

UFCW 832 Access Live
July 21, 2021 10am

Jeff Traeger:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Jeff Traeger and I'm the president of your union, UFCW Local 832. I want to welcome you all to the July telephone town hall general membership meeting for members of UFCW Local 832, which is now called to order. Before we formally start today's meeting, I want to once again thank all of the UFCW members here in Manitoba for working so hard on the front lines of this pandemic. Myself and all Manitobans owe all of you a huge thank you for going to work every day, doing your part to keep our communities going at this, our most difficult time. I have always known the value that UFCW members bring to the fabric of our society. The only difference is that all Manitobans, and indeed all Canadians, now know it as well, and for that, I simply want to say thank you.

Jeff Traeger:

Today is a special meeting as we'll be using this town hall forum to take nominations for the recorder position and the 17 vice president positions on our executive board. The elections will be conducted later in the year, and the four -year term of office will begin on January the 1st, 2022. So, with me in the studio tonight is our brand new secretary-treasurer and director of operations, Marie Buchan; our general elections chairperson, Sonia Taylor; our communications coordinators, Chris Noto and Crystal Klippenstein; and our newest full-time negotiator, Joe Carreiro, who is here training to help run the locals elections in the future.

Joe Carreiro:

Morning, Jeff. Thank you. Jeff, would it be okay for me to make a motion at this time?

Jeff Traeger:

Absolutely. Go right ahead.

Joe Carreiro:

I'd like to make a motion to suspend regular business and proceed with nominations of the executive board.

Jeff Traeger:

Okay. Joe has tabled a motion to suspend all of the regular business of this meeting to focus entirely on the elections that I was just speaking about. Is there a secondary to that motion?

Marie Buchan:

Hi, it's Marie. Seconded.

Jeff Traeger:

Okay, so it has been moved and seconded. So, just so everyone is clear on the motion. Normally we would review and vote on three documents at our general membership meeting. Those documents would be the minutes of the last meeting, the secretary-treasurer's report and the president's report. All three of those have been posted on our website at ufcw832.com for the last week, and those will stay there in our archives permanently for you to read at any time. We would also normally take general questions from our members on topics related to all UFCW members. So, the motion that Joe has made that has been seconded is to forego the approval of reports and questions so our election chairperson can use the time for this meeting to conduct nominations for our executive board. So, if you are in favor

of suspending the regular business, please press the number one on your keypad now. And if you're opposed to suspending regular business, please press the number two on your keypad now.

Jeff Traeger:

So, while we're waiting a few minutes for the result of the vote to come in, I just will take a minute to review a few important announcements from my report. So, as many of you are already aware, and since our last general membership meeting, Bea Bruske has been elected president of the CLC. It's a huge success for Bea and UFCW, and we know she's going to do a great job steering Canada's labor movement. Following that convention on the 18th of June, we had an emergency executive board meeting and the board elected Marie Buchan as our new secretary-treasurer for the remainder of this term of office, which ends December 31st, 2021. Marie is an incredibly hard worker and a very quick learner, and we know she will excel in her new role.

Jeff Traeger:

Local 832 is very lucky to have such a skilled and competent person on our leadership team and we're all excited for the future of our Local. We also have two new executive board members that were sworn in on Sunday, June the 27th. We had Ted Bacalzo, a vice president of the HyLife plant in Neepawa that resigned his position at HyLife Foods, and he's being replaced by Tim Whitford, who is the current chief steward at the plant. And then also vice president Jeremy Miller from Malteurop announced he was stepping down from his board position for personal reasons, and Dave Hamalainen from the Sobey's Retail Support Center was sworn in to fill that position. So, please join me in congratulating both of our new vice presidents. I see on the call that the motion to suspend regular business has passed by 87%. So, a strong majority. So, with that, I am going to turn the chair of this meeting over to Sonia Taylor, our general elections chairperson. And go ahead, Sonia.

