

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 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**, Bea Bruske, **Secretary Treasurer, Recorder** 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** Rob Jessup, **Vice-President** Darlene Kernot, **Vice-President** Frank Manaignre, **Vice-President** Jeremy Miller, **Vice-President** Dean Rodwell, **Vice-President** Roger Siemens, **Vice President** Malcolm Welch

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

3. **President's Report**
 - President Traeger thanked all the members who continue to work on the front lines during these unprecedented times as the pandemic continues.
 - Everyone at UFCW 832 continues to work extra hard during the pandemic to do everything we can to ensure our members are safe at work and continue to be here whenever you need us. Our offices are under the same restrictions and protocols that many business are under, but we have found unique ways to stay connected to our members and have been able to bargain 15 contracts since the last membership meeting in May.
 - During this time there were major negotiations ongoing with Red River Co-op, Maple Leaf Winnipeg and Exceldor Poultry. There were also two strikes taking place at the same time, a first for Local 832.
 - Special guests joining us tonight are Nicky Davis Gerbrandt from the Stella's Picket Line, Alvin Balanon from Exceldor Poultry and Corey Van Owen from the Winnipeg School Division Bus Driver Picket Line along with Phil Kraychuk who was the lead negotiator for the Winnipeg School Division Bus Drivers.

4. **Special Guest: Nicole Gerbrandt Davis, Stella's Sherbrook Member**
President Traeger introduced Nicky - she is a server at Stella's and also a shop steward and member of the negotiations committee. During the negotiation process this fall an agreement was not reached and on November the 6th the location was listed for sale. Nicole discussed the history of Stella's and how the negotiations process worked with management. Topics discussed included:
- The history and the results of the "Not My Stella's" campaign.
 - The negotiations process in dealing with Stella's management in 2019 and 2020.
 - The experience of voting to go on strike and walking the picket line as well as how the support from other Unions and the public was empowering.
 - The positive that came from this strike is having all of this information about the company unfold in the media which will hopefully help other restaurant owners see the importance of treating their employees with respect.
5. **m/s/c TO accept the minutes of the previous meeting of Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. as read on-line.**
6. **Special Guest: Alvin Balanon, Exceldor**
Secretary Treasurer Bea Bruske introduced Alvin Balanon, shop steward and member of the bargaining committee for Exceldor. Bea Bruske asked about the COVID cases and some of the challenges that have happened at the plant in regards to the pandemic where 2 members passed away from COVID. Topics discussed included:
- The loss of the 2 employees and the effect it has had on the workplace and the community.
 - The plant has a large number of immigrants in their employ and the adjustments that have been put in place to ensure the safety of the employees.
 - The challenge right now is adherence to the public health guidelines. As a Shop Steward this is frustrating as some people have a different approach or difficulty understanding the safety and provide the right information.
 - Discussion of distancing during breaks/lunch time.
 - Ensuring members are well informed by e-mail and Local 832 website updates. The most important thing right now is to make sure everyone is educated and has access to the proper information.
7. **m/s/c TO accept the Financial Report for the 8 month period ending August, 2020.**
8. **Special Guest: Phil Kraychuk Local 832 Negotiator**
Phil Kraychuk reported on and provided an update on the Winnipeg School Division #1 Bus Driver strike.

- The strike started on September 8th. Just prior to going on strike the Local received new information that made it appear the Provincial Government had been interfering in the background during the negotiations. Difficult discussions were had with the School Division resulting them not answering calls, e-mails or any other contact.
- An Unfair Labour Practice was filed.
- Friday, November 6 was the 60 days required by the LRA and ADR was applied for. There are lots of issues to be dealt with and a timeline was discussed in terms of when a decision might be made.
- There has been lots of support from the parents, community and other unions and a thank you to the members who walked the picket line every day until it was called due to the Pandemic.

Special Guest WSD #1 Bus Driver Corey Van Owen provided an update from the driver's perspective as they faced this challenging round of negotiations and then voting to strike.

**9. Presidents Report:
m/s/c TO accept the President's report as reported.**

10. Open Questions
Throughout the meeting there were 9 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 no unanswered questions in the queue.

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

Recorded by Deborah Jones, Recorder

/lh cope 342

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.