



The Order of

UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS OF AMERICA



“People Helping People”

**Minutes of
Regional Convention
A.C.T./UCT Dominion Regional Council #31
Red Deer, Alberta
May 24 – May 27, 2023**

Present:	Connie Zwarich	Regional President
	Elly Opdenkelder PRP	Regional Immediate Past President
	Rose Scarrow	Regional Vice President
	Anthony Rumsey	Regional Secretary
	Loretta Carnes	Regional Treasurer
	Chris Phelan PRP/PIP	Regional Director #1 (<i>filled by Doug Honeyford</i>)
	Heather Carle	Regional Executive Member
	Andy Jean	Regional Executive Member (<i>filled by Sylvia Herman</i>)
	Gill Hartley PRP	Regional Chaplain
Guest:	Doug Honeyford PRP	UCT Past Board of Governors
	Rick Warner PRP	PRPA President
	Jerry Giff PRP	

9:00 AM During the opening ceremonies, all regional officers marched into the meeting room and took their positions.

The whole assembly stood and sang the National Anthem. All members stood for a minute of silence for all deceased members and Ukraine. Followed by the Invocation by the Regional Chaplin Gil Hartley PRP 1051.

Regional President Connie Zwarich 1051 called the 30th Regional Convention to order and informed that the Regional Secretary, Anthony Rumsey 1021, is recording the proceedings.

Regional President Connie welcomed all A.C.T./UCT members and guests to Red Deer, AB. She hoped everyone enjoyed the spousal/companion day while some of us played golf.

Regional President Connie Zwarich 1051 requested that when addressing the Chair, a microphone should be used. There are two runners in the room with microphones. Please state your name and Council number. Connie mentioned that this year, we would be conducting the credential committees in a slightly different manner. We will hold a couple of breakout sessions for the committees to discuss their duties, which will be presented later in the meeting.

Regional President Connie Zwarich 1051 advised that there is a Sheriff and Deputies appointed for this Convention.

Regional President Connie Zwarich 1051 announced the **Credential Committee:**

Rick Warner PRP	1003
Keith Sandmarier	1022
Rod Wilson PRP	1020

Regional President Connie asked the Credential Committee to do the roll call:

Roll call was made of all **Delegates** by Rod Wilson PRP.

Council 1003 – Kelowna West – Susan Warner
Council 1014 – Calgary – Susan Young
Council 1015 – Calgary North – Doug Honeyford (on behalf of Chris Phelan PIP/PRP)
Council 1016 – Edmonton – Chuck Zylla
Council 1017 – Edmonton South – Don Makowicauk
Council 1018 – Grande Prairie – **Not Attending**
Council 1020 – Medicine Hat – Jacquie Donohue
Council 1021 – Red Deer – Bernice Smithman
Council 1022 – Sherwood Park – Keith Sandmaier
Council 1023 – Cranbrook – **Not Attending**
Council 1024 – St. Albert – **Not Attending**
Council 1027 – Moose Jaw – John Carle
Council 1028 – North Battleford – **Not Attending**
Council 1032 – Swift Current – **Not Attending**
Council 1039 – Thunder Bay – Janet Huber

Council 1051 – Sudbury – Don Delongchamp
Don MacDonnell

Council 1065 – Toronto East – **Not Attending**

Roll Call of all **Officers** by Regional Vice President Rose Scarrow 1020:

Elly Opdenkelder PRP 1023, Connie Zwarich 1051, Rose Scarrow 1020, Anthony Rumsey 1021, Loretta Carnes 1051, Heather Carle 1027, Sylvia Herman PRP 1016 (in for Andy Jean 1020), Doug Honeyford 1051 (in for Chris Phelan PIP/PRP 1015), Gil Hartley PRP 1051

Roll Call of all **Past Presidents** by Rick Warner PRP 1003, this is for voting purposes:

Rick Warner PRP 1003, Sylvia Herman PRP 1016, Dwight Hunter PRP 1016, Duane Demeria 1021, Marg Rumsey PRP 1021, Ron Swenson PRP 1022, Wayne Huber 1039, Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051, Rod Wilson PRP 1020

Alternate: Marian Melnyk 1016, Joe Ruptash 1017, Don Scarrow 1020, Sharon Drysdale 1020, Margaret Bourgoin 1021, Larry Billings 1022, Kathy Nevala 1039, David Carnes 1051. (Not eligible to vote). Rick clarified that due to errors in the registration forms, some alternates and observers will not be able to vote. Anthony mentioned a new form would be available for next year's convention.

Observers: Read by Keith Sandmarier 1022. Wayne Gasmol 1016, Sylvia Ewashko 1016, Helen Melnyk 1016, Bill Donohue 1020, Rhonda Wilson 1020, Felice Bayek 1020, Dennis Morgan 1021, Jacqueline Gustafson 1022.

Moved by Rick Warner PRP 1003 that the credential committee states that a quorum is present, and the Convention can be declared open, and the report be accepted and placed on file. Rod Wilson PRP 1020 seconded. Carried.

Regional President Connie Zwarich 1051 stated that they are hoping to have an educational seminar in the fall for local secretaries by Zoom and will send out a list of their duties.

