

CAW Local 584 Retirees Minutes of Meeting – May 4th, 2011

Brother Chris Wilski in the Chair

M/S Brothers Chris Wilski/Collins to adopt the agenda as printed – Carried

Roll Call of Officers – Brothers Chris Wilski, Berry, Shaw and Collins – PRESENT, Brothers Frank Marek and Reg Galbraith – EXCUSED Brother Steve Koloff – ABSENT

M/S Brothers Chris Wilski/Shaw to adopt the April 6th 2011 minutes as printed – Carried

Retirees Chairs Report May 4, 2011

The retirees met last on April 6, 2011 with Frank Marek in the chair in my absence while I was out of the country. Frank was unable to attend today but wanted me to send his greetings to everyone. I would like to thank Dean Linday for coming out and speaking to us a little later in our meeting.

The Federal Election is just over and it was great to see the NDP make those tremendous gains and become the official opposition. Not so great was seeing the Conservatives get a majority. The trend these days is to weaken Unions and the labour movement which I'm sure Harper will try. It's good to know the NDP will be there to protect those rights. I guess time will tell.

I was very happy to see Peggy Nash (A long time CAW Activist) defeat her Liberal incumbent rival in High Park riding. I sent an email from the retirees to her personally congratulating her.

I would like to congratulate Sister Melony Luffman on her new position of Benefit rep and look forward to working with her over the next few years. Also we want to congratulate Sharon Burton on her retirement effective June 1st and the many years that she has served the members and Retirees of CAW local 584 - Thank you and good luck in the new phase of your life. Also would like to congratulate Michelle Harvey on her recent election for Alternate Benefit Rep.

The retirees are invited to attend the next general membership meeting on Sunday June 5, 2011, 10 AM at the Lions hall, Avondale Blvd Bramalea. Following the meeting there will be presentations and a reception for the 7 retirements and 7 Step programs. They are Paul Uren, Bill Pearsell, Fred Armstrong, Craig Howard, Glen Lewis and Sharon Burton. Please let me know if you plan on attending as the local needs to know numbers when arranging for the food etc.

Kim Timmins is in the midst of an important collection in the plant for a member's daughter that has a rare form of terminal cancer and requires a real hair wig that the family can't afford right now because of all the other expenses. Some monies have already been raised through the Outreach fund and draws but only half of the cost have been collected. I would like to suggest that we donate today's 50-50 draw monies to this good cause.

I received an email the other day that I'd like to read:

*Hi there local 584 Retirees,
I am not sure who is actually going to open this email, but I wanted to say hello to many of my father's (Gord Milward)*

*friends from local 584. I saw your retirees web site and love to see old pics.
I was a summer student there myself for three consecutive years. I was a picker/packer in C Section, originally trained by Dave Wilson. There was Neil Cunning, Bill Sproats, Doug ??, Bill Bertram, VanWagner twins, Murray. They all took great care of me and I have great memories of those days.*

*. I remember my Ford days as the happiest times. SO much fun.
You guys were all crazy. I recall Bill Sproats teasing me and saying he would take up a collection for me to buy a training bra!!*

I got him back and told him we'd do a collection for a toupee!! Too funny - I loved him. They were all so great to me. I loved going to work.

Still have a blown up shot of my face that dear Conrad took -

Hope you are well - and thanks so much for writing - I love looking at you r retirees website. Those were the best summers I had. Lots of great memories, and good laughs. After working as a student at Ford,

I felt very grateful to see first hand what a great bunch of guys my Dad worked with for so many years.

I thank each and every one of you for making his days happy ones. He loved his job, because he loved the guys he worked with.

I'd love to hear from anyone.

thanks folks

Have A Great Day

Julie Milward

Gord Milward's daughter. (canada1965@live.com)

It looks like there will be no Golf Tournament this year. I'm not sure of the reasons but it is definitely off.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday June 1, 2011 PM. Our special guest will be Ken Lewenza President of the CAW and everyone is invited to attend. It will be at held here at the legion on Mary St, Brampton at 9:30 AM. The reason for the early start is that we will be having our annual spring luncheon at the Mandarin at 12 Noon as we wrap up for the summer. Our next meeting after the summer break will be Wednesday Sept 14, 2011 at 1 PM. (This will be the 2nd Wednesday of the month). I would like to know who would like to attend the Luncheon at the Mandarin next month so please fill in the form that is being passed around.
Move adoption of my report.

Chris Wilski/Support Berry – Carried

Correspondence

In response to a call letter from the National office regarding the CAW Retired Workers Leadership Meeting to be held in St. Thomas at Local 1520 on May 17th.2011

it is moved and seconded by Brothers Berry/Brown to send our committee Chair and Vice Chair – Carried

In response to a call letter from the National office regarding the 2011 Retired Workers Council and Conference, Sunday, September 4 to Friday, September 9th. at the CAW Education Centre in Port Elgin

M/S Berry/Little that we send Brother Chris Wilski and spouse to represent our retirees committee. - Carried

In response to a letter from the National office regarding the nomination for the Outstanding CAW Retired Worker of the Year Award the name of Brother Chris Wilski be submitted as nominated by Brother Carney Scott with unanimous approval of the membership attending this meeting.

Financial Report

Brother Shaw reports a balance of \$856.56

M/S Brother Shaw/Doug Scott to adopt the report – Carried

Others with reports

Brother Dean Lindsay Coordinator Big 3 Retired Workers Fund spoke on how he was able to morph his one day seminar on all aspects of retiring from a single day to a 3 day course at the Education Centre in Port Elgin.

