



AUPE
CONVENTION 2017

Union Strong: We All Belong

EXECUTIVE ELECTION

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

AUPE's 2017 Annual Convention will see the election of a full slate of executive officers to two-year terms.

In this edition of *Direct Impact*, as in each election year, AUPE publishes platform statements for each candidate for President, Executive Secretary-Treasurer and Vice-President who chooses to submit one.

The statements are for the use of Convention Delegates, who will vote for the various Executive Committee positions, and for the information of all members.

Candidates who have made submissions to this section may not be the only candidates for these offices, as nominations may be taken from the floor during Convention, and often are.

CANDIDATES FOR **PRESIDENT**



GUY SMITH

Local 006 • Edmonton

Greetings!

It is again an honour and privilege to offer my name as candidate for the position of President of our great union.

Over the past eight years, as your President, eight years as one of your Vice-presidents and 30 years as an AUPE activist I have been extremely fortunate to put my beliefs and passion for worker's rights into action.

I believe quality leadership, which our members should expect and deserve, is based not only on passion; but also dedication and integrity.

These are qualities I strive to bring to the position of President every single day in leading a collective struggle to represent you, our members, to improve working conditions and strengthen solidarity within worksites and communities across Alberta.

When I was first elected as President in 2009 I did so on a platform of building a stronger membership, a stronger voice, and a stronger organization. During the past eight years we have developed an environment of solidarity, respect and activism within the union to build upon that vision.

Working closely with a committed team consisting of the Executive Committee, the Provincial Executive, Local and Chapter leaders and activists across the Province has enabled us to overcome some massive and defining challenges and to make real and positive change in the last few years.

And, once again, in Alberta, we are witnessing the potential for political upheaval that could have direct impact on our members and the services they proudly provide to Albertans.

We need to continue to be well prepared for these challenges and I commit to you that I will continue to work every day as your President to ensure we face our struggles with integrity and determination.

I recognize that the majority of you reading this are not one of the 1,000 delegates to Convention who will be voting in the election for President. However, I need you to know your voice is important and I depend on the input and the experiences of each and every one of you to help move our union forward.

Your voice allows me to grasp the nuances and intricacies of a wide range of issues and be able to make decisions based on various, and sometimes divergent, points of views and facts, and to understand, and celebrate, our diversity in building our solidarity.

It is imperative that we continue to push ourselves to be the best we can be and to make continuous improvements to the way we do our important work as individuals and as a union.

We owe that to ourselves, to each other, and to all those who rely upon us to stand up for them for the greater good.

I owe that to you as your President.

So, as we learn and grow, and prepare to face many struggles, I would be honoured to continue to move forward with you on that journey together.

In Solidarity
Guy Smith

CANDIDATES FOR **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER**



JASON HEISTAD

Local 071 • Innisfail/St. Albert

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers of the largest Union in Alberta, AUPE,

My name is Jason Heistad and I am your Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

WOW! It is hard to believe almost four years have come and gone since I was first elected. Time flies in a busy job and an ever changing work environment. I am seeking re-election as Executive Secretary-Treasurer and I am asking for your vote.

Below I have identified key accomplishments that have enhanced the Local and Area Councils along with the membership as a whole.

Accomplishments: 2015- 2017

- A) Enhanced training for Local Treasurers, Secretaries, and Area Councils.
- B) Pensions Training in conjunction with Alberta Pension Services.
- C) Property Management Portfolio and purchasing of Calgary and Peace River Offices & new lease improvements for 2017 - 2018 for Camrose, Athabasca and Lethbridge.
- D) Chair Pensions, Finance and Member Benefits Committee
- E) Board Member of Public Service Pension Plan 2016 - present.

