

CFU Executive meeting

Wednesday, Mar. 16, 2 EDT

Held by Google Hangout

Present: Leslie, Ethan, Nora, David

Regrets: Suzanne

Serving as secretary: All, collectively on Google drive

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Nora

Seconded by: Ethan

Carried

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (as amended)

Feb. 19, 2016

(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y2xL9puMnPfWMD679AWqV0davjErgm_IJoGk78n3mwc/edit)

M: Leslie, S: Ethan, All in favour

MOTIONS PASSED VIA SLACK

None besides minutes

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- George Watters is offering his merch branding services at cost
 - George is talking about golf shirts for about \$40 including shipping and embroidery of the CFU logo
 - Individual purchasers would be paying full cost of the product. George will provide this service at cost. We should mention his company on the page.
 - **MOTION:** To get an ecwid shopping cart account and select a few products for people to buy.
 - **M: Ethan, S: David, Passed**
- Can we get wage indemnity insurance for our members?
 - **Nora** will look into it.
 - **Leslie** will ask Marco how UFCW is doing it
 - **Roxanne** will look talk with Unifor benefits people about possibilities
- Statement about Access Copyright
 - It was agreed that information about our support for AC be more prominently placed on the CFU website. **Nora** will look into the former statements that were made on behalf of the CFU.
- Freelance directory: changes have been recommended on Slack
 - Do we need a skilled coder in Nation Builder themes to make the proposed changes?
 - There is a list of edits to the website in the #comms-website slack channel. No volunteers to make the edits though
 - **We'll move this conversation to Montreal meeting**

REPORTS

President's report

- Continuing to handle correspondence, voicemail messages from NB. *Members who pay by cheque require more work because the receipt has to be built, pdf'd, and sent. Is there a way to make this automatic?*
- Attended an event at Spartacus Books promoting the work of CFU member Nicole Burton and talked to other CFU members and potential members.
- Will be speaking at the Vancouver meetup on Mar. 16 organized by Derrick O'Keefe
- Helped new regional reps become familiar with their responsibilities. Thanks to David for preparing the message re. Shopunion.ca and Jamie for taking over the press card work.
- *Welcome kit should be going out to members soon. (Roxanne will know more.)*
 - **After April 15th, Ethan will send an updated membership list to Unifor so they can send out the membership cards to all members**
- Getting input from executive members for our April meeting in Montreal. More information to come.
- Sent a cheque for \$1,560 US to Nation Builder to pay for a full year.

Vice President's report

- *Continuing to help with the website and communications where I can.*
- Attended Ontario membership meeting to meet with members and potential members
- Attended a planning meeting of the Urban Worker campaign on behalf of the CFU
- Started to build plan for April in person meeting

Treasurer's report

- Budget presented
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZXbekXNFOCHH544RiFafYsXJE6YCAv8C5J4DRuXmN_c/edit#gid=0
- Appx \$73,000 in bank right now, and another \$3,600 on the way from Paypal (3-5 business days).
- More detailed reports presented quarterly. This will be available in early April.

COMMITTEES

Political Action

- *Do we want to start up such a committee to focus our discussions? Who would like to be the facilitator?*
- *Nora's letter from CFU to the federal minister of labour, opposition party leaders, and Unifor re. the National Urban Worker Strategy*
- **MOTION: We will start a new political action committee. To be chaired by David or Nora (or co-chaired). M: Ethan S: Suzanne, Passed unanimous.**
 - **David will discuss with Nora about who will chair**
Nora and I (David) discussed the merits and drawbacks of a Political Action

Committee. Came to the conclusion that each of us would prefer to participate in political activities outside of the constraints of a committee.

Communications

- *Members working on various initiatives stemming from January meeting, including a CFU branding package. You can see minutes in the Google drive folder.*
- *Next meeting set for March 21st, 7pm EST.*

Education

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Bylaws

- Leslie has nothing to report at this time.

Happy Warrior

- Leslie contacted the 5 members who offered to volunteer on this committee. No one has the time to take on this work. The committee has been disbanded, as per the motion passed at the last meeting, until further notice.

Growth

- Looks like tax seminar will happen on April 6th. Need to do promotion to get bodies in “seats”.
- Need to have a temporary subscription to GoToWebinar
- Need to follow up on “Each One Reach One” and Advertising strategies.
- **Ethan will get the promotion materials from Andrew Wetmore ASAP for FB advertising**

ORGANIZING

- 247 members, 1 grace period, 114 expired (+6 from last month), 1 cancelled (**Leslie** will call)
 - BC: 56 (+2 from last month)
 - Prairies: 18 (same)
 - ON: 120 (+2)
 - QC: 26 (+1)
 - ATL: 26 (same)
- **Board members** can submit testimonial and hi rez photo to Roxanne to be used in promotional materials.
- Organizers will call lapsed members in each region.

REGIONS

Ontario

- Suzanne not present, so no report.

