

Welcome New Shop Stewards!



Pictured here are some of our new stewards who took the Introductory to Stewarding course

Being a good shop steward is not just about a passion to help fellow members, but also a willingness to learn. That's why Local 500 is proud to congratulate our 13 new stewards for completing the Introductory to Stewarding course this past summer.

Members from both our units and direct affiliates participated in the workshop held at the Union Centre.

Each year, Local 500 offers steward orientation sessions in the spring and fall, followed by the introductory course in the winter.

Members interested in becoming a shop steward should contact the Local 500 office for more information.

New City Agreements

Members are asking us when the new agreement between Local 500 and the City of Winnipeg will be ready.

We expect to mail the new agreements to union members by the end of February 2012.

The process for preparing a new agreement can be quite lengthy. First and foremost, the union and employer must agree that all negotiated changes to the language have been incorporated correctly. Next, both parties are responsible for proof reading the document.

After this is done, the booklet is sent for printing which can take anywhere from four to six weeks to complete. Labeling and stuffing envelopes, then mailing the agreement also takes us time.

We would like to thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this process.

Election of Officers



(Back row L-R) Brian Barron, Howard McCubbin, Rebecca St. Germaine, Elizabeth Blair. (Front row L-R) Gord Delbridge, Mike Davidson, Cathy Williams-Stewart

Election of the officers of Local 500 took place on Monday, November 28, 2011. Mike Davidson was re-elected Local 500 President for a two-year term.

The other table officers elected are: Brian Barron, 1st Vice-President; Gord Delbridge, 2nd Vice-President; Rebecca St. Germaine, Recording Secretary; Cathy Williams-Stewart, Warden.

Please note that Howard McCubbin, who holds the position of Secretary-Treasurer, was not up for re-election in 2011.

Also elected was Elizabeth Blair as the three-year Trustee.

Please note that the Trustees are not considered members of either the Local's Executive or Table Officers.

Communicator

From the President Mike Davidson



It's hard to believe the holiday season is upon us. I hope you take some time to share the joy of the season with your family and friends.

The fall kept us busy on a number of fronts. In October, we saw the NDP win their fourth majority government in the provincial election. Our congratulations go out to Local 500 member Dave Gaudreau, who was elected as the MLA for St. Norbert.

In November, our efforts along with members of the Winnipeg Labour Council and other groups, contributed to the election of Brian Mayes to city council in the St. Vital by-election.

Given the current political climate and the stances of some councillors with respect to city workers, I believe the addition of a labour endorsed candidate will provide a council that is more balanced and reflective of our community.

On behalf of the executive of the Local, I would like to acknowledge and thank each and every one of you and your family members for taking the time to volunteer in the election campaigns.

In bargaining news, members at the Assiniboine Park Conservancy have ratified their first collective agreement. Bargaining has also been concluded at Kirkfield-Westwood and Varsity View Community Centre.

At the time of writing, the Local was involved with contract negotiations at Canlan Ice Sports and St. Boniface Museum. In early 2012, members at the Winnipeg Convention Centre will commence bargaining for a new collective agreement.

In the coming year, the Local will be faced with a number of challenges that will require our attention and resources. Among them is the future of our city-owned golf courses and arenas. The City has put out expressions of interest for both of these operations without any public consultation. The Local will continue to represent your interests with all our resources in these two areas.

Other priorities include participation in the city's operating budget debate and continued monitoring of the Veolia contract in our sewage treatment plants.

These are but some of the important issues facing our Local and I would encourage you to watch your bulletin boards for further updates. You can also visit the Local's website for the latest news.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and I look forward to working with you on the issues we face in 2012. I am confident that with your help, we can meet these challenges together.

Local 500 Table Officers

President
Mike Davidson

1st Vice President
Brian Barron

2nd Vice President
Gord Delbridge

Treasurer
Howard McCubbin

Secretary
Rebecca St. Germaine

Warden
Cathy Williams-Stewart

Trustees

1 year
Phil Dembicki

2 year
Margaret Feliksiak

3 year
Elizabeth Blair

Stay Connected!

Sign up for the latest happenings on one or all of these sites by visiting www.cupe500.mb.ca



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SEASON'S GREETINGS



CUPE OFFICE HOURS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The CUPE LOCAL 500 OFFICE will be closed Friday, December 23, 2011 and will open again on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

If you need to reach someone from the Local 500 office, please call 942-1001 and leave a message. We will be checking for messages regularly.

Scholarship and bursaries awarded

The Les Butterworth Scholarship program is an annual event sponsored by CUPE Local 500. The fund helps union members and their families defray the cost of higher education.