Future Leadership 2017-18

Goals:

- 1) As we enter fiscal year of 2017-18, I will continue to facilitate the development of the property portfolio as one of the goals for AUPE. With my support, the New Edmonton building project will be well underway to facilitate the roll out of the critical tasks and timelines to build a new Edmonton Headquarters. Similarly, I will continue to explore building enhancement opportunities for other AUPE satellites offices such as Lethbridge and Red Deer as well as other AUPE offices throughout the province.
- 2) A second goal I would like to implement in the coming year is the need to work towards creating Leadership in Governance/ Internal Program. Such Leadership in Governance would involve Locals/Area Councils, Provincial Executive and Committees. In today's advancement of governance practices, more specifically management of finances, there is a need to work together to increase our knowledge of efficient governance. As our Union is faced with future challenges, leadership in governance can assist us in being well informed and prepared to make critical financial decisions for our Local & Chapter Membership.
- 3) A third goal I would like to implement is training in the legislative process for pre-elections candidates and volunteers. The program is intended to provide theoretical and practical knowledge across various issues related to the job of a legislator including parliamentary roles and procedures, representative and constituency work, legislation, communications, and relationships.
- 4) Last but not least, I would like to create evolutionary business & community links between service groups and the business community and our elected Executive office. There is much work that could be done in these areas for our Executive to advance the needs of our membership and our great Union.

I will continue to make AUPE's Finances transparent which will lead to accountability and proper fiscal management.

My name is Jason Heistad, and I am asking for your confidence and vote for Executive Secretary Treasurer 2017.

In Solidarity,
Jason Heistad
www.voteforjason.ca

CANDIDATES FOR **VICE-PRESIDENT**



PENNY BATES

Local 009 • Red Deer

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to also let you know that I am letting my name stand for Vice President at the 2017 convention. I hail from Local 009 Chapter 005 - Red Deer. I have been involved with AUPE for over 25 years and have held many component positions at the Local and Chapter level, Council member and Bargaining Chair. The last positions held were Local and Chapter Chair for over 2 terms. Also, I have taken an interest in committees within AUPE and have been on the Legislative committee, Membership Services committee and am currently on the Centennial Working Group, just to name a few.

My Active Unionism has given me some great learning working tools and experience. For me was the Keep Michener Open Campaign (KMO)...This is where engaging the Grassroots is so important. Being the lead for this campaign that was affected my work site, Michener Services, was quite an experience and quick learning curve. Our work site was going on the chopping block by the GOA - vulnerable Albertans would need to live somewhere else and working peers were potentially unemployed! Our Chapter asked for help and immediately AUPE was there, had a plan formulated within 12 hours and started our networking to engage the Work site Members other AUPE Local/Chapters,, Families, Friends, community supporters and the City at large.

This brings me to one of the main reasons I am letting my name stand for V.P. I have walked in some of your shoes when it comes to campaigns, rallies, M.L.A. discussions, media presence and supporting my fellow workers. I have an idea of the commitment and support I have to offer to all AUPE Members.

Union Strong: We all belong...How Ironical that this be this year's convention, I wholeheartedly believe it takes ALL of us to belong!

Please feel free to contact me either by phone, email or FaceBook.

In Solidarity,
Penny Bates
Local 009 Chapter 005



MIKE DEMPSEY

Local 012 • Lac La Biche

Greetings! My name is Mike Dempsey, and I am seeking re-election to a 3rd term for the position of Executive Vice President of AUPE, the largest, most dynamic union in Alberta.

I come from Government Services (Locals 005 and 012) and have been an active member for 35 years with my experience at the provincial level starting when I was appointed to the anti-privatization committee in 1996 by then VP Guy Smith. I have held most positions of Local 005 including Secretary, Vice Chair, Chair, and PE. I also served 4 terms on the Government Service Bargaining Committee, 2 terms as vice chair. I attended Labour School a number of times, taking Bargaining, Leadership, and the Advanced Union Steward Course.

In the two years prior to my becoming VP in 2013 I served as strike captain at several continuing care facilities in Edmonton and Calgary. I did this because I was mortified at the treatment of our members by a cruel, greedy employer who put profits before both staff and residents. This is why I ran for Vice President.

Since I was first elected, I have served the central, Edmonton, and North East regions of the province, attending and contributing to hundreds of chapter, Local, and Area Council elections and events. It is an honour and a privilege to serve, and help our members make progressive improvements in their workplaces and hence in their personal lives!

Along with my COPA committee, I brought the leaders of the Provincial opposition parties to the 2014 convention to debate the issues important to our members. We piloted a get out the vote campaign, which helped 4 AUPE members become MLA's, including COPA's own Heather Sweet.

