



November 9, 2020

After our October nominations meeting and the full-slate acclamation that followed, I am appreciative for the opportunity to represent UA Local 516 members for the next term of office. It's a true honor to continue working with the entire 516 office staff and executive board. In these challenging times I am confident in the executive team's ability to continue to stay ahead of any issues that surely will arise. I can assure all UA 516 members that the stability our Local has become accustomed to will continue under the leadership of this team. Transparency, respect, and the truth is every member's right and will be what drives this team forward.

I consider negotiations one of my largest responsibilities as your Business Manager and, as this is a contract year, I will be focused and working diligently for the next six months to negotiate a fair and equitable contract. I look forward to the challenges ahead and hope for input from the members themselves. I welcome your input to help us understand any ways you may think we can improve our Local's position, improve workplace safety, or aid in improving the workday for our members. Please know that the staff at UA 516 all welcome feedback and suggestions. Contact information for myself and Local 516 staff is on our website at ua516.org

The limited ability to meet in-person for the foreseeable future makes it imperative we hear from you in some form or another. We really do look forward to listening to your concerns and suggestions. Please follow us on our social media sites for daily updates in membership news and training opportunities.

Instagram: @ualocal516 Facebook: @ualocal516 Twitter: @ualocal516

Jason Amesbury
Business Manager

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us once again into having to cancel general membership meetings until the second wave subsides or until further notice. Regrettably, this includes the Christmas dinner meetings in Victoria, the Interior and the Lower Mainland throughout December. However, we did manage to book Santa again for the children of UA 516. We are arranging a drive-through to see Santa and receive a gift. This is one tradition I am happy to say the pandemic will somewhat alter but not ruin for us this year. For details, please refer to the Local 516 website ua516.org. We look forward to seeing all the kids of 516 get their chance to see Santa again.

On the political front, the snap provincial election that was called in BC has awarded many more seats to the NDP. Regardless of your personal voting preferences, this is a victory for organized labour in this province. Our hope is the reinstatement of policies and procedures at the labour board that we lost under Liberal governments in the past. Organizing is a major part of this team's day-to-day work, and having the NDP in power opens many doors and closes many loopholes that used to handcuff unions in their organizing efforts.

I would like to personally congratulate the former head of the BC Building Trades, Andrew Mercier for his impressive win of the Langley-West riding, a riding that has traditionally been a BC Liberal stronghold. Congrats Andrew! It will be nice having a friend of labour in Victoria.

In lieu of our membership Christmas dinners this year, the Executive Board has decided to help the food banks across the province. The pandemic has put an extraordinary strain on working families this year and in turn has taxed the food banks accordingly. I am proud to announce that the Executive Board has approved a \$5,000 donation to five separate food banks around the province on behalf of the members. The food banks also need help from time to time with refrigeration and HVAC maintenance and repair and in the past our membership has stepped up by volunteering their time and expertise. We are extremely lucky as essential workers to be in positions we are, as we have nearly one hundred percent employment and hours that remain strong and are exceeding most previous years. This year, the need is as great as ever, if not more so. If you feel that you may be able to help, contact myself or the staff at the hall and we will facilitate meetings with food bank managers.

I look forward to working with you over the course of this new term. I am extremely proud and humbled to remain your Business Manager.

Fraternally,

Jason Amesbury



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