

THE NSUPE VOICE



WINTER 2019

ROSS MCKAY MEMORIAL BURSARIES

NSUPE is proud to have awarded six bursaries to family members of NSUPE members. Each winner received a cheque for \$1000 to assist with the cost of their post-secondary studies.

Please join us in congratulating this year's bursary winners. We wish them the best of luck with their studies.

- Magdalena McClure – Susan McClure member of Local 13
- Gabrielle Armstrong – Ronald Armstrong member of Local 13
- Jeremy MacPhee – Elizabeth MacPhee member of Local 14
- Michael MacFarlane – Claudia MacFarlane member of Local 14
- Kaitlyn Curran – Andrew Curran member of Local 14
- Emily Schultz – Shelley Tipping member of Local 13

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

NSUPE membership cards have now been distributed to all Locals. All active members including those on various leaves are entitled to have a NSUPE membership card. Membership cards can be used to obtain member discounts including those available through Union Savings and Lawtons Drugs. New members can expect to receive their membership card within 90 days of becoming a NSUPE member. For more information on discounts, please visit www.nsupe.ca/member-resources-2/discounts.

If you have not yet received your membership card, please contact your Local President. If there is an error with your existing card, please contact Sherry Forester at sforester@nsupe.ca.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Shortened versions of the minutes taken at the monthly Executive Council meetings will once again be posted on the NSUPE website. These minutes will be available to all members in a secure, members-only section of the website. Members are invited to register an account on the NSUPE website to gain access to the Executive Council Meeting Highlights. Access the secure portion of the website at www.nsupe.ca/members-only or through the members' drop-down menu from the NSUPE homepage.

If you have questions regarding the Executive Council Minutes, the website, or suggestions for future content, please contact Sherry Forester at sforester@nsupe.ca.

SOCIAL EVENTS

NSUPE will be hosting a series of social events to encourage members to get together and to gauge interest in events moving forward. These events are being held in lieu of a larger annual party. We reserve the right to cancel events with poor attendance. Events are open to all NSUPE members. To view the complete NSUPE events calendar, please visit www.nsupe.ca/events.

We would love to hear your ideas for future events. If you have suggestions or event ideas, please send them to Sherry at sforester@nsupe.ca.

NSUPE Social

Friday, March 29, 2019 at 5:00 pm

Join us in the Thorne Room, NSUPE's shared function space, at 103 Thorne Avenue from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm for pizza, treats, and conversation. We encourage members to bring a guest, however, we ask that you RSVP for yourself and your guest so that we are able to accurately track registrations.

RSVP at www.nsupe.ca/event/social. Members are permitted to bring a guest but must RSVP for themselves and their guest.

Timber Lounge Axe Throwing

Friday, April 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm

Join NSUPE at the Timber Lounge to unleash your inner lumberjack. No experience needed. NSUPE will cover the cost of an axe throwing experience for the first 15 NSUPE members to RSVP. Food and drinks purchased will be at the members' own expense. Please note that this event is for NSUPE members only. Members must be 19 and over to participate.

RSVP today by visiting www.nsupe.ca/event/timber.

NSUPE Pub Nights

Join NSUPE at a local pub for some snacks, a complimentary drink, and some laughs. Members and guests must be 19 and over to participate. We encourage members to bring a guest, however, we ask that you RSVP for yourself and your guest so that we are able to accurately track registrations. ** Please drink responsibly and do not drive while impaired. **

Parkside Pub (Dartmouth) - Friday, April 12 at 5:00 pm

RSVP at www.nsupe.ca/event/dartmouth

We hope to add additional pub nights in Halifax, Charlottetown, and Digby. If you are interested in attending one of these events or have a suggestion for a venue, please let us know. Get in touch with us at sforester@nsupe.ca.

NSUPE Game Night

Friday, May 31, 2019 at 5:00 pm

Join us in the Thorne Room, NSUPE's shared function space, at 103 Thorne Avenue from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm to play board games, have some friendly competition, and enjoy some tasty eats. We encourage members to bring a guest, however, we ask that you RSVP for yourself and your guest so that we are able to accurately track registrations.

RSVP at www.nsupe.ca/event/game. Members are permitted to bring a guest but must RSVP for themselves and their guest.

EDUCATION

We will once again be hosting advocate training for those members who did not get a chance to attend our previous sessions. We have also added a mental health workshop to our Spring lineup. These events are open to all members. There is no cost to attend a workshop and union leave will be provided if required. However, please do not request union leave until your spot in a session has been confirmed. Sessions will be limited to 25 participants.

To view the complete NSUPE events calendar, please visit www.nsupe.ca/events. We would love to hear your ideas for future workshops. If you have suggestions or preferred topics, please send them to Sherry at sforester@nsupe.ca.