The biggest COPA event of this past 2-year term was, in cooperation with AUPE's education department, the planning, scheduling and implementation of a conference on political action entitled People Powered Politics. 190 of our members attended. The objective was to become more politically confident and active. About a dozen MLA's and Ministers attended a social we had whom our members held accountable on important issues.

As Board member of the Public Service Pension Plan we kept the promise of delivering more pension education (last year's convention). We had education sessions in many of our offices - both PSPP and LAPP - and are currently finalizing a plan with APS to deliver more education throughout Alberta at our regional offices.

The work I am most proud of was supporting our 35 brothers and sisters locked out of Points West Living Cold Lake for 6 months! I spent many cold mornings with these brave brothers and sisters greeting scabs with enthusiasm, with the end result that a CA was signed and new labour legislation was created to bring about a better workplace.

Should I be re-elected, I will keep doing these things, but most of all I want to spend more time at the work sites and with Local Bargaining committees getting to know our grassroots members better!

Yours in Solidarity,
Mike Dempsey, VP
Chair, COPA Committee
Member, PSPP

CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT



ROD FELAND

Local 038 • Edmonton

I began a career at NAIT 36 years ago working as a Lab Technologist and have held various positions in my Local, including Vice-Chair, Chair, Bargaining Committee Member, Education Sector Steering Committee, Advanced Stewart and Provincial Executive. I have pursued educational opportunities through my employer and our Union, and have attended many useful and valuable Labour School courses.

As a Steward, I have dealt with many grievances and issues in our worksite, up to and including contract arbitration. I have also presented classification appeals to final arbitration. I have sat on two of AUPE's Standing Committees, twelve years on Legislative Committee, and currently as Chair of the Environmental Committee.

I have attended numerous Conventions, and you may have seen me at the microphone once or twice. I think what I value most about our Union is our real sense of social justice and our commitment to democracy. Our Constitution is based upon it, our policies try to reflect it, and our members strive to mirror it in deeds and actions. Sometimes we get passionate in our debate, but we do need to listen to the voices of dissent. That is what fulsome debate is all about. We need to examine all sides of an issue in order to make informed decisions. That is what I would like to bring to our Union as one of your Vice Presidents; open and transparent debate and decisions that reflect the best interests of the Union, but recognize the needs and concerns of us all. That's our grassroots showing, standing up for the little guy and what is right.

There are many concerns facing our members. I would like to see that we give them the tools they need to take action on the worksite, to empower and mobilize them. There are no stronger advocates than those that are closest to an issue. I would like to be the bridge that can help give voice to your issues. I do have to say that I may not always agree with your point of view, and I may not tell you what you want to hear, but I will tell you what you need to hear, and I will help you find the resources or the people that can help you deal with your issues. And I will bring your issues forward. I have never been terribly shy about presenting an opposing viewpoint.

I am prepared to devote my time to supporting my Sisters and Brothers as one of your Vice Presidents. I feel I can make a difference by supporting all of our Sectors across this great Union. I humbly ask for your support in my bid to become one of your new Vice Presidents. I would love to have the opportunity to speak with your Local or Chapter about my campaign. You can contact me at rfeland@shaw.ca or call or text 780-231-8561.

Yours in Solidarity
Rod Feland, AUPE Local 038



BONNIE GOSTOLA

Local 045 • High River

To every member of AUPE, I would first like to thank-you for the honour of representing you for the past year. It has been a journey that I will always cherish. I have more to accomplish. The old cliché, "Our fight is just beginning" still rings as true today as when it was first uttered. 75,000 of you continue to be in a bargaining battle with our various employers, many are facing hard facts around wage freezes and quality of life language in our Agreements. This is not just a battle but a War and you want your Vice President to be in the trenches with you to win that war. I am that Vice President.

We need to continue to educate those of you who do not understand what it is to have the strength of the Union behind you. I have a mission to get out to those worksites, to educate and mobilize, and reach, as many of you as I can. Education is the key to our strength. When every member understands their rights under the Collective Agreements, when every member know how to fight a battle over violations of those rights, and every member stands up to defend those rights, I will feel that I have accomplished my goal.