Brother Lindsay explained the significance of “letter 8” from the National office dealing with the inclusion of the status of brothers and sisters and their surviving spouses including other family members ability to seek associate membership in RW committees. The surviving spouse is automatically a member and others must be sponsored and voted on by the local RW membership. There are no voting rights granted to any associate member regarding financial or executive positions in same.

Brother Lindsay mentioned the fact that Finance Minister Jim Flaherty seemed supportive of an expanded CPP system then flip flopped at the last minute and withdrew it. Representations by Brother Lindsay and others were made to Minister of State for Seniors Julian Fantino for the improvement of the CPP system but all calls were ignored. Fantino is now serving another term and will undoubtedly receive a publically funded guaranteed gold plated pension for serving two terms.

The National office, according to Brother Lindsay, did not promote “strategic voting” in this election. It simply came down to an ABC vote.....Anybody But Conservative.

Brother Lindsay informed us that buses will be available at half price to the individual locals for retired workers to attend the September 5th. 2011 Labour Day Parade in Port Elgin. Further information will be made available in the future.

M/S Brothers Lindsay/Doug Scott to adopt the report – Carried

Presidents Report

Brother Champagne was indisposed and asked sister Sharon Burton to read his report.

I would like to start out my report by sending my regrets for not attending today's meeting – I am in Oakville for a special Ford Council Executive meeting to discuss the St. Thomas closure. As most of you are aware by now, we have several members retiring and taking STEP over the next few months in order to offset job loss and create pref hire opportunities for our Brothers and Sisters that are losing their jobs in St. Thomas. To congratulate the group, Local 584 will be holding a celebration on Sunday, June 5th. The celebration will be held immediately after the General Membership meeting at the Lion's Hall on Avondale Blvd. in Brampton. I would like to invite all retirees to the occasion, where there will be finger foods served and a cash bar. Please RSVP to the President's office at caw58president@live.com or call 905-454-6080 by May 27th to confirm your attendance.

The Election results SUCKED! I move adoption of my report. In all seriousness, Federal Elections were completed on May 2nd and the results have to be considered bitter sweet. I'll start with what I think is the bitter, Stephen Harper's Conservatives saw an increase in their seats, from 143 to 167, taking much of the GTA in the process and forming a Majority Government. In several tightly contested ridings, the vote for the left was split between the Liberals and NDP, allowing the Conservatives to sneak up the middle and win by less than 5%. Early statements by Harper indicate that allowing more private delivery of publicly funded health care is being considered, repealing the long-gun registry, they will be pursuing more free trade agreements and the budget will be balanced by 2014 while implementing corporate and personal tax cuts.

Leading economists are already saying that Harper's assertion that the cost savings can be achieved through civil servant attrition and updating computer systems is unlikely. Expect spending cuts to social programs to be among the top of the list of cost saving measures. Time will tell if Prime Minister Harper is as scary as many fear, but, I would recommend everyone be prepared for numerous fights over the next four years, as he starts implementing his right-wing agenda unchecked.

Now, for what I would call, the sweet. The leading story of the election has to be that the Jack Layton led NDP captured a record 102 seats and will form the Official Opposition. The popular vote was an astounding 31%, its highest rating ever for the NDP. That success was bolstered mainly by the dismal showing by the Bloc Quebecois, receiving only 4 seats. It would seem that the NDP's platform promising improvements to health care, CPP and tax incentives for companies that hire workers really struck a chord with average Canadians, but, it is also safe to assume there may have been a little dissatisfaction with the Liberal Party.

Layton will be bringing a host of rookie MPs, so he will be relying heavily on a few of his experienced MPs, like the CAW's own Peggy Nash, Peter Stouffer and Malcolm Allen, among others. Unfortunately, the shift to the left in Canadian voting will have little impact because of the majority status of the Conservatives. It will be interesting to watch how Jack Layton handles the additional time allotted for the opposition over the next four years.

Work levels in the plant are on a slight upswing, with a little overtime being called in some departments. Over the next couple of months, we will see our number of active decline from 226 to 217.

As reported last month, the number of summer students has been drastically reduced but the final number has yet to be determined.

I want to finish off my report by recognizing Sister Sharon Burton. Today's meeting will be the last time that Sharon attends a retirees meeting as an active member of Local 584. As everyone should be aware, she has elected to retire on June 1st.

Sister Burton has been tireless and highly dedicated in her position as Benefit Rep and I know I speak for active members and retirees alike when I say she will be greatly missed! I look forward to seeing Sharon at next month's meeting as a Retired member of Local 584 and I wish her and her family a long and healthy retirement.

I move adoption of my report. Seconded by Brother Carney Scott – Carried

Sister Burton reported that Brother Clouts condition has improved somewhat and was actually mowing his lawn on Tuesday. The battle continues and we are all very supportive of him and his family.

M/S Sister Burton/Brother Chris Wilski to adopt the report – Carried

Brother Chris Wilski took this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and hearty congratulations to Sister Burtons for her unflinching and invaluable help she has given to all retirees in steering them through the benefit maze and for her upcoming retirement on June 1st. 2011. A huge round of applause was given to her in recognition.

50/50 Draw – As previously mentioned in Brother Chris Wilski's report that the proceeds from the draw be used to purchase a wig for the young daughter of a 584 member who has been stricken with terminal cancer. Thanks go to Brothers Collins and Deamer for organizing the draw and special thanks to Brother Carney Scott for donating his winnings to this worthy cause. Total donated will be \$125.00. Also thanks to Sister Kim Timmins for her efforts on behalf of this individual.

Old Business – None

New Business- None

M/S Brothers Wilski/Deamer to adjourn. - Carried