

# UNION matters

April 2018



## Post-Convention Issue

With the SGEU Convention all wrapped up, we want to share with you some highlights to keep you in the loop. Many thanks to all the delegates, staff, life members, speakers, and guests who made it a memorable event.

### Election results:

**Table Officers:**

Bob Bymoan, President  
Tracey Sauer, Vice President, NUPGE  
Carol Yuzik, Vice President Alternate, NUPGE  
Kim Nordmarken, Vice President, SFL  
Sheena Yew, Vice President Alternate, SFL

**Board of Trustees:**

Bob Stadnichuk  
Jack Lee

**Board of Trustee Alternates:**

Bonnie Erickson  
Diane Ralph

## Convention 2018

Convention is a time when SGEU members come together to discuss policy, develop strategies, build relationships, share knowledge, and support one another in the critical work we do to keep the labour movement strong in Saskatchewan. It is

also a time to socialize, meet like-minded people, share our concerns, debate ideas, and grow as a community.

This year's convention theme was about our legacy. It is a time to reflect on our history and our future. Where have we come from? Where are we headed? What have we achieved? What are the most pressing issues of our time?

Legacies are meant to be explored, discussed, debated, considered, and reconsidered. We find ourselves at the intersection of here and now. We drive towards our future but with a close eye on the rearview.

Thanks to the Convention Procedures Committee for all of your hard work in making this year's convention a huge success! Thanks to Chris Day, Kim Nordmarken, and Carol Yuzik.

## Rally to restore and rebuild

Convention delegates rallied outside the Saskatoon Cabinet Office, calling on the government to restore and rebuild public services.

"The Sask Party government's hold-the-line 2018 budget does not begin to undo the harm that its 2017 budget inflicted on Saskatchewan families and communities," said SGEU President Bob Bymoan.



Many were hoping this year's budget would mean a new direction for Saskatchewan.

But instead, the new budget left families facing the same old cuts... ([continue reading](#))

## SGEU's 2018-19 budget

The Admin Committee brought forward a balanced budget to the floor of convention. After delegates discussed the importance of prioritizing education and training for new members, an amendment passed that allocated \$150,000 to these initiatives. The amendment did put the budget into deficit, but savings will be realized throughout the fiscal year to achieve balance.



## New Life Members

In December 1989, Donna Christianson took a job as a part-time Customer Service representative at the public liquor store in Watson and became a member of SGEU.

"A friend asked me to get involved in the union, and we'd go to meetings together," she recalls. "And that's how it started. I think I just jumped right into the position of Chief Steward because there wasn't one in my area." (...[continue reading](#))



When Barb Byers became a member of SGEU in August 1971, she was a Social Worker in Yorkton, and she knew nothing about unions. She wasn't even sure if she liked unions.

It would take another eight years for Byers to become active in SGEU.

"Somebody approached me and said, 'I think it would be great if you got involved in the Social Work group in the union.' So, it took somebody opening the door." (...[continue reading](#))

## SFL solidarity

Saskatchewan Federation of Labour President Larry Hubich brought greetings and a message of solidarity to convention.

Hubich will have served as President of the SFL for 16 years. But his origin as a union agitator comes from the Grain Services Union.

Hubich will be retiring this year, and we wish him all the best and thank him for his years of service!



## #SGEUCon18

Missed all the action? Check out the #SGEUCon18 hashtag on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!



## Pharmacare now

A whopping 8.4 million working Canadians don't have medical benefits and that number is rising, according to the Canadian Labour Congress' Prairie Regional Director Darla Deguire.

"It prevents illness from being cured or managed, resulting in a higher cost to the health care system as a whole."

Visit the [CLC's pharmacare campaign site](#) to add your voice to the call for a pharmacare plan for everyone.

## Service central

[211 Saskatchewan](#) helps connect people to the services they need.

While finding the right services can be challenging, this initiative lists over 5,000 social, community, non-clinical health, and government services across the province.

211 Saskatchewan is a collaborative project between United Way Saskatoon and

## Convention gives

One of the traditions at SGEU convention is for delegates to profile a cause that is close to them and ask other delegates to "pass the hat" and make a donation.

Delegates were very generous and overall donated \$1,526 to Saskatoon Interval House, \$506 to Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Services, \$709 to Canadian Mental Health Regina in support of OSI Canada, \$694 to International Women of Saskatoon, \$664 to Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit, \$509 to support a delegate's co-worker, \$667 for SGEU member Mike Langan who is ill.

Thanks to all who donated where they could!

## Join us on Facebook and Twitter

Thank you to our followers on Facebook – we've reached over 2,500 "likes!" Join us on Facebook by "liking" the [SGEU page](#) and our [Keep Liquor Public page](#). Watch videos, share posts, and get the latest SGEU news delivered right to your newsfeed. You can also follow us on Twitter [@SGEU](#) for up-to-date union news and retweets from our followers and friends in the labour movement.

