



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES

Local Union #9511

March 11, 2025 - Oshawa, ON

988 - Steelworkers are spreading awareness of the new mental health emergency call-in line to support anyone in a mental health crisis. This includes suicide prevention. You can call or text 988 any time, from anywhere in Canada. This does not replace 911 for situations that require immediate medical assistance or intervention, such as expressing a plan to die and having the means to accomplish it, appearance of overdose, or when injured from attempting to die by suicide. You can get more information at **988.ca**.

Strike Benefit Fund - The International Executive Board has communicated an improvement to strike benefits from \$260 per week to \$300 per week, effective January 1, 2025. Our local also contributes to the District 6 Strike Benefit Fund, as well as the Toronto Area Council Strike Benefit Fund, so members would have additional support in the event of a future strike.

USW Scholarships - Steelworkers provide scholarships each year, and information about the 2025 scholarships has started to be communicated. The scholarships are typically for secondary and post-secondary students, be they members or dependents of members, and range from \$1000 to \$2500. Most scholarships have an application deadline of June 30, 2025. You can find more information about the scholarships, application details, and deadlines to apply at **usw.ca/scholarships**.

International Day For The Elimination of Racial Discrimination - Steelworkers Toronto Area Council (STAC) is hosting an event on Sunday, March 16, at Steelworkers Toronto (25 Cecil St, Toronto, ON M5T 1N1) from noon until 4:00pm. This free event is open to you and your family and friends, and will feature speeches, singing, dancing, music, and food from around the world. Attending a STAC event like this gives perspective on the diversity of people and industries USW is made of, and creates a sense of our Steelworker community. *A motion was passed at the meeting to provide \$400.00 to STAC to help support the cost of this event.*

4th National Gathering of Indigenous Steelworkers - USW is hosting this coming together of Steelworkers of Indigenous ancestry in Winnipeg, MB, July 7&8, 2025. The event is open to members with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit ancestry, and is also open to non-Indigenous officers and stewards from local unions with Indigenous membership. If you are interested in attending this conference, please reach out to mark.gardner@usw9511.ca for more information. *A motion was passed at the meeting to cover the costs for up to four (4) members to attend this conference.*



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES

Local Union #9511

March 11, 2025 - Oshawa, ON

Constitutional Convention - The USW Constitutional Convention is happening April 7-10, 2025 in Las Vegas, NV. This convention pulls together Steelworkers from across Canada and the United States to provide direction for the International Executive Board for the next three years. Our local is sending three delegates (the maximum we are permitted to send) who will be representing our local union, and voting on the various resolutions presented at the conference. We will also be submitting our own resolution to request USW permit online meetings in our quest to facilitate participation of more members in our local's decisions, since our vast geographic distances make it harder to be connected in person. *A motion was passed to submit a resolution requesting the International Executive Board to permit online meetings and to develop policies and procedures to allow local unions to conduct union business through online meetings.*

Local 9511 Website - Work continues on a new website for our local, which we anticipate to have more functionality and information than our previous one. We have been provided some mock-ups and examples by the designer, which have been approved by the Executive Committee. The Communications Committee is prioritizing components and will be generating content for when the site goes live. Any input for what you would like to see on the new site can be sent to the Communication Committee Chair (ralph.benson@usw9511.ca). We anticipate the new website will go live by the June membership meeting.

Serco Invoices - We have some outstanding invoices from Serco regarding union costs that we reimburse them for. This covers things like wages for members attending union training and conferences, as well as other expenses like 50% of the printing of Collective Bargaining Agreement booklets (speaking of which, the printers are expected to provide these to Serco in the next couple of weeks). There has been some disruption to the timely processing of the invoices, but it is our goal to address any outstanding matters and settle our account with Serco before the end of March.

Trials Committee - Constitutional charges have been raised by a member against another member, alleging violations of the USW Constitution. As outlined in the Constitution and By-laws, the local union has appointed a Trials Committee who will hear the case, and provide a report following the trial at the next membership meeting (June 2025).

Microsoft 365 - The Executive Committee put forth a recommendation to purchase a Microsoft 365 Business subscription for the local union president. The subscription would provide access to software regularly used by organizations and individuals whom the president deals with regularly (Serco, USW, arbitrators, etc), and provide some interesting benefits for the local. This

ask@usw9511.ca

Page 2 of 3



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES

Local Union #9511

March 11, 2025 - Oshawa, ON

includes replacing our Zoom subscription with the included Teams subscription for a cost savings. It also provides access to additional Microsoft apps, in particular “Bookings” which will allow the local union president to designate appointment times that members could book themselves online for an appointment to discuss any issues with the local president, which has been an initiative we had been researching. *A motion was passed at the meeting to cover the cost for a Microsoft 365 Business subscription for the president.*

Member Online Trivia Nights - The local is looking to develop and implement trivia nights for members to attend online. The trivia will draw from the Collective Bargaining Agreement, as well as commonly used laws and legislation such as the Employment Standards Act, Occupational Health and Safety Act, Ontario Human Rights Code, and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act. You can also likely anticipate questions related to the labour movement and USW. The details are still being developed, but the plan is to host the sessions on MS Teams, and hold one in April and one in May, with prizes being awarded. There will also be clues sent out via our Mass Text Messaging System (MTMS) ahead of time, so make sure you are signed up for that! If you have suggestions on what topics are important for people to know, or if you want information on how to sign up for the MTMS, email mark.gardner@usw9511.ca. *A motion was passed at the meeting to provide a total budget for prizing for the two planned sessions in the amount of \$500.00 (ear-marked as \$250.00 per session).*

Next Meeting - The next Executive and General Meetings are scheduled for June 10, 2025 in Barrie, ON. The Executive has committed to sending out a bulletin board notice three weeks in advance of the date, as well as MTMS alerts at three weeks, one week, the day before, and the day of the meeting going forwards.