CUPE 402-02

Summer 2026
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2026 Meeting Dates

September 16
In Person (Newton)
9:30 PM

October 21
Online (Zoom)
9:30 PM

November 18
In Person (Newton)
9:30 PM

A Message from the Union Chair

Happy Summer everyone!

Hope you are all doing well. This has been a challenging season of wildfires for many. Hope all your families and friends are safe and sound, and our thoughts are with those who have been affected.

We have recently been made aware that some managers are sending mid-year attendance reviews, perhaps a little earlier than usual. Please let us know if you have been asked to attend a meeting your manager to discuss your averages. A reminder that you are allowed to ask for a shop steward during this meeting. If you need assistance securing a shop steward, please contact any member of the Executive.

Earlier in the summer, the Executive had a chance to visit all the branches on a Road Show to say hello, connect with members, as well as to bring some sweet summer treats. While we weren't able to see everyone, we will be on the road again late November/early December. We hope to see you then!

In solidarity,
Jasper

CUPE402·02
SURREY LIBRARY WORKERS

Union Scholarships

CUPE 402 offers four scholarships (two worth $1,000; two worth $500) to members attending a post-secondary institution. CUPE 402 also offers several scholarships for dependants of members.

Members must be in good standing with the Union (i.e. have attended at least one general meeting before applying).

CUPE 402 Scholarship applications are due by September 30. Visit https://402-02.cupe.ca/resources/scholarships/ to read the full rules and download the forms.

City of Surrey, Library, SPS Civilian executive teams meet for strategic planning sessions

The CUPE 402, 402-02, and 402-05 (the new Surrey Police Service civilian worker bargaining unit) executive teams convened the week of June 22 to discuss the local's strategic plan for the next several years to come. The conference included an overview of how CUPE operates at the national, provincial, and municipal levels, discussions around bylaw changes, breakout sessions for the bargaining units, and a few guest speakers.

The opening guest speaker, Debra Merrier, is a Xyólheméylh (Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society) Elder and a member of CUPE Local 728. She also currently serves as the Diversity Vice-President representing Indigenous workers of CUPE BC. In her presentation, she emphasized the union's role in fostering and maintaining allyship for its Indigenous workers, as well as identifying and addressing potential barriers to mutual respect, solidarity and connection.

The other two guest presentations were pitches for union-related software offerings. First, Alex Tardif of SAI Actuarial Services gave us a demo of Sentinel, a content management system tailored to the needs of everyday union operations.

The Sentinel system helps store and organize union records and data—membership rolls, meeting minutes, dues tracking, email blasts, and so on—in one centralized, digital environment. (Its datacentre is based in Canada, and Tardif said the company does not lay claim to any union's data.)

Later, the team from Simply Voting Inc. showed us their product (also called Simply Voting). Simply Voting is what it sounds like—a simple-to-use, secure, and private digital voting system for unions. This applet would run on most web browsers. (No more metal ballot box!)

The Simply Voting webform has provisions for "choose one" or "choose multiple" ballot questions, as well as a ranked-choice option; it can handle officer elections or resolution votes. It has built-in protections against casting multiple ballots—the ID and password issued to each voter prior to the vote is single-use only. The Simply Voting team mentioned their system already has robust uptake among other CUPE locals (over 100 across the country).

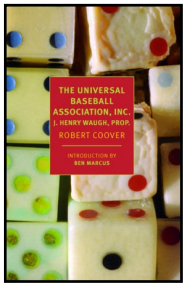
Much of our bylaw discussions were centred around bringing the 402-05 bargaining unit into the fold. 402-02's structure served as a model for 402-05 because we are of similar-ish size in terms of membership (at least relative to the parent local), and we have a similar executive structure.

In our breakout sessions, the library team talked about how it operates and helped tease out what was and wasn't relevant to the SPS civilian worker environment. As a full group, we combed through the 402 bylaws document line-by-line, adding new policy, tweaking existing policy, taking out what was no longer relevant, and making some changes for readability and clarity.

In all, it was a productive (and fun!) week that helped the union and its bargaining units determine their priorities, review written policy, and develop a strategy that will better serve all members of the union. With continued interunion collaboration, we hope to optimize our operations, anticipate challenges the near future might bring, and be better prepared to address member concerns.

Union Goodreads

***The Universal Baseball Association, J. Henry Waugh, Prop.* – Robert Coover**



The New York Review Books Classics imprint, one of my favourite publishers, releases splendid paperback reprints of older literature at a steady clip. Most of them feature thoughtful, original introductions by either literature scholars or notable authors.

One of the latest books to get the NYRB Classics treatment is *The Universal Baseball Association, J. Henry Waugh, Prop.,* the second novel by Robert Coover (who died in October 2024 at the age of 92). It was first published by Random House in 1968. Coover's novel follows the titular proprietor, known by the other characters as just "Henry," as he plays through the 56th season of his bespoke pen-and-paper baseball league. Henry controls the fate of the league by rolling a set of three dice and consulting a battery of charts that delineate almost every possible outcome.

It is clear from the jump that Henry's real life plays second fiddle to the parallel "reality" of his game. In addition to the meticulous standings, statistics, and history for each fictional club in the eight-team league, Henry has developed personae for all his fictional "players." When tragedy ensues in one fateful game, tragicomedy ensues in Henry's day-to-day, as he reels from the shock of his league's shattered narrative. This is where The Universal Baseball Association shines—Coover deftly pulls back the curtain on Henry's colourful, detailed mind-palace, delivering sharp contrast to his otherwise drab existence.

