



Kootenay Steward

USW 1-405 www.steelworkers1-405.ca 201-105 9th Ave S Cranbrook, BC Ph. 1-800-262-2389 [Election Edition](#)

ELECTION EDITION

USW 1-405 held their Annual Delegated Meeting and Job Steward School in Kimberley May 7-9, 2015.

The Job Steward School attracted over 55 of our committee members and chairs from each operation of the Local Union and featured three courses; the newly revamped Stewards in Action—Steelworker Steward 1; Bullying and Harassment along with Duty to Accommodate.

The school was the second year it has been held up at the Kimberley Training and Conference Center at the Kimberley Ski Resort in the new format of attaching the school and education component to USW 1-405's Annual Delegated Meeting. The three day event attracted over 60 members and guests to our 10th ADM as the USW and 55th ADM since our Local's inception as the IWA prior to the merger in 2004.

Our ADM featured guest speakers such as Kootenay-Columbia Federal NDP candidate Wayne Stetski; USW Local 1-417 President Marty Gibbons (Kamloops); Former IWA national vice-president and current IWA Pension Plan advisor Harvey Arcand along with former USW Local 1-405 President and current USW Wood Council Chair, Bob Matters.

Delegates debated and passed motions to 17 submitted resolutions and also heard the Executive Board Report on every operation in the Local Union, submitted by the Local Union officers.

Also reported at the ADM was the USW Women's Committee report along with a report on the Humanity Fund and its funding of local charities. Recently at the USW District 3 con-

ference in Edmonton April 15-17, 2015, the Humanity Fund announced a \$30,000 donation to those Locals who submitted names of local charities that would receive a further, one-time, \$3000 donation. Local 1-405 received three nominations for a total of \$9000 to the Kimberley Helping Hands Food Bank; The Golden Women's Resource Center and the Golden Chapter of the Special Olympics. Brother Bob Matters was also attending the ADM to conduct Local Union elections. Every three years the officer positions of the Local Union are up for election. Elected/acclaimed to the positions are as follows:

Financial Secretary: Jeff Bromley - Acclaimed
2nd Vice President: Grant Farquhar - Acclaimed
3rd Vice President: Bryan Gaudet - Acclaimed
Recording Secretary: Cheryl Buday - Acclaimed
Conductor: Jeff Mather - Acclaimed
Warden: Tom Molenaar - Acclaimed

Two positions were contested and as per Local Union Bylaws, elections will be conducted May 19-June 11, 2015.

President - Doug Singer - Incumbent
Rick Boekestyn - Challenger

1st Vice-President - Doug Wood - Incumbent
Stuart Moore - Challenger

Ballots will be conducted by sub-local balloting committees and/or appointed plant/office committee members.

Installation of Officers will be June 20, 2015 at the next Executive Board Meeting.

Candidate Bios

Position: Local Union President

Fellow members, my name is Doug Singer, I am currently the elected President of your Local 1-405 and have been since 2012. Prior to that I was the elected Financial Secretary from 1993 to 2012 and Executive Board member, Plant Chair from 1981 - 1993 working at Atco Lumber.



President—Doug Singer

I have had the honour of representing every operation in this Local Union at one time or other in the last 22 years and have negotiated over 30 collective agreements for all of our members across our Local, including the most recent Forest Industry agreement. Pointed out by many members as the best agreement in over 20 years, our union was able to secure 13% in wage increases; \$3400 in lump sum bonuses over the term along with many other improvements.

Currently I oversee the Employee and Family Assistance programs for the Local, have been involved in countless grievances, arbitrations and Labour Relations Board hearings, where we have been very successful in resolving issues to the benefit of our members.

In the last 22 years as Financial Secretary and President along with the Local Executive Board, we have been able to keep the Local Union finances in excellent shape even through the 2008 – 2013 years when we had up to 800 of our members laid off. We laid off one staff and one officer for a year and reduced our wages from 5 to 3 days per week during these years, to ensure we had money to continue to operate the local and represent you our members.

I have been a trustee of the IWA Forest Industry Pension Plan since 2006, which has been a very difficult time for pension plans. We now have the pension plan on a very solid foundation for the future.

I am also a trustee on the Southern Interior Health and Welfare Plan for our members in the forest industry. We negotiated some valuable improvements in the last agreement, and have the plan in good shape for the future. On a regular basis we have to push back with the industry trustees to ensure our members are treated fairly under our plan. The experience, knowledge and history I have regarding every agreement we have is very important in applying these agreements and dealing with your employers on a daily basis directly, Union Plant Committee or with the officer representing your operation.

I am asking for your support in this election, so I can continue the work of building our Local Union, and continue with the development of leaders in our Local and working on your behalf.



Candidate Bios

Position: Local Union President

My name is Rick Boekestyn, and I am running for the position USW President of Local 1-405.

