

THE USGE: A MEMBER-CONTROLLED UNION

As an inclusive organization, the USGE urges all members to participate in the life of their union, from the Local to the National level!

USGE Locals are the true heart of our union. Volunteer Local executive members fight the daily workplace fight to represent and advance the interests of their co-workers. Most Local Executives comprise a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a number of Stewards (and, in larger Locals, a Chief Steward).

The USGE's National Triennial Convention is the supreme governing body of our union. Delegates are democratically elected by Local Union members to represent the breadth of our membership. Their responsibilities include: adopting and amending the USGE's by-laws and regulations; passing policy resolutions; electing a National Executive; determining the budget which sets USGE dues; and electing delegates to the PSAC's own triennial convention.

The National Executive is our union's governing body between conventions. It is structured to provide regional leadership and representation right across Canada. The Executive consists of a full-time National President and a number of Regional Vice-Presidents (RVPs). During the convention, delegates elect one of the RVPs to serve in the role of National Vice-President.

RVPs have specific responsibilities for members in their area of the country. It is the responsibility of the RVPs to ensure that concerns and problems of the membership are brought up at the national level and that decisions, answers and new developments are transmitted back to the local level.

The USGE's National Office, based in Ottawa, is responsible to the National Executive between conventions. National Office staff carry out the day-to-day functions of our union, working with the National President, Regional Vice-Presidents, Locals and individual members.

Some major services provided by the USGE National Office include:

- Direct representation on final level grievances;
- Membership communications;
- Consultation with the employer, including participation on National Labour Management Consultation Committees;
- Component collective bargaining committee co-ordination;
- Advisory services to Locals on such issues as health and safety and human rights;
- Media and public relations;
- Political action, campaigns, lobbying and presentations to Parliament;

Education; and
Membership organization and accounting.

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