

# NSUPE Local 21 Bulletin

Operational Support Workers at Dalhousie University

---

April 29, 2009 (3 pages)

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING ELECTIONS

Sunday, May 3, 2009

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Scotia Bank Auditorium - McCain Building

### Agenda

1. Vote on composition of executive (See notice of motion below.)
2. Election of executive members (See below.)
3. Election of NSUPE Executive Council member and alternate
4. Election of Negotiating Committee (5 employees)
5. Election for Joint Committees:
  - Labour Management Committee Reps. (5 or 6 reps. depending on whether you want to reserve a position for a business agent)
  - Employee Benefits Committee (1 rep., 1 alternate)
  - Pension Advisory Committee (1 rep., 1 alternate)
  - Pension Sub-Committees
    - Committee on Sustainability
    - PAC Subcommittee
  - Security and Parking Committee (1 rep., 1 alternate)
  - Environmental Health and Safety Committee (3 reps. but no more than one from each department)
6. Discussion about Union Advocates (Stewards) and perhaps an election of Advocates
7. Any other business that may arise

# Executive structure & elections

After much discussion at last Sunday's meeting, a member gave notice that at next Sunday's meeting, he intends to move a motion to the effect that:

**The NSUPE Local 21 Executive will be composed of a President, a Secretary-Treasurer and five Vice-Presidents. Where possible, the Vice-Presidents will be elected from each of Security, Grounds/Trucking/Maintenance, Trades, Custodial (Days) and Custodial (Nights).**

Assuming that that motion or a similar one is passed, then we'll immediately hold elections to fill the positions.

## LIFE AS AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Local Executive members make decisions through consensus about questions of collective agreement interpretation and on whether grievances will be filed and proceed through to arbitration. They also act as Union Advocates and advise members on how to deal with workplace issues.

You're never alone – all decisions are usually made as a group with the help and advice of a Business Agent/Lawyer. Most NSUPE Local Executives meet at least once a month, with telephone and e-mail discussions in between. The amount of time taken up by union duties depends a lot on how many issues arise, and it tends to go a bit in cycles where things are quiet and then everything seems to happen at once.

Executive members say it can be very gratifying to help solve an issue.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

If you would rather participate in decisions involving all of NSUPE's Locals, think about running for Executive Council. Executive Council meets the second Wednesday evening of each month. Executive Council makes decisions about the union's finances, servicing levels for the Locals, staffing and union-wide policies.

## NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

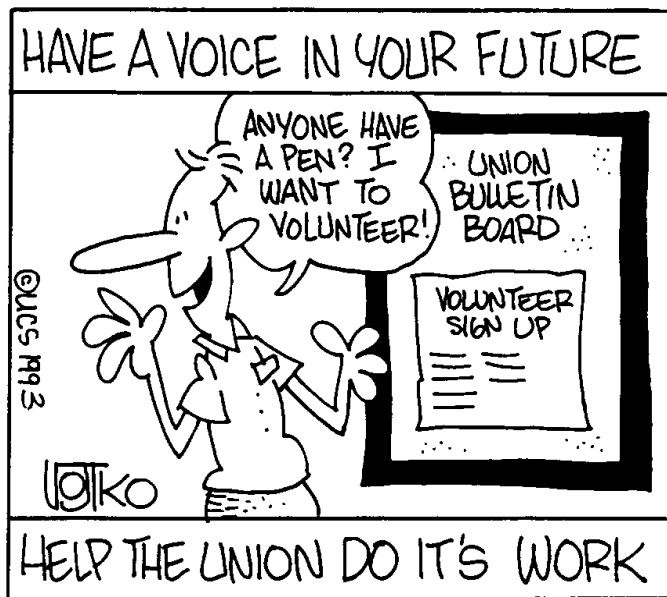
The members will decide at the meeting on Sunday evening if they want some of their Executive members to act as the negotiating committee or if they want to open the positions up for others to participate.

Getting ready for negotiations will probably take a number of meetings. We will likely look to hold meetings during the day, and seek union leave for those who would otherwise be working.

It's hard to say right now how much time actual negotiations will take.

## OTHER COMMITTEES

From how our other Locals work, we can tell you that most of the joint union-



management committees often involve no more than one meeting a month, and sometimes even fewer. Your best bet for finding out information on these is to ask your colleagues who have served on them before.

### IF YOU CAN'T MAKE THE MEETING

If you're unable to attend the meeting on Sunday but want to stand for one of the positions, then you need to let us know in writing. You can either send a note or e-mail to the union office or with one of your co-workers who will be at the meeting and who you can trust to put your name forward in your absence.

If you're not at the meeting, you cannot vote. There is no proxy voting in NSUPE.

### HOW ELECTIONS WORK

Here's a rundown of NSUPE's election rules:

1. Any member in good standing may be nominated.
2. **A person unable to attend the election meeting who wishes to stand**

**for office must provide a signed note stating which positions she/he will accept if nominated.**

3. A member nominated but defeated for a position may be nominated and stand for a position being elected later. (That is, if someone stands for President and is unsuccessful for that position, she/he can then run for V.P.)

4. After nominations close, each nominee will be asked if she/he accepts the nomination.

5. If only one person accepts the nomination, that person is elected by acclamation.

6. If more than one person accepts the nomination, there will be a secret ballot election. A nominee must receive more than 50% of the votes cast to be elected. (If needed, the person with the lowest votes will be dropped off the ballot and another vote held.)

7. **ONLY THOSE PRESENT AT THE MEETING CAN VOTE.** There is no proxy voting.

8. Only the results of votes are announced, not the counts.

## NSUPE Contact Info

Business Agent/Lawyers:

Nancy Elliott	Ph: 422-6055	E-mail: <a href="mailto:elliott@smelaw.ca">elliott@smelaw.ca</a>
Adam Panko	Ph: 422-6055	E-mail: <a href="mailto:panko@smelaw.ca">panko@smelaw.ca</a>

Union Office

Fax: 429-7655

Address: 6309 Chebucto Road, Halifax B3L 1K9

Check out the NSUPE website: [www.nsupe.ca](http://www.nsupe.ca)