WE ARE NOT THERE YET! I continue to have a passion to defend and stand with you in the battles we take on daily. I will not back down to the pressure of a bureaucracy that will overwork our members in the name of efficiency. It is just wrong to expect one person to take on the workload of two (or more). Yet, it seems to have become an expectation of our employment, to be driven to the brink of exhaustion and defeat. That is a battle I am also willing to take on. This government needs to recognize that you cannot be treated with such disrespect in the workplace and continue to maintain public services delivered daily by you, the members. I will continue to message and lobby our politicians, to demand they step up and defend, not just the services provided by us, but to strengthen the publics' experience by taking the burden off our members and distribute the workloads appropriately.

We have an amazing diversity in our membership and I am so proud of that, but, I fear that sometime it is that diversity that makes it harder to reach all. I am your Vice President, I recognize the challenges we face, and I know what is going on in your workplaces. You need a leader who has the heart to take on any comers. That is what you demand and deserve as members. I am that person.

I am asking for your support to continue to be your Vice President for the next two Years.

In Respect and Solidarity,
Bonnie Gostola

CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT



JAMES HART

Local 002 • Edmonton

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

My name is James Hart and I am a proud member of Local 002, Chapter 002. I am seeking your support to be your representative for one of the six Vice-President positions of this great union -The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE).

I have been a proud member of AUPE since 1987. During that time, I have fulfilled the duties as a Correctional Peace Officer, a Sheriff at the court house, and a Sergeant supervising the Sheriffs at Government Centre, which included the protection detail for the Lieutenant Governor. I am currently an Investigator working in the Sheriffs Branch under the Safer Communities and Neighborhood Act (SCAN). SCAN targets and shuts down properties that are regularly used for illegal activities such as drugs, gangs, prostitution and child exploitation.

With my strong conviction of right and wrong and my ability to engage members and the employer in a respectful dialogue, I have been successful in reaching mutual agreements and understandings on various issues. These skills have helped me deal with Ministers, MLA's and other high-ranking officials within the Government of Alberta and other law enforcement agencies.

I am a firm believer that AUPE has a role in educating and engaging the members in their worksites so that they can have a stronger voice when dealing with labour relations issues and political events in their communities. I strongly believe the role of a Vice-President is to work side by side with members in order to achieve this.

My contributions to AUPE include fulfilling the duties of a worksite contact, local council member, convention delegate, local treasurer and provincial executive representative. My employment experience and the experience I bring from my union positions have taught me to maintain a focus on fiscal responsibility to the union and the membership.

As AUPE has evolved over the last 41 years, growing to over 90,000 members in four diverse sectors, we must always remember that each sector faces different struggles and challenges. I feel it is vital that we respect the past history while embracing the need to move forward in a positive and unified approach.

I will be your voice and will support all members of AUPE to help achieve fair contracts, safe work environments and to educate the general public on the important services that all members provide to the citizens of Alberta. To achieve this, I will work with the executive to maintain a cohesive and dedicated team to serve the membership.

Sisters and brothers, with my strong work ethic, experience and integrity, I pledge to you to continue to advocate for your rights and work with you to enhance the future direction of our great union. If elected as your Vice-President, I will commit to serving you to the best of my ability.

Yours in Solidarity,
James Hart



ED MULLIN

Local 006 • Edmonton

Greetings Sisters & Brothers,

My name is Ed Mullin and I'm a candidate for Vice-President. I'd like to start with a bit of my background. I grew up in a trade union family on the east coast of Canada and that experience helped shape my value system and perception of the world. In 2006, I began work at Children's Services as a caseworker and was immediately drawn to union activity.

During my years with the GOA I have maintained a high level of union involvement; Chapter 014 mobilization, Local 006 council member for the past 8 years, union steward, past member of Provincial Executive, member of Local 006 Provincial Advisory, member of the Committee On Political Action and Edmonton area centennial liaison for AUPE. Most importantly, as a trade unionist, I walk the picket line when I can. Several months ago I, along with other COPA members travelled to Cold Lake to support our brothers and sisters. I'm most proud of being on the picket line during the 2015 "wild cat" strikes. The spirit of solidarity among those on the line was inspiring and had left a lasting impression on me.

