

IN SOLIDARITY



APRIL 5, 2001

CONVENTION

DAY 1

Convention Update 2001

Brought to you by INFO/BIS

This is the eighth year that the executive of INFO/BIS is producing these daily updates. We will provide a record of Convention events and happenings.

We welcome your help over the next three days. Come and see us in the Norfolk Room or drop us a note at the Media Table on Convention floor at the front next to the head table.

Who we are:

Laurie Chapman, Local 323

Len Mason, Local 737

Larry Farr, Local 559

Vern Silver, Local 670

Katie FitzRandolph, Staff Support

David Calvert, Board Liaison

We are the proud producers of *IN SOLIDARITY*.



Who's all here anyway?

There will be approximately 1,400 members attending convention. These numbers may change as cancellations and additions are common at the beginning of convention.

Automatic delegates include all Executive Board Members (outgoing and incoming), Convention committees (Constitution, Resolution and Credentials), a maximum of seven members from each of the Retirees' Committee, Provincial Women's Committee, and Provincial Human Rights Committee.

Here are the approximated numbers for the first day of *Convention 2001*.

Delegates	753
Alternates	460
Observers	145
Executive Board Members	21 + 8
PHRC	7
PWC	7
Constitution Committee	7
Resolutions Committee	7
Credentials Committee	7
Retirees	6
Solidarity Guests	14
Guests	8

Honourary Life Members

Every year the Board chooses three members as Honourary Life members of OPSEU. This year Bob Taylor from Local 534, Vince Vadacchino from Local 214 and Linda J. Wood from Local 418 have been selected.

Brother Taylor was president of Local 534 for over ten years, president of the Queen's Park Area Council for 10 years and on the Resolutions Committee representing Region 5 for six years.

Bob has worked on every campaign, was a member of the Region 5 Labour Activities Committee, the Human Rights Committee, and worked on organizing regional human rights conferences as well as the Labour Day celebrations and the annual picnic.

"Brother Taylor developed a reputation as the telephone organizer. If you wanted to organize an event or meeting, mobilize or just get the word out, Bob would hit the phones by himself and reach every appropriate member and activist," said David Rapaport.

Brother Vince Vadacchino was President of Local 214 where he worked as an x-ray technician. "His dedication to the Medical Division is irrefutable and is attested to by his serving as treasurer of the Division since the days of the CSAO and his participation on every central bargaining team, save one, since the Division's inception," said Patty Rout in her nomination of Vince. Patty continues to say "this dedication was instrumental in making OPSEU the union of choice for hospital professionals."

Sister Linda J. Wood was President of Local 418. She volunteered on her Area Council, the Kingston and District Labour Council and is the Vice-President of the injured workers support network in the Kingston area.

Sister Wood continues to assist the Ontario Federation of Labour's *It's all on the line* campaign, with the Kingston and District Labour Council's Cable Cast. ☺



Stanley Knowles Humanitarian Award

Stephen Lewis, currently an adjunct professor at York University and Special Advisor to a number of UN agencies, including UNICEF, is this year's recipient of the Stanley Knowles Humanitarian Award.

Lewis was born in Ottawa in 1937. A politician and journalist, diplomat and son of CCF/NDP politician David Lewis, he taught in Africa in the early '60's and later served as an organizer for the New Democratic Party. In 1963, he won the Scarborough West seat in the Ontario legislature and was elected party leader in 1970, taking the party to official opposition status.

He left politics in 1977 after electoral defeat to work as a broadcaster, lecturer and labour arbitrator and in 1984 was appointed Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations.

In 1997, in addition to his work at UNICEF, he was appointed by the Organization of African Unity to a Panel of Eminent Personalities to Investigate the Genocide in Rwanda. The report was issued in June of 2000.





Local 310 wins Award

The courthouse in Newmarket was constructed in 1979. A few years later staff began complaining of drowsiness and difficulty in concentrating late in the afternoon. Complaints of general air deficiencies and various odours were also made to the Ministry of Labour.

