

UNIT EXECUTIVE

2016-2017

PRESIDENT
MARK BERARDINE

VP SECONDARY
YVONNE RUNSTEDLER

VP ELEMENTARY
PETER STOOP

VP OT/ OTBU PRES
TIM O'BRIEN

TREASURER
TED IMRE

SECRETARY
NICOLE HEARN

COUNCILLORS
ROBERTA CASAGRANDE
DAVID DEL DUCA
JEFF FLANAGAN
KEVIN REID
LAURENCE VIGNOLA

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2017 APRIL

VOLUME 24

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ONTARIO ENGLISH
**Catholic
Teachers**
ASSOCIATION
WELLINGTON OECTA

WEBSITE

www.oectawellington.ca

5420 HIGHWAY # 6

R.R.# 5 GUELPH, ON.

N1H 6J2

PHONE : 519 763 3043

FAX : 519 763 2682

EMAIL :

oecta.wellington@gmail.com

Mark Berardine President
519 400 5361

WE ARE ON

FACEBOOK PAGE
FACEBOOK GROUP
TWITTER

President's Message

At the OECTA Office we can not stress enough that everyone needs to remind their friends and colleagues about the change in our Benefit Program in April. We are happy to hear from many of you that you were able to do this without problems. However, we know some of you have had difficulties and situations that are slightly different requiring contact with OTIP. I was able to help one member directly on the phone and we were lucky it did not take anytime at all as we were answered right away. But I know we also had a member spend over an hour waiting for help.....much like the cable or phone company.

Please take note if you did not have benefit coverage now is the time you may be able to enroll. If you were part time you are pro-rated but there is no longer a minimum amount of contract required to get benefits. This also includes those on Part Time LTO contracts.

We have learned acupuncture is no longer covered unless you obtain it through another form such as massage, chiro or physio. We have also learned over age student coverage for benefits ends earlier than our previous coverage. We are trying to monitor any other losses as we understand each one is relevant to each member differently. Please inform us if you have any difficulty or concerns.

Our members on WSIB, LTD or unpaid leaves all have unique situations and most have required some assistance from OTIP or OECTA. We also learned Sunlife disabled the website earlier than they needed to. Please mail in your receipts directly asap.

CALL OR EMAIL FOR HELP!

APRIL FIRST, LENT ENDING AND GETTING READY FOR EASTER

April is here and as a classroom teacher my favourite April Fools Day was on the weekend. I really hated every student feeling it was open season on the teacher. Not to mention some principals who also thought it was a great day to add to our stress levels. We have two weeks left of Lent and then run into Easter. Let's remember all our friends who will have Easter for the first time with an empty space for a family member no longer with us. Take time to slow down and remember our blessings. Happy Easter!

PROVINCIAL OECTA AGM 2017

We had what may have been our largest voting delegation to the Provincial AGM as Tim had his own voting seat as part of Council of Presidents as the OT Rep for the GTA. Laurine then took Tim's place to represent our OTBU. Joining Yvonne, Peter and Mark from our Executive were Laurence and David. The following members also joined our delegation Trevor and first time delegates Marc, Julia, Rosanna, Dina, Catherine and Helen.

The Provincial AGM takes place every March Break on the first weekend from Friday evening until Monday afternoon. We join over 650 colleagues from all across Ontario to elect our Provincial Executive, set our union fees and debate policy and resolutions. This year we had to elect our President, all our Executive and the Provincial OTF Governors. Pictured below Front Row Left to Right OTF Table Officer Chris Cowley, 2nd VP Barb Dobrowolski, Past President Ann Hawkins, President Liz Stuart, 1st VP Warren Grafton, Gen Secretary Marshal Jarvis, Councillor Rene Jansen in de Wal. Back Row Deputy Gen Sec David Church, 3rd VP Andrew Donihee, Treasurer Michel Derikx, Councillor Anthony Rocchio. See Picture Below