There are core values that lay at the heart of trade unionism: democracy, humanism and collective responsibility. It is a belief all individuals are of equal worth and have natural rights that can't be taken away by any authority. A belief that we are responsible for our brothers and sisters within AUPE; within the labour movement, and those who are poor and unorganized. As union members, it is our duty to live up to those principles.

There are a number of initiatives, I would like to see come to fruition in AUPE. It have been proven that "First Past The Post" elections do not accurately reflect the goals and aspirations of the wider population. AUPE needs to look seriously at revamping the electoral process, particularly with respect to the Vice-President position. Some form of proportional representation would guarantee all sectors a seat at Provincial Executive.

Mobilization and grassroots engagement have always been problematic, particularly when things on the labour front are relatively quiet. Empowering ordinary members creates a higher level of commitment. In the case of Standing Committees, members need to be involved in all aspects of committee work. Committee members should have the ability to determine what projects to pursue, and rely on "research" and "education" for support. If we want a robust and engaged membership we need to allow union members to become involved in the decision-making process.

Trade unionists and trade unions continue to face many challenges in the 21st Century; declining membership and continued negative propaganda coming from the "right." AUPE must continue it's lead role in Alberta; unionizing workers, educating the general public about the work we do, and forming alliances with other unions and progressive organizations in Alberta and throughout Canada.

In conclusion, I will base all my decisions on the trade union principles and ethics of democracy, humanism and collective responsibility.

In solidarity,
Ed Mullin
Local 006
Chapter 014

CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT



ROSE READ

Local 039 • Calgary

I am and have been a proud member of Local 039 since joining SAIT in 2003. Our members are a diversified group ranging from accountants, catering workers, electronics technicians, technologists, maintenance service workers, utility plant operators, cooks, nurses and stock keepers just to name a few.

I became an active member of AUPE in the spring of 2011 when I was voted in as Local 039 Vice-Chair. Within six months I was voted in as the Local Chair, a position I have held ever since. I have participated in a range of events, and activities both at my local site and on a provincial level

I provide training to the members of the local in the form of Orientation sessions for new employees as well as lunch and learn sessions for all members (e.g. Grievances, Hours of Work, etc). I have been a convention delegate for the past 4 years and I am a member of the Negotiations Committee. I have been a PE Alternate and I provide support to members as a Union Steward.

At the provincial level, I am a member of the "Complaint and Review Committee", Public Interest Alberta "Post-Secondary Education Task Force" and the "Anti Privatization" Committee (Vice Chair) where I participates in campaigns such as the "Save Sunde Long Term Care Beds" campaigns. I was able to support our Sisters and Brothers on the line in Cold Lake as a strike captain a number of times this winter/spring.

I attend Steward training, labour school, conferences and many social activities and events like Calgary Area Council meetings, football games and the Grandparents Day BBQ.

I would be honored to have your support as AUPE Vice President and ask for your vote in the upcoming election. My knowledge and experience with AUPE, along with my leadership and strong communication skills make me the ideal candidate to represent and support you.

There are Sisters and Brothers that do not know me as our great organization continues to grow so I have created a website where you can come and get to know me better. Please visit me at www.rosemaryread.com or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/rosereado2>

In Solidarity, Rose Read
info@rosemaryread.com
Phone/Text: 403-463-9757



GLEN SCOTT

Local 045 • Calgary

I'd like to express my sincerest words of solidarity and gratitude on allowing me to represent you in the past and the coming future. When I look back why I first ran for this office, I ran to make this union better and we have done that. I have seen 5 Premiers. And we helped a 40 plus year dynasty come to and end. We saved our pensions we went in a couple of wild cat strikes that ended favorably for our members, and a bunch of smaller but equally important legal strikes or lock outs by our members who took on some of the worst employers in the Wild West of private long term care, one of which was our longest in history. These events or opportunities, that you afforded me to participate in on your behalf also created invaluable experience for me as a leader and member and that experience is nothing you can obtain without doing it.

