

ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

January 2010



President's Message

As we begin this New Year I want to extend to every one of you, your families, and loved ones sincere and warm wishes.

In 2009 the membership was informed of budget cuts, year round schooling, and possible closure of one of our facilities. Many members experienced staff conflicts.

How do we keep going in these tough times? It is easy to give up and think that no one is there to help you. Your local union is a powerful collection of people who all hold similar beliefs and have the same interests in a secure, safe job.

Some concerns and issues can only be dealt with if you are willing to approach a union representative present the problem and follow through.

Empower yourselves this year to tackle issues with the help of Local 52 A to create trust and build relationships in your work environments.

In Solidarity

Wilma

Email Reminder

We would like to encourage all members to take time through-out your work day to check your work email. Email is the medium that is being used by the District to send vital information to you. Checking your work email is considered part of your work day and should be done during work hours. If you are experiencing difficulties accessing your email account or accessing a computer, please contact your supervisor.

Support Staff Conference

Mayfield Inn

February 25, 2010

Please watch for details and registration information.

ECSSA is looking forward to the February 25, Edmonton Catholic Schools Support Staff Conference at the Mayfield Inn. With your input from the survey, we were able to put your needs forward to the committee. This will be a great opportunity to address your professional development needs and a wonderful day for seeing old and new friends.

LAPP 85 Factor

The following is an article from the Fall 2009 LAPP Newsletter.

You've heard about it, even read about it, but you've always wondered... what, exactly, is the "85 factor"?

It's simple. Your pension plan (the Local Authorities Pension Plan, or LAPP) allows you to take an "unreduced" pension as early as age 55 if your years of pensionable service with a LAPP employer plus your age equals or exceeds 85.

So, the 85 factor is your years of pensionable service plus your age.

There are a few important things to remember:

You cannot retire earlier than age 55. It doesn't matter what your age and years of service add up to – age 55 is the earliest you can go.

You don't have to retire when you reach your 85 factor. In fact, your monthly pension benefit at retirement grows larger the longer you stay employed. There is a pension estimator at mypensionplan.ca that shows how your pension will increase for every additional year you stay at work.

If you want to retire at age 55 and you don't have the 85 factor, your pension will be reduced by 3% for every year you are short of the 85 factor or age 65, whichever comes first.

Questions? Check out the Pensions 1-2-3 section at www.lapp.ca for easy-to-understand information on your pension plan.



I would like to thank Janice Bowman, your ECSSA treasurer for stepping in and editing and publishing this month's newsletter when I was unable.

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

Sir James M. Barrie



Caring Report

We extend our prayers and sympathies to Shannon Hennig of Mother Teresa on the passing of her grandmother, Corinne Gratrix of Mother Teresa on the loss of her father-in-law, Caren Robertson of Mother Teresa on the loss of her father-in-law, Karin Merryfield of Mother Teresa on the loss of her mother-in-law and Cathy Wagner of St. Martha on the passing of her father.

Flowers and wishes of a speedy recovery were sent to Trina Espinosa of St. Justin, Urszula Jaworska of Archbishop O'Leary, Betty Frebrowski of St. Gerard and Tony Kostyshen of Facility Services.

Please remember to notify ECSSA if someone at your site has experienced a loss or is ill. The caring forms can be found on our website www.ecssa.ca and then click on the "Newsletter and Caring Forms" link. Please ensure that all information requested on the form is filled out. Thank you.

ECSSA CEP 52-A Banquet

In the middle of winter it is important to remember that spring is coming. Not yet, but soon. And with spring comes your annual banquet. Your social committee is hard at work planning an evening of friendship, toasts, a chance to honour our retiring members and a chance to enjoy the camaraderie of our big loud wonderful group.

Details and ticket information will be coming as we approach the May 6th date.

Informed, Involved, Empowered!

General Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2010
St. Joseph High School
5:00 pm

Check your e-mail for agenda

ECSSA Report

In December your ECSSA executive and Board of Directors were busy. We met with the District on planning the Support Staff Conference, we discussed year round schooling, possible school closures. We were present at the trustee meetings. The Caring officer sent out wishes to our bereaved and ill members. Thank you to all that keep us informed about our fellow members. Please continue to use the forms on our website under the newsletter and caring forms link.

The ECSSA office received phone calls and emails about hours of work, job duties, staff conflict, overtime issues, pension questions, WCB questions and other issues. Most of these issues we were able to settle with information or at Step One of the Greivance Procedure which is communication between the two effected parties.

Please continue to call. Remember, "If you don't know if you should call, call."

15 Reasons to L♥VE Education

♥Knowing you make a difference ♥Creating a better tomorrow ♥Working with children ♥Helping learning happen ♥Memorable moments ♥Being in great company ♥Using your mind, heart, and soul every day ♥Rewards that money can't buy ♥Seeing a student's face light up ♥A sense of accomplishment ♥Shaping lives, dreams, and futures ♥Each day can be an adventure ♥Feeling proud of being a role model ♥Summer vacation ♥Recognizing that your job is important, even on "bad" days ♥

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

**P.O. Box 1323
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2N2**

Phone: 456 ECSS (3277)

Fax: 473.3277

E-Mail: ecssa@shaw.ca

Website: www.ecssa.ca

Support Staff

The glue that holds it all together!!