Regional President Connie Zwarich 1051 stated the duties & job descriptions are in the purple book and committees are on page 2. Envelopes were handed to all committee members with the job descriptions and duties.

Regional President Connie had Regional Secretary Anthony announce the Regional Convention Committees are in your workbook on page 2.5.

Examining Finance Committee

Don MacDonnell 1051
 Sylvia Herman 1016
 Wayne Huber 1039

Mileage & Per Diem Committee

Dwight Hunter 1016
 Berni Smithman 1021
 Janet Huber 1039

Jurisprudence/Resolutions Committee

Don Delongchamp 1051
 Jacquie Donohue 1020
 Duane Demeria 1021

Angus Mulligan Award Committee

Dave Carnes 1051
 Cathy Nevala 1039
 Sharon Drysdale 1020

State of the Order Committee

Marg Rumsey 1021
 Doug Honeyford 1051
 Chuk Zylla 1016

Necrology Committee

Loretta Carnes 1051
 Gil Hartley 1023

Roses for the Living Committee

Susan Warner 1003
 Don Makowicauk 1017

Safety Poster Judges

Rhonda Wilson 1020
 Margaret Bourgojn 1021
 Joe Ruptash 1017

Parliamentarian

Jerry Giff 1051

Runners

1020
 1020

Tellers (Scrutineers)

Susan Young 1014
 Don Scarrow 1020
 John Carle 1027

Credential Committee

Rick Warner 1003
 Rod Wilson 1020
 Bill Donohue 1020

Regional President Connie Zwarich 1051 moved on to approval of the minutes from the May 28th, 2022, Regional Convention in Medicine Hat. No errors were noted. Don Delongchamp 1051 made the motion to accept the minutes as written and to be placed on file. Rod Wilson PRP 1020 seconded the motion. Carried.

Regional President Connie Zwarich 1051 asked if there was any business arising from the minutes of the last Regional Convention held in Medicine Hat, Hearing none, I will move along to Committee reports.

Regional President Connie Zwarich 1051 indicated that the Swift Current Council has closed. Membership is declining and needs to be focused on. Some rituals have been changed to allow us to be more current and Canadian-based.

1) Marg Rumsey PRP 1021 made the motion that we accept the President's report as read & presented and be placed with the State of the Order Committee. Seconded by Janet Huber 1039 to accept the report as presented, printed, and placed with the state of the order. Carried.

Regional Immediate Past President Elly Opdenkelder PRP 1023 stated it has been my privilege to have had the opportunity to work with many members from our Region. During my time on the executive, many people helped along the way, and I thank them all. As well, I was asked to take part in the International Conference last year as Chairman of the Memorial Service. I want to commend the executives for the work they have accomplished this year. They have started the process of dealing with the very difficult issues that our Region and our local Councils face in the future – loss of members, closing of Councils, and financial security. For the first time, these are being faced directly. Another first for our Region, two Councils are hosting this year's conference. Red Deer and Sudbury have come together to organize this event. Thank you to our Regional Secretary and President for taking on the extra work to make this happen. Volunteer hours are often underreported. Encourage everyone to keep track of all you do and report accordingly.

Now a final comment. We are a group of individuals who come together to help make our communities a better place. We should be proud of what we have accomplished, and I look forward to seeing what we will accomplish in the future.

2) Elly Opdenkelder PRP 1023 made the motion we accept his report as read, seconded by Marg Rumsey PRP 1021 that we approve the Immediate Past President report as printed, presented, and be placed with the State of the Order Committee. Carried

Doug Honeyford 1051 Explained that a workshop on membership programs should be done in groups for 20 minutes. A spokesperson at each table can report on the group's progress before the coffee break.

Regional Treasurer Loretta Carnes 1051 announced that the Mileage & Per diem cheques are done and that Regional Officers will receive their cheques from Regional Secretary Anthony Rumsey 1021 at the end of this meeting. As well if any Council would like their cheque made out to them, please let her know by noon.

Regional Secretary Anthony Rumsey 1021 reminded everyone that they must turn in their Council card to receive their cheque.

Regional Treasurer Loretta Carnes 1051 reported that they are on pages 41 to 44 and the balance sheet is on page 42. Invoices going out via email, and e-transfers are being used by some councils. The GIC was renewed at 4.7% annual interest to mature in Feb. 2024.

No questions on the balance sheet. Profit & loss sheet page 43 shows that conventions are costing more than we are raising.

Loretta Carnes 1051 moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented and moved to the state of the order committee. Seconded by Gil Hartley PRP 1051.

Question: Dwight Hunter PRP 1016 asked if we will be discussing the budget. Loretta stated that it was the next item to be discussed. Motion to accept the report was carried.

Budget: Reflected revenue expenses of \$26,970 resulting in a shortfall of \$12,030 to be covered by cash surpluses. Projected cash position as of March 31, 2023. \$102,743.

Question: Duane Demeria PRP 1021, regarding the budget shortfall. Will we plan on not having a future convention to replenish these funds? Or will these funds continue to decline every year? Connie stated that this was discussed at the executive meeting. The 2 councils that have stepped up to do the conference in 2024 have already begun planning, so the 2024 convention will continue. However, we are considering in 2025 to do a Zoom convention. A face-to-face conference in 2026 is being considered. This should help with the shortfall.

