congratulations Brother you are President by acclamation. Would you like to say a few words?"

Matthew Fields - “We will continue, we have really strong relationships with our membership and engagement, and we will continue to push forward”

Randy Howard – “Congratulations Brother. Ok, so it’s that easy and that’s how we will run it for the rest of the election. First call for nominations for 1st Vice-President.

Gerry Finnigan nominates Mike LeBlanc, Kelly Velazquez seconds the nomination.

2nd call – “Nominations for 1st Vice-President?” - none

3rd call – “Nominations for 1st Vice-President?” - none

Randy Howard – “Seeing and hearing no other nominations I consider nominations closed. Brother LeBlanc you have been duly nominated and seconded for the position of 1st Vice-President. Do you wish to leave your name stand?”

Mike LeBlanc – “Yes I do Brother”

Randy Howard – “Congratulations Brother LeBlanc you are 1st Vice-President by acclamation. Would you like to say anything to the members participating?”

Mike LeBlanc – “I just want to say that when I came here to the Pension Centre, I was going to take a year off and I’m glad I didn’t because being involved in the local here, it’s been a pleasure. To deal with management like we do and the committees that we are in, I mean it’s great and coming from Parks where we had to fight for everything, this is great. So, thank you”

Randy Howard – “Congratulations. Ok so the next position is 2nd Vice-President.

1st call – “nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-President. Debbie Lewis nominates Kelly Velazquez and Mike LeBlanc seconds the nomination

2nd call – “Nominations for 2nd Vice-President” - none

3rd call – “Nominations for 2nd Vice-President” none

Randy Howard – “Seeing and hearing no other nominations I consider nominations closed. Sister Velazquez you have been duly nominated and seconded for the position of 2nd Vice-President; do you wish to leave your name stand?”

Kelly Velazquez – “Yes I do”

Randy Howard - “Congratulations by acclamation Sister. Would you like to say a few words?”

Kelly Velazquez - “Thank you, I’ve enjoyed my time working with you and the team here and look forward to the next two years going just as well”

Randy Howard – “I just want to take a little pause, I know we’re running elections, but just a show of hands how many members here today is it their first meeting? I want to welcome you and thank you for coming. So, I just want to mention, it’s always a chance to get yourself into the minutes by making a motion or seconding. So, don’t be intimidated or scared to asked questions,

GSU is a coaching, mentoring union, like Matthew said earlier, we all learn from each other. So, with that said, the next position is the position of Secretary.

1st call – “Nominations for the position of Secretary” – Debbie Lewis nominates Gerry Finnigan and Robert Barclay seconds.

2nd call- “Nominations for the position of Secretary” - None

3rd call – “Nominations for the position of Secretary” Renee Dorey your hand is up, do you have question?”

Renee Dorey - “No I raised my hand this is my first meeting”

Randy Howard – “Seeing and hearing no other nominations I consider nominations closed. Brother Finnigan you have been duly nominated and seconded for the position of secretary; do you wish to leave your name stand?”

Gerry Finnigan – “I will yes”

Randy Howard – “Congratulation Brother, you are secretary by acclimation. Do you want to say a few words?”

Gerry Finnigan - “I’m looking forward to doing my part and putting more effort into the union this year. Thank you”

Randy Howard – “Alright, the next position is the Treasurer”

1st call – “Nominations for the position of Treasurer” Candice Carroll nominates Robert Barclay and Gerry Finnigan seconds the nomination

2nd call - “Nominations for the position of Treasurer”

3rd call - “Nominations for the position of Treasurer”

“Seeing and hearing no other nominations I consider nominations closed. Brother Barclay you have been duly nominated and seconded for the position of Treasurer; do you wish to leave your name stand.”

Robert Barclay - “Yes I do”

Randy Howard – “Brother Barclay you are Treasurer by acclimation. Do you want to say a few words?”

Robert Barclay - “Yes, I like being on the executive. I’ve enjoyed my time as treasurer and look forward to moving forward”

Randy Howard – “Alright the next position is the new position that you’ve actually just voted a resolution to add a Communications Officer”

1st call – “Nominations for the position of Communications Officer” Debbie Lewis nominates Candice Carroll and Kelly Velazquez seconds the nomination

2nd call – “Nominations for the position of Communications Officer” - none

3rd call – “Nominations for the position of Communications Officer” - none

Randy Howard - “Seeing and hearing no other nominations I consider nominations closed. Sister Carroll you have been duly nominated and seconded for the position of Communications Officer. Do you wish to leave your name stand?”

Candice Carroll - “Yes please”

Randy Howard – “Congratulations Sister through acclimation you are now the Communications Officer. Do you want to say a few words?”

