

## OPSEU Local 608

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2010

### Opening:

The General Membership meeting of the OPSEU Local 608 was called to order at 5:48 PM on Mar 24, 2010 in the OPSEU Union Hall by President.

### Present:

List attached

### A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

### B. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes moved by Vice President and seconded by PT Chief Steward. The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

### C. New Business

1. Nominations and elections for Audit Committee (minimum 2 members required). 2 members nominated (below) and both accepted the nominations. No others nominated –both acclaimed.
  - a. Member
  - b. Member
2. Nominations and elections for Local Secretary. Need to be sworn in as Steward first, there for nominations for Steward were held. Member and Member nominated. Both declined the nominations. No other member forthcoming for the position of Steward, therefore the elections for Local Secretary were deferred until the next General Meeting.
3. 4<sup>th</sup> Recognized Member for meetings with Administration as per collective agreement nominations and elections were held. 3 members nominated (below):
  - a. Treasurer (declined)
  - b. Member (accepted) – **elected**
  - c. Member (accepted)

Move to destroy ballots – moved by Local President, seconded by FT Chief Steward – carried.

4. Elections for Convention 2010 – Alternate and Observer. One Alternate and one observer need to be elected from the membership to attend the OPSEU 2010 convention. Local President as President is automatically designated as delegate. 2 members nominated for Alternate (below):
  - a. FT Chief Steward (accepted)
  - b. Vice President (accepted) – **elected**

Move to destroy ballots – moved by FT Chief Steward, seconded by Local President – carried.

Move to send observer to OPSEU 2010 convention was moved by Local President, seconded by FT Chief Steward. Only one member, FT Chief Steward, was nominated and subsequently acclaimed.

5. Health and Safety Report

Vice President reported that the JHSC is not functioning as it should. Other worker representatives are not pulling their weight with regard to workplace inspections. He reported that we need more bodies on the JHSC in order to help with the workplace inspection. He also reported that OPSEU will be trying to increase the number of OPSEU worker reps internally using the JHSC meeting forum.

Vice President also reported that he attended a Health and Safety Conference at the Best Western this morning. It was well attended by the construction industry and there was a lot of good information with regard to health and safety that was forthcoming from the conference. He also outlined a handout that the Ministry of Labour gave out with regard to young workers rights in the workplace that he will make available to anyone who wishes a copy of this handout.

6. Treasurers Report

Treasurer reported on both the general accounts plus the strike fund account.

7. Chief Steward Report

FT Chief Steward indicated that there were 3 grievances since the last meeting. Two were job posting related and were settled at Step 1. The third grievance deals with a dispute regarding bargaining unit work and is going to arbitration (step 3).

8. President's Report

- a. There will be a new Nipissing University workplace harassment policy coming into effect. Please review and contact [cindyb@nipissingu.ca](mailto:cindyb@nipissingu.ca) for comments or more details. By April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- b. There is a lot of information regarding the strike by Sudbury Steelworkers against Vale Inco. on the OPSEU608.org website as well as the OPSEU region 6 web-site. OPSEU Staff Rep explained that the dispute is over Vale Inco's demand that the Steelworkers pension be changed from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan, similar to what NU employees have. Pension issues will be the next big battleground for workers and workers rights.

**D. Other Business**

1. OPSEU Staff Rep. outlined a new OPSEU defined benefits pension plan for OPSEU members and mentioned that this plan is available to management as well as unionized workers. It may be something Local 608 may want to look into.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM by Local President. The next general meeting will be announced at a later time.