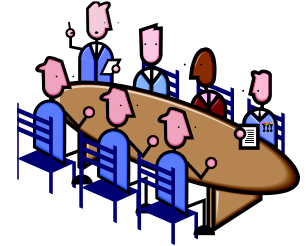


UNW 17th Triennial Convention Information for Delegates Delegate Series #7: THE CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Convention committees are a vital part of the machinery of Convention. They are established for the purpose of speeding up business, not for making decisions. Committees are limited in their activities by the extent of the authority given to them. A committee is bound by its terms of reference and can only consider matters submitted to it. It cannot introduce new resolutions (see “Amended” and “Composite” resolutions below).



A committee can consider the **details of a resolution**, or other matter referred to it, more thoroughly than is possible on the Convention floor. This is because committees operate under general Parliamentary procedures which are looser than those of Convention.



Convention Committees meet prior to the opening of Convention and make recommendations on each resolution submitted to them. They are not permitted to conduct business while Convention is sitting, except in exceptional circumstances where Convention directs or gives permission for a committee to do so. Such direction or permission is rarely given since committee members are also convention delegates. For committees to sit during Convention, committee members would be deprived of the opportunity to fulfill their obligations as delegates.

The number and purpose of Convention committees is decided by the Union Executive which assigns delegates to serve on committees. Traditionally, three committees are struck by the UNW for its Convention: **By-Laws**, **Finance**, and **General**. As an early item of business, Convention ratifies the committees proposed, including their make-up.

Observers are permitted during committee meetings but they have neither voice nor vote. They may be excluded at any time by a special motion if committee members decide that *in camera* consideration of business is required.

Concurrence / Non-concurrence

The Committees review each resolution and they will consult the UNW By-Laws and Regulations, as well as the PSAC Constitution. After careful consideration, research, and debate, the Committee will decide to recommend “Concurrence” or “Non-Concurrence” for each resolution.

Committees report to Convention through the committee chairperson who moves motions inviting Convention to endorse the committee’s recommendations. When reporting, the committee chairperson will say:

“The committee recommends concurrence {or non-concurrence} with Resolution #___ as submitted by Local #___ {or by the Union Executive, as the case may be}. I so move, seconded by.... {names the committee member who will second the motion}.”



Amended or Composite? Committees can also recommend concurrence or non-concurrence with resolutions “***as amended***” by the Committee, or with “***composite***” resolutions drafted by the committee. Composite resolutions incorporate into one resolution the intent of a number of similar resolutions submitted by Locals. For composite resolutions, the Committee chairperson identifies the original resolutions which are dealt with by the composite. Amended or composite resolutions cannot change the resolution(s) original intent.

Each resolution or matter the Committee is charged to consider, is presented to Convention in the same fashion until all business put before the Committee has been disposed of. Under rules adopted by the Public Service Alliance of Canada, committee reports are not subject to amendment by Convention and may only be referred back to Committee for further consideration, or with instructions to amend.

Concurrence / Non-concurrence

If a committee recommendation of concurrence is defeated, the resolution is finished. No further action or debate is required on that particular resolution and it dies. If a committee recommendation of non-concurrence is defeated, on the other hand, the resolution becomes the “property” of Convention and may be dealt with on the floor as the delegates see fit. If no motion dealing with the matter is introduced before another item of business is introduced, the resolution is considered lost.

The next issue in this series will be entitled “THE CONVENTION DEBATE.”