



The C. U. P. E. Connection

Spring 2006: Convention notes, Bargaining news & more

President's Message: Just Another Day at the Office



The other day I was sitting in my office looking at the piles of paperwork and the long list of telephone messages and wondered how it was that we are always so busy. It seems that no sooner do we finish something and something else comes along. I also noticed that I was not the only one in the office that did not seem to have any time to take a deep breath.

Sherry is frantically working on the upcoming spring banquet, answering phone calls, writing letters, booking flights making reservations, all while trying to answer three questions, one from me, one from a business agent who needs a file to get to his next meeting and one from a member who needs information on bursaries. Some how by the end of it all everybody gets what they need and Sherry goes back to working on getting the banquet stuff under control.

Yvonne is in the process of doing payroll, preparing for the auditors and trying to sort out leaves of absences for all the various bargaining committees happening in the next couple of weeks.

Rick is in the office pouring over reams of documents trying to put our research together to make a better case for various items that are going to be coming up in the next few days of bargaining. In the meantime he has a couple of member files that he is still dealing with and has to carefully watch the timelines on them.

Garry Ramsey our newest BA is taking on a lot of new cases while trying to learn the HR people from the city as well as playing catch-up on some of the files passed on to him.

Kirk Oates, vice president for the city unit is diligently doing research on Regrades and Classifications. Kirk has been tasked by the Unions Bargaining committee to work with City's Export to try and resolve all the regrade and classification issues that we have put forth in bargaining.

Rudi Haak is the board member that is in the office this month, He has just spent the last half hour explaining an issue to a member, this is a great help as normally one of the BA's would have had to spend that half hour on a fairly minor issue, but one that needed resolving never the less. He is also working on getting the Education committee records up to date,

Now you may be wondering why I am writing about all this stuff? In the last three years once in awhile I get a phone call from a member complaining that they had not received a call back in what they considered a timely fashion, or that they phoned the office and got voice mail or a busy signal.

I guess it was time for me to reassure you that Our Business here at Local 30 is member services. We all strive to do the best job we can for all of us. We have a large membership and many challenges.

I am proud of the staff we have, the executive we have, the dedicated committee members we have and the work that everybody does. Next time you call the office or drop by let folks know how much you appreciate them. And please most of all find a way to get involved the more members that are involved the stronger we are. If you want to find a way to help give me a call (426-6050) or send me an e-mail(alexgrimaldi@shawbiz.ca) we will work out something that meets your interests and suits your time frame.

There is strength in numbers



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Be heard here!

**Have something to say or
get off your chest?**

Please forward your
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*All articles are subject to
approval by our Editorial
committee*

Need to contact one of our
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Flowers and Baskets

**We wish all the best to our
Brothers and Sisters**

Speedy Recovery!

Evelyn Ehrman * Paul Demeulenaere

Bill Florex * Marlo Staszko

Richard Slabysz * Al Halaby

Dennis Henderson * Ed Garn

Ed Laforge * Jack Arlia

Frank Cassella * Phil Rae

Zee Djordjevic * Kim Mesiatowsky

Len Guy * Gordy Laycock

Shauna Graham * Jerry Pisklak

Sadie Burns



With Sincere Sympathy

**We wish to express our deepest
Sympathy to our Brothers and Sisters
who have recently lost a loved one:**

Mark Farhat * Elgar + Bunny

Richard KLAMN * Gordon Sharpe

Mohammed Smaili * Eugene Zukiwsky

Kim Massey

The Families of:

Sister Deb Chmilar

Brother Leo Berube

Brother Frank Balen

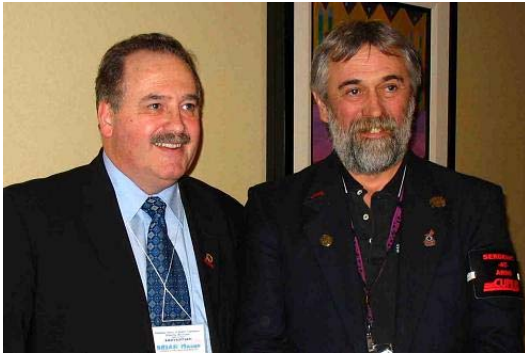
Up-Coming Events

Next General Meeting April 26th 4:30PM

Retiree Banquet/Shop Steward Appreciation May 13th

1st Annual CUPE Local 30 Golf Tournament June 24th

May Week Labour Arts Festival Apr 27-May 4th



CUPE Local 30 was in Fort McMurray for the 56th annual CUPE Alberta convention. Here are the highlights

CUPE National President Paul Moist and National Secretary-Treasurer Claude G n reux toured Fort McMurray's aging water treatment plant this Thursday morning along with Alex Grimaldi and Kirk Oates.