Quebec

- Nora has continued to be active in the inter-union coordinating committee/Lutte Commun in Quebec City. Things are winding down because the public sector negotiations are nearly finished and we need to now decide how to continue beyond that struggle.
- Nora participated in an IWD event for women, particularly women unionists.
- Nora has continued to liaise with Niki Ashton and Alanna Mackinson on their campaign, national tour on precarious work and their fall conference. This has included consulting and advising on language, campaign messaging and working with Suzanne to try and find testimonials (which hasn't been much of a success).
- Nora, Jane and Roxanne have been working to schedule our first freelancer meetup in Montreal for March 24. Nora has done some promotion too, including inviting friends through the student movement, IRIS and Quebec Solidaire.
- Nora coordinated with Rachel Notley's office to get CFU representatives (Jamie) to meet with them about credentials for CFU members to official events of the press.
- David and Nora have had conversations about how best to put a Political Action Committee to action and are waiting on the political priorities from each of the regional representatives.
- Nora has continued to be active on our Facebook page, particularly with posting job notices for CFU members.
- Nora circulated a request for participants in a research proposal from a professor at the University of Toronto at Mississauga who's investigating the impact of media layoffs on journalists.
- Nora has been providing advice to a CFU member who has not been paid for her last contract.

Atlantic

- Not a lot of new activity this month, but a continuation of what we were doing previously.
- The HTU strike is ongoing, and will be a long one. The employer is intent on breaking the union, and they're willing to leave the workers on the street for a long time. CFU members have been a regular presence on the picket line, mainly Rebecca Rose, Melissa Bellefeuille, Robert Devet, and myself. This has been greatly appreciated by the HTU, and it'll be a great benefit when we're communicating with their freelancers later.
- On that note, the CMG Freelancers have come to Halifax, held an event, and came to the HTU picket. However, they clearly have no infrastructure in the area, and no real ability to follow up on a membership drive. Their efforts may actually be more to our benefit than to theirs.
- Melissa Bellefeuille, Alex Bailey, and myself went to the UFCW 1288P Picket line in Hartland NB. We identified ourselves specifically as members of the CFU. They're a small group of 15 workers fighting for their first contract, and the support of other unions is essential to keep morale on the line.
- I've begun outreach to the unions in the Atlantic, to talk about the CFU and what we do. However, over this weekend we had a tragic loss in NS labour - Mike McNeil, President

of CUPE NS passed away on Saturday. This has caused several of my meetings/ calls / contact to be delayed for at least a week, probably longer.

- Rebecca and myself have met to discuss further plans in the area, and we're going to develop some activities and projects in more detail. I'll be focusing mainly on networking with our social allies and attaching our name to things.

BC

- As requested at last board meeting, David, Leslie and John Lynn discussed (at various times) wording of notice to CFU members advising them they can advertise their services for free on his website ShopUnion.ca. Email blast ready to go. (Now going back to board as new business, along with discussion about a supplier offering products to CFU at cost.
- As requested at last board meeting, David spoke with Nora about creating a political action committee. Decided at this time best to continue working without committee. Was suggested we might ask various representatives and organizers to identify priorities in their regions, as most workplace issues governed by provincial governments.
- New B.C. rep David attempted to send out introductory email blast to B.C. members. Content of blast lost and empty email to B.C. members and many others caused some to block further CFU emails. Will require some telephone calls. Have started answering emails to those who responded -- but need to figure out how to determine status of respondent in order to do this properly.
- Derek and Leslie have a meetup this evening at Our Town Cafe in Vancouver (245 East Broadway, at the corner of Kingsway). Updates on CFU and social event for CFU members and potential members.
- Derek has pub night planned for Our Town Cafe on March 30.

Prairies

- Spoke to Heather Boyd, who is leading the Alberta Government's review of press access to the legislature and government press conferences.
- Welcomed Samantha Power as regional organizer for the Prairies region.
- Dealt with an access issue for two CFU members in Alberta who were looking to gain press access to Alberta Theatre Projects productions.
- Took on the press cards role from Lesley and issued two press cards to members.
- Sent greetings to Prairies members to let them know that Sam and I are their point people for the union.

NEW BUSINESS

Press cards and lanyards

Message planning:

- Tax workshop announcement, March 17

- Before end of March 21 (**Ethan**): Member survey results / General meeting minutes (Ethan)
- Before Mar 28 (**Trevor**) Labour councils (to network and raise awareness of CFU)
- ~~Before End of Feb (**David**): Communications: new Twitter, here's our FB, and reminder to signup on Get Involved page~~
- ~~Before end of Mar (**Suzanne**): Precarious/freelance workers campaign (round up with call to action: join PA committee, what we've been up to with links)~~
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April meetings in Montreal

- [Ideas to discuss](#)
- [Schedule](#)
- Unifor is covering the cost of transportation, accommodation, and meeting rooms. Our meals outside of Media Council events will not be covered. Do we want to provide a per diem?

NEXT MEETING

April 13 to 17 in Montreal

Regularly scheduled meetings:

April 20 at 2 p.m. EDT

May 18 “

June 15 “

ADJOURNMENT at 3:48pm EST