Sonia Taylor:

These are the nomination rules for the election of UFCW Local 832 executive board positions 2021. Union elections for Local 832 for the positions of president, secretary-treasurer, recorder, and 17 vice presidents will be held this year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the province of Manitoba emergency measures, the nomination process for the executive board positions will be held by a town hall. There will be two meetings for nominations for the whole province. The meetings will be on Wednesday, July 21st, 2021 at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. The process for the selection has changed, as all positions may be, at the same time, nominated. All members will receive a call to join the meetings. If you did not receive a call or are disconnected, please dial 1-877-229-8493 and enter code ID number 112418 or 1-855-962-1196, which requires no code to participate. When you are on the call, please press star three on your keypad to nominate for the position. Your nominations will be taken in the order that the general person receives notification on the screen that the member is online.

Sonia Taylor:

Pursuant to the bylaws of UFCW Local 832, the local union elections for positions of president, secretary-treasurer, recorder, and 17 vice presidents are being held in '21. Members wanting to run for one position must follow the nomination process. To be eligible to run for office you must, number one, be a member in good standing for at least one year immediately preceding the month in which the nominations are held, which is continuous active membership since June of 2020, or be an active member of the Local or international for at least two years preceding the month in which the nominations are held, which is continuous active membership since June of 2019. And you must

maintain active membership and indicate in writing via email to the general chairperson, Sonia Taylor at sonia.taylor@ufcw832.com, your willingness to stand if nominated.

Sonia Taylor:

Should the general chairperson not receive written confirmation by 4:30 on Friday, July 23rd, the general chairperson will be contacting you to confirm your willingness to stand. Now, should a technical problem occur, you will have until 4:30 PM on Thursday, July 22nd, 2021 to contact the general chairperson at 204-480-1171 or 1-888-832-9832 extension 259 to nominate a member. Where there is more than one nominee, the general chairperson will be contacting the nominees to confirm their wish their name to stand for election. All terms of office are four year terms effective January 1st, 2022 to December 31st of 2025.

Sonia Taylor:

For the nomination of president and secretary-treasurer, pursuant to the bylaws of Local 832, nomination of a member, either president or secretary-treasurer was by petition bearing the signature of at least 325 active members of UFCW Local 832. The rules were printed in the summer 2021 issue of Union magazine, petitions for the president and the secretary-treasurer nominations were available by contacting the general chairperson. Petitions were made available to be picked up at the Winnipeg or Brandon office if requested. Completed nomination papers had to be received at UFCE office at 1412 Portage Avenue by Tuesday, July 20th, 2021, 4:30 PM. As original signatures were required, petitions had to be filed either by mail or in person.

Sonia Taylor:

Petitions could not be filed by fax, email or other forms of electronic transmission. Each petition had to clearly indicate the name of the member who was being nominated and the specific office for which he or she is being nominated. This was done on the top of each page of the petitions. Any petition could nominate one of the following, either president, secretary-treasurer, or both president and secretary-treasurer. The petition clearly indicated on each page who was nominated and for what position. Each position submitted contained the following of each member signing the petition: their signature, printed name, telephone number, the name of their employer or work location. Nominations for president and secretary-treasurer closed on July 20th, 2021 at 4:30 PM. Eligible members nominated for the position where Jeff Traeger for president and Marie Buchan for secretary-treasurer. Those were the only two members who had been nominated. So, I congratulate to Jeff and Bea as they have been elected by acclamation. Pardon me, Marie. My apologies. Congratulations, Jeff and Marie.

Sonia Taylor:

For nominations of the recorder and vice president positions, nominations for recorder and 17 vice presidents are taking place at this meeting, which was published in the summer 2021 edition of Union magazine. Vice president positions are numbered one to 17 for election purposes only. As well, the designation of the sector and/or area is a recommendation only and is intended to ensure that our executive board represents the diverse nature of the membership. Members are free to run for any position, but can only be nominated for one. Those recommended sectors and/or areas of vice president positions are: recorder; no sector; vice president number one, [bottling]; vice president two, diversity; vice president three, Brandon red meat; vice president four, Loblaw retail; vice president five, Neepawa red meat; vice president six, rural north; vice president seven, Sobey's retail; vice president eight, Winnipeg support/social services; vice president number nine, Sobey's retail; vice president 10, Loblaw

retail; vice president 11, young workers; vice president 12, Winnipeg industrial; vice president 13, warehouse; vice president 14, Winnipeg red meat; vice president 15, poultry; vice president 16, rule support/social services; and vice president 17, Co-op retail.

