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We tried to track them down all afternoon for a photo; we finally managed to trap them in the hospitality suite!

After a full day of elections, convention delegates elected the following members to our union's national executive. For the full list of elected members, please consult our website.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Doug Marshall
National President

Kevin King
National Executive-Vice President

Geoff Ryan
National Vice President for Human Rights

ON THE TWITTERSPHERE



@LadyScorpio1960: Congrats to everyone elected to the National Executive!! I have all the confidence that Harper best watch out!!! #UNE2014

@SofiaHD85: Hair is expanding exponentially #thankshumidity #curlygirlproblems #curlworld #Victoria #BC #UNE2014

@vwcanuck: Day 4 – Election Day! Generous members are vigorously donating to support Cape Breton Brothers and Sisters #UNE2014

Thanks to all our tweeps for tweeting along!



REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Dave Burchell
Alberta, N.W.T and Nunavut

Richard Ballance
NCR-Treasury Board

Angela Decker
Atlantic

Mary Anne Walker
Ontario

Jennifer Chieh Ho
British Columbia and Yukon

Karl Lafrenière
Outside Canada

Chris Little-Gagné
Manitoba

Yvon Beaudoin
Quebec

Patrice Rémillard
NCR-Separate Employers

Omar Murray
Saskatchewan

Wood Carver Art Charlie

Art W. Charlie II is the wood carver who has been working in the foyer on the second floor of the Victoria Convention Centre all week. Many members have stopped to admire and purchase the beautiful works of art he has for sale.

While his preference is to work with yellow cedar, Charlie also uses red cedar, sugar pine, white pine and pine. With 44 years experience in wood carving, he also credits earlier work in furniture design, carpentry and construction for awakening his talents.

“Inspiration comes from how you feel, your environment, from the piece of wood,” explained Charlie. “Every piece is different. I never carve the same thing twice.”

Born in Tofino, Charlie has roots with the Ahousesht First Nation on the west coast of Vancouver Island. He has lived in Victoria since 1968.

Charlie’s west coast style has been shaped and influenced by his teachers

who come from the Haida, Kwakiutl, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Coast Salish traditions. He credits teachers like Rodney Thomas and his grandfather Joshua Jumbo with instilling a love for this art form. In turn he has mentored many young artists to explore their own creative gifts.

Exhibiting his respect for the traditional teachings that inspire his art, his years of experience have given him the skill to convey movement and grace in his pieces. Currently, Art’s work reflects his fascination with the theme of wolf and moon. But he is also well-known for his exploration of other subjects such as the dancing hummingbird, raven in the moon, sea otter with sea urchin, and the killer whale.

You can contact Art at no1carver@hotmail.com, or via Facebook: www.facebook.com/art.charlie.3. Thanks to Jennifer Chieh Ho from the steering committee for arranging to have Art share his artistic talent with us at the convention.

A case for water as a human right

While we’ve been busy at convention, it might have been hard to keep up with major news. So, you might not know that heavy rainfall in Detroit caused a major flood, which has already taken two lives. But it wasn’t very long ago that Detroit was in the news for a completely different reason that was also related to water.

Forty per cent of Detroit residents could lose access to running water by the end of the summer because of unpaid water bills due in part to skyrocketing water rates in the past decade. According to the Detroit Water Brigade, a volunteer-led alliance aiming to help families facing water shut-offs, the Detroit Water and Sewage Department is cutting off 3,000 households from city water every week.

It was just over a year ago that the city of Detroit filed for bankruptcy in an effort to restructure its debts. Short on funds, the city is looking to collect on unpaid bills. Unfortunately, this is

bound to hurt the city’s economically disadvantaged groups.

A recent report on MSNBC, however, revealed that the city hadn’t turned off the taps for larger corporations. A local arena owed more than \$80,000; a nearby golf course owed \$400,000. Meanwhile, families were being cut off for being \$150 in arrears.

The irony of course is that Detroit borders one of the largest bodies of freshwater in North America, yet its residents pay close to double the national average for water.

Undeterred, the Detroit Water Brigade is looking to volunteers to set up distribution hubs to help those in need. Local residents can even sign up on their website to offer water to those who’ve been cut off in their neighbourhood. To find out more or to donate, go to detroitwaterbrigade.org.

IN THE HALLS

With everything you have learned at convention, what do you plan on sharing with your local members when you get back?

“The work I’m going to do at the local level, it revolves around union participation. I’m going to encourage them to get involved. As for those who are already there, I’ll encourage them to come to meetings so they can learn more because, if it’s always the same people who come, it doesn’t encourage others - because it’s important to live the experience and have the same fervent energy that we have here with other members. That’s what gives me energy; it gives me the confidence I need to perform my work,” *said Céline Ahodékon, British Columbia*

“Obviously our new executive and what they are proposing to bring to the table; an update on bargaining, which is very important; and stuff that came out of our regional caucuses and regional elections,” *commented Audrey Berlovan, Saskatchewan*

“First, when the resolutions were passed, there were a lot of important discussions that caught my attention. Next is the budget – I find it amazing that negotiations go down to the last penny,” *explained Fidelita San Jose, British Columbia*



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Editor’s note: These newsletters simply wouldn’t have been possible to produce without the hard work and dedication of our amazing volunteers. I know I speak on behalf of our amazing team when I say that we hope you enjoyed these newsletters as much as we enjoyed producing them. Rudy Depakakibo, Safia Haji-Dayib, Jay Lamothe and Cate Watrous: you’ve been an absolute pleasure to work with!

- Ben @ communications@une-sen.org