

Greetings brothers and sisters,

Welcome everyone. I hope that everyone's summer was relaxing. It is with great joy that our local has submitted an application for life membership, that has been accepted. Sharon Mclean was nominated at her chapter level, then passed to local level. For all those wondering, she is doing well, and is in great spirits. She passes everyone a hello and great thanks for always thinking of her. She is hopeful to attend the awards ceremony, and is excited to see everyone. On this note, we also have a 50 year service award to present to a member from Lamont Health Care Center, who has worked as a health care aide for this time.

It is also with mixed emotions, that we will see a bi-election at this year's convention. Erez Raz has taken on a position with AUPE as an occupational health and safety officer. His great leadership and wisdom will be missed in the north, but he will always be a call away. So with this, I encourage all chapters to ensure that their convention delegates know about the election that is taking place.

The summer months of June and July have been busy with tours of chapter six worksites. Erez and myself along with the chapter council representatives have been engaging the membership within their chapter. We have seen the struggles that the members face in their worksites. Dealing with short staffing and bullied by management are the top two. Our members are keeping their chins up and doing the best that they can. They have shown great interest in AUPE education, as we have stressed that knowledge is power that the employer can not take away.

The bargaining team will be meeting [September 22, 2016](#) at AUPE headquarters to discuss the essential services agreement. We ourselves are unsure of what it all entails, but are looking forward to it, and hope to move forward. Our bargaining has pretty much been at a stand still. We have cleaned up much language, and were hoping once GSS received their arbitration decision, that we would make some progress, but no such luck.

There will be some new changes for labour school. The deadline for applications is October 24, 2016. They have been mailed out and are available on the website as well. Please ensure that all criteria for the courses are met as well as the chapter's endorsement. If these are not met, education will turn the application down. The local has received nine applicants for the YAC conference, all were forwarded to attend.

I look forward to seeing all at convention.

In solidarity,

Judy Fader, chair