

# From the President's Desk

Summer 2022

## BARGAINING

*Where are we at?*

As we all know, Local 649 held our Bargaining Convention this past March. The membership presented, debated, and voted on close to 200 resolutions to take forward / deal with at the bargaining table.

Your SaskPower and SaskEnergy bargaining committees were also elected and since convention they have met for preliminary discussions / planning as well had the opportunity to attend bargaining training put on by our National Union to prepare them for the task ahead.

Your bargaining committees will be meeting again in the late summer / early fall to delve into preparations prior to the bargaining process taking place with both employer companies. This round you will see your bargaining committees making a commitment for regular updates to our membership on the process.

To ensure that you are kept up to date, please ensure you visit the appropriate bargaining page on our membership area on the local's webpage. There you will be able to sign up for email updates on the progress of bargaining.



## UPDATE

### *Communications*

We are coming up to one year since the membership has entrusted the reigns of Local 649 to your local executive and myself. During that time, we have successfully navigated the Provincial COVID-19 policies, the implementation of new local bylaws and a revamp and role out of our new communication tools. It has been trying and tiring at times but knowing our local is on a steady path forward is exciting.

We have had a very successful role out of our new Local website at [www.unifor649.org](http://www.unifor649.org) as well as integration of our public Facebook site to our group site. I cannot encourage our members enough to ensure you sign up and in for regular updates.

*Today, although there are still sweatshops and other inhumane working conditions for many workers around the world, the labor movement has won numerous victories that many of us take for granted, such as the 5-day work week, 8-hour workday, paid holidays, and the end of child labor.*

**-- Robert Alan**

# YOUR LOCAL

## *At a glance*

Along side the bargaining meetings and updates that will be taking place this fall, a new round of shop steward training will take place at the end of October. If you are a steward or are wanting to become a steward, please make sure you check out the Local's webpage for updates / announcements around this event. As well, feel free to reach out to your local branch chair to let them know as well.

During September and October, your Local Assistants to the President (Sisters Monica Radwanski and Jodi Kieper) and I will be making our way across the province to meet with as many of our members as we can. Once we have a schedule in place, we will make it available to our membership and your branch chairs.

I look forward to engaging with everyone in person in the coming months.

Moving forward we will be engaging more of our membership with additions to our local committees. Recently we created our first ever Local 649 Women's Committee and I know that the sisters driving this committee are looking forward to big things! We will be looking at creating a few more as well as revamping some of our existing committees to make them function better.

We have launched this year new items in the Locals SWAG store. I encourage you all to look and hopefully we will see more of our members representing in the workplace and out in public.



## *TSASK Update:*

At this time TSASK has opted to wait until SaskPower has completed their bargaining process before updating the current Letters of Understanding. Your Assistant to the President, Sister Jodi Kieper and I will be meeting with our TSASK members prior to this to get feedback from the group and to take forward specific items to be discussed with TSASK.