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# Members Meeting Determines the Way Forward

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About 35 ASU members and supporters from the Society met on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June to consider the response of the Society and decide on our next steps.

Members discussed the outcomes of the meeting that the ASU recently had with the Societies representatives and decided that the following things need to happen.

## **Form a Delegates Committee**

Every workplace needs to elect at least one delegate, larger workplaces might elect more than one so that all members are represented. These delegates from across the state will form a delegates committee that will be your representatives when it comes to discussions with St Vincent de Paul Society management. The meeting decided that this needed to be done as soon as possible. Smaller workplaces in an area might like to elect one delegate between them.

All workplaces must inform the ASU of who they have elected as their representatives by Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of June.

## **Petition the Society**

As mentioned earlier the Society has not yet said that they will not use the WorkChoices laws and have not recognised the rights of members at the Society to have their issues dealt with collectively.

Members decided that they wanted to show that the staff at the Society completely reject WorkChoices and the corporatisation of the Society. They also wanted to request that, in future, all proposed changes to pay or conditions be dealt with collectively through their union and decided to circulate a petition.

A copy of this petition is printed on the back of this newsletter. The members decided to ask all paid staff, whether or not they are union members yet, to sign the petition to send a strong united message to the State Council.

## **Reach Out to Vinnies Volunteers**

There have been many volunteers contact the ASU and even come to the union meetings wanting to find out more about the changes at the Society as well as support the staff that have been unfairly dismissed.

The volunteers present last night decided that they would like to start letting other volunteers know how the culture of their Society is changing. This view was supported by the members at the union meeting.

It was decided that the ASU would help put the volunteers that have contacted the union in touch with each other so that they may decide on the best way to do this. Some ideas that have been mentioned include:

- Holding meetings of volunteers to discuss the issues
- Ensuring that all conference members in elected positions and on management committees received information about the issues
- Getting information out to every Parish about the issues

The volunteers would make their own plans about how best to distribute appropriate information through their networks.

## **Support the Unfairly Sacked Workers**

Although there is little that can be discussed because the case is currently before the courts, many members wanted to know how they could support these unfairly sacked workers.

It was decided that it would be good to publicly show support for them by going to the court on the first morning their case is being heard. Their case begins on Tuesday June the 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am and runs for the following 4 days.

Many ideas were discussed, but anyone who wished to attend and show their support should come to the NSW Industrial Relations Commission, 47 Bridge Street Sydney at 9am on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July. If you have any questions please contact the ASU on 9310 4000.

Please make sure that all of your workmates get a copy of this newsletter. Many volunteers have also asked for copies of the newsletters, so please feel free to pass them on the volunteers as well.

You can contact the ASU on 9310 4000 and all the newsletters are online at

<http://www.asuservices.labor.net.au/news/3696.html>