Question: Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051 asked Loretta to explain what was discussed at the executive meeting regarding back-to-back in-person conventions and the resulting shortfall we will incur. Loretta stated that in-person conferences build up motivation for members to become more active in their communities and bring in new members. The more members we bring in, the more Per Capita and less deficit. With plans in place for 2024, it is hoped that member's motivation will continue. We will then look at 1 year of Zoom and 1 year of in-person to help decrease the shortfall to a break-even status as we go forward.

Question: Dave Carnes 1051 mentioned the first large expense is the convention and the second large expense is the stipend to the Secretary & Treasurer. Perhaps the stipend could be adjusted as some feel these positions are not working as hard as they used to be, given there are fewer councils. Not suggesting that the secretary job has gotten any easier. Loretta stated that each position includes a \$1,200 stipend. The treasurer allocated half of her stipend back & intends to do so next year as noted under miscellaneous income.

Question: Cathy Nevala 1039 asked How do we pay per capita? Loretta answered \$4.00 per member per quarter. Cathy asked could this amount be increased by \$1.00. Loretta stated that this was considered but after 2 years of COVID-19 and the council's unable to fundraise it was declined. It will be placed on the agenda for further discussion.

Question: Don Delongchamp 1051; Per diem does not cover all costs and perhaps it could be lowered. Loretta stated that this would be discussed later in the meeting.

Question: Marian Melnyk 1016; Would it be possible for each council to host an event each year with proceeds going to Regional? Loretta stated that this would be considered at an executive meeting.

Question: Dwight Hunter PRP 1016 asked if Regional had a gaming number. Loretta mentioned that no it does not.

Question: Janet Huber 1039 asked if there was a duplication of expenses between the \$2,400 for the Secretary & Treasurer and the \$800 for office expenses. Loretta explained that the office expenses are for items outside of the secretary & treasurer's roles: E.g. Bank charges, and cheque

printing. I expect we will see some savings in office expenses as we move more to electronic banking. Loretta stated that she will be itemizing expenses for clarity in the next budget report.

Point of Note: Elly Opdenkelder PRP 1023 pointed out that funds for committee expenses / Presidents / Past Presidents are often not used and are put back into the regional budget.

Note: Don Mackowichuk 1017 stated he felt the present executives are doing a fine job at fulfilling their roles and can be trusted to do what is expected of them.

3) Loretta Carnes 1051 moved that the budget be adopted as presented and referred to the state of the order. Seconded by Don Delongchamp 1051 that her report be approved for the budget and be placed with the State of the Order Committee as presented. Carried.

Regional Secretary Anthony Rumsey 1021: The report is on Page 45. Anthony expressed his gratitude to the past and current executives for their support and guidance over the past few years, which helped him gain the knowledge necessary to assist others. Furthermore, he requested each local council executive to share their expertise with the new incoming executive, to ensure that they are well-equipped to handle their new responsibilities. He urged them not to let the new executives start their roles untrained and unprepared, as many people have left their positions due to a lack of assistance.

4) Anthony Rumsey 1021 made the motion to accept the secretary's report as presented and be referred to the state of the order. Seconded by Don McDonnell 1051 that his report be approved and that we place the Regional Secretary's report with the State of the Order Committee as presented and printed. Carried

Question: Dwight Hunter PRP 1016, On behalf of 1016 we want to say thank you to Anthony for doing such a great job as Regional Secretary. Thank you from Anthony to Dwight. Connie stated that Anthony goes above and beyond and should get the award for the busiest and most cheerful member.

2021 UCT International Convention Report Connie Zwarich 1051 stated the report is in the purple workbook. Connie had attended the UCT convention where they did break-out sessions. Connie has scheduled these sessions for this convention. At an awards ceremony, several Canadian councils were recognized for their contributions. The Jack Kidd Council in St. Johns received the Bridges of Friendship Award. Sudbury was awarded the Platinum Medal of Honor, while Sherwood Park and Cranbrook received the Bronze and Silver Medal of Honor respectively. In the newsletter category, Edmonton received first place, Thunder Bay second, and Medicine Hat third. Elly Opdenkelder PRP 1023 was awarded the Roses for the Living Award at the international level. Donations worth \$1252 were made to the United Charities Trust fund, and \$900 was given to the Ann Marshall Scholarship. Doug Honeyford was appointed to the Board of Governors, Rose Scarrow is a member of the Jurisprudence standing committee, and Connie Zwarich is working on the Memorial Service for the year via Zoom.

Question: Dave Carnes 1051. Are the newsletters going to be discontinued at the regional level? Connie stated that no, they will not be, and the local council newsletters will continue.

Question: Duane Demeria PRP 1021. Is Joyce still sending out Regional Newsletters? Rose Scarrow puts them together and sends them to Anthony and Anthony distributes them to the councils. The Newsletter person may change as Rose is the incoming president and the president chooses the committee chairperson.

Anthony noted that the North of The Border newsletter comes from Joyce. Regional and local newsletters are sent out by Anthony and posted on the website as well as the Sample Case.

