



# Local 002

<http://local002.aupe.ca/>

**Karen Mann – Local 002 Chapter 002 Council Representative**  
**Report to Chapter 002**  
**Annual General Meeting April 21, 2018**  
**Reporting Period April 2017 - April 2018**

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## **KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER**

One of the roles of a Local Council rep is to share information with the membership as a whole and to represent the interests of the members of the Chapter at the Local Council level. I have attended all the Chapter and Local meetings that have been held and continue to share as much information as I can from those meetings with members, as well as bring forward issues of concern to the Local Council. This includes the sharing of information that arises from Convention with the members.

I have mentored members and helped them to navigate their way through the process to take the training required to become a union steward, or to simply learn more about AUPE by taking the Intro to Your Union course.

I am a worksite contact and an active union steward, and continue to be utilized by many members in a steward capacity. I have represented numerous members in informal meetings, investigations and grievances, and have provided coaching and education to management with regards to the proper interpretation of the Collective Agreement. I continue to maintain close contact on a regular basis with my Membership Services Officer to address concerns and issues, and to seek clarity, guidance and support in order to enable me to perform my duties as a steward to my fullest capacity and in the best interests of the members.

As an alternate to the Local Bargaining Committee, I widely shared any information I was authorized to in regards to the current status of bargaining. I provide the Bargaining Committee Chair with input and information from the worksite that she needs in order to perform her duties as the Local bargaining rep at the table during these negotiations.

With the many friendships and networks I have built with members in other locals over time, I have been approached to provide support and advice with regards to internal governance issues, AUPE policy questions, and other related questions. As the AUPE mission statement indicates we “represent and support AUPE members through solidarity and mobilization”. I firmly believe that each of us has a duty to support all our brothers and sisters regardless of their local or sector, and we must always remember that we serve the membership, not ourselves.

## **EDUCATION/TRAINING**

I have completed the Intro to Politics course, and the OH&S for Stewards course. I applied to attend 2018 Labour School and was accepted, however, I had to cancel my participation due to the dates conflicting with the GOA fiscal year end and the duties of my job.

I have successfully completed the GOA OH&S Certificate Program and am actively engaged in with my worksite Health and Safety Division. As per the changes to the *OH&S Act* that will come into force on June 1, 2018, my intention is to apply to be an active member of the new joint worksite health and safety committee once the expression of interest is posted.

On February 1 and 2, I was able to attend the Provincial Executive (PE) meeting as an observer in an effort to expand my knowledge about the duties and responsibilities of PE as indicated in Article 13 of

the Constitution. This was a great learning experience and I will be attending as an observer again in the future. As a union activist, I embrace the concept of volunteerism and fully understand that volunteerism is the practice of volunteering one's own time and talents **without** the expectation of any monetary gain or other such benefit. While we are granted time off for union business (ie. training, meetings, etc.), there is still a component of volunteerism that should never be overlooked. I am a union activist because I believe in and am committed to the great work of AUPE and the solidarity of the membership. As such, my attendance at PE was on my own personal time and expense, because I want to grow, learn, and continue to be a valuable member and leader in this union.

### **CONVENTION**

I attended Convention 2017 as a full Local 002 delegate and enjoyed the debate and discussions that were had on many issues. As well as being a full delegate, I was one of two campaign managers for a Local 002 brother, James Hart, who ran for and was successfully elected to his first term as an AUPE Vice President. Leading up to Convention, I assisted VP Hart with his election campaign which included development of campaign promotional items, assisting with writing numerous speeches, provided coaching with public speaking skills, and much more. I also accompanied VP Hart to 3 of the 5 election forums (Red Deer, Grande Prairie, and Edmonton), provided useful debriefing after each forum, and also scheduled and attended with James, over 10 speaking engagements at local meetings in the span of 7 days, all prior to Convention. VP Hart has been assigned to the Edmonton region and I feel he is a passionate, committed and outspoken leader for AUPE and the membership.

### **EDMONTON AREA COUNCIL**

In June 2017, I was elected as the Edmonton Area Council (EAC) Vice-Chair for the 2017-2019 term. Area Councils are the social arm of AUPE dedicated to the pursuit of fun. We are committed to provide fun events and discounted tickets/passes to members. EAC serves over 32,000 members with family friendly events, and we host over 15 events per year.

