

President's Council Meeting
July 26, 2018
5:30 pm
CAPE National Office, Room 1967

Present: J. Smith (Local 202), G. Smith (Local 507), F. Phelan (Local 525), T. Wilcox (Local 506), A. Trau (Local 503), M. Tousignant (Local 515), A. Butler (Local 521), N. Giannakoulis (EC-VP, Local 512)

Teleconference: G. Mullins (Local 301), L. Ladouceur (Local 502)

CAPE Staff: Greg Phillips, CAPE President, P. O'Reilly (acting secretary)

The goal of the meeting is to get input from CAPE local presidents on how to improve the Association's capability to engage its members and to determine what the Presidents' Council as well as the Local Leadership Council can bring to our members.

CAPE President, Greg Phillips, outlined his proposal, amongst other issues affecting CAPE's members. Invariably, issues could be addressed in a more robust manner by including input of local presidents.

As CAPE's Annual General Meeting approaches, the President recognizes the need to engage members at the local level regarding the proposed Budget. Members will have to vote on the budget and CAPE wants to implement certain initiatives that would help members get more involved or at the very least be better inform about CAPE's activities.

G. Phillips suggested that local presidents could gather comments and suggestions from members that would help improve the Budget as well as all other issues facing our membership. G. Phillips also suggested that he would be willing to travel to regional locals to hold information sessions on the proposed budget. This would allow members to interact with the President, ask questions and make suggestions relating to the Budget Plan or any other issue that needs to be discussed.

The local president for Transport Canada, Ms. Tracy Wilcox, suggested that a certain amount of time would be needed to properly review the information so that members can bring forth clear and informed questions and/or suggestions.

In relation to member engagement, one issue pertaining to the local presidents is the meeting frequencies of both the Local Leadership Council and Presidents' Council. Typically, both councils meet by-annually. The question was raised whether to increase or decrease frequency of council meetings.

The underlying problem is members feel their voices aren't being heard, especially in the Atlantic region. G. Phillips has already had discussions with Regional Locals about

having Regional councils that would better serve members who typically feel left behind. Collaborating more between regional locals would increase member participation and presence in CAPE activities.

However, British Columbia local president said it was geographically challenging to the concentration of members, thus making engagement efforts more challenging.

The debate then turned to the councils themselves and whether CAPE should have both a Presidents' Council and a Local Leadership Council. Many felt that the Presidents' Council could be in a better position as they deal with members more directly. As for the Local Leadership Council is more difficult to organize thus making participation levels low. Also, if participation levels are higher, it makes it difficult for members to discuss as time becomes more of a challenge. As well, since some locals are not as well represented it makes it harder to build momentum.

The overall conclusion is that the Presidents' Council would be better at serving our members as local presidents transmit information to our members more effectively. It was also suggested that local presidents could meet for 1-day retreat(s).

The main goal is to represent members, share ideas, and improve membership engagement. The main issue is getting members to commit time to the Association in order to share ideas. This is also done at the committee level, but it has a limited impact as they are specifically designed committees that oversee narrower subject matter.

The next step proposed is to solicit ideas from presidents' and perhaps have a meeting in Mid-September with a representative from each local. Each local could submit 2-3 topics of discussion.

It was also suggested that an updated list of local presidents be circulated so that locals can communicate with each other more effectively

CAPE wants to look at the structure of the locals as they will now be representing members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police-Civilian (RCMP-CIV) and the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO)

CAPE is also currently recruiting volunteers for the Analytical Working Group which *"would be in charge of analyzing the data of different subjects such as (but not limited to) the Federal Budget and PSES results, but potentially also the implications of governmental policies. They will also be asked to make recommendations to the President, to the National Executive Committee and provide feedback on communication strategies [. . .]"*

Up to 42 members have submitted their names to participate and a first meeting should be held in September.

The conclusion reached was that CAPE local presidents are willing to make efforts to engage its members and increase participation levels. The Presidents' Council would be better suited than most other CAPE entities. With these discussions, strategies will be easier implemented and CAPE will be able to better serve the needs of its members.