5) Rick Warner PRP 1003 moved the President's report be accepted as read and placed on file. Seconded by Rod Wilson PRP 1020. Carried

Point of interest – Dwight Hunter PRP 1016 stated he spoke with Joyce Pierre regarding the Regional Newsletter as he was concerned if members were getting it or not. She said every member with an email gets one. This is the North of the Border newsletter.

Anthony sends copies of the regional to the local secretaries who are to share them with local members.

UCT International Board of Governor Report: Doug Honeyford 1051 spoke on a greeting from the US. The US was invited to attend this year's convention but unfortunately declined due to them attending the Man./Sask. Convention. Dianna Wolf couldn't attend due to budget restraints. They sent letters thanking us for the work we do and encouraging us to continue. Doug indicated that our region does more than all of the councils in the States combined with donations and activities. Doug also shared that the UCT board has been exploring ways to meet stakeholders' needs, including possible merging with other organizations, to look at the long-term viability of UCT. At the year-end of last year, UCT appointed a different actuarial organization that noted a shortfall of surplus dollars required to offset the possibility of any insurance claims that could be made. This required UCT to make significant changes that are still ongoing.

Membership is still a concern and each of our members is being encouraged to recruit 1 new member to double our present membership.

Question: Dwight Hunter PRP 1016, Regarding working with other clubs. Dwight stated that 1016 is doing this already. Larry Billings 1022 spoke about what they are doing with their club. E.g. Food Bank drive, partnering with the Rotary Club, elks, etc. with very successful results—also, a supper event for Ukrainian refugees with other service clubs.

6) Moved by Doug Honeyford 1051 we approve his report, seconded by Dwight Hunter PRP 1016, and resolved that we approve this motion as presented and printed, and placed on file. Carried.

Past Regional President Association (PRPA):

Rick Warner PRP 1003, The meeting was held on May 25th at 3:00 PM. This change in the by-laws regarding when the meeting is held was a dollar savings as we saved on room rentals at this convention. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM. 7 members present & 1 guest. The opening prayer was done by Doug Honeyford 1051. Absent were, Gil Hartley PRP 1051, and Dwight Hunter PRP 1016. Motion to ratify Rick Warner PRP 1003 as PRPA President by Doug Honeyford 1051. Seconded by Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051. Carried. Motion to approve the minutes of the annual meeting on May 26th, 2022. Medicine Hat was moved by Marg Rumsey PRP 1021, Seconded by Doug Honeyford 1051, Carried. International by-laws reviewed. Moved by Sylvia Herman PRP 1016, seconded by Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051, Carried. 3 proposed regional by-laws were reviewed. Moved to approve by Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051, seconded by Marg Rumsey PRP 1021, Carried. Heather Carle will receive her PRP honors at this convention. Running for line officers for 4 years is Don Delongchamp 1051, nomination can also come off the floor. Running

for Regional executive will be Heather Carle to complete her second 2-year term. Running for Regional executive. No nomination at this time. Nominations can come from the floor.

New Business: Discussed the possible merger of ACT/UCT with Man/Sask. and the Maritimes. Discussion remains ongoing. Discussed hosting future conventions. Edmonton 1016/Sherwood Park 1022 will host the 2024 convention and 2025 will be a Zoom conference. Delegates attending the 2023 International UCT convention via Zoom will be Rose Scarrow 1020 (Regional President). Any member can attend & participate but must register by June 12th, 2023. The convention is June 24th, 2023. Neil B. Pickering Secretary Award judges will be Rick Warner PRP 1003, Joyce Pierre Calgary office, Regional Secretary Anthony Rumsey 1021, Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051 and Lil McDermitt 1016. After I spoke with Jerry and Joyce, one nomination was suggested this year. I am proud to say that the award goes to Anthony Rumsey 1021. It was decided that we will give a certificate this year to keep as the award has unfortunately gone missing. Sylvia Herman PRP 1016 will draw up the certificate and get it to Anthony either by mail or present at the next convention.

A moment of silence was given for 2 passed members, Gord Ross PRP 1039 & Lil McDermitt PRP 1016. They will be missed by all. It was suggested that a chairperson be set up at local councils to communicate with passing members. The closing prayer was given by Doug Honeyford. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

7) Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051 moved that this report be accepted as read and be placed on file. Seconded by Janet Huber PRP 1039. Carried.

Reports of Regional Committees:

Publicity/Newsletter/Welcome - Connie Zwarich 1051, It has been gratifying to receive council reports from 9 of our councils over the past year. It is very helpful to me, as Vice President to receive these newsletters as it provides insight into what is happening in our vast region. Some of the Newsletters were submitted directly to me, and others were forwarded to me by the Regional Secretary. Our councils need to be able to have in-person meetings and be able to host events and fundraising efforts in our communities. Our visibility in our communities will help to attract people to our organization, and new members are what we are striving for! Local Newsletter competition. The winner of this year's Harry Aaron Award will be announced at the Red Deer Convention in May. Last year's winner was Medicine Hat #1020. International Newsletter Competition. Do not forget to submit your best newsletter to linda@uct.org before May 1st. Last year, Canadian councils swept the Newsletter awards again for the Local Councils with 199 members or less. First place went to Edmonton 1016, second place to Thunder Bay 1039, and third place went to Medicine Hat 1020. Congrats to these councils!