Paul Moist noted that in Edmonton, Local 30 continues to deal with a razor thin council that flirts with privatization. Moist noted that the Local has won two recent fights against privatization of city assets. "We must be doing something right, because the right wing mayor isn't talking to the local president," said Moist. "I say, Alex (Grimaldi, President of CUPE 30) wear that like a badge."

NDP Leader Brian Mason made a passionate plea to CUPE delegates to work with his party to bring about change in Alberta. "Let's work together for dignity for our seniors, for the rights of working people, and for the public health care system" said Mason.

Elections were held for a number of positions on the CUPE Alberta executive.

Local 30 is well represented on the executive with Kirk Oates receiving the bid for Edmonton VP and Terry Jardine was named 3 year Trustee.

The photo contest which had several submissions from Local 30 saw a very touching photo from Edmonton Paramedic Jason Jolson. The winning picture, of Jolson's co-workers in full dress uniform at a memorial for RCMP officers killed in Mayerthorpe.



CUPE Local 30 steward from the Valley Zoo, Gary McInnis won in the category CUPE at work for his picture of Jackie Buck feeding Lucy the Elephant. Gary was also runner up in the lighter side of CUPE for his picture of the Sea Lion being told "To watch your step" The pictures and comments can be viewed at CUPE Alberta's website.

<http://www.alberta.cupe.ca/08events/photocontest2006.htm>

All in all it was a very productive convention. CUPE Local 30 looks forward to the 2007 convention in Medicine Hat.



What's the President up to now? You usually know him from raising the roof at City Hall but on this day he was raising the roof in support of Muscular Dystrophy. Pictured is Edmonton Firefighters Union President Ken Block and CUPE Local 30 President Alex Grimaldi as they went go to the top of Fire Hall #1 to present a \$5000.00 cheque on behalf of the Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund. *Photos by Kirk Oates*





Bargaining Continues



Members of CUPE Local 30 are now aware of our commitment to inform and communicate during the process of Collective Bargaining with the City of Edmonton and Northlands Park.

Your negotiation committee for **CITY OF EDMONTON** bargaining concluded the preparations for negotiations on October 12, 2005, and Brother Bill Spring presented the background for each interest (proposal) at the General Membership meeting of October 26, 2005. A number of interesting questions were discussed. Again, the committee received sincere support for the work they had undertaken and the broad number of proposal presented on behalf of the membership. A good cross section of full time and part time members from all departments listened intently to the explanation of each proposal.

Bargaining for the **CITY OF EDMONTON** commenced on November 28, 2005, and we have met with the City committee for six occasions. The committee directed their attention to classification re-grade requests and this information has been passed on to a bargaining sub-committee for further review. We had a formal discussion with specific interests proposed with the employer such as; provisional status employee benefits, the selection process, filling of vacancies and the promotions clause, request for bargaining member's names and addresses, earned day off for custodial work inspectors, contracting out, wash up time and unsafe working conditions for refuse collectors, working alone, free fitness facility access, and driver abstract costs for provisional status employees. After a brief hiatus, April bargaining dates are set for the 10th, 11th and 24th.

Meanwhile, since May 2004, there have been 10 bargaining dates with the City of Edmonton regarding the **EDMONTON ASSOCIATION BENEFITS AGREEMENT**. There are significant issues at the table such as the lack of benefits to provisional and part time staff and a need to increase the employer pay portion on a number of Major Medical Benefits.

Your negotiation committee for **NORTHLANDS PARK** bargaining concluded the preparations for negotiations, and Brother Rick Colwell presented the background for each interest (proposal) at the Special Northlands Membership meeting of November 22, 2005. The meeting took place at Northlands Park and we had a very good turn out of our members! Again, members debated and asked questions for clarification. Thank you, to the membership for strongly supporting the committee's work.

Bargaining for **NORTHLANDS PARK** commenced on December 20, 2005, and the committee got right to work with negotiations. The committee reviewed specific issues on ticket bonus, lead hand rate, journeyman bonus, working weekends, Letter of Understanding #2- Equipment Operators, health benefits for permanent part time employees, overtime issues, doctor notes and building attendant issues. Future dates are scheduled for April 20th and 21st.

CITY OF EDMONTON COMMITTEE:

SANDY McALEAR

NEIL KETLER

ALEX GRIMALDI

RUDI HAAK

KIRK OATES

RICHARD COLWELL

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