**Subject:** Nova Scotia Area Council General Meeting.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this briefing note is to outline the general discussion that occurred during the Nova Scotia area general council meeting that occurred on September 23, 2019.

**Background**

I attended the counsel meeting as a representative of Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) as a representative of Local 80820. Mr. Chris Di Liberatore brought the meeting to order at 17:20 and a round table introduction conducted. The previous minutes of May 27, 2019 were not reviewed at this time. The treasurers’ report was not presented at this time. The following agenda items were discussed:

* Welcome and introductions;
* Discussion on upcoming election;
* Request for volunteers for phone banking;
* Mobilization of members;
* Bargaining update;
* Round table; and,
* Adjournment.

**Discussion**

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Chris Di Liberatore welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Mrs. Nancy Maclean to the group as a guest speaker for the evening.

Discussion on Upcoming Election

Mrs. Nancy Maclean spoke to the fact that the PSAC Local Area Council is supporting Mrs. Christine Saulnier, NDP candidate for the Halifax riding. She ae looking for a commitment from the Local Area Councils to support this candidate. There are 1400 PSAC members in this riding.

Request for Volunteers for Phone Banking

Mrs. Nancy Maclean spoke to the intention of PSAC to request volunteers to man phone banks to solicit support for Mrs. Saulnier from the 1400 members. The dates required for volunteers are from 5-8pm on the 1st and 2nd, the 8th and 9th, the 15th and 16th, and the 22nd and 23rd of October. There will be a written script for volunteers to follow. The list of Volunteers is required by Thursday, September 26, 2019 so that phones may be purchased.

Mobilization of Members

Mrs. Rosemarie (Rosie) Smith-Gimblett spoke to the fact that now is the time for members to focus on mobilization as awareness of PSAC issues are important during elections. Displaying signage, stickers or even wearing of buttons is a form of mobilization. It was stressed that strike training will be offered again in the very near future. There is also a need for Regional Representation for strike action required with the strategic committee. It was also stressed that all locals must update their membership lists as this is the only was members are to be contacted for union business.

Bargaining Update

The last round of bargaining took place from September 1st – 6th when, at that time, government walked away from the table and the election was shortly after called. It is strongly believed that there was no effort put into the talks by Government and the appearance at the table was a stalling tactic until the election was called. This is to be believed to be a response to the strike training that was being delivered nation wide.

Round Table

New Business

The following items were brought forth as new business by Mr. Chris Di Liberatore:

* He brought forth an idea to help pay respect and remembrance to the workers that had lost their lives in Nova Scotia while on the job. He was very interested in having a monument erected where families could visit as an act of remembrance. Mr. Bill Kroeger and Mr. Terry Chubbs said that they would look into the idea and utilize some of their contacts to see how we may accomplish this.
* It was also noted that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) must be held in October, as a second representative for the annual conference must be selected. The date will be announced shortly.
* The work plan for 2019 was reviewed. The items that were discussed were:
  + Outreach Booth at Farmers Market. Complete;
  + Promotional Items. It was voted on and passed to expend funds to purchase two (2) NS Area Counsel Flags; and,
  + Solidarity Social. It was agreed to hold a Trivia night in the near future.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 19:17.

**Conclusion**

The meeting had a high level of discussion from all levels of council. The ability of other members to act as guest speakers shone a lot of light on what is expected of all members within the next three to six months. I would like to thank the executive for the opportunity to represent local 80820 and would like to continue doing so if it possible.