



# OSSTF DISTRICT 26 MEMBERSHIP INFO-LETTER



## AMPA 2007 News

Delegates and alternates from District 26 attended AMPA during March Break. The membership at large thanked our very own Rhonda Kimberley-Young for her 8 years of service on the Provincial Executive, four of which were as President of OSSTF. Rhonda has accepted the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the Ontario Teachers' Federation.

The elected OSSTF Provincial Executive are President Ken Coran accompanied by Vice-presidents Paul Elliot and Jack Jones and Executive Officers, Susan Rabb, Harvey Bischoff and Sandra Sahli.

Maude Barlow addressed AMPA delegates expressing her views on the global fight for the right to water. Maude is the co-founder of the Blue Planet Project, which works to stop commodification of the world's water. She is a Canadian author and activist and the national chairperson of The Council of Canadians.

Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne, also addressed the delegation. The Minister called for a continued partnership in education. She later faced questions by the AMPA delegation. It was also announced that the Ministry of Education has revoked the dual-credit delivery model "C", implemented as part of Bill 52. This delivery model was a huge concern for OSSTF as it allowed high school credits to be solely delivered by college instructors for students at risk.

## 2007 Sprint Staffing Process

Timelines regarding the processes/procedures for the Spring Staffing Process will soon be made available. These timelines will include dates for: surplus declarations, meetings to place transfer requests, surplus teachers, part-time teachers requesting an increase in entitlement and displacement (bumping) meeting.

**2007 Spring Staffing Process**  
Teachers are urged to visit [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com),  
"What's New" menu for detailed information,  
explanations, forms, and dates/timelines

## FREE Workshops Offered by OSSTF District 26

Want to stay out of the Blue Pages? The Education Services Committee of District 26 invites your participation in a free workshop entitled *Boundary Issues*. This **free workshop** will take place on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at Smiths Falls District High School. Start time is 3:45 PM, with the workshop ending around 6 PM. A light supper will be served. Sign up now by e-mailing [office@osstf26.com](mailto:office@osstf26.com).

## Retirement Workshop - OTIP

OTIP is offering a one-day retirement planning workshop, which will provide a comprehensive approach to retirement planning. This is open to all educators planning to retire within the next 10 years. Topics of interest include: lifestyle planning, retiree health, dental and travel insurance and financial planning.

Quality Hotel, 100 Stewart Blvd., Brockville  
Saturday, April 21, 2007; (8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

Register by visiting [www.otip.com/walkintoretirement](http://www.otip.com/walkintoretirement). The cost to attend is \$25 per person, or \$45 per couple. This includes all handouts, personalized reports, a continental breakfast, refreshments and lunch.

## "Unsafe To Teach" & "An Inconvenient Truth"

OSSTF District Office has obtained a DVD copy of the CTV program "Unsafe To Teach" with Public Performance rights and "An Inconvenient Truth". It is available for schools, school councils and teachers to borrow. Both are documentaries. The former makes the point that there is an issue/crisis in our Canadian schools - violence against teachers. The latter gives a compelling view of the future of our planet and our civilization.

## Services Review Committee – Call for Applicants

The District President is soliciting from the membership at large those interested in serving on this District Committee. Members are asked to read/complete the application form at [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com), "What's New" menu. Applications are due by May 3, 2007.

## School Visits – April 2007

Your District Office representatives would like to meet with all members during these school visits. Hope to see you then.

Alm DHS – Apr 19, After school	PDCI – Apr 17, Lunch
Athens DHS – Apr 18, Lunch	R-O – Apr 10, Lunch
BCI – Apr 16, After school	Rid DHS – Apr 18, After school
Char-Lan – Apr 16, After school	Rock DHS – Apr 10, After school
CCVS – Apr 12, Lunch	Russell HS – Apr 10, Lunch
CPHS – Apr 19, Lunch	Seaway DHS – Apr 10, Lunch
Gan SS – Apr 26, Lunch	SFDCI – Apr 17, After school
GDHS – Apr 16, Lunch	SGDHS – Apr 10, After school
GVIS – Apr 12, After school	SLIS – Apr 10, After school
NDDHS – Apr 16, Lunch	Tagwi – Apr 5, Lunch
NGDHS – Apr 24, After school	TISS – Apr 16, Lunch
VCI – Apr 16, After school	
TR Leger – all members invited to the District Office Apr 23	

## District 26 Annual General Meeting – May 3, 2007

All members of OSSTF District 26 are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting at Kemptville College.

Kemptville College, WB George Centre  
4:30 – Appetizers, followed by meetings  
7:00 Free dinner and wine

**Reminder** - elected Bargaining Unit Executive, District Executive and Officer positions are open to any interested member. All nominations are due no later than **April 24, 2007, 4:00 pm**.

