

REPORT OF THE AFL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

Over the past two years the Education Committee of the Alberta Federation has been very productive. We met in a timely fashion and got the business done.

The AFL/CLC Schools in this term were supported by former Dave Winter, CLC Director for the Prairie Region. Our school in 2011 was the last official function Dave performed for the CLC. We thank him for his contributions to the labour movement generally and our schools and committee specifically.

A resolution adopted at the 2007 Convention was the establishment of an Education Fund. The Committee has accessed some funds to sponsor facilitators and lower registration costs for a few courses.

AFL/CLC SCHOOLS

We had amazing attendance at the Alberta Federation of Labour/Canadian Labour Congress Winter Schools at the Jasper Park Lodge in 2010 and 2011.

We had near record-breaking attendance of 249 participants and facilitators in 2010 and 224 participants and facilitators in 2011.

New activists attended, new courses were developed and presented and new facilitators were used in the past two years.

We are happy to report that we were able to offer organizing courses at both schools. In 2010 we offered a new course –

Organizing for Success, on organizing workers that simulated an organizing drive any one of our unions might undertake. The school was used as the captive plant to organize people and the organizing class was challenged to get a majority support for the campaign.

In 2011 we offered Campaign Management. This course was more politically directed and prepared people to take over and plan an election campaign. The elements of organization, methods of planning and areas of challenge were all covered. This course would prepare activists to be campaign organizers for any level of a political campaign but skills taught can also be used by locals in organizing drives.

In 2010 we were able to run the Young Worker in Action course – thanks to the decision of the committee to subsidize attendance. The course was well-received and worth the effort to ensure that the course was held.

A subsidy was also available for the Bargaining for Equality course (collective bargaining) offered in 2010.

The committee streamlined the evaluation form for use at the 2011 school.

Morning compulsory sessions continue to be offered at the schools with speakers addressing topical issues.

The committee would like to thank those unions who were able to donate time and resources to provide facilitators to our schools. These people make the difference

in whether the school can proceed and whether it will be effective.

2010 Courses and Facilitators

Week One:

- Advanced Steward Training, *John Carpenter, TWU & Ivana Niblett, TWU*
- Advanced Collective Bargaining, *Cam Sherk, UFCW 401*
- Duty to Accommodate, *Ken Flaherty, AWHC*
- Facing Management, *Deb Jamerson, CLC*
- Labour Law, *Linda Huebscher, CUPE*
- Labour History, *Winston Gereluk, ALHI*
- Organizing for Success, *Al Brown, IBEW and Eric Carpendale, IBEW*
- Pensions, *Gwenne Farrell, COPE and Mike Mahar, ATU*
- Union Counselling, *Lesley Baker, United Way and Perri Garvin, United Way*
- Young Workers in Action, *Erin Harrison, CLC and Alyson Williams, TWU*

Week Two:

- Advanced Steward Training, *Maureen Werlin, COPE and Jeff Kallichuk, USW*
- Arbitration, *Dennis Bennett, HSAA*
- Conflict Resolution, *Jane Sustrik, UNA and Audrey Barr, CUPE*
- Human Rights are Workers' Rights, *Karl Flecker, CLC and Darla Leard, CLC*
- Union Action on Climate Change, *Ed Hanson, CUPE and Rh'ena Oake, CUPE*
- Workers' Compensation, *Michael Toal, UFCW*

2011 Courses and Facilitators

Week One:

- Advanced Steward Training, *Jeff Kallichuk, USW*
- Basic Health & Safety, *Janice Peterson, UNA and Cam Sherk, UFCW*
- Collective Bargaining, *Jeannine Arbour, UNA and Dan Will, USW*
- Duty to Accommodate, *Kris Farkas, UNA and Kevin Flaherty, AWHC*
- Facilitator Training, *Darla Leard, CLC and Chris McDonald, CLC*
- Labour History, *Jen Britton, SSOC and Winston Gereluk, ALHI*

- Women in Leadership/Activist Program, *Audrey Barr, CUPE and Vicki Smallman, CLC*

Week Two:

- Campaign Mangement, *Jen Britton, CEP, Danny Mallett, CLC and Jerry Toews, AFL*
- Conflict Resolution, *Jane Sustrik, UNA*
- Labour Law, *Linda Huebscher, CUPE*
- Pensions, *Judy Henley, CUPE and Marg Romanow, SUN*
- Union Counselling, *Perri Garvin, United Way and Holly Heffernan, United Way*
- Workers' Compensation, *Lorne Bullion, WCB*

Newly-trained Facilitators from 2011 are:

Amber Biglin, UNA 79; Aimee Burton, NTFL; Kevin D'eca, UFCW 401; Nicole Eilser, UNA; Bruce Fafard, CAW 350; Sandi Johnson, UNA 196, Leticia Melchior, UNA; Gary Savard, Ironworkers 720; Dan Smith, IBEW 424 and Wayne Stopa, UNA 115.

