

EA'sy Talk



President's Message



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This issue created by:

Julie Lapierre

Produced for:

OSSTF District 17,
Educational Assistants
63 Collier Street, Barrie
ON, L4N 1G7

Phone: 705-726-1722

Fax: 705-726-4655

E-mail:

office.d17@bellmet.ca or
pcoates.d17@bellnet.ca

Articles, anecdotes, photos and suggestions may be sent to the editor.

Editor:

Julie Lapierre

Phone:

705-424-3280

Fax:

705-424-0462

E-mail:

jewels1958@

hotmail.com

As the school year rapidly draws to a close, we look forward to basking in the sun, relaxing in our backyards and spending time with family and friends. It is also a good time to look back on this extraordinarily exciting year. We completed negotiations and ratified our sixth Collective Agreement, one of the best in the province. Since our first Collective Agreement in 1999, to the end date of this current Collective Agreement in 2012, we will have received in total a 38% pay increase, this does not including the increased hours which will provide members with and additional 3% pay increase for each 15 minute extended work day. As well, in September 2010 there will be an additional benefit for those members who pay into the benefit package, the Board will be paying 100% of the cost of the benefits.

To say it was a busy school year is an understatement. I have assisted, represented and counselled many members through difficulties whether with their principal, assisting/representing members through police investigations, assisting representing members through Children's Aid investigations, representing members during disciplinary meetings or termination of their job, counselling members with difficult decisions which affect their work and home life, mediating between members with workplace disputes, assisting/representing members with LTD claims and WSIB issues, and ensuring the terms of the Collective Agreement is being followed. These are just a few of the many ways I work hard to serve YOU the membership. Even though you may not have been one of the many members who have called for or received assistance many of these issues have an impact on our Bargaining Unit and all members.

As the year unfolded more challenges surfaced. Most of these issues have been dealt with but there are a few that have yet to be resolved. The membership played a large role in bringing many of the issues to my attention. It is exciting when the membership is aware of their rights. KUDOS TO YOU!



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the editor of this wonderful newsletter, Julie Lapierre, for her continued commitment and dedication. She has produced four excellent editions of *EA'sy Talk*. I look forward to next years, newsletters.

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Although care has been taken in preparing the information contained in this publication, accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The opinions and views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of OSSTF

Employment Insurance

Members are encouraged to apply for Employment Insurance (E.I.) on line. Your record of employment (ROE) will be sent electronically to Services Canada. If you wish a copy of your ROE please contact payroll at the board. A detailed information flyer will be sent to all members that will include tips on how to apply for E.I. For additional information you can log on to their web site at: <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca>

2009 Annual E.A. AGM

This years AGM, though not well attended, was a successful night. Many resolutions were passed and are positive changes to the EA Constitution. The members in attendance also passed the operating budget for the next Federation year 2009-2010. The executive would like to thank Ivana Higgins for all her hard work over the years as EABU Treasurer. She will be missed on the executive for all the work she does on the members behalf. **Thank you Ivana**



SISTER ANNE FAIRBAIRN AWARD WINNER



This year, the recipient of the Sister Anne Fairbairn Award was presented to Eileen Pickering at the Educational Assistants' Annual General Meeting on May, 27, 2009. Eileen was accompanied by her husband Tom and her son Trent. Eileen was the first Educational Assistant hired in our Board and she used her expertise and dedication to assist in the success of a multitude of students for the past 27 years.

"Thank you for your kind words. It was an honour to receive the award, flowers and gift certificate. Thank you for allowing my family to share this event with me" Eileen Pickering.

We wish Eileen all the best in her retirement and thank her for her many years of service in her role as an Educational Assistant and in her role as President of the Educational Assistants Bargaining Unit.

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Once again it has been a pleasure to serve YOU the MEMBERSHIP as your Bargaining Unit President. I work with passion, dedication and commitment to keep the trust that you have placed on my abilities, experience and leadership skills to guide our Bargaining Unit through the next few years. This Bargaining Unit is very active and people from the OSSTF Provincial Office are thrilled at what we do and the quality of people that give of their personal and family time for the Bargaining Unit.

I look forward to taking a little time for myself over the summer to relax and enjoy a good book or spend time with family and friends. My hope is that you will do the same.

Have a great summer!



Patty Coates

The District 17 OSSTF Human Rights Committee is looking for new members!

The District 17 Human Rights Committee is looking for new members -- people who are concerned about justice and equity in our workplaces. The committee is open to any OSSTF member, and it would be great to have more Educational Assistants join our group. Our committee works to promote human rights in our workplaces by increasing awareness and encouraging positive change related to human rights concerns and OSSTF policies relating to human rights. Our current areas for action include international solidarity and global education, the education of First Nations students and reducing homophobia in schools, to make our worksites a safer environment for staff as well as students.

At each meeting, dinner is provided and there is a guest presenter or new resources to preview. The meeting dates for 2009-2010 will be Monday September 28th, Monday November 23rd, Monday February 22nd and Monday April 26th. All our meetings take place at 5:00 pm at the District office at 63 Collier St. in Barrie. **Reimbursement is provided for mileage.** Parking is available (and free after 5pm). **New members are always welcome.** For more information on the Human Rights Committee, please contact Eleanor Alexander at 794-4747 or eleanor_alex@yahoo.ca.