Candice Carroll - “I wanted to say thanks, I’m super excited, I’ve been doing this for a little bit, and I enjoy it. Thanks for coming, being engaged and present. For those of you not on the Facebook if you have any questions, reach out we’re happy to help”

Randy Howard – “Alright so the next elected position is the Chief Shop Steward”

1st call – “Nominations for Chief Shop Steward” Gerry Finnigan nominates Debbie Lewis and Kelly Velazquez seconded the nomination

2nd call - “Nominations for Chief Shop Steward” - none

3rd call - “Nominations for Chief Shop Steward” - none

Randy Howard - “Seeing and hearing no other nominations I consider nominations closed. Sister Lewis you have been duly nominated and seconded for the position of Chief Shop Steward. Do you wish to leave your name stand?”

Debbie Lewis “Yes I do”

Randy Howard – “Congratulations Sister Lewis you are Chief Shop Steward by acclimation. Do you want to say a few words?”

Debbie Lewis - “I just want to say thank you and anyone who needs anything my phone is always on, please don’t hesitate to call”

Election for Convention Delegates

Randy Howard – “Matthew I know you wanted to add to the agenda the election for convention. Now it does say in section 7 of the GSU bylaws that the president is automatic delegate to the GSU Tri-Annual Convention. We have enough time, so I’ll leave it up to you, GSU local 60018 has seven delegate positions. So, we can run the elections separately for six positions or another suggestion is that we get all the nominations with seconders and we rank them by order. Each member would vote for one nominated delegate and we would rank them and whoever gets the highest would go, it would be ranked highest to lowest. If there is more than you need, they would be alternates.”

Matthew Fields – “Gerry and Mike are keeping their previously elected delegate positions, so we only need to vote for 4 positions”

Randy Howard – “Ok so there’s only 4 to be elected. So, I pose it again, do you want to do the election separately or do the rankings?”

Matthew Fields – “I think the rankings are fine. Is anyone opposed?”

Question from the phone – “Hi my name is Nicole, I’m not participating by Zoom because I couldn’t connect, so how would I vote?”

Randy Howard – “So Jason would send that in the chat.”

Jason Manchester – “You can just send me an email, this is Nicole Vautour? You are the only person participating by phone, so it should be easy.”

Nicole Vautour – “Ok thank you”

Randy Howard – “Ok so I don’t see anyone disapproving of this so I’m going to call for nominations 3 times – electing 4 members to attend the GSU 8th annual tri-annual convention – tentatively set for October 5th to October 7th – there may be a change in date – PSAC convention is in June and they were originally a 3 day convention and they voted to add a 4th day . GSU is now looking at adding a 4th day as well. Any questions?”

Monique Roy – “Are any new elected members interested in going? Or does it have to be people outside the executive”

Randy Howard - “Only the president is an automatic delegate, all others have to be voted on”

Jason Manchester – “Randy just to break in – Is Shanny a member of the local and holding a vote?”

Randy Howard – “Yes she is a member and gets a vote”

Jason Manchester – “Also there is a Peter here with no last name. Who is Peter?”

Xue Song Guo – “This is Xue Song Guo, but you can call me Peter.”

Randy Howard – 1st call – “Nominations for delegates for the GSU Tri-Annual Convention?”
Matthew Fields nominates Robert Barclay and Mike LeBlanc seconds the nomination. Gerry Finnigan nominates Candice Carroll and Debbie Lewis seconds the nomination

2nd call – “Nominations for delegates for the GSU Tri-Annual Convention?” Jean- Marie Brideau nominates Kelly Velazquez and Lisa Leger seconds the nomination. Gerry Finnigan nominates Debbie Lewis and Monique Roy seconds the nomination. Peter Guo nominates Jean-Marie Brideau and Candice Carroll seconds the nomination. Peter Guo nominates Lisa Leger and Nicole Vautour seconds the nomination.

3rd call – “Nominations for delegates for the GSU Tri-Annual Convention?” - None

Randy Howard – “Seeing and hearing no other nominations I call nominations closed. So, Jason you will have time to put the names on the ballot list. While Jason is doing that, I just want to remind everyone you are voting for 1 name on the list and then we will rank them. The most votes will get to go.”

Lisa Leger– “I’d like to thank everyone who nominated me, but I will not be standing as delegate thank you.”

Randy Howard– “Lisa thanks for doing that I forgot, I have to go back so in reverse order:

Brother Brideau, do you accept the nomination? Yes

Sister Lewis, do you accept the nomination? Yes

Sister Velazquez, do you accept the nomination? No

Sister Carroll, do you accept the nomination? Yes

Brother Barclay, do you accept the nomination? Yes

Randy Howard – “Alright to with the withdrawal from Sister Leger and Sister Velazquez that leaves us with 4, no election needed. With that being said elections complete. Turning things back over to Matthew”

Matthew Fields – “Actually we are at invited guests – back to you Randy”

