

PCEC Monthly Meeting 20.03.23

Present: Andy B, John H, Julian M, Janet N, Dave S

Apologies: Aniela B, Cilla R

Meeting Minutes:

1. Report from John

- John is talking with activists and organisers to get them on board, but what "on board" means is not clear at the moment.
- Julian suggests that John has a look at the governance outline, which is a work in progress and can be accessed on the NewsSocial Governance sub-circle.
- Andy thinks we should invite people to an event and ask them to help us with the union committee, membership, etc.
- *(See John's report attached)*
- What John is doing is one strand of the project, but to Andy it feels as if we are having three projects, not 3 strands of one project. We need to be careful to make sure that we are bringing people together around the same table and not working in silos.
- We are a union co-op, so we need a union representation in our structure, however as a co-op we can't exclude anyone who wants to participate in our democracy (our membership is open, voluntary and free), as long as they buy into our principles.
- Janet suggests we do a press release about what we're trying to do, do a social media campaign, a survey - to get information across to trade unionists, branches, etc.
- John thinks that it will be useful if someone who has personal contact with Union branches could introduce John to them.
- We need to create a leaflet to give to people.
- Andy is working with True Level Media to make a video on what a Workers' Memorial Day is and we can work with them to create other educational videos for social media.

2. Course funding for John

- Barefoot course is a co-op development programme, with a minimum contribution of £1000.
- This fee can be split half and half between PCDN and PCEC.
- We need to make sure that we have the money. If we invest in this course, we should expect to receive a return on investment (e.g. John could deliver a course on developing co-ops). John is happy to do that.
- Andy, Dave and John will have a look at the figures to see if we can afford it.
- We need to know what the course entails.

3. Membership discussion workshop

- Directors will arrange a doodle poll among themselves to discuss this.

4. Governance Structure

- We need to vote on the governance and form a union committee, otherwise we're not formally a union.
- We need to firm up the union contacts, so we can have a union committee.
- People that you can rely on are already quite busy.
- We also need associate members (at least for the future), otherwise it's just us. We need members, who will form a body of membership and will participate in decision making.
- We can park the union committee for now, but that doesn't stop us from developing membership. We need some funds, which membership can provide.
- Dave suggested having an 'associate' membership for free, with people joining a mailing list to be kept in the loop, but not having voting rights; and a 'full' membership, with a nominal cost, and voting rights.
- We could start a list of people interested in PCEC, who would get a monthly email.
- We can start small with known and or trusted members, and get the ball rolling.
- Julian and Dave will work on membership together.

5. Curriculum Development

- Cilla, Julian, Lewis and Mick will get the curriculum sorted for the next academic year (to start in September/October). We will need to put an academic calendar up on the website with the courses and a way for people to subscribe to them. Our courses will have a balance of union and co-op education.
- John said that having a timetable to direct people to would be useful.

6. Sociocracy Course with Abbie

- Julian will discuss which course to pursue with Ali and Alina on Monday meeting. Directors agreed.