



# LOCAL 276 NEWSLETTER



September 2019



## *Business Managers Report*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Work has been busy this summer for everyone and it looks like it is not going to slow down anytime soon. It has been an exciting time for our Local as well, at 561 members, our Local is the largest it has been for many years. A good part of this is our contractors winning bids on a lot of the infrastructure and commercial work here on the Island and our members manning this work. As a good part of our membership is looking at that golden finish line, training our apprentices so they will be up for the challenge is a high priority for the JAC and the Local. With changing technology, materials and the way jobs are being run this is a challenge we take very seriously.

This is definitely a good time to move our training forward. Having a labour friendly Government and a super charged economy has definitely lent a helping hand. Instead of a government trying to dismantle apprenticeships, brake down Unions and have taxed based infrastructure projects go to the lowest bidder, as we see in most of the rest of Canada. Currently we have a local Government Working with **Community Benefit Agreements** that secure good wages, benefits, apprenticeship ratios, local hire and much more.

We have also had the most labour friendly Liberal Federal Government that we have seen in a long time.

With Federal grants being made available to Union training centers the local has gone after these very aggressively and was successful on both **Union Training and Innovation Program (UTIP)** grants offered in 2018 and 2019 with a combined total of \$156,000. The first grant was steered towards equipment for our in-house fall arrest and EWP training and the second was to equipment the new training center, currently under construction.

Together we are seeing positive change and growth for our members and the industry.

Fraternally yours,

Jason Pedersen  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary



## *Roofing Training brought to the Island*

For many years all roofing training through RCABC was based in Vancouver, making it very tough for our members wishing to attend school and carry on with their apprenticeship. After many conversations, RCABC has agreed to provide a Roofer Damper Water proofer (RDW) Level 1 here on the Island on Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. We have reached out to members to make sure we fill this class so we will have the argument that we need to continue with Level 2 and 3 here on the Island.

If you would like to be registered, please contact Rick at the office.

## *Apprenticeship Competition*

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual apprenticeship competition was held in Toronto this May. Top fourth year, Lee Maddix came to represent local 276. Lee didn't leave with a trophy but with pride of a job well done. Next year's competition for Roofing and Sheet Metal will be held in St. John's Newfoundland.

Best of luck to all our Apprentices!

## *Constitutional Convention*

On Aug 12<sup>th</sup> we had 4 delegates from Local 276 go to our International's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual SMART convention. Every 5 years the International opens our constitution to make amendments through resolutions brought forth from local's and councils. This is also the time international positions are up for election. Bro. Joseph Sellers Jr. was elected by acclamation as General President and Joseph Powell as General Secretary-Treasurer as Bro. Richard McClees has stepped down. There was a lot of clean up to language in the constitution, but few large changes were brought forth.

## *In Memory*

It is always the hardest conversations to have when you hear a member or one of their loved ones has passed away.



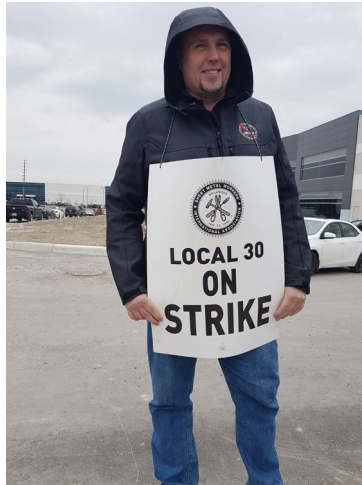
It is with a heavy heart we remember:

Bro. Danny McDonald, a fifty-year member  
Maureen Hertel, the loving wife of Bro. Ed Hertel  
Sharlane Callow, loving wife of Bro. Kelly Callow  
Terri Baird, loving wife of Bro. Dennis Nelson

In this fast-paced world always remember to take time for the ones close to you!

## *Strike in Ontario*

On June 29<sup>th</sup> all Ontario Local Unions Ratified an agreement ending their 8-week strike. The sacrifices made to defend the collective agreement were extremely high. However, we must recognize that this strike was a total victory. Not only did they successfully resist the demands for control of their hiring halls and concessions to their hours of work - but they negotiated some of the highest increases to wages in the ICI Construction Sector. This victory was possible because of the strength of their membership as well as fellow members from other Provinces and even the States who stood on the pick line, side by side. The Contractors Association thought they were weak and could easily be divided. They were proven wrong. The word Solidarity has a special meaning after what we saw over those long two months.



