

## REPORT OF VANESSA SANDSMARK – MEMBER AT LARGE

Friends,

I have had the honor of holding the position of Member at Large since June 2022. I am relatively new to the region and have had a great opportunity to work with and get to know other activists in the NCR.

A large part of my role has been situation around building capacity in our locals as we moved towards potential job action. Due to a variety of circumstances including large amounts of staffing and remote work, we have many RAND members who had no connection to their union. Working with our Component NCR National officer, and a team of activists we started to seek out additional engagement with our members. We had an open Engagement summit seeking new activists. We presented a variety of information on bargaining, how to get involved, what types of issues their union cared about and so on. We built on this with a series of component specific training that's further engaged members in this region.

In January 2023 I was able to participate in the PSAC National Occupational Health and Safety conference. This was a great learning opportunity with great information to bring back to the region. I also was able to cofacilitate a course on remote work focusing on the legislative requirements of the Employer. Remote work continues to be a priority for members and this course was a great step in educating our members in the legal obligations on all parties.

I attended the CEIU National Women's Conference in March and Human Rights Race Relations conference in September. Both experiences allowed me to meet and network with activists across the country and hear from members on how experiences impacted them.

Throughout the last two months much of my time and effort has been spent in preparation for the job actions. I worked to assist the teams in mobilization efforts and planning of events during the strike action. During the TBS strike I was a Picket captain/scanner working between the Portage location and Vanier. I spent a significant amount of time working to determine which local members were attached to and how to get their membership information updated.

In solidarity,

Vanessa Sandsmark