

2021 President Report

Edmonton Branch

Normally our Branch has specific events that we hold or participate in yearly. With covid came the cessation of in person events. These included our Steward council, Prairie Regional Council, Branch AGM (rescheduled), picnic, steward appreciation, basic steward training (done once virtually) and Labour school. Even the national AGM was started virtually in November of 2020 and completed in April of 2021. So this report will be more a lesson on PIPSC vs Groups/subgroups.

PIPSC is comprised of bargaining member groups 36 to be exact. Examples are AFS CS CFIA Engineering, Architecture and Land Survey, SH, etc. It is called mother PIPSC and all the groups are her children. They operate independently with assistance from their mother.

Groups are substantially responsible for issues occurring in the office with the employer. They are responsible for bargaining and providing guidance on workplace issues. Some groups have a regional rep such as AFS. Some have individual reps in the workplace. Groups can have the same issues across groups like Phoenix or issues that are specific to their group like Whiteshell. Your contracts are explained by your group/subgroup and signed by the President of PIPSC and your bargaining team. Your groups are responsible for arranging strike action across the country.

Our Region is Prairies Northwest Territories. We have 13 branches in this region – and all groups that work in our region are our members. Steward Councils Basic Steward Training and Labour schools are held alternately in Winnipeg and Edmonton right now as that is where our PIPSC offices EROs/trainers and admin staff work out of. As a branch we investigate hotels for hosting these events, as well as potential activities that are available to families and individuals. We plan when and how these will occur. We engage with EROs to ensure we cover the important issues

Our last Prairie Regional Council we had a hugely successful Friday night supper and scavenger hunt at Fort Edmonton Park.

For steward council we had a bowling night at West Edmonton Mall.

We have a picnic every year so that members can meet their executive and ask questions if they wish or just meet members from other groups.

We had a steward appreciation event on the streetcar. We had pizza, beer, wine and prizes.

We also had a meet and greet for our 100 anniversary that we had hoped to repeat.

I had also planned to visit all the work places in Edmonton, explain our role in the Branch and have a draw with some of our promotional items. COVID happened. Covid was instrumental in showing us that unions need inperson meetings to get members to fully engage.

I still have these promotional items awaiting the reopening of our workplaces. Of course, a workplace can include several groups. Canada Place has AFS CS, SH, CFIA. Our Branch events always include all groups.

The Edmonton Branch President attends all regional meetings. This is where we determine when and where events will occur. We have a training committee that meets to decide who will attend our labour school so that we can get an adequate mix from different groups with varied experience.

We have committees of the Board and we choose one person per committee to represent our Region in Ottawa.

I represented our region for the Finance Committee for the past 6 years.

I also ran for the Director of the Region. I did not get voted in. This vote is critical as whoever represents our region does it for 3 years and should have indepth knowledge to do the job.

They should have a significant amount of experience as many of our issues span years in the making. I am retired and not a regular member. It is very important to note that this makes no difference in running for this position as we do not function in the workplace as does the groups. In Edmonton the majority of our Branch is comprised of rmg. It is because in Edmonton we don't have very many regular members wishing to meet after work or they have commitments with family. We are fine with this and volunteer our time to make these meetings and events on the weekend happen. I had spent years as an AFS steward and subgroup President. When I was a regular member and became Edmonton branch President I welcomed retired members as they were instrumental in imparting knowledge on the organization. Including bylaws and how to run a meeting, what happens at the AGM as well as what is required to ensure our Branch stays current. It is critical to note that the Director of the Region does not interfere in the Group. The Group informs their members and goes into the workplace to discuss items with their members. We provide knowledge.

I know we were complacent because of the federal and provincial elections but this election is important and we are not allowed to contact anyone by email to inform them. That was critical this year. In any event I still plan to visit workplaces though I will not be running for the President of the Branch again. We will be having more virtual meetings this year and would like to encourage more regular members to run. Especially if you would like to be involved outside of the workplace.

Our election resulted in Hugo being elected as president of the Branch, Stewart Wong as member at large and Leslie Robinson as Treasurer.

Sharon Losinski

Edmonton Branch President