



April 2016

Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union

Highlights from Convention 2016

- " We recognized first-time delegates at an orientation with %Keep Calm & Union Strong+t-shirts, and gave them advice for speaking to resolutions at the microphones on convention floor.
- " Elder Jean Byrd opened convention with a blessing.
- " We honoured members who passed away over the last year.
- " Table officers and directors tabled reports, highlighting our finances, grievance activity, benefit plans, standing committee activity and much more.
- " Delegates had an opportunity to question union leaders and hold them accountable for previous decisions and actions.
- " Retired SGEU member Terry Ullman was rightfully bestowed with an SGEU life membership.
- " The premiums for our Long Term Disability Plan were increased from 1.3% to 1.5%. This increase is necessary due to the loss of plan investment revenue and an increase in the number of new applicants receiving benefits. The increase amounts to \$3.71 every two weeks based on a \$50,000 salary. Although no one wants to pay more, people do want to receive something worthwhile when they do pay. Our plan offers three years of entitlement within your own occupation compared to the industry standard of two years. This provides 50% more benefit for you if you need to access the plan, plus the benefit received is higher than the industry standard. In addition, our appeal process is much better than industry standard. Overall, the small increase in contribution will provide members with the opportunity to live in dignity if they become sick or disabled.
- " We reduced our union dues from 1.75% to 1.7%. Although this is a small decrease, it amounts to about \$450,000 annually. We believe this money belongs to the members.
- " We adopted the budget for 2016.

- “ We received solidarity greetings from many leaders in the labour and social justice movements.
- NUPGE Secretary Treasurer Larry Brown spoke about income inequality.
 - We heard from SFL President Larry Hubich, President of the Manitoba Government and General Employees Union Michelle Gawronsky, President of the Health Sciences Association of Alberta Elisabeth Ballermann, and Ron Monk of the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada.
 - Saskatoon Physician Ryan Meili spoke about Upstream . a movement to create a healthy society by encouraging policy makers to consider the social determinants of health, such as income, employment, education, early childhood development, housing and nutrition.
 - Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress Marie Clarke Walker addressed SGEU delegates on the issue of member engagement.
 - We celebrated with Barb Byers on her recent appointment to the Order of Canada. Barb was our president from 1984 to 1988, and SGEU's first female president.
 - Jo-Anne Dusel of the Provincial Association of Transition Houses spoke about violence against women and labour legislation that supports victims of domestic violence.
 - SGEU Secretary Treasurer Roseann Strelezki spoke about SGEU member Mark Dallyn. Mark voluntarily runs Healing Haven Wildlife Rescue . a non-profit organization that rehabilitates orphaned or injured wildlife in northern Saskatchewan. Mark and the volunteers at Healing Haven have saved all kinds of animals, including bear cubs.

“ The election results are:

Table Officers

- Bob Bymoen, President
- Tracey Sauer, Vice President, NUPGE
- Carol Yuzik, Vice President Alternate, NUPGE
- Kim Nordmarken, Vice President, SFL
- Sheena Yew, Vice President Alternate, SFL

Board of Trustees

Elected for two-year terms ending at the 2018 Convention

- Bob Stadnichuk
- Jack Lee

Elected for one-year term ending at the 2017 Convention

- Kim Nordmarken

Board of Trustee Alternates

- Bonnie Erickson, 1st Alternate
- Mac Trost, 2nd Alternate

- “ Each of our sectors presented highlights from the past year.
- “ The women’s committee presented the Silent Witness project to delegates, bringing awareness to domestic violence.
- “ A women’s luncheon was held Thursday over the noon hour, with guest speaker Jacqueline Anaquod speaking about issues Indigenous women face. The Human Rights Equity Caucus was held on Friday at noon.
- “ Numerous women received the Bread and Roses honour at our banquet.
- “ Bonnie Bond and Roseann Strelezki raised thousands of dollars for the Children’s Hospital Foundation by shaving their heads at the Shear and Shine event.
- “ We released our new organizing video, which features Lorna Hamilton, April Chiefcalf, Corey McCafferty and Muna De Ciman.
- “ We debated 52 resolutions.
- “ We demonstrated our support for Regina crisis workers as they try to reach a new collective agreement, by holding info pickets in front of the Mobile Crisis Services office on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- “ We demonstrated our opposition to the government’s ideologically driven decision to close 40 public liquor stores by picketing and demonstrating in front of the Broad Street store on Friday and Saturday.
- “ In addition to the business of the day, there were several evening events:
 - SGEU hosted a grand opening for our new Regina building on Wednesday evening.
 - The Retail Regulatory Sector hosted a hospitality night at O’Hanlon’s, a pub located three blocks from the hotel.
 - The Public Service Sector hosted a hospitality room at the hotel on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night.
 - Public Service Local 1101 hosted a tour of the Over The Hill Orchard, Rebellion Brewery and Last Mountain Distillery on Thursday night.
 - On Friday evening, we held our banquet. Magician/comedian Doug Arden entertained the delegates.

Thank you to everyone who participated at this year’s convention. We hope to see you at Convention 2017 in Prince Albert!