

UNIT EXECUTIVE

2014-2015

PRESIDENT

MARK BERARDINE

VP SECONDARY

DAVID DEREWIANKO

VP ELEMENTARY

PETER STOOP

VP OT/ OTBU PRES

TIM O'BRIEN

TREASURER

TED IMRE

SECRETARY

SHEILA HYNES

COUNCILLORS

LINDA ARTUSO-JACOBI

ROBERTA CASAGRANDE

TRACI COULAS-GACA

KEVIN REID

LAURENCE VIGNOLA

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WELLINGTON WORKS

2015 MAY

VOLUME 22

ONE YEAR AGO AND NOW

President's Message

A year ago we were in the midst of the Provincial Election. Last year the province elected what we thought was the best option at the time available to us as an Education respectful government. The Liberals have indeed proved the wisdom of the words used in that famous song 'We won't get fooled again'.

One year later we are in the middle of the worst disaster to hit education since the notorious days of the Harris and Snobelen regime. A regime that targeted disrespect and abuse on every teacher in Ontario. Sadly our former Liberal friends have chosen not only to support this mentality but strip our contracts back to the end of the Seventy's!

Fortunately, I am so proud of our members who sent a resounding message to the Province. Our 94+ % vote sends a huge mandate of solidarity to our Provincial Bargaining Team. When they sat down across from the Government and Catholic Board Team it was with the knowledge that 94+ % of the Catholic Teachers stand firmly, shoulder to shoulder, together. This unprecedented and historical vote across the Province was in direct reaction to the dark days of the MoU when members were not asked or able to cast a vote. Now we have rectified that mistake and Provincial provided a method that allowed every member a chance to vote.

Our colleagues in several OSSTF Boards are already out on the picket line. More of them could join them as May continues. Our ETFO colleagues may also be ready to take legal action in the middle of the month. OECTA will march in support when called upon!

ONTARIO ENGLISH
**Catholic
Teachers**

ASSOCIATION

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OECTA BARGAINING TIMELINES AND NEXT STEPS

OECTA voted on April 24 for a historic 94+ % Provincial Strike Mandate. The next step was back to the Provincial Bargaining Table the last week of April. We are waiting to hear the outcome. OECTA desires to meet with our Catholic Trustees and Government Team members

and begin serious negotiations.

If (When) that process breaks down there will be a call to appoint a conciliator. That person will meet with both sides separately to discuss areas of mutual interest. If

there are none then a Board Report is issued which allows just over two weeks before we are in a legal strike situation or give the Boards and Government the right to lock us out. OECTA does not want to rush this process.

WELLINGTON OECTA UNIT AGM

THURSDAY MAY 14
UNIT AGM
OECTA OFFICE 4:30

The Unit AGM has several purposes. The first and foremost is the conclusion of our Unit Executive Elections. As outlined in our latest bylaws, the Unit President, Treasurer and Secretary were all acclaimed earlier in April. If there were any contested elections there would have been an online election with no drop-down except to the Councillor position. Acclaimed were Mark Berardine as President, Ted Imre as Treasurer and Sheila Hynes as Secretary. At the AGM we will conclude our elections with the five Councillor positions. There are six members seeking election this year. They are: Linda Artuso-Jacobi, Roberta Casagrande, Traci Coulas-Gaca, David Del Duca, Kevin Reid and Laurence Vignola. Any inquiries into the election process or questions are to be directed to Election co-chairs, Peter Marzo and Amberlea Daigneau.

In addition to the Unit Executive Elections we will also entertain any new motions or constitutional bylaw changes. There are no constitutional or bylaw changes this year. We do however, need to approve the allowance and release time for each of our Release Officers next year as per the bylaws. We will also have a motion for the membership to consider changes to the OECTA Office as there is possibility of some expansion at a very reasonable cost to the Unit.

Proposed Motion : That the Executive be approved to explore the idea of an expanded office for not more than \$500 per month and if it is deemed feasible to authorize the Executive to approve the expansion of the Unit Office.

Rationale: There is the possibility of relocating the OECTA 'Office' portion into more private rooms while expanding our ability to host events, PD, Joint / Board /Committee and other Labour or Community meetings. The ability to host events at the Unit Office increases OECTA visibility as more teachers will walk into *their* union office.