MY FIRST AGM

When I was asked by Catherine Dixon to join her and attend the AGM for the first time, I was hesitant. I thought of the long days deliberating and sitting at a table all day long. My back was aching just thinking about it. Now, that the experience is over, I feel I learned far more and gained more knowledge than the need to stretch my back. I always thought that with faith, there must be service otherwise social justice would only be a lofty idea. Well, after attending the AGM, I feel I have come to appreciate my union even more because it is all about service and not only service to our members but service for all as Jesus always taught. Through action not words. It was enlightening when all the members were engaged in the process and I was able to learn so much more from all the committees and workshops that the union is thoroughly entrenched in. I especially liked the idea of being known as a Catholic teacher not just a teacher. It is a mantle that I am proud to wear and I will identify myself as such from now on. Like Catherine at our first, I was moved on many occasions by the sheer empathy that people were sharing due to their circumstances. Our world is a complicated one to maneuver but with the help of our brothers and sisters, we should all be able to navigate it. After all, we are all family. Helen



Upcoming Dates

Mon April 3

Joint PD Committee 1 pm

WCDSB Meeting 7 pm

Tues April 4

RTIP Benefit Workshop 4 pm

Mon April 10

Exec Meeting 4:15 pm @ OECTA

Tues April 11

Cath Com Meeting 4 pm @ OECTA

Mark Georgine Mike Sue and Liz

GWCSJ 7 pm @ OECTA

Wed April 12

After School Special @ Holy Trinity

Thurs April 13

GDLC 7 pm @ OPSEU Office

Fri April 14 Good Friday

Sun April 16 Easter Sunday

Mon April 17 Easter Monday

Thurs April 20

Mat Leave Workshop 4 pm

Fri April 21

Men's Retreat 5 pm

@ the Villa

Mon April 24 4:30

Reps / Exec Meeting OECTA Office

Wed April 26 Noon

Joint Staffing @ OECTA

Fri April 28 Nat Day of Mourning

5:15 Ceremony Downtown Cenotaph

Womens Retreat @ the Villa 4:45

OECTA AGM 2017 FEES

The hot topic again this year was the situation of our association financially and our union fees. OECTA Provincially has been hampered for a few reasons but here are the major ones. There was little permanent fee increases during our years of 3% annual wage gains. Items would be passed at AGMs by the membership but no associated increase in the fee. Perhaps the most important our actual FTE membership was not reflected in how we prepared the budget. As each year we loss teachers due to declining enrollment we did not change our estimated membership causing us to lose several millions over the last few years.

We have explained how our OECTA fees are the lowest of our OTF affiliates and we have the most return to the locals. If this was to continue it would be a recipe for disaster. The AGM approved a \$100 increase to the base fee and also attach % increase to the fee after each annual raise we receive which means no raise no fee increase. This will go a long way to ensure we can offer great programs like the Beginning Teachers Conference and Leadership while we continue to maintain our core services of Member Legal Defense, Collective Bargaining and Grievances.

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR WORKERS

GUELPH DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

Friday April 28

5:15 March begins at Cenotaph Downtown

5:30 @ Goldie Mill Park

Join all your labour colleagues as we remember all those who have lost their life in or due to the workplace
Did you know 1,000 Canadians will die this year due to work?



LAST YEAR
OUR OECTA
FLAG
FRONT AND CENTER

IF YOU CAN ATTEND
PLEASE EMAIL
TIM O'BRIEN
OUR GDLC EXEC
MEMBER

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Provincial OECTA was given a mandate from the Winter Council of Presidents to make Violence in our Schools a key priority. This mandate was a joint Ottawa and Wellington motion that was passed by a very large majority if not unanimous.

In order to ensure that the Gov't and the Boards realize what we all know is fact we need to be more diligent than ever in filling out the proper



paper work. This means that at times that two forms may be needed to be filled out.

A) The Safe School Form Must be filled out any time a student behaves in a manner for which suspension could be the result—this includes IEP students and behaviour students.
B) An incident form must be filled out any time you were the target of an act that is some form of physical or verbal assault or attempted assault including spits and thrown items.
See OECTA First Class For Forms

Saturday April 1 (8:00 AM)- Opening of Nominations

Nominations open for all positions as of 8:00 a.m. To be nominated, the candidate must indicate which position he/she is seeking and advise Michael Breadner the Election Chair. Note that the Occasional VP is nominated and elected separately from this election.

Please notify using firstclass email.

Tuesday April 18 (5:00PM)-Close of Nominations. *Notifying by firstclass email is preferred,* this way there will be a record of all nominations.

Friday April 21 (4:30 P.M.)– Candidate Profiles due

Monday April 24-Candidate Profiles published

Candidate's speeches will be taped this week. Speeches will be available for viewing on the Wellington OECTA Website.