8) Moved by Rose Scarrow 1020, seconded by Rod Wilson PRP 1020, and resolved that we approve the Publicity/Newsletter/Welcome report as presented, printed, and placed on file. Carried.

Intellectual Disabilities Report: Heather Carle 1027. This past year a total of only 7 Local Councils provided support to Intellectual Disabilities. This is up from the 6 councils that submitted their totals last year.

Thanks to the 7 Local Councils below, their generous contributions totaled \$26121, and 314 member hours were donated in support of Intellectual Disabilities.

Kelowna West 1003 Edmonton 1016 Edmonton South 1017 Red Deer 1021
St. Albert 1024 Moose Jaw 1027 Sudbury 1051

Special Recognition goes out to Edmonton 1016 for their generous donation of \$12336.00.

Special Recognition goes out to St. Albert for the 200 member hours donated in support of Intellectual Disabilities.

Some of the groups supported by these councils are:

Cassell Holme Parkinson's Canada L'Arche
Charity Breakfast for Special Olympics/Transportation

Thank you everyone for your support and let's strive for even more in the coming year.

9) Moved by Heather Carle 1027 to accept the report as amended seconded by Anthony Rumsey 1021 and resolved that we approve the Intellectual Disabilities Report as presented, printed, and placed on file. Carried

Miscellaneous Charitable Report: Heather Carle 1027. This past year a total of 16 Local Councils provided support to Misc Charities. Thanks to the 16 Local Councils below, their generous contributions totaled \$126327, and 4438 member hours were donated in support of Miscellaneous Charities.

Kelowna West 1003 Calgary 1014 Calgary North 1015 Edmonton 1016
Edmonton South 1017 Grand Prairie 1018 Medicine Hat 1020 Red Deer 1021
Sherwood Park 1022 Cranbrook 1023 St. Albert 1024 Moose Jaw 1027
North Battleford 1028 Thunder Bay 1029 Sudbury 1051 Toronto East 1065

Special Recognition goes out to **Medicine Hat 1020** for their generous donation of \$20977.

Special Recognition goes out to **Edmonton 1016**, for over 1600 hours of members' time donated in support of miscellaneous charities in their community.

Hug from a Friend Blankets Inner City Home of Sudbury Sask Lung
Hunger in Moose Jaw MJ Food Bank MJ Health Foundation
Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign Prairie South Bursary
Alley Cats Alliance Society Jubilee Medical Foundation Senior's Program
South Similkameen Medical Foundation A.L.S. Society Central Okanagan Food Bank

Thank you everyone for your support and let's strive for even more Councils to become involved in the coming year.

10) Moved by Heather Carle 1027 to accept her amended report, seconded by Anthony Rumsey 1021 and resolved that we approve the Miscellaneous Charitable Report as presented, printed, and placed on file. Carried

Cancer: Heather Carle 1027, This past year a total of 7 Local Councils provided support to Cancer Charities. This was a decrease of 1 from the 8 Councils that supported in 2022.

Thank you to the 7 Local Councils below, their generous contributions totaled \$9,020, and 210 member hours were donated in support of Cancer Charities.

Kelowna West 1003	Edmonton 1016	Edmonton South 1017
St. Albert 1024	Moose Jaw 1027	Thunder Bay 1039
Sudbury 1051		

Special Recognition goes out to Edmonton South 1017 for their generous donation of \$3000.

Special Recognition goes out to Thunder Bay 1039, for 120 hours of members' time donated towards cancer charities in their community.

Thank you everyone for your support and let's strive for even more in the coming year.

11) Moved by Heather Carle 1027 as amended seconded by Anthony Rumsey 1021 and resolved that we approve the Cancer report as presented, printed, and placed on file.

Membership Report: Elly Opdenkelder PRP 1023 (on behalf of Chris Phelan PIP/PRP):

Reviewing our membership numbers, they show what we all know, that we are losing members, and our loss will be even greater with the closing of our Swift Current Council and its 18 current members. If we do not change, we are going to continue to lose outstanding Councils like Swift Current, Saskatoon, and North Bay.

Annual Conferences Rituals are outdated and are not well received by younger or potential new members. We need to turn our Annual Sessions into a business session that is informative and get rid of outdated Rituals. How many councils still have an open Bible? salute the President or use a seating arrangement that no one understands? I know personally of young members who have attended our Annual Sessions but have no interest in attending again.

I am not trying to be negative about our position, but it is factually in dire condition. The definition of insanity is often described as doing the same repetitive actions and expecting a different result. We are a long way past that point, it is almost too late, but we still have a chance.

I am seeking new thoughts and innovative ideas to salvage our identity in our local communities and rebuild this great organization we have in Canada. Eliminate the historic rituals that mean nothing while adding or enhancing our strengths. The words "change" is overused today, but if we are unable to accentuate the positive aspects that have kept us as a vibrant Fraternal organization for a century, in what is now a dramatically different environment from that experienced by our Founders, it is obvious to all our future is limited.