I know every wants to promise us something to be elected, my record as leader is proof that I have the qualities to continue to do so for another term. I don't feel this union is struggling in any way that being said, we can always be improving and I have seen improvements in many aspects of our union since I was elected and I will continue to make our union better, through my experience my passion for what we do. There is also the big one coming up in 2019 something that I have been planning with a committee, a working group and liaisons for years now and before I'm history I'd like celebrate that one and see it through I promise you it will be a great party. 2016 was a year of challenges for myself as far as my health and my personal life and I want you to know I have come out on them the positive of all of them and I'm back to where I was before they arose and I have used even those experiences to make me a better leader.

And another prerequisite to seeking this office is you have to be human and I am, plus I'm passionate, I have never forgotten who I work for, the members who pay my salary and also are some the hardest employers to work for. But I have the knowledge, the experience the track record and still have the passion and drive to be one of your VPs this term and as a member I want the best people in these positions and I know I'm well qualified to lead us into our challenges in the next few years my record backs it and I will back you.

In Solidarity Glen Scott candidate for the office of Vice President

CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT



SUSAN SLADE

Local 045 • Calgary

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

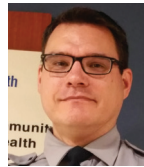
My name is Susan Slade and I would like to announce my bid for re-election at the AUPE 2017 Convention. I am an LPN and a proud member of Local 045/10. I was elected to the position of Vice-President in 2012. In that time I have been assigned to the Calgary region for two years and Edmonton region last three years. Prior to being elected Vice-President in my 18 years as an activist, I have held numerous positions in my worksite, chapter and local, two of which were Provincial Executive member Local 045 and Local Chair 041. I currently chair the Women's and the Young Activist Committees as well as the past chair of the Pay and Social Equity Committee.

During my first bid for Vice-President I ran on a platform of STRENGTH, SOLIDARITY, and SUPPORT. This last 2.5 terms of serving on the executive has given me the opportunity to support members all over the province, listening to their concerns and issues, providing support to locals, chapters and worksites, being available for whatever is asked of me as well as to provide insight into ways of dealing with challenges. I have strived to be aware of issues, to educate myself in all the sectors as well with individual locals and chapters. As a leader I will continue to be that strong voice for all. I am unafraid to tackle issues head on I will listen and act on those concerns to the best of my ability. I am willing to have the hard conversations whether it be with government officials, employers or the public to ensure that member's voices are heard and recognized for the hard work you do everyday to make this province one that we are all proud to live in. I have stood in solidarity with many AUPE brother's and sister's during their struggles and will continue to do so until we no longer have to hit the streets for our voices to be heard.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to advance my knowledge and education within the labour movement. I am grateful to be a member and a leader within an organization that fosters solidarity, equality and mobilization. I will continue to build with the membership the Strength, Solidarity, and Support that has been my mantra since becoming an activist in 1999. I believe in this union and will continue to stand proudly by being Union Strong and promoting a union where we all belong.

In closing I want to graciously thank the membership for putting your faith and trust in me this last 5 years. I am asking for your support in my bid for re-election and look forward to speaking with, sharing ideas, and stories with each of you at the upcoming convention. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions or would like to know more from me my contact information is cell: 403-554-4198 email: suslade@hotmail.com

In solidarity,
Susan Slade



KURT SUDHOLT

Local 054 • Edmonton

Hello Sisters and Brothers of AUPE. My name is Kurt Sudholt and it my pleasure to announce my candidacy for a position of Vice President in the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees.

I began my involvement with AUPE when I was hired by Alberta Health Services in 2010. My role then, as it is now, is a Community Peace Officer working in the various health facilities in the Edmonton Zone. My interest in the Union was not automatic, in fact I knew very little about AUPE until a friend and coworker took me under her wing and began my education of what AUPE was all about. In a very short while I was nominated as a Steward and thus began my second career, a component officer for AUPE.

Now fast forward to 2017 and I find myself as Chair of Chapter 003 and Vice Chair of Local 054. The challenges of being an Executive Board member of one of the largest locals in AUPE has been an exciting and educational experience. The position of a Chapter Chair has kept me grounded in the role of mentor and counselor to my Brothers and Sisters on the frontline of care and service. Acting as the Vice Chair of the Local has made me more aware of the importance of ensuring that every member is represented to the best of our abilities. It has also taught me the importance of reaching out to others and making connections to ensure that every member has a voice and to reinforce that it is the membership that drives the Union.

