

# ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

February 2010



By now you have all heard the good news of our new compensation rates that were announced the first week in February. Your retroactive pay will be reflected on your March cheque.

Who said that strong voices cannot make a change? This success should be evidence to all members who have said "What good is a Union?" Unions give us a chance to speak with one voice. We involved ourselves in the political arena to uphold a decision that would benefit all members.

As I enter into my sixth month as your President I reflect back on the positive. At the November meeting with the Trustees and Superintendent Joan Carr your executive came up with the inspiration to share good news stories about the exceptional work the members do with students of Edmonton Catholic. It is admirable how Edmonton Catholic responds to your executive. Janine Campbell who works at Bishop Savaryn with a visually impaired student was selected to be profiled in a video production. At this point I believe that the production is in editing.

The round table talks were a resounding success with increased membership attendance and participation. Thank you to all who gathered with us.

After sending two board members to the Women's Conference in November 2009, your Board is in the midst of setting up a Women's committee to deal with issues at a local level.

Once again the Social Justice Committee is coordinating the Shoebox Social Justice campaign. This year it is for the Youth Emergency Shelter Society. You may bring your items to the Support Staff Conference on February 25 or forward them through IMC to St Benedict.

February ends with the Support Staff Conference. I know that all who attend will be empowered and renewed to go back to their facility to continue providing exemplary service to the students they work with and Edmonton Catholic Schools.

As we continue our journey together I can only believe that we will all become involved with ECSSA according to our own limitations. All participation and support at any level is recognized by your Board of Directors, Executive, and fellow brothers and sisters.

I want to thank you all for what you have given me through your knowledge, experiences and moral strengths.

In Solidarity

Wilma

## Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Conference Reminder

Please remember to access ASEOP (code 91) and sign in at when attending the conference.

## New Benefits available January

As part of the last round of negotiations, ECSSA was able to obtain updates to your benefit plan.

Article 20.2 Effective January 1, 2010, the following employer paid benefits will be amended as follows:

Vision - \$350/24 months adult, and 12 months for child;

Hearing aids - \$3,000/36 months (\$3,000 lifetime repair or replacement due to accidental damage;

Physiotherapy/Acupuncture/Chiropractic - \$40/per visit, \$700 annual maximum per practitioner combined to an annual maximum of \$1,200 per participant per year; and,

Dental to fee schedule as set by Alberta Blue Cross.

\*\*Please remember to access your Health Care Spending Account for any extra costs.

## Alberta Average Weekly Earnings

In early February, an arbitrator announced his decision on the AAWE. He declared that the AAWE will be 5.99% instead of the disputed 4.82%. Immediately after this announcement, Superintendent Joan Carr announced that this amount would be applied to all effected employee groups.

What does this mean to you and ECSSA? There will be retroactive pay on your March paycheque. ECSSA will be able to withdraw its grievance and not have to continue with the arbitration process.

ECSSA would like to thank Superintendent Joan Carr and the Board of Trustees for their quick and just decision.

## Mmmm Cookies

Lets have another Cookie Contest!

To be eligible to win the cookies, send in your name, site, and the answer to this question: *"In our Collective Agreement which Article deals with Overtime/Extratime?"* to [ecssa@shaw.ca](mailto:ecssa@shaw.ca).

Individual entries only, Winners will be picked by a random draw.

Deadline March 8th.

Congratulations to Denise Yasinsky of St. Gabriel, Cheryl Andrews of St. Benedict and Betty Frebrowski of St. Gerard winners of the last cookie contest.

### *ECSSA Banquet*

Mark May 6th on your busy calendars. ECSSA is holding our annual banquet at the Santa Maria Goretti Center. This is a wonderful opportunity to honour our long term employees and retirees and share an evening with other support staff. Watch for more information.

## Communication Energy and Paperworkers Union - CEP Scholarship Opportunities

### **CEP Scholarship awards for 2010**

CEP is now accepting applications for the CEP Scholarship awards for 2009. These scholarships are available to members in good standing, their children or the children of retired or deceased members who were in good standing at the time of their retirement or death. Applicants must be entering or undertaking study at college, university CEGEP or technological institute for the 2009/2010 session. Three scholarships of \$2000.00 each will be awarded in every region of the CEP. Applicants must submit an essay of 1500 to 2000 words on the topic: *"What the labour movement means to me"*.

♦ **deadline is April 15, 2010**

### **Promoting Equality: A CEP Scholarship for Women in Male Dominated Fields**

One scholarship promoting equality worth \$2000.00 in recognition of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women ( December 6 ) is made available each year to women pursuing full time post-secondary education at a recognized institution such as university, college, CEGEP, technical or other schools in non-traditional fields of trades, technology, operations and blue collar careers.

These scholarships are available to members in good standing, their children or the children of retired or deceased members who were in good standing at the time of their retirement or death.

♦ **deadline is April 15, 2010**

**Contact the ECSSA office for more details and application forms.**

### **ECSSA Donations**

Every year on your behalf ECSSA donates to a local charity. We are proud to help out agencies in our area that work with children. Over the past years we have donated to many different charities including; The Rainbow Society of Edmonton, Stollery Children's Hospital, Kid's Kottage, Youth Emergency Center, Boys and Girls Club and many more. If you know a *local (Edmonton) charity that works with children* please let us know. Write a quick couple of sentences that describes the work the charity does, contact information and why you think it would be a worthy choice and send all that information to [ecssa@shaw.ca](mailto:ecssa@shaw.ca).

## ECSSA Report

The ECSSA office received many phone calls and emails asking for clarification on FTE, job duties and other issues. Please continue to call. You are stronger with more information.

ECSSA met with the District to discuss Year Round Schooling and its effects on our members. We will continue to dialogue and will present our members with more information when it is available.

Your executive attended the District's information night concerning the possible closure of St. Mark School.

Your ECSSA Board of Directors were very busy preparing for the General meeting. We continue to attend Board of Trustee meetings. The ECSSA library continued to be busy, particularly with books dealing with conflict and other topics. New member packages were sent to new members and flowers and prayers were sent out to our members dealing with loss and illness. The Annual ECSSA Banquet is keeping our social committee very busy.

If you have any ideas on how we can help serve our members better please bring them to the next Board of Directors meeting, March 3rd, 5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph High School.

## Caring Report

We extend our prayers and sympathies to: Sandra Green of St. Hilda on the loss of her father, Renee Campbell of Mary Hanley on the passing of her father-in-law, Laura Tetrault of St. Kevin on the loss of her husband, Ruth Hamaluk of Catholic Education Services on the loss of her brother-in-law and Fran Thiele of Mary Hanley on the passing of her mother.

Flowers and wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to: Sandy Siegers of Sir John Thompson, Elizabeth Rzechowka of Austin O'Brien, Helen Sheriff of St. Mark and Adrienne DiLullo of St. Francis of Assisi.

*If you or someone at your site is ill or has experienced a loss please contact your site contact or ECSSA's Caring Officer, Donna Horne, by using the forms located on the ECSSA website.*

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*Support Staff*

*The glue that holds it all together!!*