

ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

March 2008



General Meeting

April 15, 2008

5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph High School

Please plan on attending our general meeting. We all need to have our say as we vote for the Vice-president and Treasurer positions. An official notice and agenda items will be sent out at the end of the month.

Education Bursary

ECSSA is proud to offer to our members support for their ongoing professional development.

An Education Bursary may be given to members under the following guidelines:

To qualify:

The applicant must have been a member of the Local (paying dues) for over 12 months.

Approval must be obtained from the Education Bursary Officer **prior** to commencement of course.

Course should be career related.

An applicant must give a full description of the course, describing the benefits to his/her career.

After the completion of course, the **original receipt** must be provided for reimbursement.

Due to the number of people who attend, District sponsored PD activities and the Alberta Special Education Conference will not be considered.

The Local shall pay to a maximum of \$300.00 per member every two years.

Policy #4 ECSSA Policies and Procedures.

To apply, complete the form available on our website.

Health Care Spending Account

Watch for notices on an information meeting about the implementation of this plan for next year.

Mmmmm Cookies!

Congratulations to Stephanie Merrill of Our Lady of Peace, Stephanie Rosati of St. Bernadette, Eileen Raczynski of St. Anne, Yvonne van Elst of Archbishop O'Leary and Glenda Narten of St. Paul, who were all winners in the last cookie contest.

This time we are looking for information in our Collective Agreement. To enter email: your name, school or site and the answer to this question, "What does Section 7.2 discuss in our collective agreement?" to ecssa@shaw.ca by April 7, 2008. Individual entries only please.

Communication Energy and Paperworkers Union - CEP Scholarship Opportunities

CEP Scholarship awards for 2008

CEP is now accepting applications for the CEP Scholarship awards for 2008. 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 2008/2009 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 March 31, 2008.

Contact Cheryl Andrews at St. Benedict for more information and application forms.

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 March 31, 2008.

Contact Cheryl Andrews at St. Benedict for more information and application forms.

Caring Report

We extend our prayers and sympathies to: Danielle Harper of Archbishop O'Leary on the loss of her father and brother. Anna Lefebvre of St. Anne on the loss of her mother. Kesi Amerongen of Our Lady of the Prairies on the passing of her mother. Jolene Almeida of St. Justin on the passing of her grandfather. Robbie Valpreda of Louis St. Laurent on the loss of his grandmother-in-law. Loretta Mockniuk of St. Elizabeth and Kathleen Kirkman of Blessed Kateri on the passing of their mother. Olga Izquierdo of St. Catherine on the loss of her mother. Pat Morrison of Louis St. Laurent on the passing of her daughter-in-law. Marilyn Orchard of Louis St. Laurent on the passing of her mother-in-law.

The next ECSSA Board of Directors meeting will be Wednesday, April 9, 5:00 pm at St. Joseph High School.

Come out and share your talents and your views.

Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!

Sitting Bull

CEP Support Staff Conference

ECSSA was proud to be part of the Communication Energy & Paperworkers School Support Staff Conference held February 22 -24 in Red Deer. Nine different CEP locals representing over 2500 workers from Alberta and B.C. met to discuss common issues and better ways to communicate with our members, administration and the media.

We wish to thank Rick Klimchuk of CEP for his support and enthusiasm in organizing and promoting this important event.



A Black & White Affair!

Mark May 1st 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.

ECSD Support Staff Conferences!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Allison Betton from Staff Development and Debbie Hawrelak from Technology Services (EATS) and their respective crews for all their hard work in organizing the Support Staff Conference in Edmonton and the Administrative Support Conference in Lake Louise. ECSSA was honoured to support these two conferences on behalf of our members. Through settlement this past round of contract talks ECSSA was able to negotiate one day of pay for all support staff who attended these conferences which were held on the Teachers Convention Thursday. We thank the district for their recognition of our value as support staff and their support of our professional development opportunities. ECSSA looks forward to many more years of support for the professional opportunities that the district will offer our support staff members.

Cheryl Andrews
ECSSA President

Spring is God's way of saying, 'One more time!'
Robert Orben

2008–2009 Staffing

It is so hard to believe that it is that time of year again. An e-mail has been sent to all ECSD users which outlines all the procedures and timelines for staffing for the 2008 –2009 school year. We recommend that you access this e-mail. We will take the opportunity here to highlight a few items of importance. First....some important dates:

April 7—Exchange list sent to all ECSD users by e-mail

April 9—Information Meeting for Casual and Temporary Contract Support Staff (St. Anthony 4:30 pm)

April 11—Complete list of names of staff requiring reassignment submitted to Human Resources

April 23—Information Meeting for Reassigned Support Staff (St. Anthony 4:30 pm)

May 16—Bulletin #1 available on-line

May 30—Bulletin # 2 available on-line

We want to emphasize the importance of being pro-active and informed throughout this process. First, you must ensure you have been notified of your status for 2008-2009, **prior to April 11**. If your supervisor has not contacted you with this information, be sure to ask. If your FTE is being reduced by more than .1, you have two choices: accept the reduced hours or ask to be placed on the reassignment list. If you choose to be placed on the reassignment list, you will be giving up your current position and seeking a new one through the reassignment process. If you choose reassignment, we highly recommend that you attend the information meeting on April 23. Unless your assignment is guaranteed for next year, do not pass up the opportunity for reassignment.

This is also an excellent time of year to consider a change in your assignment even though your position may be available to you next year. There are many circumstances which may have you considering a change. Are you starting to feel overwhelmed by your job? Is the stress of your position too much to handle? Do you have an on-going conflict with a co-worker or supervisor? Do you find yourself bored or lacking challenge in your position? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to consider a move during this round of staffing. Getting too attached to our job, our co-workers and our workplace often makes us afraid of change. Even when feeling dissatisfied, we are reluctant to face a move. A move can be a very positive experience by providing new friends, new surroundings, new challenges...learning, growth and development. Is it time for a change?

Remember that ECSSA is here for you if you need any guidance, support or information during the staffing process. Do not hesitate to call if you need any assistance.

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Support Staff

The glue that holds it all together!!