

D15

OSSTF



AGM Election

From the Bargaining Unit President:

As the weather warms and we move into mid-April it is difficult not to let our minds wander at times to the pin prick of light at the end of the proverbial tunnel that is another semester. It is clear now that one feature of the last half of this semester will be ongoing, and possibly increasingly tense: contract negotiations. While this continues to monopolize our time at the District Office, as well as the time and resources of the provincial organization, the business of the bargaining unit on all fronts continues to march on.



The Annual General Meeting of the District 15 Teachers'/Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit Assembly will take place on Friday May 8, 2015 at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre. The meeting is a delegated meeting with each branch selecting one delegate "for every ten active members or major portion thereof". Those interested in being delegates should speak to their branch president as soon as possible. Delegates are to be selected by an election if necessary.

The Annual Meeting of the Assembly is necessary to approve the budget, amend the constitution, establish and amend policies and establish guidelines for the levy.

When the business is done we will take time to present awards, recognize honoured guests, and have a social time to connect and chat with colleagues from across the District.

Whether you have attended AGMs in the past or not it is my hope you will take 5 minutes with this newsletter to inform yourself about the business of our bargaining unit and perhaps consider being a delegate to the 2015 AGM.

Agenda Highlights

Business: -Constitutional Amendments
-OMERS motion
-Budget
Provincial Executive Report—Rob Gascho
Federation Officer's Report & Local Bargaining Update—John Mazara
President's Report—Colin Matthew
Keynote Speaker—Mike Perry
Presentation of District Awards

Delegate Allocations by Branch:

BMLSS—6	FFSS—5
GHS—3	HHS—6
HHSS—4	IEWSS—7
LCVI—5	SoAE—5

Daily OTs are eligible to be represented by 3 delegates. If you are an OT interested in attending the AGM as a delegate, please contact the District Office.

Constitutional Amendments:

The AGM will consider a report from the Constitution Committee recommending:

- A new system to elect the Bargaining Unit and District President. This position, along with the other Bargaining Unit Executive positions, are currently elected at the AGM by the delegates present. The Committee is recommending a move to a one-member, one-vote system to be conducted in the branches, one week before the AGM in even numbered years. These recommendations also include limitations on campaigning intended to encourage participation.
- The inclusion of the School of Alternate Education (including the Virtual Learning Centre) as a branch of the Bargaining Unit with the same rights and responsibilities as the current day school branches. This is intended to encourage participation on the part of SoAEmembers and is reflective of the state of communication technology in connected geographically distributed job sites.
- Expanding the number of standing committees to include Collective Bargaining, Communications/Political Action, Education Services, and Human Rights/Status of Women. These committees would have revamped roles and

District 15 to become an OMERS employer?



Many of you are familiar with the voice on the end of the phone and the service that you receive when contacting the District Office. Catherine Dickinson has been in the employ of District 15 for more than six years and over that time has demonstrated her commitment to the District and its members.

There is a motion coming to this year's AGM to make District 15 an OMERS (Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System) employer. OMERS is a pension plan that OSSTF is already provincially involved in. If this motion is successful the current and future employees of District 15 would be participants in the OMERS pension plan. This move would not only provide long term security for our employees, it demonstrates our commitment to fairness for all workers.




Keynote Speaker: Mike Perry

This year's keynote address will be given by Mike Perry the NDP candidate for Halliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock.


Mike is a lawyer and local healthcare leader who has been instrumental in bringing more doctors to the area. He is passionate about community building.


We know: **COMMUNITY MATTERS!**

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Submissions for future newsletters
are welcome.

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