Please join us in rebuilding the Associated Canadian Travelers/United Commercial Travelers. It's not a job for one person or the Executive alone, but for every member who wants to help.

12) Moved by Elly Opdenkelder PRP 1023 seconded by Marg Rumsey PRP 1021 and resolved that we approve the membership report as presented, printed, and placed on file. Carried.

Medal of Honor: Andy Jean 1020, Read by Sylvia Herman PRP 1016. The Medal of Honor Program offers Councils the opportunity to showcase their activities. UCT offers incentives to participate in this program. These include certificates of recognition and cash awards based on the level of activities that a Council has participated in. Congratulations and good job to last year's bronze-level winners. Sherwood Park 1022, Cranbrook 1023, Sudbury 1051. Good luck to all the Regional Councils who have submitted their forms for this year's Medal of Honor.

13) Moved by Sylvia Herman PRP 1016, seconded by Cathy Nevala 1039, and resolved that we approve the Medal of Honor report as presented, printed, and placed on file. Carried.

Youth/Drug Awareness: Sylvia Herman PRP 1016.

Youth: For this report term there were 7 local councils to take part in Youth Activity. This number is the same as the previous year although the amount donated has decreased.

A round of applause and special recognition should go out to,
Medicine Hat 1020, Kelowna West 1003.

Drug Awareness: For this report term 3 councils reported support for Drug Awareness. This number is down from the previous year with donations were down also.

Special thanks to,

Edmonton South 1017, Kelowna West 1003, and Sudbury 1051

Join Hands Day: Continued Covid restrictions kept local councils from holding Join Hands Day events again last year. However, 2 councils did join with youth in their communities to coordinate projects. St. Albert 1024, Sudbury 1051. Kudos to those councils that reported Join Hands Day events in 2021 – 2022.

14) Moved by Sylvia Herman PRP 1016, seconded by Cathy Nevala 1039, and resolved that we approve the Youth/Drug Awareness/Join Hands Day report as presented, printed, and placed on file. Carried

Safety: Heather Carle 1027. This past year a total of only 3 Local Councils provided support to Safety in their communities. This was the same low number of councils that reported in 2022. Thank you to the 3 Local Councils below, their generous contributions totaled \$9000, and 107 member hours were donated in support of Safety in your community.

Kelowna West 1003

Moose Jaw 1027

Sudbury 1051

Special Recognition goes out to Kelowna West 1003 for their generous donation of \$6000.

Special Recognition goes out to Sudbury 1051, for 60 hours of members' time donated towards safety in their community.

Some of the groups supported by these councils are:

Brain Trust Canada

Tiny Totes Safety Village

Safety Posters

MJ Crimestoppers

Adopt a Road clean up twice a year.

Thank you everyone for your support and let's strive for even more in the coming year.

15) Moved by Heather Carle 1027 as amended seconded by Anthony Rumsey 1021 and resolved that we approve the Cancer report as presented, printed, and placed on file. Carried

UCT Benefit Coordinator: Canadian benefits can be found on the UCT website. They include ESSO Discounts for business travel. Destination Travel Group. Choice Hotels, Motel 6, Budget and Avis Car Rentals, Northbridge Insurance, Lenovo Products, Travel Savings Centre and BrokerLink Insurance.

It is important to use the codes given for each when looking to access the benefit.

Joyce in Calgary can send councils a PDF of the benefits sheet. It is a great inclusion for newsletters and new members.

16) Moved by Rick Warner PRP 1003, seconded by Janet Huber PRP 1039, and resolved that we approve this report as presented and printed, and placed on file. Carried.

Note: 2 corrections. Take out Northbridge Ins. And Lenovo products as they are based out of the US. BrokerLink Ins. Is what we now use in Canada.

Facebook and social media – Anthony Rumsey, in his update, stated that the Social Media accounts are experiencing growth with new followers joining every day. Additionally, the website is attracting new visitors every week. As and when newsletters are received, they are posted on the website. This serves as a reminder to all councils that if they have any information that they would like to share with everyone, they can get in touch with the concerned person and have it posted.

17) Moved by Anthony Rumsey 1021 seconded by Rose Scarrow 1020 and resolved that we approve this report as printed and presented and placed on file. Carried.

Regional Chaplain Report: Gil Hartley PRP 1051, Our 2022-2023 year has gone by quite quickly and it seems like it was only a few weeks ago that I was honored to be appointed your Regional Chaplain.

During this past year, we were saddened by the loss of 23 of our valued members of which two were Past Regional Presidents. Lil McDermott of Edmonton and Gordon Ross of Thunder Bay will be deeply missed for their contributions to our wonderful Organization. Our prayers and condolences go out to these past members' families and friends.

I pray that as we move forward, we can continue to be of valued service to our communities while demonstrating tolerance and understanding for others.

18) Moved by Gil Hartley PRP 1051 seconded by Marg Rumsey PRP 1021 and resolved that we approve this report as presented and be placed on file. Carried.

UCT Charities Trust Fund: Connie Zwarich 1051, Last year member Councils and the Regional Council Dominion #31 contributed a total of \$1250 to the UCT Charities Trust Fund.