We also have reports from all our committees. As many of the chairpersons as are available will give a brief account of what we did and what is in the plans for the upcoming year. We have established several new committees and re-energized permanent committees have increased our Unit's energy and participation! We are truly thankful for all our committee volunteers. New committee members are always welcome!

Finally, at the Unit AGM we explore where we are fiscally in relation to the budget. There have been some extra challenges as we continue to improve how the Joint PD Fund is allocated and remain vigilant at how the Board disperses these 'Teacher owned' Funds. We also have made new sponsorship affiliation with OTIP (RTIP) and their home and car insurance plans that have given us an increase of several thousand dollars for this year. We invite all members to join their Reps, the Committee Chairs and the Executive in this chance to choose their councilors, see where their Unit is headed and enjoy the Solidarity we have created in Wellington OECTA. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Dates

Mon May 4 pm Tues May 5

CB Regional Toronto

Mark, David, Peter and Tim

Tues May 5

Catholicity Committee

St. Brigid Villa 1 pm

Liz, Mike, Laurie and Brian

Mon May 11

Exec Meeting

OECTA Office 4:15

Tues May 12

GWCSJ 7 pm OECTA Office

Suzan and Mark

Thurs May 14

UNIT AGM

OECTA Office 4:30

Thurs May 14

GDLC 7 pm OPSUE

Mark, Bernard and Tim

Mon May 18

VICTORIA DAY

Tues May 19

FIC Sacred Footsteps

St. Brigid Villa 5:45 Welcome

Wed May 20

Wellness Walk

OECTA Office 4:00 gathering

Mon May 25

REPS Council / Exec Meeting

OECTA Office 4:30

Thurs May 28

Annual In Appreciation Banquet

ICC 5:30 Reception 6:15 Dinner

Thurs May 28—Fri May 29

OECTA Leadership Toronto

David Sheila Ted and Dave

Contract 101 : Rights to Representation

It is difficult to write about Contract Rights at this time as so many of our Collective Bargaining Rights are in jeopardy and possibly will be cut by our Catholic Trustees and the Government. We have had many years of bargaining to get to the level of rights that we have. Members who worked with teachers who began to teach in the 70's can all tell you stories from those colleagues who had no planning time, no glasses and no sick days for LTOs. Now we are faced with horrendous roll backs to our contract and cuts that will harm our families.

One right we take for granted and seldom use is the right to have an OECTA representative present when being called into the office or confronted by an administrator. Most of the time administrators are talking to us about the daily day to day operations of the school or items that may affect your students or class. Sometimes however, events that happen may rapidly spin out of your control.

Q : When are you allowed to have an OECTA Rep present?

A : You are allowed to have an OECTA Rep present anytime you believe the meeting could have disciplinary consequences.

Q : Who can I bring in as my OECTA Rep?

A : Most of the time members bring their local OECTA Rep in with them at least until the nature of the concern has been identified. At any time a member or the Rep can call the office for advice or assistance.

Q : What kind of topics could this involve?

A : The list is vast: Attendance Management, Parental and Student Complaints, Professional Complaints, Teacher Performance Appraisal could all lead to disciplinary problems. Of course anything involving outside agencies need to be immediately reported to the Unit AND the Provincial Offices 1-800-268-7230 before any meeting!

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR WORKERS



Wellington OECTA was represented at the National Day of Mourning Memorial organized by the Guelph District Labour Council. Our Flag flew beside OSSTF and ETFO in a visible sign of Solidarity!

**WELLINGTON OECTA IN APPRECIATION BANQUET
HONOUR IS THEIR DUE**

2014-2015

Annual In Appreciation Banquet

Thursday May 28th

Italian Canadian Club

Reception 5:30

Dinner 6:15

Tickets 30\$

Available from your OECTA Rep or

Call the OECTA Office

Please join your colleagues as we honour our Retirees and our Quarter Century Club OECTA members. All second year contract teachers are also invited to attend as guests.

Retirees

Sue Beatty	Elianna Dilelo	Bernadette Green
Allen Harris	Mary Hebden	Paula Manford
Lorianne Manera	Peter Marzo	Laurie McAnany
Jim Mombourquette	Lucy Mitukiewicz	Karyn Shelley
Laurine Soligo	Cherly Topolie	Barb Tremblay
Sue Weir	Cathy Whyte	

25 Year Century Club

Ray Confortzi	Peter Marzo	Carla Zonneveld
Paul Clarke	Lina Starr	Sandra Bellai
		Sheila Hynes