Sonia Taylor:

These recommended sectors or areas for recorder and vice president positions are listed in the Union magazine and are on UFCW832.com website. There will be three calls for nominations for any position before nominations are closed for all positions. Following the nomination meeting on July 21st, 2021, the general chairperson will determine the eligibility of each nominee. And if there is more than one eligible candidate for any position, elections will be held in accordance with the process outlined in the bylaws of UFCW Local 832. Elections, if any are required, will be conducted at a later date. Notification of election will be published in the Union magazine. Any questions regarding nominations or elections should be directed to the general chairperson, Sonia Taylor, at 204-480-1171 or 1-888-832-9832 extension 259. Nominations for recorder and vice presidents will now take place at this general meeting. Please press star three on your keypad to nominate. And as such, I declare nominations opened and ask for nominations for any position or positions. Seeing the screen, Deborah Jones.

Deborah Jones:

Good morning. Can you hear me?

Sonia Taylor:

Yes, I can. Thank you.

Deborah Jones:

All right. I hereby nominate the following members: recorder, Deborah Jones; vice president number one, John Sulyma; vice president number two, Tom Biebrich; vice president number three, Dean Rodwell; vice president number four, Kathy Brnjac; vice president number five, Tim Whitford; vice president number six, Roger Siemens; vice president number seven, Wes Connell; vice president number eight, Charlene Desjarlais; vice president number nine, Lisa LaRosa; vice president number 10, Dianne Gibson-Pierce; vice president number 11, Laura Cote; vice president number 12, Dave Hamalainen; vice president number 13, Sandy Barylski; vice president number 14, Alex Ciumac; vice president number 15, Frank Managire; vice president number 16, Robert Jessup; vice president number 17, Malcolm Welch.

Sonia Taylor:

Thank you, Debbie.

Deborah Jones:

Thank you.

Sonia Taylor:

Next person to nominate, Bernice Antonella.

Bernice Antonella:

Hi there.

Sonia Taylor:

Hello.

Bernice Antonella:

Okay. I pressed the button, I think, a little bit too quickly. I have one of my colleagues on the line. I would like to nominate Deb Stewart. She's an LRO at MNU, but we were trying to figure out which position. Because I think it's recorder, but I'm not 100% sure. So, I have to be honest. So, if Tom Henderson is speaking, if he's on the list then I would defer to him. Sorry about that.

Sonia Taylor:

Okay. So, you're nominating Deb Stewart, but you're not sure what position she was wanting.

Bernice Antonella:

Yeah. Unfortunately she couldn't be on the line this morning and so we were trying to figure that out. So, Tom if Henderson is listed at one of the upcoming nominators, I'll defer to him.

Sonia Taylor:

Okay.

Bernice Antonella:

I pressed it really quickly. My apologies. I didn't expect it. This is my first time with this new technology.

Sonia Taylor:

No problem. Thank you so much. I'm sure she will call or somebody will call to see what position she wants.

Bernice Antonella:

Yes. Thank you so much. Yes.

Sonia Taylor:

No problem. Thanks for the call. Next person, somebody that has called in. Hello?

Tom Henderson:

Hello.

Sonia Taylor:

Who am I-

Tom Henderson:

Sister Sonia?

Sonia Taylor:

Yes.

Tom Henderson:

Yes. Sonia, it's Tom Henderson from the Manitoba Nurses Union.

Sonia Taylor:

Oh, okay.

Tom Henderson:

So, [crosstalk 00:18:19]-

Sonia Taylor:

And you're calling to confirm the position for Deb Steward.

Tom Henderson:

Yeah. Yes. And it's not recorder. She wanted to have her name stand for a position of vice president and I guess the confusing part is, do we have to pick a number? I'm unsure which-

Sonia Taylor:

Yes, you do. You have to pick which one you want to run for.