19) Moved by Rose Scarrow 1020, seconded by Heather Carle 1027, and resolved that we approve this report as presented and placed on file. Carried.

Convention Committee Reports

Examining Finance Committee: Don MacDonnell 1051, Sylvia Herman PRP 1016 & Wayne Huber 1039

Don MacDonnell 1051 stated that all the financial records were reviewed and verified as accurate.

21) Moved by Don MacDonnell 1051, seconded by Sylvia Herman PRP 1016, and resolved that this report be placed on file with the State of the Order as presented. Carried

Mileage & Per Diem Committee: Dwight Hunter PRP 1016, Berni Smithman 1021 & Janet Huber 1039.

Mileage and Per Diem reviewed for the 30th Regional Convention in Red Deer, Alberta. Cheques are issued according to the rate sheet sent out by the secretary to the councils, we find it well presented and the numbers are correct. Total M & PD is **\$15,556.20** and the report was all in order.

22) Moved by Janet Huber PRP 1039 seconded by Dwight Hunter PRP 1016 and resolved that this report be accepted as read and be placed on file. Carried.

Jurisprudence Committee: Don Delongchamp PRP 1051, Jacquie Donohue 1020, & Duane Demeria PRP 1021.

There are 2 proposed amendments for Regional.

This committee recommends that motion #1 be accepted as presented. Read by Don Delongchamp PRP 1051, seconded by Duane Demeria PRP 1021. Carried

This committee recommends that motion #2 be accepted as presented. Read by Don Delongchamp PRP 1051, seconded by Duane Demeria PRP 1021. Carried

There are 2 proposed amendments from UCT. Both are housekeeping items. Read by Don Delongchamp PRP 1051. Connie Zwarich 1051 recommended approval of motions #1 & #2, seconded by Duane Demeria PRP 1021. Carried.

Question: Dave Carnes 1051. Under proposed amendment #1 on page 61, second last paragraph. Is it one or two executive members? Don Delongchamp PRP 1051 answered, that this is a typo and should read one member. Motion #1 amendment to read from two executive members to one executive member. Connie Zwarich 1051 moves this motion #1 as amended. Seconded by Duane Demeria PRP 1021. Carried.

Note: Heather Carle 1027, Stated that it was also agreed that the Chaplain would get paid this year but next year the Chaplain would be appointed and would not get paid. As well as those who would be attending the convention, the Mileage & Per Diem would be reviewed on an annual basis.

23) Moved by Don Delongchamp PRP 1521 seconded by Duane Demeria PRP 1021 and resolved that we approve this motion as presented and printed and placed on file. Carried

Safety Poster Committee: Rhonda Wilson 1020, Margaret Bourgoïn 1021, and Joe Ruptash 1017

Margaret Bourgoïn 1021 stated that the poster judging went well and there was 1(one) winner for the upper level and 1(one) winner for the lower level.

Winner of the Safety poster for:

Winner for the Upper Level
Moose Jaw Council 1027
Winner for the lower level is:
Calgary Council 1014

24) Moved by Margaret Bourgoïn 10021, seconded by Rhonda Wilson 1020, and resolved that we accept this report as presented and be placed on file. Carried

Roses for the Living Committee: Susan Warner 1003, Don Makowichuk 1017, and Larry Billings 1022.

There was one (4) nomination received and approved.

There were nominees this year, Dwight Hunter PRP 1016, Don Scarrow 1020, and Anthony Rumsey 1021, Don McDonnell 1051.

The Roses for the Living award was presented at the Banquets presentations.

25) Moved by Susan Warner 1003, seconded by Larry Billings 1022, and resolved that we approve this report as presented and be placed on file. carried

Angus Mulligan Committee: Dave Carnes 1051, Cathy Nevala 1039, and Sharon Drysdale 1020.

This committee has chosen Duane Demeria PRP 1021 to be our recipient.

26) Moved by Dave Carnes 1051 seconded by Cathy Nevala 1039 and resolved that we approve this report as presented and be placed on file. Carried

Necrology Committee: Loretta Carnes 1051, Gil Hartley PRP 1051

The memorial service traditionally held on Sunday morning of the convention was changed and held on Saturday, May 27th, 2023, beginning at 8:00 am
The Regional Chaplain, Gil Hartley PRP 1051, conducted the service. The names of the members who passed away this past year were read out by their respective councils. Thank you to Gil who performed a very nice Necrology service and thank you to Anthony for his assistance with the music.

27) Moved by Gil Hartley PRP 1051 seconded by Loretta Carnes 1051, and resolved that we accept this report as performed, printed, and placed on file. Carried

Unfinished Business: Connie Zwarich 1051 stated that there was no unfinished business at this time.

New Business: Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051, Upcoming UCT Convention. During the meeting, Jerry informed everyone about the upcoming Zoom conference that will be held on June 24th, 2023. He encouraged all members to register for the event by June 12th, 2023, through the uct.org website. Additionally, he explained the details of the Brides of Friendship award, which can also be found on the uct.org website.

Signing Officers for 2023/2024 are Anthony Rumsey, Loretta Carnes, Sylvia Herman PRP, and Gil Hartley PRP.