FACILITATORS' CONFERENCES

Only one Facilitators' Conference was held in this term. Originally scheduled for Halloween, 2010 it was rescheduled to March 2011 due to low registrations. The 2011 conference focused on best practices and new technologies and their place in facilitating education. The conference was a huge success and was very well-attended.

AFL KIDS' CAMP

The Kids' Camp continues to be a major event held by the AFL. Held each year in August at Goldeye Centre at Nordegg it becomes increasingly popular, drawing more children from across the province.

In 2009 there were 97 participants at the Camp – 74 campers, 7 junior counselors, 13 leaders, 2 nurses and our fearless Camp Director, Elisabeth Ballermann.

In 2010 there were 126 participants – 105 campers, 7 junior counselors, 11 Leaders, 2 nurses and Camp Director Elisabeth Ballermann.

In 2009 we had to add a bus from Fort McMurray and we continued that addition in 2010.

We re-organized the way we educated children and youth starting with the 2009 Camp. We now present our educational materials for the camps as themes so a different element is taught on a rotating cycle. In 2009 we concentrated on Union History; last year was Health and Safety and 2011 will be the Environment. Union Rights will be the theme for 2012. We hope to repeat these four modules with minor updates each year to ensure that each participant attends each element twice in their camp experience. The Amazing Race that wraps up the educational component continues to be a hit with the campers.

Many thanks to unions for making donation to the S'ean Gillen Scholarship and Kerry Barrett Bursury, for sending campers, providing leaders and donating wonderful things for the campers. The SWAG is a huge hit with the campers.

CLC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Meghan McNeil sits on the CLC Education Advisory Committee representing HSAA and the AFL. She reports back to this committee and advises of new developments for labour education courses, course content, new modules. She shares new modules and pilot course information with members of the committee. Labour education is a part of the continuum of life-long learning.

ASPEN FOUNDATION FOR LABOUR EDUCATION

The Aspen Foundation for Labour Education Board of Directors has been extremely busy over the past two years. New modules have come on stream – the long-awaited Health Care/Medicare teaching unit is receiving rave reviews from the Social Studies conferences and teachers alike. The Looking into Unions and Looking into Sweatshops units remain very popular. Work is being done on a Globalization unit.

The Foundation has received charitable status as an organization and we hope everyone will keep Aspen in mind when making donations. Board members have made presentations to local unions and would like to see the number of unions who give sustaining donations increase. We have had some successes in this respect over the past two years. Individuals and organizations can become members of Aspen.

Committee members who sit on the Aspen Board of Directors are Ivana Niblett, representing TWU and Meaghan McNeil representing HSAA. The AFL Private and Public Sector representatives on the Board are Maureen Werlin, COPE and Ed Hanson, CUPE. (Ed Hanson is also a member of this Committee).

Nancy Furlong was AFL Associate Director in 2009. The Associate Director positions were removed during the past term when the bylaws were updated.

NEW DIRECTIONS

The committee this year has responded to requests from affiliates to develop new educational opportunities that are easier to bear financially.

We are proud to announce the first in what we hope will be an annual event. We will be

holding a Summer School, June 9 – 11, 2011, at the Red Deer College. This year the theme will be Health and Safety, next year a different topic will be chosen. We are working with the District Labour Councils in Edmonton, Calgary and Red Deer and hope to provide an opportunity that is somewhat more in depth than the Labour Council schools but not as complex as the Winter School. You should be able to find registration information in your kits, or on line at www.afl.org.

CLOSING REMARKS

A warm thanks to everyone that has been involved over the past two years with the

Education Committee. There are some individuals that stand out that require personal recognition and they are Maureen Werlin from the AFL office – without her we would be uneducated; and also a special thank you to the facilitators, both old and new, that attended the Facilitators' conferences and instructed at the Winter Schools.

Labour education is extremely important and your Education Committee will continue to provide opportunities for activists to become involved, informed and knowledgeable.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

AFL EDUCATION COMMITTEE, 2009 – 2011

Ivana Niblett, Chair & Council Liaison	TWU
Meaghan McNeil, Secretary	HSAA
Elaine Alt	PSAC
Larry Dionne	CUPW
Martin Duckworth	IBEW
Ryan Ermet	IAMAW
Winston Gereluk	
Ed Hanson	CUPE
Mike Kapalka	CEP
Tanice Olson	UNA
Cam Sherk	UFCW
Karen Kennedy, Alternate	CUPW
Wandy Zimmerman, Alternate	UNA
Nancy Furlong	AFL Resource
Gil McGowan (information)	AFL

Committee Members who served a partial term:

Dave Winter	CLC
Tom Kehoe	CLC

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