I have worked at the Canfor Elko sawmill for 16 years, and have been a member of Local 1-405 for 19. I have sat on various Committee's during that time including the Plant Committee, Safety Committee, Ability Management Committee, Vacation Scheduling Committee, as well as the Hiring Committee where I also did all Orientation Training for new hires. Before moving to the East Kootenay I worked for Christie Brown & Co for 10 years. I was a member of the Teamsters for seven years, sitting on the Plant Committee for five years. I negotiated 3 separate Master agreements in that time. I have also owned my own business, and worked for 3 years for Canada Post where I be-



Elko member—Rick Boekestyn

longed to the LCUC. I also served as a Trustee of Local 1-405 for 4 years.

In my Private life I have been heavily involved in Hockey sitting on the BC Hockey Board Executive Committee for 13 years. Eight of those as an Officer, and was that organizations President for 2 years. I also sat on the Hockey Canada Board for 2 years starting in 2009. While with BC Hockey I also was a member of the Finance Committee for eight years, overseeing a budget of 6 million dollars, servicing 56,000 members.

I believe that given my experience, and background I can bring new ideas to the Local to improve Promotion, Education, and Financing, without compromising representation of our members. Improve relationships within the local, and provide education to all our members, while implementing new Fiscal responsibility in the office. I also plan to educate our Board in its role as the policy making branch of the local, in an effort to serve you, the membership, to the fullest. I ask for you the member ship to help me take back the 1-405 on your behalf, and ask for your support during this election, and in the future.

USW Election 2015

UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS
KOOTENAYS LOCAL 1-405

Position: 1st Vice-President

Hi everyone my name is Doug Wood, I am the current 1st Vice President for USW local 1-405 and the business agent hired by the Executive Board. I was hired as a millwright in 1985 and shortly after I started at Elko I became active in the union. I was the plant chairperson for 20 years and also a member of the Elko Safety Committee. I became a business agent for Local 1-405 in June 2011. My responsibilities have included representing all the sawmills in the East and West Kootenay. In 2014 I led negotiations for the East Kootenay Log Haulers Association with Canfor and we were successful in negotiating one of the best agreements in many years.



1st Vice President—Doug Wood

I have served on the Local Executive Board for more than 18 years as Third Vice President, Second Vice President and eventually to the position I hold today. During my time on the Executive Board I have been elected to the resolutions committee for the Annual Delegated Meeting several times, as well as the resolution committee for the Wage and Contract Conference. During those many years I had the opportunity to represent our membership at many conventions, including USW International, USW and IWA Safety, District 3 Wood Council, USW and IWA Wage and Contract Proposals. I have also had some great opportunities to attend training for; Bullying and Harassment, Provincial Labour Law, Collective Bargaining level 1 & 2, Working for the Union, Duty to Accommodate, Workplace Drug and Alcohol, Instructor Training, Disability Management, Job Evaluation, Conflict Resolution, Arbitration to go or not to go, Health & Safety Levels 1 & 2 & 3, Return to Work, Facing Management, and Accident Investigation Instructed by a retired National Transportation Safety Board Investigator. All of which have provided me the skills and ability to better represent you, the members. As the Local Union Safety Director, and a member of the District 3 Safety Committee, my responsibilities include organizing the annual Safety School as well as the recent Bullying and Harassment course in Kimberley in 2014. Following the Babine and Lakeland Explosions I attended the Sawmill Dust Seminar put on by Dalhousie University, this was very important in identifying unsafe conditions our members face each day in their workplaces. As Safety Director my number one priority is to oversee all safety programs in the local to ensure the safety of our members. As a long time Board member I have supported and seen our Local grow into a very diverse group with the additions of the Kimberley Ski Resort, Credit unions, Insurance Agencies, Hotels, and the Kimberley City workers, I am a strong advocate for equality and believe everyone deserves to be treated fairly and with respect. I am asking for your support in this election so I can continue representing you, the membership.

Born and raised in the Columbia Valley, I am proud to be a member of a 4th generation timber industry family. I have logged with my family for 25 years. I retired from logging in 2000, and started working for Tembec Canal Flats.



Canal Flats Chair—Stuart Moore

I have been employed at the Canal Flats sawmill for 15 years, and have been an active member of the plant committee and the joint safety committee for 13 years. I have served in the capacity of Job Steward, Vice-Chairman, and am currently serving as the plant Chairman and an active, attending Executive Board Member.

I served in my community as the Volunteer Fire Chief in Edgewater for 9 years and the Fire Chief in Canal Flats for 8 years. I served as the Local Assistant Fire Commissioner for 8 years as well. Because of my fire department and timber industry training, I have been appointed the SAFER Council Combustible Dust Advisor, for South Eastern BC, visiting mills, assessing dust hazard, sharing best practices and advising on dust mitigation to prevent sawmill dust explosions.

I have had an opportunity to partake in numerous USW, SAFER BC, and CLC courses, dealing with Safety Issues, Facing Management, Conflict Resolution, and Job Steward levels 1 & 2.

I have been raised with the philosophy of, "If you don't like what's happening, and you get an opportunity to change it, step up or shut up." All my life I have enjoyed being an integral part of a team, working together for common goals and watching out for each other in those processes. I have committed to the membership to being available anytime, for honest, open communication.

I am seeking your votes and I thank you for this opportunity to serve you in the capacity of 1st Vice President, Local 1-405.