Randy Howard – “I want to say thank you to the executive for the invitation. This is my home local; we miss everyone back home. Want to thank the local and anyone working with the local. I was fortunate that when I was elected, I left the local and the region with it with sound representation. I’d like to thank Shanny for her support with the locals. With everything going on throughout Canada, public service workers were able to maintain the service to all Canadians so a big pat on the back to public servants and critical workers. I won’t say too much about Leave 699 because Monique might talk about that but the PSAC filed a grievance against TBS on the grounds of discrimination with regards to Leave 699. We are happy to hear that the Federal Public Service Labour Relations board has set dates for hearings. We believe that members should be entitled to use Leave 699 and not have to their vacation or their own personal sick leave. If you are being denied Leave 699, then the suggestion is to file individual grievances. Moving forward I suggest watching the PSAC website for communication. With that again we know that our PA collective agreement expires in June 2021. The components held their bargaining conference last month and we’re quite happy that the GSU has 2 members on the PA bargaining group. We are also in conversations with departments and with our members working from home, they are in no hurry to bring members back into the offices. They’ve done a number of surveys and basically like 91% of members want to continue to work remotely. We’re not even calling it telework anymore, because it’s considered remote work because really you can work from anywhere as long as you have an internet connection. We’ve been in discussions and we will be having meeting with the Receiver General Pension Branch, making sure that members are equipped with the tools to be able to work from home, including you know if you need cell phones, the employer should be providing you with cell phones, laptops and so forth. This

pandemic has made mental health at the forefront for all of us. Every time we meet with the employer they are commenting about wellbeing and what programs they are doing for well being. But also you have to remember the work life balance and that with members working from home and having the availability 24/7, they need to unplug and they need to be at home, take their breaks and lunches, watch the workload and follow the collective agreements. So, with that said, I want to thank you for the invitation. If you have any questions or comments, I'd be happy to have them, but I'll stop there."

Matthew Fields - "If nothing else for Randy, we'll move on to our next invited guest our Regional Vice President Shanny Doucet."

Shanny Doucet – "Thank you Matthew. To build on what Randy was saying. The PA bargaining team is meeting again next Tuesday to elect the last 2 alternates and also to prioritize the bargaining demands. This is a large task because we have received 725 bargaining demands that needs to be discussed and prioritized. I have PSAC Atlantic convention coming up that I am excited about. I am offering as the Francophone director for the Atlantic and I'm also putting my name forward for the alternate National Executive Vice-President, Randy has gladly accepted to be my nominator. I'm always available to assist with any questions and if I don't have the answer, I will find it for you. Thank you"

Matthew Fields – "Thank you Shanny. Does anyone have any questions for Shanny?"

Gerry Finnigan – "I just wanted to ask, before the Atlantic conference are, we going to meet as a group to discuss strategy or anything?"

Shanny Doucet – "We are in the process of organizing a get together virtually to see who the delegates are from GSU and to strategize to see if we want to have help on different resolutions or how we can gain support."

Matthew Fields– "Anyone else have any questions? Ok perfect, on to our next honourable guest, Monique LaPlante. I would also like to say congratulations on your upcoming retirement, you've been a great support."

Monique LaPlante – "Thank you for the invitations. Congrats to newly elected and the delegates – hope you all have a great time at convention. May 31st is my last day as a PSAC rep, it's been a pleasure working with your local. I became a PSAC rep in 2007 and was assigned to your local, I've worked closely with many of you over the years. It's been a pleasure, and I'm leaving you in very capable hands of Sancia Doret who is on the call today. From this point forward you will be working with her as we've already started file transition. We will be sending the local profile information and asking you to update that. Randy spoke about the 699 leave; I would strongly suggest you keep watching to PSAC website. Shanny also touched on the PA bargaining so thank you both for those updates. On that note, thank you for your support over the years and I'll leave Sancia to introduce herself."

Sancia Doret – Hello and I'm very happy to be working with you. My public service journey began at the Pension Centre 11 years ago, so I recognize some faces. Also, Randy, just wanted to flag that the executive needs to be sworn in and maybe that's done afterwards. Also, bargaining

demands will be coming forward and we will have information on that online soon. Also wanted to flag that the committees like the youth committee, women's committee, are definitely looking for members. There is great work that's happening in those committees. Please keep in mind if you have any questions you can always ask your president or reach out to me. Thank you.

Matthew Fields– “Thank you and welcome. Randy did you have a question?”

Randy Howard – “Just a well wishes for Monique, she mentored me and have fond memories of learning through the Atlantic PSAC. Welcome to Sancia. Before we adjourn, we will do the swearing in, it will be posted on the screen for everyone elected to read. Thank you.”

Matthew Fields – “Thank you Randy, we can do that now and then we'll get a motion to adjourn. Oh, Gerry has his hand up, Gerry did you have a question?”

Gerry Finnigan – “I just wanted as incoming secretary to thank the outgoing secretary Jennifer for all her hard work.”

Matthew Fields - “Yes thank you Jennifer, you've been a great support”

Jennifer LeBlanc – “Thank you everyone”

Randy Howard– “Jason if you could put the oath up on the screen please. I will read the oath and you will repeat. I'll read in English but feel free to read in the language of your choice.”

Oath read and elected sworn in.

Randy Howard – “Okay Matthew, back to you”

Matthew Fields – “Thank you very much and do we have a motion to adjourn? – Robert Barclay moves to adjourn the meeting and Lisa Leger seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 14:31