

THE NSUPE VOICE



WINTER 2022

CONVENTION REPORT

Convention was held virtually on Sunday, November 21, 2021. Delegates, alternates, observers, and staff met on Zoom in addition to members who joined from three satellite centres – the NSUPE office, the Halifax Central Library, and the Fundy Complex in Digby.

Shelby Kennedy delivered her President's report, which highlighted NSUPE's accomplishments over the last two years. Shelby spoke about how NSUPE members have endured layoffs, lockdowns, and uncertainty throughout the pandemic, however, members and Locals have adapted and pivoted to adjust to the ongoing situation, which has led to virtual meetings and online voting, increased communication and support, and a collective focus on what is important.

After lunch, Jamie Welsh, of Baker Tilly, NSUPE's accountant and auditing firm, presented NSUPE's audit report. Jamie concluded that NSUPE was in a strong financial position and NSUPE's financials were in order. Next, Convention attendees heard from Bill Alguire, Treasurer, who presented financials from 2019 and 2020 as well as a proposed budget.

Convention delegates reviewed the resolutions. Highlights of the passed resolutions include NSUPE's commitment to fight systemic racism, to support a livable wage and a minimum of ten paid sick days. Resolutions also included changing the Constitution to remove gender-specific pronouns, allow for additional Executive Council alternates, and add more flexibility in choosing Convention delegates.

NEW TABLE OFFICERS & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Convention delegates elected NSUPE's new table officers. Table officers serve terms of two years, and their positions are governed by the NSUPE Constitution.

Shelby Kennedy – Local 14 – re-elected as President
Dwayne Whynot – Local 16 – elected as Vice President
Leslie Anderson – Local 13 – elected as Treasurer
Mona Deveau – Local 16 – elected as Secretary

Convention also elected new Finance Committee members who will serve until the conclusion of the next Convention.

Kimberly Scheelar, Local 14
Melanie Gerrior, Local 13
John Peskett, Local 2

We would like to thank the outgoing officers – Alex Hagen and Bill Alguire and outgoing Finance Committee members – Tanya Herrell, Mike Trider, and Art Bouman for their time and contributions. NSUPE is a volunteer-driven union, and our work would not be possible if it was not for the members who volunteer their time and efforts.

WHAT'S NEW

NSUPE BURSARY WINNERS

NSUPE is proud to be able to announce that we have awarded six bursaries to NSUPE members or their family members. The bursaries were awarded by randomly drawing names at the 2021 biennial Convention. Each winner received a cheque for \$1000 to assist with the cost of their post-secondary studies.

Please join us in congratulating the 2021 bursary winners. We wish them the best of luck with their studies.

- Michelle McNiven, dependent of a Local 13 member
- Chad Murphy, Local 14 member
- Lily Anne Woodard, dependent of a Local 13 member
- Kaitlyn Curran, dependent of a Local 14 member
- Jillian Roma, Local 13 member
- Ashley Linden, Local 13 member

COMMITTEES UPDATE

NSUPE has a variety of committees that are actively looking for members to join and add to the conversation including the Organizing Committee, Volunteer Appreciating Committee and the Women's Committee. We are also looking for members who are interested in starting a LGBTQ+ Committee and an Anti-Racism Committee.

Organizing Committee

NSUPE's Organizing Committee aims to identify, communicate, and unionize workplaces that would benefit from union representation. This committee is chaired by Tina Oh, NSUPE Business Agent and Organizer. The committee meets once a month to plan, discuss strategies, train, and possibly assign extra duties as needed for organizing drives (when we're actively unionizing a workplace).

Volunteer Appreciation Committee

The newly created Volunteer Appreciation Committee aims to recognize NSUPE members for their contributions to the union. The committee also strives to increase awareness of NSUPE's volunteers among the general membership and bring attention to the work done by members volunteering their time. This committee is projected to have regular monthly meetings with emphasis on the lead up to National Volunteer Week, which occurs annually in late-April.

Women's Committee

Women and female-presenting individuals face unique challenges at work. The Women's Committee has been formed to create a safe space to discuss and address issues faced in the workplace. This committee is projected to have monthly or bi-monthly meetings with projects or events scheduled occasionally.

If you are interested in joining any of these committees or starting a new committee, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at sforester@nsupe.ca.

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Have you checked out NSUPE's member discounts page recently? We have 2022 pricing discounts on Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM and Fiat vehicles. Also, The Co-Operators has a current promotion for NSUPE members that gives members a \$20 gift card for getting a home or auto insurance quote. Call 1-800-387-1963 today! Offer is valid until February 27, 2022. Some of the options for gift cards include Tim Hortons, Roots, Amazon, Indigo, and Starbucks.

WHAT'S NEW

STAFF UPDATES

In September, Tina Oh, Business Agent and Organizer joined the NSUPE Team. Over the last 5 months, Tina has quickly immersed herself in all things NSUPE, including working with Local 22 to continue to push their fair wages campaign. Tina is an organizer and activist at heart. In her spare time, she co-leads No One is Illegal – Halifax, a grassroots movement dedicated to building power and solidarities for migrant justice across unceded Nova Scotia.

Ron Stockton and Nancy Elliott have now transitioned away from working as Business Agents with NSUPE and will be focusing on NSUPE's legal needs. Members are encouraged to contact their Local Executives or Business Agents if they have questions or require advice.

Tina Oh will serve as the Business Agent for the following Locals:

- Local 2 – Halifax Regional Centre for Education
- Local 14 - Halifax Public Libraries
- Local 17 – Quality Inn Halifax Airport Hotel
- Local 22 – Cole Harbour Place

Contact Tina at 902-471-2951 or toh@nsupe.ca.

Farrel Huculak will serve as the Business Agent for the following Locals:

- Local 12 - Canadian Blood Services, Nova Scotia
- Local 13 - Halifax Regional Municipality
- Local 15 - Homes for Independent Living (NS)
- Local 16 –Conway Workshop Association
- Local 19 – Canadian Blood Services, Prince Edward Island

Contact Farrel at 902-209-1478 or fhuculak@nsupe.ca.

Randy Burt, Office Administrator, and Sherry Forester, Communications Manager, round out NSUPE's staff and continue to be available to assist Locals and members. Please feel free to reach out to any staff member if you have any questions, concerns, or needs. Full contact information is available at www.nsupe.ca/contact.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT UNION LEAVE IS?

Union Leave is when NSUPE pays a member's wages so that they can conduct union business. Your paycheque will look exactly the same however your employer will bill NSUPE for the time that you were not at work. Members are eligible for union leave if they are scheduled for work at the same time that they are required to conduct union business.

Because union leave is paid by the union it must be approved by the union. Your employer will need to approve the request on their end, but they are considering the request based on operational requirements, not whether you are eligible for the leave. This means that your employer needs enough time to find another member to fill your shift.

NSUPE members can request union leave from the union to attend Executive Council meetings, general meetings, to act as an advocate for another member, to attend union training, or to conduct union business. To learn more about union leave, we encourage you to speak to a member of your Local Executive or your Business Agent.