

Vice President Report

Since being acclaimed as Vice President of the Local in the end of February, I have begun to familiarize myself with the various aspects of the portfolio and with our ongoing demands and initiatives. To get up to speed with everything that is going on with the Local and to see how I could best contribute, I have tried to sit in as many committees as possible, beyond the ones I must sit *ex officio* (viz., the Bylaws Committee and the Communications Committee). Thus, I have participated in meetings of the Indigenous Solidarity Working Group, the Organizing Committee, the Benefits Committee and the Grievance Committee, and I intend to keep participating in different committees and to contribute to the best of my abilities if I am reelected as Vice President.

As the chair of the Communications Committee, I am currently trying to make this committee active again and I am pleased to report that we had a very productive meeting in March and that new meetings have been scheduled for April. Working together with the Organizing Committee, we are developing a strategy to improve our communication with the membership, investigating what are our member's priorities and how we can engage more members to take part in our Local's activities.

I have also been assisting the Organizing Committee with partnering with the Coalition of Student Employee Unions (CSEU) to co-host their annual congress in August, when unions from all over North America will come together for a conference on academia, justice and the workplace and to decide matters pertaining to the CSEU (such as cross-border student union solidarity, strategies for bargaining, special assistance to student unions in need, etc.).

Among other activities I have conducted thus far, I could list: producing our weekly electronic newsletter with the help of our staff and our executive; attending events involving our Local (such as the housing crisis event, in which our Local participated facilitating the Hamilton discussion); helping with developing surveys; answering our members email inquiries; keeping track of the work of our newly elected bargaining team to offer my assistance; and attending meetings with McMaster's management, such as the Labor Management Committee, meetings related to return to campus preparations and to grievances, in the interest of defending our members' rights and concerns.

Besides my work as Vice President, I have also served as a delegate for our Local to the Ontario University Workers Coordinating Committee (OUWCC), where I was able to learn more about some of the most pressing issues faced by the university sector, including fighting racism, ensuring our workplaces remain safe and pushing back against austerity drives. I am currently a delegate to the CSEU's Membership Council and to the Hamilton and District Labor Council and I look forward to coordinating more actions together with both organizations.

Overall, this has been an intensive first month at the job, I am particularly excited about the new developments with the Communications Committee and the ability to

support our bargaining team in the upcoming rounds. I hope the membership will give me the opportunity to deepen this work.