

Convention Report for the Spring 2020 Leaflet

This year's convention was a bit different than many in the past. The COVID-19 virus was beginning to take over the world's attention. There weren't as many handshakes at this year's convention, but there were the typical debates and heated conversations.

The first day of Convention was opened by President Gary Fiege with a moment of silence for the Brothers and Sisters who passed away with year. After the formalities of opening Convention, Gary gave his report where he spoke on the union's perseverance of the Howe Sound Supervisors case at the Labour Board that led to our eventual win and the many meetings he's held to fight for our members in the forest industry, particularly the weekly calls with John Allan, Chris Stag, Larry Pederson. He also spoke on how he represented the PPWC National at the CCU Executive Board and Labour School held in Winnipeg on the 100-year anniversary of the 1919 General Strike.

Todd Smith reported on the renovations that have been completed in the suite below the National office in order to entice potential renters. He gave an update on the collective bargaining status of Million Air and spoke on upcoming organizing opportunities. The year was full of successful Shop Steward Courses where Todd presented the newly fine-tuned course which utilizes the CCU Shop Steward Manual.

Al Sahlen spoke on how the National office has been very diligent in managing the finances of the union. There were engaging reports that covered Occupational Health and Safety, Forest Resource as well as the Leaflet newsletter and social media outlets.

Gary and Todd were acclaimed as the President and 1st Vice-President of the PPWC, which received the biggest ovation of the week. We all know that the PPWC is in good hands with both gentlemen as our leaders.

We will be having elections for the following positions with associated nominees:

Secretary-Treasurer: Steve Etter, Ryan Grier

Occupational Health and Safety Officer: Don Pearson, Barry Touzin

Environmental Sustainability Officer: Cam Shiell *Locals to canvas their members for interest due to withdrawal of other nominee

My role with the PPWC is changing as well. I will be stepping down as the Communications Officer and Chris Wipplinger will take over in my place. As I move on to a new stage in my life, I want to thank the PPWC for taking me in and teaching so many things about how unions and the PPWC work.

We said goodbye to a handful of members. Some looking forward to retirement and others who have moved on to other stages in their lives.

The 59th Convention will be the first to be held biennially in 2022 and will be hosted by Local 8 in Nanaimo, B.C.