

Call to order 3:03 PM

Roll call of officers

Matthew Fields – President

Matthew Fields: “Mike Leblanc has gone on to become the Regional RVP”

Kelly Velazquez – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Debbie Lewis – Acting 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President / Chief Shop Steward

Gerry Finnigan – Secretary

Robert Barclay - Treasurer

Candice Carroll – Communications Officer

Matthew Fields: “If everyone has had a quick minute to look at a couple of pages that was last year’s minutes. Can I get a motion to approve the minutes?”

Moved by Mike Leblanc and seconded by Kelly Velazquez to accept the minutes of 2021 AGM - **Adopted**

Matthew Fields gave President report

Debbie Lewis moved and Robert Barclay seconded report of president - **Adopted**

Robert Barclay gave financial report

Candice Carroll moved and Kelly Velazquez seconded the financial report - **Adopted**

Robert Barclay showed the budget on screen and went over details

Gerry Finnigan moved and Kelly Velazquez seconded the budget for 2023 - **Adopted**

Elections: Matthew Fields handed it over to Bruce Roy to handle the elections.

Bruce Roy gave a short story about how he got involved in the union and worked his way up to National GSU President.

Bruce Roy went over the rules for the nominations and elections.

Debbie Lewis volunteered her candidacy for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Seconded by Kelly Velazquez

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Debbie Lewis (**Acclamation**)

Bruce Roy invited Candice to explain the role of Communications Officer.

Candice explained the roll, how/why it was created and the duties.

Bruce opened the nominations for Communications Officer

Gerry Finnigan nominated Fanny Crawford and it was seconded by Candice Carroll

Bruce closed the nominations and asked Fanny if she accepted the nomination.

Fanny did not accept the nomination.

Communications Officer – left vacant, no nominations

Bruce opened the nomination for Chief Shop Steward

Bruce invited Debbie Lewis to explain the role of Chief Shop Steward and she explained the duties of the role.

There were no nominations for Chief Shop Steward

Chief Shop Steward – left vacant, no nominations

Bruce Roy closed the Election and handed the chair back to Matthew Fields

Matthew presented the invited guests and asked Bruce Roy to speak first

Bruce Roy GSU National President spoke in English and French and gave a briefing on the GSU component and his union career. He thanked the Local President and all the local members. He spoke to the Presidents' conference and the Young Workers convention. He invited Candice Carroll to share her experience at the inaugural 2019 Young Workers convention, which she did. Bruce mentioned that Troy MacDonnell (President of Miramichi Local and member of the bargaining team) will be addressing the group to give the high and low points of how current bargaining is going.

Gerry asked if Bruce knew what the government was planning to introduce as their hybrid plan and how GSU would approach that. Bruce replied that the government has not yet defined their plan, that GSU was working hard and having regular discussions at a high level, with government officials. He stated he would be bringing it up at his meeting with David Stevens, later this week. Bruce also mentioned that he did not think they would order us back to work and if so we could use the argument that production is as good or better, when employees are working from home.

Candice Carroll mentioned that a question was in the chat, asking if the Union Executive positions that were open, would require someone bilingual. There is no bilingual requirement to run for a position on the Union Executive. Bruce mentioned it was a team effort and that the Shediac Local Executive meet with their counterparts from the CFSA Pension Centre in Ottawa, once a month, to discuss common issues. Matthew also mentioned that we collaborate with Troy and the Pay Centre Union on a regular basis.

A question was asked in the chat, regarding working from a different province than where the designated office is located. Matthew mentioned that would depend on the employer and that at the Pension Centre, he thought it would be looked at on a case by case basis. He said there are a few cases where employees working for compensation, that live in a different province. He mentioned one supervisor that works in NS has their Manager in Ottawa. He mentioned that compensation seems to be more flexible than the Pension Centre. Bruce reiterated Matthew's comments. Matthew mentioned that he wants to bring that point up the next time that he, Bruce and Mike Leblanc meet with the ADM.

Another question came from the chat asking about the classification restructure that was supposed to happen in October 2022. Bruce mentioned that the date was moved to 2024 and that the classification of the PA group was the single biggest project that the Treasury Board has ever conducted. Matthew mentioned that this has been on the table for 14 years. Bruce repeated that this is a huge undertaking and that GSU has been putting pressure on the government to get this done.

Peggy Peters asked if there would be retro pay, once the classification is completed. Bruce clarified that it was not a re-classification but it is a change to job descriptions and does equal re-classification. Bruce mentioned that they do not have much information on it.

Troy MacDonnell had a comment regarding Gerry's question about a hybrid plan. Troy mentioned they had an "All Staff" meeting where over 1000 employees attended and they asked the same question regarding a hybrid plan. He mentioned that his DG was very supportive of employees working from home, however, she was at the mercy of whatever the TB decides. Although the government is pushing for people to go back to the workplace, the employees at the Pay Centre have not been pressured to do so, thus far.

Troy asked Bruce what the status on essential workers was and if Management was working on providing us the lists. He mentioned that he has not seen a list that was provided, since 2013. Bruce mentioned that the lists are being done by group, that the SV group has been completed but they are still working on the PA group. They are pushing back to get updated lists that will be reviewed with the local Presidents. He mentioned that the lists are usually a large number of employees and GSU pushes back to make sure they are not asking for more essential workers than is necessary. Troy wanted to know what percentage of Pay Centre and Pension Centre employees will be considered essential. Bruce did not know, at this point but was in the process of finding out and just sent another email to his contact in Ottawa.

Matthew invited Troy to give an update on bargaining and answer some questions.

Troy gave a background on how he was selected to the bargaining team and gave some details of the meetings they had virtually with TB. So far the TB has not addressed any of the issues that were presented to them and they offered an increase of 1.75% to our demand for 4.5% per year. There was a demand made to have wage parity with CRA, as employees in similar positions to ours, are making 9% more on average. TB did not make reference to or give a response to that demand. TB is staying away from anything having to do with work life balance issues or commitments on working from home. No gains have been made thus far and every concession that TB has sent to the bargaining team was hinged on the acceptance of the total package, including the 1.75 wage increase, so the negotiations broke down. He also mentioned that we may have to have a strike vote in the Fall. It may be the only tool we have, to put pressure on the government to give us a fair offer.

Kelly added that their wage offer was an insult and thanked Troy for being on the bargaining team. She also mentioned that pensioners get indexed every year and the increase, although less than the cost of living, is still more than the increases we receive. With inflation hovering around 7%, a 1.75% offer, is a slap in the face.

Matthew thanked Troy and reiterated that when we call for action through emails, our Facebook page or through GSU/PSAC announcements, we need members to respond, so we can let Troy and bargaining

know that they have our support. We need to show the employer that we are united, ready for action, have a big strike fund and not afraid to wave that stick.

Matthew introduced the new RVP, Mike Leblanc, who had a few words to say regarding his days on a bargaining team and that he will support, us, Troy and the bargaining team. He said it is important for members to respond to the call for action. He thanked Troy for his time and effort with bargaining.

Bruce reiterated Mike's comments and said even gestures of putting the union logo on backgrounds while at meetings helps. He also talked about retention and that David Stevens is a big proponent of that.

Mathew thanked Troy, Mike and Bruce, before introducing Sancia Doret, PSAC's Atlantic representative.

Sancia had left the meeting, so there was no report from her.

Matthew stated that was all he had on the agenda and asked for someone to move that the meeting be adjourned.

Mike Leblanc moved and seconded by Candice Carrol to adjourn the meeting at 4:14 PM