EAC holds monthly meetings the first Wednesday of every month (with the exception of December, July and August) at AUPE HQ. I have attended all monthly meetings to date.

It has been a very busy year for EAC. Here are some of the events this past year:

- Family friendly movie days
- Members only wing nights (usually monthly)
- Members only breakfast
- Adult only Valentines Dinner and Dance
- Children's Christmas party
- Family camping at Wabamum Lake

As well, EAC sells WEM Choice passes and Cineplex movie passes to members at a significantly reduced rate. Choice passes are full day passes to either the WEM Waterpark or Galaxyland and are only \$27 each (regular \$45 at the door). Choice passes can be used at any time. Cineplex movie passes are only \$9 each for members (general admission \$14.95 at the door). Choice and Cineplex passes can be purchased through any EAC rep (see the website for a list of reps selling tickets).

From about February through to May every year, the EAC executives attend as many local and chapter AGM's as possible to talk about and answer questions about EAC and all the events that members can participate in. I encourage everyone to visit the EAC website at <http://edmontonareacouncil.aupe.ca> for information on all events and to learn more about EAC. Some of the events are at no cost to the member, and some are a minimal cost to the member. Due to facility size, some events are limited in numbers and tickets sell out very quickly. The best way to stay informed about all upcoming events and not miss out on ticket event registration is to subscribe to the website to receive automatic email notification of events and ticket registration. Visit the EAC website and click on the "Subscribe Here" button.

## **AUPE MEMBERSHIP SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair – VP Karen Weiers

I was successfully selected to this committee for the 2017-2019 term, and was also elected as the committee Vice-Chair. I was first selected to this committee in 2014, and I continue to be excited about the hard work this committee does for the membership.

This committee promotes the general welfare of the members and considers matters relating to the delivery of services to the membership. This includes promoting the training of members, ensuring the membership is informed of the business of the Union, and promoting the training, development and coordination of union stewards. One component that this committee is responsible for is the AUPE Member Discount Program. AUPE members have access to discounts and special pricing by various business and organizations. Each offer is unique and are over and above any offers the general public could access. Businesses include travel and accommodation, entertainment, financial, good for purchase, health and fitness, insurance, and services. I encourage everyone to visit the discounter listing at <https://www.aupe.org/my-aupe/member/discounts/> to find out what discounts are available to you.

On April 9, the committee accepted a cheque for \$7,500 from Johnson Insurance, and on April 10, a cheque for \$5,127 from Liebel Insurance. The committee unanimously agreed to forward both cheques to the Members Benefits Benevolent Fund. It's great to see vendors giving back to the members.

The committee generally meets 4 times per year, but could meet more often depending on the work that needs to be done. To date, the committee has met for 4 full days over the last 4 months. Current issues that the committee is trying to address are clarifying some significant concerns in the Constitution and AUPE policy; specifically around the different types of members (Associate, Affiliate, Honourary, Life, and Local Life Member), the role of the Chief Steward, and the process of utilizing the worksite contacts effectively. The committee will be meeting for another 3 days before June 13 to finalize policy changes and Constitutional resolutions. The committee is also heavily involved in ensuring that the annual union steward workshops continues to be of value to the members and refreshes their skills and knowledge in order to be successful in their roles back at the worksites.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Over the last year, I have engaged in discussions with my MLA regarding a multitude of issues, including crime reduction, the opiate crisis, discontinuation of non-insured fertility services at the Lois Hole Hospital for Women, and the mental health of first responders. I continue to maintain a respectful, engaged dialogue with my MLA and will continue to discuss concerns regarding the Alberta Public Service and the quality of services that Albertans deserve.

At the EAC Children's Christmas Party, 101kg of food was collected and donated to the Edmonton Food Bank. EAC decided that we could further support the Edmonton Food Bank by offering to have members give some of their time to assist the Food Bank as needed. As the EAC Vice-Chair, and with other EAC members, I will be offering my time to help out at the Edmonton Food Bank on April 28 as a way to give back to the community and promote the good of AUPE. I'm looking forward to engaging with the community and looking for other avenues of community support that we could participate in.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mann  
Local 002 Chapter 002 Council Member