

Fight to win!

Over 300 people rallied in front of Sask. Party MLA Joe Hargrave's office to let him and the government know that the recent budget and its devastating cuts are unacceptable.

While the MLA was not in his office and unavailable to address the crowd, Public Sector Vice-President Barry Nowoselsky noted that the union intends to continue protesting and taking action until the Minister takes notice. Delegates are encouraged to attend:

All out to stop the cuts: protest the Premier's Dinner – April 27 in Saskatoon from 5-7pm at the Prairieland park.

Fighting for Saskatchewan Rally – May 24 at noon in Regina at the legislature. Busses will be coordinated from various departure points around the province. RSVP to Rally3817@gmail.com to reserve a spot on the bus, and check sgeu.org for details.

Stay tuned to SGEU Facebook page and twitter for a summer of rallies and actions.



Al Loyst gave an inspiring talk about the fight ahead.

Hats off to the CPC

Thanks to Convention Procedures Committee for another fantastic convention. Your efforts and coordination go a long way in creating a smooth convention experience for SGEU delegates, life members, special guests, and staff.



SGEU honours life members

SGEU's newest life members, Herb Norton (left) and Brian York (right), were honoured at the convention banquet last night. To read a short profile on each of them, go to page 2.

Herb Norton

After 23 years of being active in SGEU, Herb Norton was awarded a life membership at this year's convention.

Norton remembers the first union meeting he went to.

"I didn't want to go," he says, "but a couple of guys talked me into it. They started nominations toward the end of the meeting, and they kept nominating me for positions, and I kept declining."

But when a position to represent Local 1122 on Provincial Council came up, Norton agreed to take it on.

"Ever since, I've been the Provincial Council rep for the local," he says, aside from the last couple of years.

Last July, Norton retired from his job as a Corrections Officer at the Buffalo Narrows Community Correctional Centre, after the provincial government shut it down.

Norton says the closure of the centre was hard on a lot of people, especially on the younger employees.

"I was disappointed," he says. "It was sad to see it happen."

Norton says it's important to be involved in the union to ensure that workers have good wages and benefits.

"A pension plan is a great thing," he adds. "Now that I've reached retirement – because of the union and the pension plan – I can enjoy it. I know a lot of people my age who don't have a pension plan."

Norton says he feels honoured to be recognized as a life member of SGEU.

"It means a lot," he says. "I really, really appreciate the people I work with in the elected part of the union. They're really great to me."



SGEU fashion

The latest in SGEU delegate styles is in for 2017.

Brian York

Twenty years ago, one of Brian York's co-workers invited him to get involved in the union. The next thing he knew, he was a Shop Steward, then a Chief Steward. And now, he's one of SGEU's newest life members.



"Words don't express how I feel," he says about being awarded a life membership at this year's convention.

Semi-retired, York has worked for the Ministry of Highways in maintenance for 23 years.

He believes it's important to be active in the union, because rights are fought for, not given.

"If it wasn't for the union, you wouldn't be getting your wages, you wouldn't be getting your health plan, your benefits, or your vacation," he says. "These weren't given to us. It took 100 years of fighting. We've come a long way."

"The way the government is now," he says, "we're going back in time."

While at this year's convention, York has enjoyed talking with other life members, who've been offering helpful advice and sharing their knowledge.

"You can't beat the friendship here," he says. "It's the best feeling. I love the union. I love the people that are here."