Recording Secretary Report

Having a second baby makes you do a lot of funny things. Putting ice cream in the cupboard, buying a toy for your oldest that you know is going to end up abandoned in the middle of the floor because mom guilt is a thing, run for Recording Secretary of CUPE NS. Okay, maybe the third thing doesn’t apply to everyone, but at last year’s convention, six months into my maternity leave, I was so inspired to become more involved with CUPE NS that I decided to throw my hat into the ring and run for Recording Secretary during the by election.

Many names came forward for the position, and I had no expectations of being elected my first time around. You can imagine my surprise and how truly humbled I was when the results came in. This opportunity has been incredible, to say the least. Not only have I had the chance to meet and learn from an amazing group of CUPE Activist but I was able to take part in a rally against the privatization of health care during the All Premiers Meeting back in July. I also took part in solidarity picketing for CUPW before they were ordered back to work (shame). I also created the registration form for All Committees held in October at the Inn on Prince in Truro.

As the year progressed, I quickly adapted to the expectations of the role of Recording Secretary. I attended monthly Table Officers and Executive meetings, taking minutes and participating in important conversations. I also had the responsibility of keeping the CUPE NS Directory up to date and keeping track of the Motions that were voted on by the Executive. During the monthly meetings I also gained a plethora of knowledge about CUPE’s role in Political Action during both the Provincial and Federal campaigns. I regret not being able to be more boots on the ground during these campaigns, but it is something I hope to become more involved in going forward now that my youngest is older. One of the most challenging aspects of my role as Recording Secretary was revamping the Convention Call and bringing it into the digital age, making the call, and scholarship forms accessible to be filled out online. Like anything with technology, the process is still not perfect and there are many things I would like to improve, if I am re-elected this year. The ability to add digital signatures on forms is a big one. May was one of my busiest months as there was lots of prep work to do before Convention; formatting resolutions and amendments, gathering reports and getting documents ready to be printed or uploaded to the QR code.

With another Convention upon us, and I reflect on 2024, I feel like I am really hitting my stride as Recording Secretary. This role has not only allowed me to grow and understand what it means to be an activist, but it has also helped me flourish in my role at the Local level. I have more confidence when members come to me with questions and I am able to pass on the things I have learned to up coming Stewards at my workplace. I would like to thank the members of the Executive Board who have been amazing mentors to me this past year. Your influence has helped me become a stronger activist.

And in case you’re wondering, yes, my boys are fully indoctrinated as the next generation of CUPE Activists, having taken part in numerous zoom calls, and laying a Remembrance Day wreath with me on behalf of the division.

In Solidarity,

Emily MacNeil (Local 2330)

Recording Secretary, CUPE NS