Beginner Advocate Training **Friday, March 22, 2019**

Join us for this full-day seminar led by Nancy Elliott, NSUPE Business Agent and Lawyer for a practical discussion on being an advocate for the union. This class will provide participants with the tools to begin volunteering as an advocate with their Local.

Please visit www.nsupe.ca/event/beg-advocate to register for this session. There is no cost to attend and union leave will be provided if required. Please do not request union leave until your spot in this session has been confirmed. Session will be limited to 25 participants.

Mental Health Works **Friday, April 12, 2019**

This full day workshop provides participants an in-depth understanding of mental health and mental illness. It is made up of four modules: Mental Health at Work, Mood and Depression, Stress and Anxiety, and Psychological Health and Safety. By the end of this interactive session, participants will:

- Have a better understanding of mental health
- More able to recognize signs and symptoms of common mental illnesses at work
- Start to build confidence in having conversations around mental health concerns
- Build greater comfort in seeking help for themselves and others
- Be more aware of where to look and how to ask for resources

Please visit www.nsupe.ca/event/men-health to register for this session. There is no cost to attend and union leave will be provided if required. Please do not request union leave until your spot in this session has been confirmed. Session will be limited to 25 participants.

Intermediate Advocate Training **Friday, May 3, 2019**

Join us for this full-day seminar led by Nancy Elliott, NSUPE Business Agent and Lawyer for a hands-on workshop that builds upon the learnings from the introductory session. This class will provide participants with various tactics that can be employed while advocating for fellow members. The workshop will include a variety of case studies and discussion on how each situation could be handled.

Please visit www.nsupe.ca/event/int-advocate to register for this session. There is no cost to attend and union leave will be provided if required. Please do not request union leave until your spot in this session has been confirmed. Session will be limited to 25 participants.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that NSUPE is completely volunteer-driven? All major operational decisions are made by members. Any NSUPE member has the ability to influence and impact the Union's priorities. NSUPE's table officers and Executive Council take their direction from the membership.

NSUPE's Structure

Convention is the highest authority that governs NSUPE. It takes place every two years and is the largest gathering of members. An elected group of representatives from each Local attend Convention to receive updates on the Union's affairs, change operational processes and policies, and to set the Union's priorities moving forward. Locals will begin electing their delegates for this year's Convention this summer.

Outside of Convention and the Constitution, Executive Council is the next highest authority. Executive Council consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and an elected member from each Local. Executive Council meets monthly to discuss union business and make decisions. Executive Council Members are responsible for sharing information between the Union and the Local. It is their responsibility to bring issues to the Executive Council table for discussion and resolution and to bring decisions, processes, and information back to their Locals. Members are always encouraged to reach out to their Executive Council Member to receive an update on NSUPE-wide and Local matters.

In between Executive Council meetings, if a decision is required to be turned around quickly Council Committee, which is a subset of Executive Council can weigh in on decisions. Council Committee consists of the four table officers and two executive council members from Locals that are not already represented at the table. Council Committee is required by the Constitution to report on all decisions and business to Executive Council. Again, it is worth noting that each of these members is a volunteer.

Table Officers

The four table officer positions are nominated and elected as part of Convention. Each of the table officers serves a two-year volunteer term. Any member attending Convention as a delegate can choose to accept a nomination and stand for election for one of the table officer positions.

The President is the Union's Chief Executive Officer. This means that on a daily basis, the President is responsible for managing the affairs of the union, which includes supervising staff, signing official documents, and making operational decisions. The President is responsible for reporting on the Union's affairs to Council Committee, Executive Council, and at Convention. Josh Mullins is NSUPE's President. When he's not conducting union business, Josh is a custodian with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. Get in touch with Josh at president@nsupe.ca.

Shelby Kennedy is NSUPE's Vice President. She is a Library Assistant at Halifax Public Libraries. In her role as VP, Shelby assists with the duties of the President and may act on behalf of the President when authorized by Executive Council. The Vice President is responsible for Council Committee meetings and reporting Council Committee's actions to Executive Council. Shelby can be contacted at vicepresident@nsupe.ca.

The Secretary is responsible for the Union's administration, which includes maintaining membership lists, meeting minutes, distributing information, and a number of administrative tasks related to Convention. Mike Aucoin, caretaker with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education is the current secretary. Contact Mike at secretary@nsupe.ca.

The Treasurer acts as the Chief Financial Officer of the Union. This position is responsible for all funds of the Union including the accounting of these funds and the financial records that detail them. The Treasurer supervises all Union expenditures to ensure compliance with the budget and to review the revenues and expenses of the Locals. The Treasurer is responsible for reporting on the affairs of the Finance Committee to Executive Council and at Convention. Tanya Herrell is NSUPE's Treasurer. She is employed with Canadian Blood Services in Charlottetown, PEI. Get in touch with Tanya at treasurer@nsupe.ca.