For more information on specifics of meeting dates or directions to the office, please contact Terry Smyth, Office Assistant for the OSSTF District 17, at 726-1722



Incoming Vice-President's Message

As your new Vice-President, I would like to take this time to thank those who came out to our Annual General Meeting. Out of approx. 650 members we had a grand total of 32 members, which included the 7 members of the executive. I had put forth a motion that the President be minimally compensated (which works out to \$34.00 a day before deductions) for the long hours, availability, and service to members after the regular scheduled day ends, on weekends, holidays and during the summer. I have been in the office 1-2 days a week over the past few months and I have witnessed first hand the responsibilities of the President which no one else can take on, the confidentiality and severity of many of the situations the President must deal with on a daily bases providing advocacy, support representation to members in difficulty, most of which takes place after hours and on weekends.

A comment was made that "she knew what she was getting into when she took the job" The President would never accept this kind of statement from administration or the board relating to our work as an EA, so why do we allow such comments against the person who works very hard on our behalf. Your President has been advocating strongly on your behalf with over time pay, to ensure that no one volunteers their time and is appropriately compensated for work over and above their regular work day. How can we as a group of professional individuals expect our President to work over and above the regular day with no compensation~ we should be ashamed of ourselves. **Lucy Shepherd, Vice-President, EABU**

Did You Know?

"A friend of mine used to always quote something he read on a pop bottle. It said "No Deposit, No Return." This was when you used to be charged an extra deposit to pay for the bottle, then when you returned to bottle you got the money back. He thought this was a wonderful philosophy for life, no deposit, no return. If you sit around and do nothing ... then nothing will come. If you work hard, and set goals, your deposits will lead you to your dreams." Sunjay Nath

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a happy and safe summer holiday, see you all in September. **Lucy Shepherd**



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63 Collier Street

Barrie, Ontario

L4N 1G7

Phone: 705-726-1722

Fax: 705-726-4655

Email:

pcoates.d17@bellnet.ca

Your Executive 2008-2009

President

Patty Coates

Vice-President

Lucy Shepherd

Treasurer

Jennifer McQuirter

Recording Secretary

Julie Lapierre

Health & Safety Officer

Richard Anderson

Executive Officers

Roberta Gamache

Jenna McGinty

Lisa Gauthier

Casual/Supply Rep

Darlene Morrin

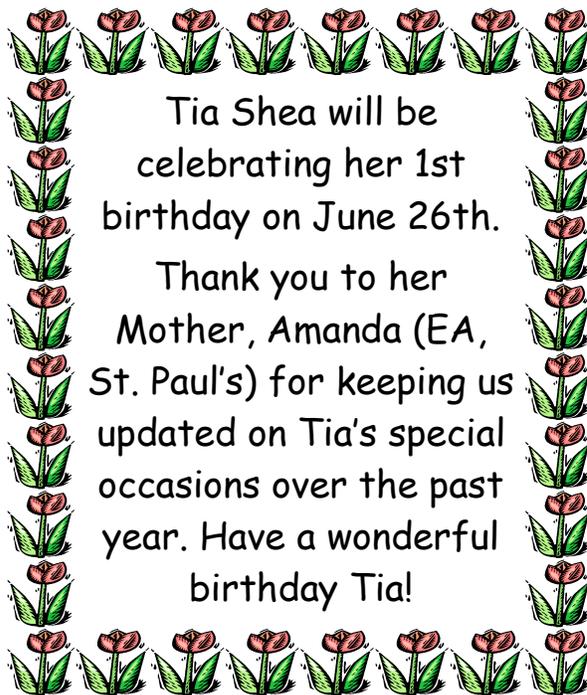
Youth Rep

Antoinette Dunmore

New Member Rep

Margaret Swinnerton

Check out this web
site submitted by
David G. McNulty:
www.doctorslounge.com



Tia Shea will be
celebrating her 1st
birthday on June 26th.

Thank you to her
Mother, Amanda (EA,
St. Paul's) for keeping us
updated on Tia's special
occasions over the past
year. Have a wonderful
birthday Tia!



News from OSSTF District 17

The following motion was passed at the District level:

The District Executive Council be directed to strike an ad-hoc committee of up to thirteen members consisting of the six bargaining unit presidents, the district treasurer and one member at large from each bargaining unit who is not a member of an executive or a council. The mandate of this committee shall be to investigate thoroughly the needs of the district and the stakeholders with consideration of, but not limited to, the following options:

- *to renovate the existing building;**
- *to purchase a new building, selling the current building;**
- *to purchase land to build on the site and sell the current building;**
- *to investigate other possible options**

This ad-hoc committee shall meet up to five times between September 2009 and March 2010, providing a detailed written report of the committee's work at each District Executive Council Meeting with a final report including recommendations to District Executive Council by April 2010. Funding for the committee shall be from the Contingency Account not to exceed \$2000.00.



I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. Maya Angelou

" Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain-and most fools do. But it takes character and self-control to be understanding and forgiving."

"A great man/woman shows his/her greatness by the way he/she treats small people"