On December 7, 2015 I attended the union leadership course offered by COPE Ontario. Facilitated by Maureen O’hallahan who is a true example of the attributes a trade unionist should have.

One of my favourite aspects of the course was identifying local, national and international political leaders and analyzing the traits that make them such great leaders. We also did the converse - identify not so good leaders and the reasons for their failure.

We participated in broad discussions about the scope of soft skills and attributes that allow people to flourish and become leaders.

After participating in a variety of case studies, mock exercises and watching videos, we then conducted a self-inventory of our own personal attributes to determine where we can improve our leadership skills.

The course also provided tools to aid us in become more effective contributors to our local with the use of communication and critical thinking skills. This course has given me tools and knowledge that I look forward to using in the upcoming year in my work for our local and our members. It was also a really great opportunity to meet some other brothers and sisters from our local as well as other cope locals and hear and learn from the challenges everyone has faced.