

Local 229 Update

June 4, 02

We're moving! Its official. Moving day is Friday June 7th and our new space is on the fifth floor of the Chapples Building (wheelchair accessible, but good exercise for those of us who need it) The phone number 474.4228 will no longer be in use after the 7th, but 474.4229 will still work. The fax is the same number 475.3128. Our new address is

101 N Syndicate Avenue, Suite 512

Thunder Bay ON P7C 3V4

The office space has lots of room, including a board room, and we have a large meeting room on the third floor, Suite 303. Brother Cummings and Brother Savela have been working hard to get things in shape over there, and to make sure the move goes smoothly. We should be back in business by Monday June 10th.

CAW Local 1075 (Bombardier Plant) is starting a **Flying Picket Squad** and is looking for volunteers from our local to join up, including a chair person from our local. Flying Picket Squads are fast becoming a CAW tradition, famous for their spontaneity and creativity at bolstering spirits at rally's, picket lines, or wherever they may be needed. They are made up of rank and file activists who want to make a difference in the community. If you are interested in joining this dynamic group of activists please call the local office. They apparently have lots of fun!

The membership voted to **suspend the July meeting** (as per the constitution) but the August meeting will be held, with the date moved to the second Monday the 12th because of the Civic Holiday.

A **good and welfare policy** was adopted at the general meeting. Recording Secretary Marg Arnone is the contact person for the policy, so remember to let the office know when it is needed. You can email, fax or phone (leave a message in the general mailbox if no one answers) Cards will be sent for illness, hospitalization, childbirth, and death of a family member. A donation will be made for death of a member. Retiring members will receive a certificate and a mug. Special request for members in need will be up to \$100.00. Many thanks to Marg and the committee.

Thunder Bay City Homes units are in the planning stages for a campaign to increase front line staffing. The Local 229 Health Care Committee is coordinating this effort, and are asking all members to be ready to support their efforts at rally's etc. A presentation to **promote the utilization of RPN's** has been developed to go along with this campaign. The presentation is geared towards employers and is "generic" so it can be used in many workplaces. Please contact me if you are interested in more information on this.

Brothers' Muzyka, Oram and Bishop and Sister Fortier (me) are off to the **Canadian Labour Convention** June 10th to June 14th in Vancouver. The expected hot topic for the convention is adjustments to the constitution to make it easier for union members to change unions if there are irreconcilable differences, so that hopefully others will not have to go through the same situation we did. I will send out a report after the convention.

Brother Armstrong reported on Local 229 **organizing**. Our current campaign at the Laidlaw Bus Lines is nearing successful completion and we have had interest expressed by two other groups of workers. Everyone is encouraged to look for organizing opportunities and forward the information to the Local. We are currently looking for contacts at the Thunder Bay Charity Casino. The National office will put in resources for organizing for large campaigns.

Sister Rubino will be attending the **CAW Education Conference** at Port Elgin next week. The national office requested that someone from our Education Committee attend and give a report on our successful educational session last month as they were very impressed with the way things were set up. Congratulations to Amy and the committee!

The Local has approved sending two members to the **CAW Women's conference** in August. The conference is an annual event, and is a great opportunity to forge links with the other women leaders across our national union. CAW has always promoted equity and women's issues, and thanks in large to our group joining CAW, we now make up about 30% of the membership. The Local will be purchasing 30 CAW Women's Solidarity Pins for the members of the Women's Committee (currently 8 members), and others kept for sale (\$3.00) or for new committee members.

And that's it for the 229 highlights. I hope I didn't forget anything. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

In solidarity, Katha Fortier, VP
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