The book is not faultless; somewhat typically for its era, it's dotted with a few unfortunate scenes of cringeworthy sexist humour. Its central conceit, however, is so well-executed that you don't even have to be a baseball fan to appreciate it. Coover would go on to write eighteen more novels—most of them equally high-concept—but perhaps none as tightly-wound and economical as this one. *–Zach*

Health and Safety highlight: moving heavy objects

Working in the library, we all have to move heavy stuff occasionally. We lift and shift countless numbers of books, our bodies contort to reach high and low spots on shelves, and we lug around all manner of cumbersome equipment we need for programs (tables, chairs, lecterns, signs, totes, snacks, buttonmakers… the list goes on). Being cautious and consistent is key to avoiding injury on the job. Here are a few tips:

- Do not fill carts to more than two-thirds of their shelves' capacity. Avoid using the bottom-most shelf, when possible. Overfilled carts make them harder to push and control.
- Avoid pulling carts. If you pull, it makes it more difficult for you to tell where either your body or the cart is going. Plus, you risk straining muscles, knocking your legs against the metal sides, and catching your feet under the wheels.
- That van box may look light, but looks can be deceiving! If there's something inside it, don't risk a strain—get a partner to help you lift it.
- If an object or item is wider than your waist, do not "double up"—move them one at a time. The further your arms are from your core, the heavier the item feels. (FYI, the Health and Safety Committee is looking at replacing packaging for unwieldy lendable items like Storytime Kits.)
- Try to enlist a partner for program setup and takedown, if possible. Give yourself ample time for setup and takedown so you aren't tempted to rush through it.

Did You Know?

Good of the Union

Do you know a fellow member who is celebrating something special? In need of support or acknowledgement?

Email Zach ***(cupe40202mal@outlook.com)*** or let any member of your Union Executive team know, and we'll send the member a card.

Do you have anything you'd like to see in our Fall Newsletter?

Please let Zach or any member of our Executive know.

CUPE 402·02
SURREY LIBRARY WORKERS

5699 176 Street
Surrey, BC

Executive Team

Chairperson
Jasper Wong (CS)

Vice Chairperson
Amar Bains (CC Temp)

Secretary
Kelly Kennedy (CS)

Membership Officer
Orsi Matusek (PK)

Lead Shop Steward
Monika Bracun (CT)

Member-at-Large
Zachary Foote (Casual)

Recipe: Watermelon & Cucumber Salad

Ingredients

Honey-Lime Dressing

- 2 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- 1-2 tbsp quality extra virgin olive oil
- pinch of salt

Salad

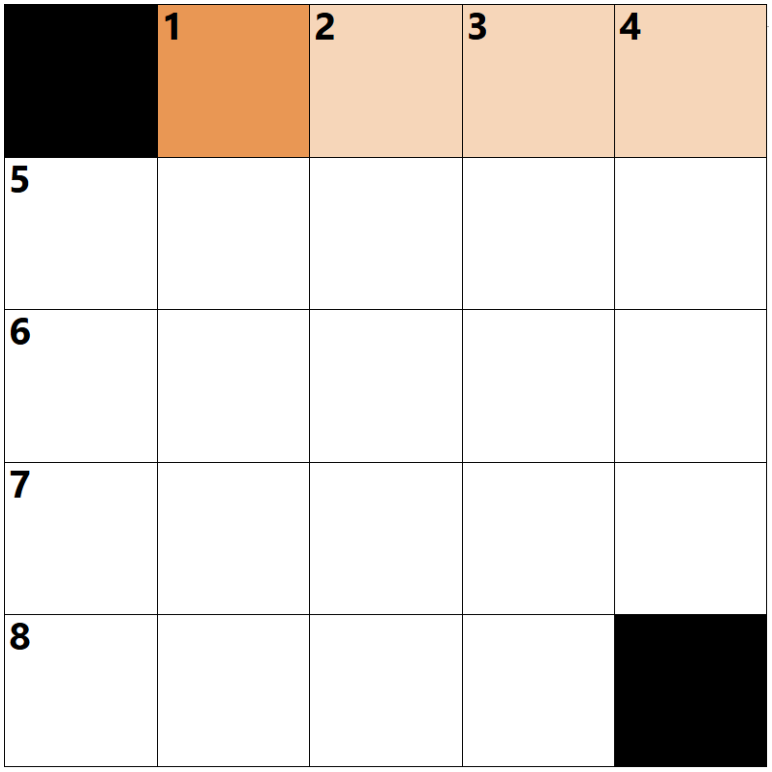
- 1/2 watermelon peeled, cubed
- 1 field cucumber, cubed
- 15 fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 15 fresh basil leaves, chopped
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese

Source: https://www.themediterraneandish.com/watermelon-salad-with-cucumber-feta/

Instructions

- In a small bowl, whisk together the honey, lime juice, olive oil and pinch of salt. Set aside for a moment.
- In a large bowl or serving platter with sides, combine the watermelon, cucumbers, and fresh herbs.
- Top the watermelon salad with the dressing and gently toss to combine. Top with the feta cheese and serve!

Mini Crossword



ACROSS

1 Winged mammals

5 Bird native to Asia that can imitate humans

6 "No two snowflakes are _____"

7 Feeling after you've had your fill

8 Figure skater Michelle ____

DOWN

1 Written rule or procedure that governs a union's conduct

2 R&B/soul singer _____ Baker

3 Action-thriller film franchise starring Liam Neeson

4 Cast off one's body, as with fur or hair

Submit your finished puzzle to Kelly Kennedy in CS by October 31 to be entered into a prize draw!