## *Tote LNG Project*

Tote Maritime and SeaSpan are about to embark on the second Orca class LNG conversion scheduled for this December.

In addition to the LNG tanks and accompanying infrastructure, the ship will receive critical engine updates necessary to utilize LNG as a fuel.

Proof that this kind of work can be done locally.

The maritime industry is increasingly adopting less costly liquefied natural gas as a fuel as more rigorous rules and environmental standards are being rolled out around the globe.

With the help of the Vancouver Island Building Trades we hope to attract more of this calibre to the Island to ensure future work for our members.

## *Recognition Dinner*

On June 8<sup>th</sup> the Local recognized our long-term members and our new Real Seal graduates. A good time was had by all. It was great to see the fresh new faces just getting going in their careers sitting with members who have built our Local through years of pride and craftsmanship.

Recognition for the following:

13 - Red Seal Graduates      14 - 25 Year Pins

21 - 40 Year Pins                6 - 50 Year Pins

## *Nomination Results*

Nominations were held for all positions in our local on May 2, 2019 All positions were awarded through acclamation. All positions will be held for three years until the next election.

### Executive Board:

### Trusties:

President - Kevin Walsh  
Vice President - Dustin McPherson  
Business Manager/ FST - Jason Pedersen  
Recording Secretary - Jason Bentley  
Conductor / Warden- Tiffany Newmen

Kevin Walsh  
Dustin McPherson  
Mike Paterlini  
Doug Savory  
Sara Wilson  
Jason Pedersen  
Fraser Noot

Cam Crowhurst  
Trevor West  
Dean Gustin  
Jeff Howard

## *Other Negotiation News*

### Local 280

Our sister local on the mainland has recently ratified their agreements with both CLRA and SMACNA.

CLRA Agreement- After an extended time at the table, negotiations ended up at arbitration. The final outcome was a four-year agreement with increases of \$0.84 each year on the sheet metal side and \$0.52 each year on the roofing side.

SMACNA Agreement- The first proposal was voted down by the membership mainly because SMACNA wanted to me-too the CLRA agreement. There was a strong response from the membership wanting SMCNA to be in front of CLRA in the negotiation timeline. A second proposal was brought to the members and was ratified. The final agreement was a three-year agreement with increases of \$1 first year, \$0.86 second year, \$0.96 in the third.

### Federal Dockyard

Leading up to negotiations, a proposal from the Treasury Board of Canada was offered to the Federal Government Dockyard Trades and Labour Council. This proposal was not the wage parity with the East Coast that our members wanted to see but a larger fear loomed with what was to happen if non-labour friendly Government came into power in the up coming Federal election. The proposal was brought to the members of dockyard and was ratified.

This was a four-year agreement with increases of 2.8% first year, 2.2% second year, 1.5% third year, 1.5% in the fourth.

## *Roofing Recruiting*

Lack of manpower is an ongoing problem both in the union and non-union sector of the roofing trade. The Local has been working with both our members and our associated contractors to try and find ways to combat this problem. Earlier this year a signing bonus was introduced to have members themselves compensated for bringing in new members. Unfortunately, this did not work as well as hoped and we will be looking at other avenues to help fill this void.

**As of September 1<sup>st</sup> we will not be offering the roofing incentive program anymore.**

All applications that we have on file will be honoured.

## *Out in the Community*



Sister Stephanie McMartin working with high school students at Ballenas Secondary at their Try-a-Trade program in Parksville, sharing her knowledge and passion for the trade.



Students of the first Sheet Metal Summer school course put on by Local 276 and Camosun Collage. A special thanks to our Instructor Glen Ferguson and to LaserCam Ltd for some great projects these kids will never forget

## *Union Office Contact Information*

Jason Pedersen, Business Manager  
Rick Carter, Apprenticeship Training  
Cathy Nelson, Office Assistant  
Carrol Pedersen, Office Assistant

jason@smwia276.ca  
rick@smwia276.ca  
cathy@smwia276.ca  
carrol@smwia276.ca



302-791 Goldstream Ave, Victoria BC V9B 2X5

Phone 250-727-3458 Fax 250 727-7154

Follow us @S.M.W.I.A.276