E-Voting Online

May 10-11 E-Voting will open 12:01 a.m. May 10 to 5:00 p.m. May 11

There will be an opportunity to vote for the position of **President, Treasurer and Secretary.**

Thursday May 18- AGM and Councillor Elections

The Councillors for unit executive shall be elected by traditional **paper ballot** at the annual general meeting of the unit on Wednesday May 18 at 4:30 at the OECTA Office.

NOTE: the positions available to be elected this year are:

President (2 year term) online
Treasurer (2 year term) online
Secretary (1 year term) online
5 Councillors (1 year term)

All candidates nominated for 'titled' positions will be able to "drop-down" to a Councillor's position as per by-laws.

The two year terms run from 2017 until 2019.

All OECTA members are eligible to vote for all positions.

Please direct all enquiries directly to Michael Breadner Election Chair.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

RTIP BENEFITS
TUESDAY APRIL 4
@ the OECTA Office

AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL
INTRO TO SMARTBOARDS
WITH SEAN STAFFORD
WED APRIL 12
@ Holy Trinity

MAT LEAVE WORKSHOP
THURSDAY APRIL 20
@ the OECTA Office

Give us an email if interested
in any of these workshops

ONLINE VOTING NOTES

To ensure you are able to vote online if it is needed this year the following steps will take place. In April everyone will receive an email on your personal home email accounts (not first class).

From that email members can check to see if we at the local office have the correct information. We will update your email if need be prior to turning the data base to the Election Chair and Nomination Committee.

ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT LETTERS

Did you receive an Attendance Management Letter?

OECTA does not agree with Data Automated Generated Letters.

OECTA wants the Board to treat everyone with the dignity of having unique circumstances and is willingly to work with the Board to truly provide support when needed.

OECTA reminds all members of their rights to bring in a rep from OECTA to all meetings regarding attendance.

OECTA reminds all members that they should not try to predict the future and come up with goals for attendance. If you can actually predict the future please send us lottery numbers.

OECTA reminds all members that a meeting of absence management is the first step in a process that actually admits can end in dismissal.

Remember call the office and talk to your Rep we are here to help and we are here to protect you from unfair discipline and unwarranted harassment.

**My boss told me to
have a good day...**



So I went home.

MENS OUTDOOR WALK RETREAT

FRIDAY APRIL 21ST

@ THE VILLA

GATHER AT 5 PM
RETREAT STARTS AT 5:30 PM
DRESS APPROPRIATELY



PASTA DINNER AT 6:15 PM

FAITH AND FIRE CONTINUES AFTER DINNER

BYO SLEEPING BAG IF INTERESTED IN STAYING OVERNIGHT

PLEASE INVITE ANY FRIENDS
ALL ARE WELCOME FROM WELLINGTON CATHOLIC

**OECTA WELLNESS COMMITTEE
PRESENTS**

***AN AFTER SCHOOL SESSION WITH
OUR VERY OWN LES***

We are pleased to host an after school session as Les Schmidt brings *The Good The Bad and The Ugly* with living with mental illness.

@ the OECTA Office
All Wellington Catholic is invited

Tuesday May 2nd 4 pm—5pm
Light refreshments served
RSVP Mark or Yvonne



NIAGARA OECTA ELEMENTARY LOCKED OUT AND STRUGGLE!



The Niagara Elementary Unit was locked out after March Break for an entire week of no pay as their Board refused to go to arbitration and made our sisters and brothers walk the line. I was able to get down and help out on the picket line at Our Lady Of Fatima in Grimsby. Here are some of their great staff with Pres Elect Liz Stuart, York Presidents Heather and Filomena. These 800 teachers fought the good fight and won. Their struggle will send a message to the government and all the school boards that OECTA is Strong and United. Solidarity!

THE OECTA STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE
IN COOPERATION WITH FAITH IN COMMUNITY
PRESENTS

**LIVING IN THE LIGHT
AN EASTER WOMEN'S RETREAT**

FRIDAY APRIL 28TH

@ THE VILLA

DOORS OPEN 4:45

DINNER AT 5:30

FOLLOWED BY

**CANDLELIT
REFLECTION**



**Join us for reflection on the aspects of life where light enters
or the places where we
'kick at the darkness till it bleeds daylight'**

Supper provided courtesy of OECTA Wellington. Bring your own refreshment.

**RSVP YVONNE RUNSTEDLER VIA FIRST CLASS INDICATING
ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS.**

Thanks to our awesome volunteers who make these events possible!