This year, four students have won awards from the Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund. One scholarship of \$1,250 and three bursaries of \$750 were awarded.



2011 winners: (from left) Courtney Brecht; Adam Reisacher; Kevin Bairos-Novak (Missing: Meaghan Welby)

Scholarship Winner

The scholarship, which is awarded on the basis of academic achievement, went to **Adam Reisacher**. Adam is enrolled in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba. His partner Lorraine is a Local 500 member in the Community Services Department.

Bursary Winners

The bursaries were awarded for high marks and financial need. The winners are:

- **Kevin Bairos-Novak** is enrolled in the Faculty of Science at the University of Manitoba. He is a Local 500 member in the Water and Waste Department.
- **Courtney Brecht** is taking Creative Communications at Red River Community College. She is a Local 500 member in the Assessment and Taxation Department.
- **Meaghan Welby** is enrolled in University 1 at the University of Manitoba. She is a Local 500 member in the Water and Waste Department.

Congratulations to our 2011 award winners!

New Honorary Life Members Welcomed

Two CUPE members were welcomed into the Local 500 honorary life membership in 2011.

The members added were: Pierrette Boily, St. Boniface Museum and Joan McMahon, Community Services Unit.

Honorary life membership is awarded to outstanding CUPE members for their services given to the Local over an extended period of time.

Honorary life membership may also be given for meritorious service to the Local. Life membership can be awarded when the person is within five years of retirement or after retirement or termination of their employment.

Honorary life membership allows you to continue to attend CUPE Local 500 meetings with voice, but not vote.



2011 Honorary Life Inductees: Pierrette Boily (left) and Joan McMahon.

Finance/Payroll Employees at WRHA Join CUPE

A group of finance/payroll employees from the Winnipeg Regional Healthy Authority recently joined CUPE Local 500.

We welcome this new group of about 40 members to Local 500 and look forward to working with them.

Get Involved!

THIS IS YOUR UNION and we need your voice to help make Local 500 stronger. Join a Local 500 committee or participate on your unit executive. There's lots of ways to help build our Local for the future. Give us a call at the Local 500 office for more details.

CUPE National Convention 2011: Biggest ever!



Keynote Speakers



"I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to thank so many of you for your comfort, your strength and your commitment to Jack." - **Olivia Chow**, Jack's partner and NDP MP



"CUPE reaches out to the rest of the world like no other union I have ever seen, from the Arab Spring to the fight for the right to clean water around the world." - **Stephen Lewis**



"The NDP is pleased with its links to your union, and understands the value of the work CUPE members do." - **Nycole Turmel**



"Not even Stephen Harper can take away our most treasured public service if we stand up together." - **Maude Barlow**

More than 2,500 delegates and guests from across the country gathered in Vancouver at CUPE's 25th bi-annual convention held October 31 – November 4. It was one of the biggest conventions in our union's history!

"We gather this week to debate, to plan, to strengthen our unity and to speak truth to power," said CUPE National President Paul Moist, during his opening address. "We are proud public employees and we will fight to defend quality public services, trade union rights, and build a better world for all workers."

In addition to adopting a record number of resolutions, this year's five day convention featured a number of keynote speakers including a final address by Claude Genereux. Genereux, who served as CUPE's National Secretary Treasurer since 2001, announced he would not be seeking re-election.

Other keynote speakers included Distinguished Visiting Professor at Ryerson University, Stephen Lewis; Federal NDP interim Leader, Nycole Turmel and Council of Canadians

National Chairperson, Maude Barlow.

Delegates also debated and adopted its fifth policy paper known as the "Strategic Directions Program for CUPE" which specifically details three key priorities for the period 2011 – 2013.

You can read about the plan - *A Blueprint for the Future* and previous plan documents at cupe.ca.

Other highlights included the presentation of a number of National Awards in the category of Literacy, Health and Safety, Communications, Grace Hartman and Disability Rights Activism.

But there's no question that delegates and guests were emotionally moved by the two video tributes in honour of the late NDP Leader Jack Layton and long-time labour activist Nancy Riche, one of the key figures in Newfoundland and Labrador's NDP.

You can view both tribute videos at cupe.ca.

Source: cupe.ca

Local 500 well represented on National Executive Board

In addition to Local 500 Member Paul Moist being elected to National President, two other members serve on CUPE's National Executive Board. Local 500 President, Mike Davidson, was elected Regional Vice-President for Manitoba and Brian Barron, 1st Vice-President of the Local, was elected to one of the two Diversity Vice-President positions.