

Greetings Brothers & Sisters

Another convention has come and gone, with the business of our union getting done. We saw a new Vice-President, Bonnie Gostola, from High river get elected to replace our fun-loving hard working OH&S brother Erez Raz. As a local, we presented a life membership to our sister Sharon MacLean. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend, but the event was live streamed to her by brother Glen Scott. She had quite the gathering in her room to watch the event. Sharon sends her deepest thanks to the local. She considers each and everyone family and is grateful and proud to be part of local 43.

On Sept. 29 & 30, 2016, as an elected representative I attended the bargaining conference at AUPE HQ's. AUPE's negotiators attended and gave us some valuable information in how bargaining works. Remember it's not always about money. Strong language goes a long way. With the new year fast approaching, approximately 72,000 members will be back in bargaining. Now is the time for our solidarity and strength in numbers to rise above.

The essential services agreement is still in the works. This process is very slow, as stalls on the employer's behalf are a constant. Our own Gwen Ferny has spent many hours doing research and is very confident that AUPE is ready to embark on this agreement.

On September 22, I attended Chapter 06 meeting in Westlock. I explained to the members the proposed changes to their chapter, as the motion was passed to split the chapter. Many good questions arose from the discussion, but on the most part was fear. Fear of how would the new chapter get developed and the existing one carry on. Within chapter 06 I see some leaders that are ready to take control and re-assured them that local executive will be there to assist with the growth of both chapters. I have not received word yet from HQ's if the executive have agreed with our recommendation.

I will be attending the chairs meeting on December 7 and the multi-health executive meeting on December 6. Also, AUPE is having two training sessions for the local chairs, December 5 & 8. One day is theory, and the next a hands-on role play. These sessions are to deal with conflict management and violence, how to de-escalate and maintain a safe environment, for bot the union and within the workplace.

At this time, I want to express my thanks to all of the council representatives for your hard work and dedication. It does not go unnoticed. I also want to express my sincere thanks to Val Whelen. She has been my rock and my fountain of knowledge to turn to. She is a leading example of what our union is made of and a great mentor.

I hop that the Christmas Season is kind to all of you, and all the best for the new year.

In solidarity, Judy Fader