

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 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**, Marie Buchan, **Interim 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** Lisa Larosa, **Vice-President** Frank Managire, **Vice-President** Jeremy Miller, **Vice-President** Dean Rodwell, **Vice-President** Roger Siemens, **Vice President** Malcolm Welch

2. **2021 Town Hall Meetings:** President Traeger requested that before the meeting is formally started, he would like to again say Thank You to all of the members who continue to work on the front lines during this pandemic.

President Traeger then 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. **Special Guest: Kevin Rebeck – President of the Manitoba Federation of Labour**

Kevin Rebeck attended to discuss Bill 16 and highlight the other bills that are being presented by the current Conservative Provincial Government.

- **Bill 16:** Bill 16 amends Manitoba's labour laws to undermine the collective bargaining process, allow employers to fire striking workers and make it easier for bad employers to intimidate workers on the picket line. In one provision, Bill 16 eliminates the right of striking workers to access binding arbitration after sixty days of strike action or lockout.
 - Eliminating Notice for workers when technological change is going to cause mass layoffs. At this time employers who are going to bring in new technology that will result in job loss have to give 90 days notice. Under this bill the notice will go from 90 days to two weeks notice.

- **Bill 57**: The Critical Infrastructure Act: This will allow employers a faster track than an injunction would at cheaper costs for employers which could provide higher fines to unions and other demonstrating groups for anything deemed to be critical infrastructure (which would include, grocery stores, food distribution centres). Anything that is deemed essential these days could be deemed critical infrastructure.
- **Bill 33**: The Advanced Education Administration Amendment Act — gives Manitoba's minister of advanced education, skills and immigration, the power to set guidelines on how those institutions charge students. It could also make student fees optional.
- **Bill 64**: Repeals Manitoba's existing public education acts to completely restructure the province's public education system and introduces sweeping new powers to the Premier and his Cabinet.
- More information on how union members can participate to take action on these bills can be found on the Local 832 website as well as the Manitoba Federation of Labour website – mfl.ca.

4. **m/s/c TO accept the minutes of the previous meeting of Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. as read on-line.**

5. **Special Guest: John Anderson, new Union Representative for the Neepawa/Carberry area.**

Interim Secretary Treasurer and Director of Operations, Marie Buchan, introduced Local 832 Union Representative, John Anderson who has been hired to replace Wendy Lundy who retired from the Local on April 30th, 2021.

John provided an overview of his work history and his involvement with UFCW as a member working at McCain Foods and how he is looking forward to being an advocate and to be of service to others and giving people a hand up as he becomes the Union Representative for the Neepawa/Carberry area. John welcomes all calls, texts and e-mails from the members he represents.

6. **m/s/c TO accept the Financial Report for the 2-month period ending February, 2021.**

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

8. **Special Guest: Crystal Klippenstein UFCW Local 832 Communications**

Interim Secretary Treasurer and Director of Operations, Marie Buchan, introduced Crystal Klippenstein who has joined UFCW Local 832 in the second Communications Coordinator position.

Crystal discussed her prior work experience and the opportunities it has provided and the interest this career brings as every day is different. Crystal looks forward to the opportunity to help others as she becomes part of the Local 832 communications team and working with Chris Noto to build a strategy that's meaningful and helpful to the members.

9. **Open Questions**

Throughout the meeting there were 11 questions taken from the members on the line and all but 2 questions were answered. All questions asked and responses provided are recorded and kept on file. The meeting was adjourned with 2 unanswered questions in the queue and Union Reps for those members were instructed to contact those members to answer their questions within 24 hours of the meeting.

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.