Tom Henderson:

Okay, is-

Sonia Taylor:

Which-

Tom Henderson:

Can you provide me some clarity as to what sector our organization falls in?

Sonia Taylor:

Well, these are recommended sectors, so you can pretty well slot in wherever you wish, whichever position that you want to run for vice president. They're just numbered. But these are what we had in the magazine, were just recommended. You just picked what vice president position you would like to run for.

Tom Henderson:

Okay. That means now I'm trying to recall what the numbers are associated with. I think the diversity one.

Sonia Taylor:

The diversity one?

Tom Henderson:

Yeah.

Sonia Taylor:

Okay. So, vice president number two?

Tom Henderson:

Yes.

Sonia Taylor:

Okay. Thank you, Tom.

Tom Henderson:

All right. Thanks, sister.

Sonia Taylor:

Okay, thanks. Paulina? Hello?

Paulina Ruiz:

Hi. I think you said my name. Paulina Ruiz here from the Manitoba Nurses Union, labor relations officer. I second what Tom has just put forward for Deb Stewart.

Sonia Taylor:

Okay. So, Deb Stewart, vice president number two. Thank you so much.

Paulina Ruiz:

Thanks.

Sonia Taylor:

Mary Lou.

Mary Lou Cherwaty:

Yeah. Thanks. Thank you very much. Mary Lou Cherwaty, Manitoba Nurses Union. I support Deb Stewart for the position of diversity vice president number two. Thank you.

Sonia Taylor:

Thank you. Okay. There are nobody else on the screen right now. However, for the second time, are there any other nominations? Please press star three on your keypad to nominate. I will wait a couple of seconds here.

Sonia Taylor:

For the third and last time, are there any nominations? Please press star three on your keypad to nominate for a position or positions. Daniel?

Daniel:

Hello. How's it going?

Sonia Taylor:

I'm good. How about you?

Daniel:

Not too bad. So, for, I guess vice president number one, I would recommend John Sulyma. I would also recommend him for vice president 16 as well, which I believe is warehouse.

Sonia Taylor:

Okay. You can only nominate one person's name for one position, and John has already been nominated for vice president number one.

Daniel:

Okay. So, yeah, I'll keep him with the vice president one. And for vice president 16, I'd like to, I guess, nominate Dave Fisher.

Sonia Taylor:

Dave Fisher from vice president number 16?

Daniel:

Yeah.

Sonia Taylor:

Okay. Now, I don't have anything confirming. So, either he can contact me or send me an email that he wants his name to stand, according to the rules that are published in the magazine, but we will put him on there. Just [crosstalk 00:22:38].

Daniel:

No worries. Yeah. First time calling in for this type of stuff as well, so I apologize.

Sonia Taylor:

No, that's fine. Did you have any other nominations?

Daniel:

No, that's it. Thanks.

Sonia Taylor:

Just the two?

Daniel:

Yeah.

Sonia Taylor:

Okay. Thank you so very much. Third and last time. No. For the third and last time, if there's any other nominations, press star three. And it appears there are none. So, seeing no further nominations, I declare nominations closed for all positions. Now, if I have not heard from you in writing, for these people that nominated, to let their names stand, I will definitely be calling on you to find out if you do want your name to stand. And I now turn the chair back to President Traeger.

Jeff Traeger:

Thank you very much, Sonia. Thank you very much, Sonia. I appreciate that. I just wanted to thank everyone for coming on to the call. It's important to be involved in all of the democratic actions of your local union, and this is certainly an opportunity that comes once every four years for members who are interested to run for a position on the board. So, I want to thank all of you for joining us here this morning, and I want to thank Sonia Taylor for her hard work as the general elections chairperson once again this year. That is our meeting for today. So, I want to also thank you for joining us on our July telephone town hall. We will be conducting another meeting to do nominations at 7:00 PM this evening, and then our final general membership meeting of 2021 will be held on Tuesday, October the fifth, by telephone town hall as well, beginning at 7:00 PM. So, thank you for joining us. Stay safe and stay well, everyone. We are now adjourned.