

Dave Saunders School, April 11 to 15, 2016

This year I took the Learning Series module. This course was facilitated by Humberto Dasilva and Daniela Scarpelli. Both were very knowledgeable and were able to lead the members in great debates/discussions on the topics within the course.

Day 1 – the finer points of what makes a good and bad meeting

Bad: lack of order, no agenda, no time line, lack of mutual respect, bad layout/acoustics, crosstalk/side conversations, accessibility issues

Sargent of Arms is to keep order, hold peace, etc.

Suggested a good book to read regarding Parliamentary Procedures is Roberts Rules of Order

Day 2 – Recording Secretary duties

****Job is not to do, but to get it done****

Discussed the importance of this position, and the many duties the Recording Secretary is responsible for. Because there is so much involved in this position, it was suggested that instead of taking on all the duties, they could be delegated to other members, but the end responsibility would still lie with the position holder.

Monitor By-Laws and suggest changes

Post all correspondence: news, education, meetings

Participate in events

Educate members on upcoming events and post

Update all websites: Facebook, Twitter, webpage, etc

Suggestions for Solidarity:

Movie night at Cineplex (rent the hall), charity bowl, golf tourney

Day 3 - offsite show of support/protest against unfair treatment of employees/staff. There were about 30 people present (7 from our class, myself included). This became part of my Public Speaking portion of the series.

The article is posted on www.cupe.on.ca

Day 4 – finished with the speeches for Public Speaking

discussed political activism and the importance of protesting, how to mobilize members to be active both within our own local and with others.

Request to join a rally in London on April 30 from 10am to 12 noon against the Hydro One sale/privitization.

Discussion took place on the importance of understanding class, and how it plays a role in activism.

Tips on how to motivate members to become more active and where to go – local unions, labour council, CUPE Ontario, public community groups, seniors, anti-poverty, politicians

Importance of following up with the action, keeping members motivated

Canvassed the other groups on behalf of the SRRA to help fund the video for the youth group.
Raised over \$700

Day 5 – how to get the word out to members

Newsletters, including short articles on members, organizations associated, etc. articles should be kept short, fresh and frequency should be consistent (quarterly, bi-monthly)

Lunch and learn series

Talk of having electronic elections (currently doing this in some locals), keeping up with surveys between negotiations, rent a theatre for members and families for a fun night out – play a union themed movie (north country, steel magnolias, etc)

Reminder about April 28, May 1st is May Day, and the International Women's Day Parade held every year in Toronto on the closest Saturday to Women's Day (either before or after)