



USW LOCAL 9346 Your monthly news & updates

Welcome to our NEW newsletter format. If you are not receiving these by email please send your name, badge number and email address to admin@usw9346.ca to get on the list. If you wish to unsubscribe, please do so using the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email. Please note that if you unsubscribe, you will not receive any emails from USW Local 9346 in the future, unless you ask us to re-subscribe.

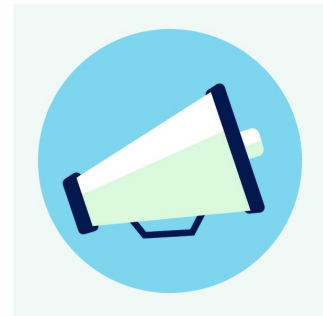
Visit our Website

SUNLIFE COVID-19 FORMS are on the homepage of our website for you to download if needed.

Upcoming Events

General Membership Meeting - Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 5:30pm via Zoom AND at our "Big Green Hall" located at 140 Spruce Ave, Sparwood, BC. If you are interested in participating via zoom please email admin@usw9346.ca with your name, email, and badge number by Thursday, March 11 to receive an invite for this meeting. (This is our nomination meeting for Local Union Office so we are making allowances for in person attendance for this meeting.)

Safety Rep Meetings - April 8, 22, May 6, and 12 at 4:30pm



Office Hours Remain by Appt. Only

Please be advised that our office has changed back to 'By Appointment Only' hours. We are still always available by phone and email, but if you need to see us in person please make an appointment by contacting:

Scott Little - scottl@usw9346.ca or 250-425-4147
Troy Cook - troyc@usw9346.ca or 250-423-8742
Sarah Thompson - admin@usw9346.ca or 403-563-7369



Join a USW Network

NextGen Network is for members under 35 years of age. We're connecting members together to share stories and ideas, build an understanding of their important role in the Labour Movement, and to help grow our Union. The NextGen Network provides opportunities for mentoring and leadership development, along with union and community activism. If you are under 35 JOIN TODAY.

Click the link below for information on how to join this and other Steelworker Networks.

[Steelworker Networks](#)



USW Local 9346 Scholarship

USW Local 9346 offers a \$1000 scholarship to a son or daughter of one of our member's who is graduating grade 12 this year and will be enrolling into post secondary this fall. The applicant with the highest average mark - based on their supplied transcripts - will be the successful applicant. Deadline to apply is May 3, 2021.



Please click the link for the application form.

[USW 9346 Scholarship Application Form](#)

Messages from Your Local Union Executive

President's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

I know everybody has been going thru some tough times recently and not everyone copes in the same way as others. If you start to have dark thoughts please reach out to friends or professionals to seek help. Please remember no matter what you might think there is always someone out there who cares.

Warning signs of suicide

Warning signs that might suggest someone is at risk of suicide include:

- Thinking or talking about suicide
- Having a plan for suicide

Other signs and behaviours that might suggest that someone is at risk of suicide include:

- withdrawal from family, friends or activities
- feeling like you have no purpose in life or reason for living
- increasing substance use, like drugs, alcohol and inhalants
- feeling trapped or that there's no other way out of a situation
- feeling hopeless about the future or feeling like life will never get better
- talking about being a burden to someone or about being in unbearable pain
- anxiety or significant mood changes, such as anger, sadness or helplessness

How to help someone in crisis

Talking honestly, responsibly and safely about suicide can help you determine if someone needs help. If you want to help someone in crisis, try:

- listening and showing concern
 - showing concern can be an immediate way to help someone
 - listening won't increase the risk of suicide and it may save a life

- talking with them and reassuring them that they're not alone
- letting them know you care
- connecting them with a:
 - crisis line
 - counsellor
 - trusted person (neighbor, friend, family member or Elder)

If you need to talk and you:

- are not feeling yourself
- are experiencing a crisis
- have emotional pain
- know someone who needs help

get help.

Crisis Services Canada

Available to all Canadians seeking support. Visit Crisis Services Canada for the distress centers and crisis organizations nearest you.

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, call the Canada Suicide Prevention Service at 1-833-456-4566 (24/7) or text 45645 (4 PM - 12 AM ET).

We also have the EFAP program available to us 24/7/365 - this free confidential service can be reached at 1-800-387-4765.

Scott Liddle - President

scottl@usw9346.ca

250-425-4147

Safety Chair's Message

Safety Meetings During COVID

COVID has taken a toll on all of us and it will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. One area that is greatly affected is our ability to hold traditional safety meetings amongst the crews. The company is utilizing the radio and paper handouts to conduct modified meetings, which is a good alternative for the time being. However, I know from personal experience that this doesn't always reach everyone. Not everyone carries a radio, and paper copies don't always make it into everyone's hands. We always encourage our membership to bring their concerns directly to supervision but understand that this isn't always possible. Safety Reps are a great way to voice your safety concerns. They can bring your concerns to front line supervision and help to find a suitable resolve. If the concern requires a larger scale investigation or a more in depth and focused review, that's where your JOHSC rep and committee comes in. Issues that are brought forth to the committee are scrutinized and appropriate solutions are explored.

This committee also studies monthly audits that are completed by each department and helps to address any concerns that are raised during these audits. Audits are rotated through the crews, so you won't always see someone out on your crew. During these audits, the people who are conducting the audit may call on different individuals to have a safety conversation. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and get to know the rep involved in the audit if you don't already know them. These are great ways to keep ahead of safety issues and be as proactive as possible. But as always, don't wait for a radio conversation or audit to bring up important issues; bring them up immediately! Safety doesn't take a break just because we can't hold traditional meetings. We need to continue to be diligent and address issues BEFORE they turn into an incident.

Cleaning Products

While doing an audit of the thermal camera and bus shack area, some members raised concerns about cleaning products on site. Currently, there are a few different cleaners available. If you have any concerns about what is in the product or where it is best applied, the safety department is a great resource. They can supply you with the MSDS for each product as well as proper usage standards. I also have MSDS available for anyone who would like a copy.

NOTE: If you aren't getting text alerts and have signed up for them, please let me know! I am available anytime via text, phone, or email!

Be safe out there everyone!!

Julia McKay - OH&SC Chair
juliam@usw9346.ca
250-603-9555