About four years ago, during a complete brick replacement on the exterior of the building it was discovered that a vapour barrier was never installed, thus moisture in the building and inherent roof leaks would allow mould to grow. Mould develops when moisture and drywall combine.

In February, 2000, construction began on a foundation for an addition to the courthouse and that's when the real trouble began. Staff began to suffer from headaches, nose bleeds, difficulty breathing, stuffy nose, nausea, sneezing, sinus infections, and rashes. Some staff were even removed by ambulance because of the severity.

Journals were kept and the Ministry of Labour was called to investigate what appeared to be a pattern. Local 310 applauds the support of Bob DeMatteo and Lisa McCaskell from OPSEU's Health and Safety Department. "Bob's expertise in the field of health and safety was instrumental in providing interpretation to the reports received from the environmental experts, and he encouraged our members to stay united by publishing a series of articles known as *Hazard Alerts*," said Val Erwin, Treasurer of Local 310.

The courthouse was eventually closed and the staff were re-located to trailers on the premises. This presents a host of other health and safety issues which the local continues to address.

"Needless to say, a feeling of mistrust and apprehension still envelopes the re-entry into the courthouse," said Val Erwin. A class action lawsuit has been filed on behalf of everyone who has been affected by the mould and poor air quality in the Newmarket courthouse.

The saga continues for the members of OPSEU Local 310. ☺

Terry Lee makes outstanding contribution

"Brother Terry Lee has made outstanding contributions to the members of Local 143 in Occupational Health and Safety," said Ron Elliot, Regional Vice-President in Region 1.

Terry has been a worker- member on the Joint Health and Safety committee for about 20 years, most of them as co-chair.

Brother Lee forced the employer to establish joint health and safety committees in all of the work-sites where Local 143 has members. The employer agreed to have all of the worker members certified and even paid for the training.

Recently, Terry uncovered major concerns at two work locations. The employer was forced to bring in experts to investigate. The situation was so severe in one instance that the employer looked at relocating all of workers.

"When health and safety is mentioned in Local 143, the members think of Brother Terry Lee," Ron Elliot said. ☺

Points for meetings



These easily understood rules should get you through meetings for at least the next 20 years.

1) THE MOTION: You must be recognized by the chair and state “I move ...

2) THE AMENDMENT: Amendments are offered in the same way as motions. They are introduced to change or complete a motion to make it more acceptable to everyone.

3) AMENDING THE AMENDMENT: Just as a motion may be amended, an amendment may also be changed.

4) SPEAKING ON MOTIONS OR AMENDMENTS: After you are recognized by the chair you may speak either for or against the motion or amendments that are being considered.

5) HOW TO CALL FOR CLOSURE: Once recognized by the chair, you call for the previous question. It takes two-thirds of the voting membership to carry closure.

6) HOW TO TABLE: When a *MOTION TO TABLE* passes, the main motion is put aside. No action is taken, and the meeting goes on to other business. If the motion to table is defeated, discussion on the main motion continues.

A motion to table *cannot be debated* or amended; and if it is supported by ONE other member, it should be put to an immediate vote by the chair.

7) POINT OF INFORMATION: If at any time during the meeting you are *confused about the business* being discussed, or if you want the motion that is being considered *more clearly explained*, you may rise to ask the chair for a *POINT OF INFORMATION*. After you are recognized, ask for the explanation you desire.

8) POINT OF ORDER: If you disagree with any of the chair’s rulings or if you believe that the person who is speaking is not talking about the business being considered, you may raise a *POINT OF ORDER* and state your objection to the chair. The Chair is required to rule one way or another on your point of order.

9) PRIVILEGED MOTIONS: These are motions that have nothing to do with the current question. They are of such urgency and importance that they may interrupt the proceedings. They rank as follows: a) to fix time of next meeting, b) to adjourn, c) recess when privileged, d) question of privilege, and e) call for orders of the day. ☺