Nomination for Regional Council Positions: Doug Honeyford 1051

Regional President: Rose Scarrow 1020
Regional Vice-President: Chris Phelan PIP/PRP 1015
Regional Immediate Past President: Connie Zwarich 1051
Regional Director #1: Don Delongchamp PRP 1051
Regional Executive Director #2: (To be appointed at the June 23rd meeting)
Regional Executive Committee: Heather Carle 1027
Regional Secretary: Anthony Rumsey 1021
Regional Treasurer: Loretta Clipperton Carnes 1051

Invitation to Host Future Conventions:

2024 – Edmonton 1016/Sherwood Park 1022
2025 – Zoom

Regional President Connie asked Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051, to perform the election duties. Honors of Past Regional President (PRP) are presented to any officer going through the line now in **4** years, **6** years for Executive, **2-2 (Two)** year, terms for Regional Treasurer, and a **3**-year term for Regional Secretary.

I will now ask for nominations for Regional Council Positions:

The incoming Regional Officers were presented:

Regional President –	Rose Scarrow
Regional Vice President –	Chris Phelan PIP/PRP
Immediate Past Regional President –	Connie Zwarich
Regional Secretary –	Anthony Rumsey
Regional Treasurer –	Loretta Clipperton Carnes
Regional Director (Conductor) –	Don Delongchamp PRP
Regional Executive Committee –	Heather Carle
Regional Chaplain	Don Delongchamp PRP

Two (2) Past Regional President honors this year.

Connie Zwarich 1051 & Heather Carle 1027

Good of the Order: Move to support a donation to the Ann Marshall Scholarship Fund. Loretta Carnes 1051 moved that we donate \$200, Seconded by Heather Carle 1027. Carried

State of the Order Committee: Marg Rumsey 1021, reported that the committee reviewed all the reports submitted during the convention and found them to all be in order with some corrections being made during the conference. Congrats to all our executives on a job well done this past year.

28) Moved by Chuk Zylla 1016 seconded by Doug Honeyford 1051 and resolved that this report be accepted as presented and be placed on file.

Installation of Officers 2023/2024 by Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051: Jerry announced that all officers of the Regional Council had been properly installed into their respective positions for the upcoming year. He expressed his hope that their efforts would promote peace, prosperity, and harmony in the Order. Jerry then dismissed the Marshalls, Marg Rumsey PRP 1021 and Susan Warner 1003, and officially handed over the Regional Convention to the new Regional President, Rose Scarrow. Connie Zwarich presented Rose Scarrow with a gavel to use wisely during her term.

Regional Past President Connie Zwarich 1051 thanked her Executive Officers for their hard work this past year. Connie enjoyed her year as Regional President.

Regional Past President Connie Zarich 1051 thanked Jerry Giff for doing a great job as her Installation Officer.

Regional Secretary Anthony Rumsey 1021 advised all Councils in attendance to come up and see him to collect their Mileage and Per Diem cheque. Anthony asked everyone to turn in their Council Number cards when they received their cheque.

Regional Past President Connie Zwarich 1051 Connie thanked the Regional Executive for the great job they did in the past year. She also expressed her gratitude to Red Deer 1021 & Sudbury 1051 for hosting this year's Regional Convention. Connie thanked all the Delegates, Alternates, Past Presidents, and observers for attending the convention, emphasizing the importance of their support and input to make the event successful.

Connie noted that the past year had been interesting and successful, and looked forward to seeing everyone again next year. In her closing remarks, she wished everyone a safe journey home.

Regional President Rose Scarrow 1020 asked for a motion to ratify the action of this Regional Convention.

29) Moved by Doug Honeyford 1051 seconded by Janet Huber PRP 1039 and resolved that we ratify the actions of this Regional Convention. Carried.

Regional President closing remarks: Rose Scarrow 1021 thanked Red Deer 1021 and Sudbury 105 Councils for Sponsoring this Convention. Our first hybrid Regional Convention went very well everyone had a good time. The program was well laid out and the hotel was very nice. Rose

thanked all the volunteers who worked hard to put the Conference together. She thanked Connie and the Executive for their leadership and mentorship that helped her get to her new position as President. We are all on the cusp of some great changes in the next while and she encouraged everyone to work together in harmony as we proceed in the coming year. Councils are asked to work together to increase membership and to come up with ideas to help us grow.

Sheriff's Report by Rick Warner PRP 1003. Our worthy sheriff collected a total of **\$336.25**.

Note: Jerry Giff PIP/PRP 1051, Rod Wilson PRP 1020, and Chris Phelan PIP/PRP 1015 generously donated \$50 each to assist Rick in raising his goal of \$173.00

30) Moved by Rick Warner PRP 1003, seconded by Wayne Huber 1039, and resolved that we accept this report as presented and be placed on file and funds to be donated to the Red Deer Food Bank. Carried

The closing Prayer was given by **Regional Chaplain** Don Delongchamp 1051 PRP.

Regional President Rose Scarrow 1020 adjourned this Regional Convention at 4:46 pm

Fraternally
Regional Secretary
Anthony Rumsey