

My name is Abigail Manangan. I have been with CUPE for 6 years now, got permanency in Per Capita – Accounting Department. Started in Health & Safety/Job Evaluation/Research, then to Legal, and OR & S.

I was a Member-Organizer for SEIU Local 1. I was also a part of organizing my workplace, a retirement home, from signing of cards to negotiating our first collective agreement. I have participated and helped negotiate several mediations and arbitrations. This gave me the opportunity to use the tools I learnt from the various trainings I attended

- Steward Training from SEIU Local 1 and COPE Local 49
- Health & Safety Training
- Dealing with workplace stress, conflict, management and office work environment
- The Art of Negotiations

I was a Steward for a year and a Chief Steward for another year at my workplace. I have experience in dealing challenging grievances and issues. This gave me the chance to be the voice of my co-workers, a go between employer and worker. This taught me how to communicate better with the employer and abled me to resolve issues. Being an active advocate gave me the chance to be more sympathetic and the same time empathic. It helped me grow as a person. With this experience, I have developed an excellent working relationship with my employers, my co-workers, and my union representative.

I am also a member of PMSC (Philippine Multicultural Society of Canada) – a community based, cause-oriented organization that promotes the rights and welfare of Filipino migrants in Canada. We organize and educate overseas Filipinos on the issues of migrants. Originally organized as a support group for Filipino domestic workers/live-in caregivers. The organization was a part of changing some of the live-in caregiver program requirements at present.

I am dedicated, loyal and truly believe in representing the membership equally and I look forward to the opportunity of working with the rest of the bargaining committee and negotiating a collective agreement that is fair and just.

Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Abigail Manangan