**Details of the AGM, awards, application & nomination forms are available at [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com) "What's New" menu - "D26 Annual General Meeting" link**

## Your OSSTF District website ... WWW.OSSTF26.COM ... information is one click away!

### April 28, 2007 - National Day of Mourning

For some years Canadian unions have been observing an annual day of remembrance for workers killed and injured on the job. On average, one Canadian worker out of 16 is injured at work. This translates into one injury every 9 seconds. More than 800,000 injuries are reported annually in Canada of which more than 750 are fatal. OSSTF members are not exempt from risks and injuries. Many of our members are injured while dealing with student aggression and with the advent of technology; repetitive strain injuries are prevalent amongst our members. Pro-active health and safety remain our only chance to prevent injuries.

Local labour councils have ceremonies and events to mark the Day of Mourning. You may wish contact your local labour council for details or visit the Canadian Labour Congress website [www.clc-ctc.ca](http://www.clc-ctc.ca)

### PAR Leader Duties – Midterm Semester 2 Report Cards

OSSTF would like to reiterate that, in accordance with Article 19.02, PAR leaders **should not** “assess teachers’ comments made on students’ formal reports”. This means reviewing such comments (grammar, syntax, format, etc.), making a determination as to the appropriateness of the comment, making such corrections or advising the teacher or administration that such a comment is either acceptable or not acceptable. If PAR leaders are directed by their administration to do so, we ask that they comply and inform the local Branch Steward. PAR Leaders must refrain from volunteering to “assess teachers’ comments made on students’ formal reports”.

However, OSSTF has no objection to...

- PAR leaders, in their respective program area meetings, informing members regarding the administration’s expectations of report card comments (grammar, syntax, format, curriculum links, appropriateness etc)
- PAR leaders mentoring teachers who request aid in developing report card comments
- PAR leaders reviewing the spread of marks for classes in their program area

### Vacancy: OSSTF Mediation Resource Bank

The Provincial Executive is looking to fill two (2) vacancies on the **OSSTF Mediation Services Resource Bank** (MSRB). For these positions preference will be given to members from Support Staff Bargaining Units ex. **PSSP**. For one of the two positions a knowledge of written and spoken French would be an asset.

Interested members should mail, e-mail or fax a letter of Application, with an accompanying Resumé and Letter of Reference from an elected/appointed OSSTF District/Bargaining Unit Representative to Marc Robillard, Secretariat Liaison to MSRB at Provincial Office by April 27, 2007. ([robillm@osstf.on.ca](mailto:robillm@osstf.on.ca))

### PD Notes

This year the Secondary PD Committee has set limits on the number of teachers per school (2) and per conference (10) who may attend any one conference. The OCEA spring conference was oversubscribed. Those applications not approved will be held until the end of June. If funds are available individuals will be approved in order of application.

The Committee is continuing to accept semester 2 conference applications on a first come first serve basis. The next meeting of the Committee is April 19, 2007.

School-based activities (up to \$500) must be applied for by **April 2, 2007**. Unused funds will be returned to the fund for redistribution.

A completed Expense Claim form with original receipts must be submitted as soon as possible after the conference for reimbursement. Reimbursement occurs on your regular payroll as a separate line. Go to [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com) >"Teachers">PD for information.

### **CLASS SIZES SEMESTER 2**

Teachers are reminded that **class caps are in effect every day**. Also, as of March 1<sup>st</sup> the total number of students that you have **cannot exceed** the sum of the applicable “maximums” + 3.

### Calendar of Events

#### April

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - TBU Executive Meeting
- 4<sup>th</sup> - PSSP Executive Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> – Holiday
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Gordie, Marjorie Laphen, Branch Rep Awards nomination
- 17<sup>th</sup> – District Executive Meeting
- 24<sup>th</sup> – TBU, OTBU, PSSP District Executive nominations due
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Administrative Professionals' Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Early Dismissal Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Workers' Day of Mourning
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Education Week

#### May

- 1-4<sup>th</sup> – Education Week
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Support Staff Appreciation Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – D26 Annual General Meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> – PA Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Holiday
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Joint TBU Council & CBC meeting

### Awards, Scholarships, & Bursaries Deadlines

- Bob Brooks Award** (April 1)
- Norm Snyder Award** (April 13)
- Federation Family Bursary** (April 30)
- Provincial Executive Award** (May 1)
- Canada Post Literacy Awards** (May 26)
- OFL Labour Honour Roll Scholarship** (May 31)
- Lincoln Alexander Award** (June 2)
- OTIP Student Bursary** (June 15)
- Workers H&S Center Scholarship** (June 23)

Visit [www.osstf26.com](http://www.osstf26.com), “Awards & Bursaries” link for details



OSSTF District 26 represents approximately 1000 teachers, occasional teachers and PSSP members

