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Go to www.oecta.on.ca

WELLINGTON WORKS

Next Wellington Works will contain information with regards to the AGM, Political Action, Unit Banquet and the upcoming Unit election timelines and process.

NEXT REPS MEETING

There will be no reps meeting in April. However, the next reps meeting will be May 9 and final meeting June 15 (Reps, AGM and elections)

STAFFING FOR NEXT YEAR

The Board and OECTA have met and discussed staffing for next year. Next year will be a very challenging year in terms of staffing. Like most boards in Ontario, Wellington is experiencing significant enrollment declines at both the elementary and secondary levels.

- Due to this, there will be board-wide redundancy as well as surpluses at several schools.
- To ensure a correct and common message all questions related to redundancy and surplus should be referred to the Unit Office. (Jim, Heather or George)
- Again this year, new hiring will be very limited.
- No teacher should volunteer to be surplus without seeking advice from OECTA.
- We strongly encourage anyone who has already decided to retire or to seek a leave of absence to advise the Board as soon as possible.

UNIT ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETING – June 15 –

Last REPS COUNCIL meeting combined with local AGM and Elections. – all offices are up for election this year. Watch for dates for nomination timelines and process in next Wellington Works etc.

ANNUAL BANQUET – May 26

Wellington's "In Appreciation" banquet will occur Thursday May 26 at the Italian Canadian Club – all reps are complimentary as are award winners, retirees and 25 year members, local committee members. Awards winners will be selected, advised prior to banquet and then will be announced that evening. If there is anyone on your staff that you believe may be entitled to 25 year recognition (e.g. someone who started career in another board, or took time off prior to current seniority date.) please advise Unit Office.

UNIT AWARDS

Please consider nominating someone for the various awards which will be presented at banquet. Nominations forms will be provided to reps.

YOUNG AUTHORS/ BEST PRACTICES

Many thanks to all those teachers and students who participated in this year's Young Authors Contest. Local winning "authors" will be published in next Wellington Works and will receive a certificate and a gift certificate. These will be delivered to the schools, following return of submissions from provincial. Winning local entries will be forwarded to the Provincial Competition. Provincial Award recipients will be officially announced at the June Council of Presidents meeting.

POLITICAL ACTION

Preparations for the Provincial Election to be held this October are well underway. Provincial OECTA's Political action strategy is being rolled out and local activity is also beginning. Provincial OECTA will be endorsing any sitting Liberal or NDP candidates (with one exception) and supporting other candidates who are "education-friendly".

OECTA is part of the Working Families Coalition and you may have seen their advertisements on TV.

OECTA's election readiness website, Vote For Your Future, was officially launched at the February Council of Presidents meeting. The site contains a wealth of information about the October 6, 2011 provincial election. Members can login to access the Vote For Your Future site by clicking on "Learn more" in the "Election 2011 Countdown" section on OECTA's homepage.

Also you can access a very good video at
<http://www.youtube.com/user/OECTASpeaks>

Locally, the local TRI-PAC (three affiliate Political Action Committee) has been re-established to co-ordinate local joint activities. Wellington OECTA President Jim Whitechurch represents OECTA on the local Steering Committee, which will be meeting regularly between now and October. Contact has been made with the two of three sitting MPPs (Liz Sandals, Guelph; John Wilkinson, Perth-Wellington) whose ridings are within Wellington. Watch for more to come

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OECTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - March 11-14 Toronto

NEW PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

Kevin O'Dwyer was acclaimed President of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2011, at OECTA's Annual General Meeting in Toronto on March 13, 2011.

O'Dwyer has been a member of OECTA's Provincial Executive Committee since 2005, when he was first elected by the membership as councillor. He rose through the ranks serving as third vice-president, second vice-president and, for the past two years, as first-president.

Joining President-elect O'Dwyer on the OECTA's nine-member Provincial Executive Committee are:

First Vice-President Chris Karuhanga (St. Clair Elementary Unit)
Second Vice-President Ann Hawkins (Dufferin Peel Secondary Unit)
Third Vice-President Warren Grafton (Waterloo Unit)
Treasurer Sonia Di Petta (Toronto Elementary Unit)
Councillor
Andrew Donihee (Eastern Unit)
Councillor
Louie Trinchi (Toronto Secondary Unit)
OTF Table Officer Julie Pauletig (York Unit)
Past President James Ryan (Toronto Elementary Unit)

Additionally, the following five members were elected to the positions of governor with the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF):

Tom Doyle (Algonquin-Lakeshore Unit)
Reno Mellati (Windsor-Essex Secondary Unit)
Julie Pauletig (York Unit)
Richard Schrader (Niagara Secondary Unit)
Micheal Wozniak (Dufferin-Peel Elementary Unit)

Speakers at AGM

Keynote speaker Sally Armstrong, Amnesty International award winner, a member of the Order of Canada, journalist, teacher, author and human rights activist.

Hon. Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education

Andrea Horwath, Ontario NDP Leader

Fees to increase

The Annual General Meeting approved a fee increase of \$60 next year. This money will be used in the next two years to fund the Provincial Election Strategy and the next round of Collective Bargaining. The portion returned to units is expected to be dedicated to local political action next school year.

OECTA Calls on Members to Get Active in the Provincial Election

In his address to members at their Annual General Meeting, James Ryan President of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, stressed the importance of the upcoming provincial election for continued peace and progress within the education system.

“Working to elect a government that values publicly funded education, respects teachers and wants to partner with us to continue improving the outcomes of all our students, is our biggest priority this fall,” said Ryan.

Members were also encouraged to get active in local campaigns as a way of contributing to electing an education friendly legislature.

“We know all too well the implications of electing a government that does not value public services – we have seen that movie before and we are not interested in a sequel,” added Ryan.

The Annual General Meeting also provided the backdrop for the re-launch of OECTA's Who Speaks for Children? Campaign. The campaign aims to spark an inquiry in the minds of the public as they head to the polls this fall. Visit www.speakforchildren.ca for more information and to view the Who Speaks for Children? video, visit www.youtube.com/user/OECTASpeaks

ONTARIO ENGLISH
Catholic
Teachers
ASSOCIATION