All of this experience has shown me how important it is to stand in solidarity with my Brothers and Sisters.

The challenges to AUPE continue to grow, "right to work" and court cases in British Columbia concerning pay for services and "two tier health coverage" could have serious consequences to our lives.

We must ensure that our rights are protected in our Collective Bargaining Agreements. These are the Articles that hold our rights and must be protected. Governments change, and laws can be changed by new governments, what was thought to be protected under legislation can be taken away.

What I bring to the Vice Presidency is the drive to continue to improve. We must not falter in our mission to improve our positions of all of our members, not matter what area they work in. We must remember that we cannot trade away our rights for the short term. We must remember to take the long view to continue to grow and be leaders.

It is my hope, that with your support, I could demonstrate the skills and knowledge that I have accumulated over the last seven years of Union activity. I would be honored to represent you and move your issues and concerns forward. It is the duty of any component officer to listen to the membership, and that is something that should never be forgotten.

In Solidarity,
Kurt Sudholt

CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT



KAREN WEIERS

Local 095 • Airdrie

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

My name is Karen Weiers from Local 095, General Support Services, and I am again seeking your support to represent you as Vice-President.

I have held many positions within Chapter, Local, Area Council and Chair of the AUPE Anti-Privatization Standing Committee. I have had the honor to serve as your Vice President for three terms - promoting strength, solidarity and unity.

Knowledge is power, and if re-elected, I will continue to promote the needs for our members to be aware of their rights in order to defend them. Supplying information and education is vital in getting not only our seasoned membership but our new members – our next generation - informed, prepared and aware of the importance in knowing their union rights. These rights were long fought for and hard to achieve. We must strive to maintain and enhance them. They are the cornerstone of what impacts our lives, working conditions, our well-being, and the safety and protection within the workplace.

The leadership within AUPE is strong, and it becomes even stronger when backed by over 90,000 members. With your support, I will continue to be part of that leadership, with a continued focus on building our strengths, building our solidarity and more important, showing our unity.

Union strength will continue to come from a foundation of activism and hard work from all members as proven by the many challenges and struggles we have faced and overcome. A crucial factor is building solidarity from within our Union, uniting Locals, Chapters and highlighting issues across all sectors. I commit to continue my dedicated activism, serving the membership and leading by example.

Serving as your Vice President has been an incredible experience. I have seen firsthand how members have:

- proudly provided services to Albertans from one end of the Province to the other.
- pulled together and supported each other
- and stood strong together protecting our fundamental rights.

Our Convention theme this year is Union Strong: We All Belong. As a Union, we have demonstrated the strength that can be achieved by working together. It's through not only activism and commitment, but hard work that we come together and stand up for what we believe in. AUPE is each and every one of us! Our contribution is both as individuals and as part of the greater whole.

Another key endeavor is to increase our ability to engage and mobilize our membership. If re-elected, I will continue to speak up for all members, for the work that we do and for the services that we provide on a daily basis. I will never stop prioritizing our rights and quality of life in my decision making within our union.

We can all be proud to be members of AUPE, Alberta's largest union. My promise to each of you is to work hard and continue to bring my strong work ethic, my experience and my commitment in serving as your Vice President.

Together, we can make a difference!

In Solidarity,
Karen Weiers

EXECUTIVE ELECTION 2017

NOMINATIONS

Thursday, October 19, 2017

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Shaw Conference Centre

Hall A & B, Assembly Level

CANDIDATES FORUM

Thursday, October 19, 2017 - Organized Supper

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm

Shaw Conference Centre

Hall D, Pedway Level

Thursday, October 19, 2017 - Candidates Forum

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Shaw Conference Centre

Hall A & B, Assembly Level

VOTING

Friday, October 20, 2017

7:15 am - 8:45 am

Shaw Conference Centre

Hall C, Assembly Level

Voting is only for registered Delegates. You must show your Delegate ID to receive a ballot.

Remember, candidates may put their name forward for election from the Convention floor. All candidates, including those who declare in advance of Convention, must be nominated from the floor.



Union Strong: We All Belong