

**General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 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, **Secretary Treasurer**; Sandy Barylski, **Vice-President**; Kathy Brnjas, **Vice-President**; Alex Ciumac, **Vice-President**; Wes Connell, **Vice-President**; Charlene Desjarlais, **Vice-President**; Dianne Gibson-Pierce, **Vice-President**; Dave Hamalainen, **Vice-President**; Lisa Larosa, **Vice-President**; Frank Manaigre, **Vice-President**; Dean Rodwell, **Vice-President**; Roger Siemens, **Vice-President**; John Sulyma, **Vice President**; Malcolm Welch, **Vice-President**; Tim Whitford, **Vice-President**
  
2. **2022 Town Hall Meetings:** President Traeger started the May 17, 2022 GMM by reading the UFCW Local 832 Land Acknowledgement.

Before starting the meeting President Traeger thanked the members of the Safeway Bargaining committee for all of their hard work during the recent round of negotiations and congratulated all Safeway workers on their new contract. A review of the successful virtual town halls and meetings took place, as well as the successful strike vote and ratification vote which took place online and by phone.

President Traeger thanked all 832 members who continue to work through this unprecedented pandemic. With the war in Ukraine and the skyrocketing cost of living caused by both of those events these are very difficult times

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.

President Traeger also provided an update on the Local's office protocols during this unprecedented pandemic and advised we will continue to work on behalf of all of our members

3. **Special Guest: Ericson Ortega – Information Technology and Facilities Coordinator**

Director of Information Technology, Facilities and Privacy Max Paches discussed how he met Ericson Ortega. Ericson joined the UFCW team at the beginning of March of 2022 to assist Max Paches in the Technology and Facilities Department.

Ericson provided information on his family and personal life, his history in information technology and his passion for the challenge and problem solving that is required when working in the technology field.

4. **m/s/c TO accept the minutes of the previous meeting of Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. as read on-line.**

5. **Special Guest: Blake Crothers, UFCW Local 832 Negotiator**

Negotiator Blake Crothers is assigned to the security sector representing several different security companies.

Blake discussed “The Security Project” which he has been working on with Union Representative Sandy Forcier, who is the representative for the Security Sector. The goal is to introduce contract language that is consistent across the board of all the security contracts. This is being done to improve the Local’s engagement with members and to encourage and grow participation with all of our security companies, which strengthens our ability to push for better wages and improvements to the collective agreements.

Discussion also took place regarding the Manitoba Conservative Government cancelling the security guard minimum wage and the results that occurred because of this. The campaign allows Local 832 to connect with our current members and inform them of the benefits available to them through their collective agreements, as well as what a union can not only do for you now but by becoming involved together we can obtain higher wages, benefits and protections for all workers in this industry.

**Special Guest: Sandy Forcier, Union Representative**

Union Representative Sandy Forcier discussed how this project was started as many of the members in the security territory did not understand the benefits of belonging to Local 832. There was also the logistical issue of trying to service all of the sites as guards are working all over the city and province and some of the sites cannot be accessed due to safety, sensitivity and some clients do not give the Union access. This industry also has members who are newer

immigrants, international students and those working for their permanent residency in Manitoba.

The Security Project focuses on listening to the member, doing some phone banks and town halls and eventually going the digital route. We developed an introduction to UFCW 832 course to ensure we could provide information for everyone to understand the importance of becoming involved.

Sandy Forcier reviewed the courses that will continue to be offered to members of the security sector and working with the Manitoba Department of Justice to review the mandatory 40-hour training for security guards to make improvements as well as safety measures during this pandemic. The Local will continue to champion the re-implementation of the security guard minimum wage as well as proper PPE for guards to perform their daily duties.

6. **Secretary Treasurers Report:**  
**m/s/c TO accept the Financial Report for the 3-month period ending March 31, 2022.**

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

8. **Updates:**  
President Traeger stated that as of September this year Manitoba will now have the lowest Minimum Wage in Canada. The Provincial Government is sending a message that low wage working Manitobans are not worth a "Living Wage" even though many of them were called heroes for their work on the front lines during the pandemic.

President Jeff Traeger and Secretary Treasurer Marie Buchan are touring a group of units each month in 2022.

Adult High School Graduation will take place this year with graduates from the 2020, 2021 and 2022 classes. The ceremony will be held at the Fairmont on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

At the March Executive Board meeting our Board approved a donation to the people of Ukraine. Our staff and Board members also took up a collection to send along with our donation. Our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine and we will continue to denounce the Russian aggression and support the people of Ukraine for as long as this illegal war lasts.

9. **Open Questions**

Throughout the meeting there was 1 question asked and will be answered by the rep as this was a specific question to the member and their circumstance.

**m/s/c to adjourn the 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.*