

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

The General Membership meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jeff Traeger, President, who chaired the meeting.

1. **Roll Call of Officers Present:** Jeff Traeger, **President**, **Vice-President** Deborah Jones, **Vice-President** Ted Bacalzo, **Vice-President** Sandy Barylski, **Vice-President** Tom Biebrich, **Vice-President** Kathy Brnjas, **Vice-President** Alex Ciumac, **Vice-President** Wes Connell, **Vice-President** Laura Cote; **Vice-President** Charlene Desjarlais, **Vice-President** Dianne Gibson-Pierce, **Vice-President** Darlene Kernot, **Vice-President** Frank Manaire, **Vice-President** Jeremy Miller, **Vice-President** Dean Rodwell, **Vice-President** Roger Siemens

2. **2020 Town Hall Meetings:** President Traeger reviewed the format for the Telephone Town Hall meetings with the President and Secretary-Treasurer's reports as well as the minutes from the previous Town Hall meeting are now available on the UFCW Local 832 website for members to read and will be asked to vote and approve the minutes as posted.

3. **President's Report: COVID 19 UPDATES**
 - President Traeger thanked all the members who are working on the front lines during these unprecedented times as everyone is facing this COVID 19 pandemic. Since the middle of March Local 832 has focused on the safety and well-being of all members. We are working with employers to ensure the best practices are employed in UFCW workplaces.
 - As an employer it was also Local 832's priority to keep our staff as safe as possible while continuing to provide uninterrupted service to all members. To achieve that, arrangements were quickly put in place to have all staff work from home and since the third week of March all of the Local's offices and the Training Centres have been shut down with a couple of people working in the Winnipeg office at any one time.
 - We have written to the Premier of Manitoba to lobby for better workplace protections for members working in retail, grocery, food production, food distribution, warehousing and security, assisted living and in personal care. To date, the provincial government has declined the coverage requests and is the only Canadian province not to add any money over and above the federal programs dedicated to helping workers.
 - Nationally UFCW Canada has made many of the same lobbying efforts. National President Paul Meinema recently wrote to the

Prime Minister urging for regulations to be put in place to protect workers in food processing plants such as the Cargill Beef Plant in Alberta that has over 900 positive cases of the virus. In Manitoba there are 5,000 members working in the industry.

- The Local has also been inundated with media requests over the last two months. In every story we have showcased how hard our members are working and also reminded them there are over 1,000 of our members laid off that we are working hard to assist.
- Cancellation of Events:
 - UFCW YIP Program
 - National Defense Fund Conference
 - Canadian Labour Congress Convention:

4. m/s/c TO accept the minutes of the previous meeting of Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. as read on-line.

5. COVID 19 UPATE CONT'D:

Secretary Treasurer Bea Bruske provided further updates in regards to how the members are being affected by the coronavirus including:

- Extra sanitizing and cleaning
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Physical distancing
- Lay-Offs which include:
 - Business shutdown
 - Unpaid Leaves of Absence due to childcare or family responsibilities
 - Other COVID related issues
- Some business have provided “Hero Pay” premiums. Other industries such as security firms are not offering these premiums but we will continue to push for additional funding.
- Many members working in retail food production, warehousing, security, healthcare group homes have faced managing customers, clients and the public in the workplace which has been a huge challenge with the need to ensure that everyone is following the rules and keeping everyone safe.
- This pandemic has provided society with an opportunity to re-evaluate the value of work being done by all workers and hopefully the labour movement and workers can use this to advocate for better wages and benefits for all service workers.
- The UFCW Local 832 website and social media pages are being updated daily. Please make sure your Union Rep has the most recent e-mail address and phone numbers to ensure members are getting the information you need.

Director of Operations Marie Buchan provided an update on the steps taken to protect UFCW Staff:

- Protocols in place to follow the Provincial State of Emergency declared Mid-March.
- Transitioning all staff to working from home, without service interruption to members.
- Temporarily closed Brandon and Neepawa offices on March 25th.
- Temporarily closed the Winnipeg office on March 31st.
- Re-opening of the offices is currently taking place with a gradual return to work protocol in place.

6. Special Guest: Erin Selby, Director of Education and Training

Director Erin Selby provided an update on how the COVID 19 virus has impacted the Training Centre:

- The Training Centres in both Winnipeg and Brandon remain closed which means there are no classes being offered right now for shop stewards or health and safety committee members.
- Grade 12 students are continuing their classes on line which means they will be able to graduate. Due to the circumstances at this time there will not be a graduation ceremony in 2020.
- In Brandon, the English as an additional language classes are taking place online and we continue to add more classes to the schedule.
- Review of the provincial numbers and statistics in regards to the COVID 19 virus as well as some information about CERB and EI for those who are out of work. All information is available on the Local 832 website, along with unionized employers who are hiring right now.
- The Government of Manitoba website has a link for those who are feeling overwhelmed, stressed out or depressed to assist with on-line therapy. This link will also be posted on the Local's website.

7. m/s/c TO accept the Financial Report for the 3 month period ending March, 2020.

8. Presidents Report:

m/s/c TO accept the President's report as reported.

9. Open Questions

Throughout the meeting there were 16 questions taken from the members on the line and all questions were answered. All questions asked and responses provided are recorded and kept on file. The meeting was adjourned with 4 unanswered questions in the queue and the Union Representatives were instructed to contact those members the next day.

m/s/c to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Recorded by Deborah Jones, Recorder

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A full transcription and a list of members taking part in the telephone town hall are kept on file in a binder and stored with these minutes.