

OSSTF Hockey Night in Upper Canada Draw Winners

Congratulations to the following OSSTF TBU & PSSP members who have won a pair of 200 Level tickets to the Ottawa Senators vs. Philadelphia Flyers game on Feb 26th: Mason Black, Derrick Byrd, Jeffrey Crooke, James Cross, Jason Crotty, Jackie Gardiner, Emma Hart, Jason Henderson, Trevor Holme, Paddy Houston, Laurie Hume, Kevin Korpinen, Heather Lauder, Carolyn Lunn, Marc Mainville, Penny McClintock, Scott McPherson, Carla Mulcahey, Jim Mulville, Kevin O'Farrell, Linda Ross, Susan St. Marseille, Chantal Seguin, Scott Strachan, and Cynthia Walpot.

Additional tickets are available for purchase for friends and family at \$76.00 each. If any OSSTF District 26 member is interested, please email office@osstf26.com by Fri., Jan.21st.

Important Notice - Official end of First Semester

Members are advised that Wednesday February 2, 2011 is the official end of the first semester. Thursday, February 3, 2011 is the first day of the second semester. Members assigned positions limited only to the first semester have no contractual obligation to attend work on or after February 3, including the PA day on Friday February 4.

2011 Spring Staffing Process - Teachers

The Spring Staffing Process will soon begin. The Joint Secondary Staffing Review Committee, comprised of OSSTF and Board personnel, monitor this process from beginning to end. Teachers are staffed for the 2011-2012 school year through this process.

March 1, 2011 ...

SENIORITY LISTS will be posted on *Insite*. Ensure your seniority date is correct. Report errors to Human Resources. Your seniority is important in the staffing process.

More information and details on the Staffing Process will be forthcoming

Occasional Teachers are Invited to a FREE Breakfast!

As D26 occasional teachers, the week preceding term exams is always a slow time. The Occasional Teacher Executive would like to invite members to a **Meet and Greet Breakfast**. We know how difficult it is to meet and talk to our members and are arranging for these breakfasts across the Board. The first three of these events will occur in Cornwall, Brockville and Ottawa (Orleans). We hope to have similar events in the Smiths Falls/Carleton Place, Perth/Almonte areas later this year. If you know of good venues in these areas, please feel free to email dina@osstf26.com suggestions.

Again, breakfast is on us and we hope that you are able to attend. Breakfast will be from 9 am to 10:30 am in the venues below. Please **RSVP** dina@osstf26.com . This is a fun event with very little "business". The reservations are under "OSSTF".

Cornwall: Monday, January 24, 2011: Mama Sue's Diner, 850 Boundary Rd, Cornwall, K6H 5R5 613-933-9055

Orleans (Ottawa): Wednesday, January 26, 2011: Gabriel Restaurant, 2158 St. Joseph Blvd, Orleans 613-824-6164

Brockville: Thursday, January 27, 2011: The Phoenix, 8 King St East, Brockville, 613-342-7555

Provincial Standing Committees and Councils

The OSSTF Provincial Council Nominations Committee invites members who are interested in contributing to the work of the Federation by serving on a Provincial Committee or Council to consider making an application. An online application form is available this year. Those opting to complete a paper application form must ensure it is forwarded to Rick Zeilstra at the District Office at least 1 week prior to the March 1 deadline to allow time for the Provincial Councillor's Report to be attached. The link below will provide further information as well as an application form. <http://www.osstf.on.ca/provincialcouncil>

Life Insurance Past Age 70

TBU & PSSP members who work past age 70 must contact the District Office to arrange for continued life insurance coverage.

Teachers – Have you updated your Group Rating Statement?

Any member who is not at Group 4, or who is at Group 4 but may have used their Master's Degree to get to Group 4, should submit Certification Form #2 to determine if the many changes that have occurred since 2008 would be of benefit to their rating. Details can be found at http://www.osstf26.com/teachers/Cert_Qual_Exp/Initial%20Cert%20Exp%20Pay.htm

Teacher Self-financed Leave Plan (x/y)

Teachers interested in applying for a self-financed leave, with deductions to begin next year, must submit their written application by March 1. Applications are available on *Insite, Human Resources Department*. Please copy all applications to the OSSTF District 26 Office, fax 1-800-513-8574.

Maintenance of Current Collective Agreements

Maintenance of collective agreement terms is always a concern within OSSTF given that school administrators, for example, have approached employees individually, or collectively, to have them agree to working conditions that are outside the parameters of the collective agreement. Some principals of schools have even solicited a staff vote to agree on changes to working conditions that would violate a current contract.

Members are cautioned that any proposed changes to terms and conditions presented by administration should be reported to their district office to determine their impact on the collective agreement or on other members. Charges of unfair labour practices can and will be considered.

A collective agreement is only effective if the terms and conditions agreed upon by the parties are strictly adhered to for the duration of the agreement. Diligence on the part of the work site representative to report any breach and on the bargaining unit and district officers to challenge and grieve, if necessary, violations of the collective agreement are an essential part of contract maintenance.

Teacher Performance Appraisal & NTIP

Teachers are reminded to call the District Office immediately should they receive a “below standard” performance appraisal or a “development needed” performance appraisal

Premier’s Awards for Teaching Excellence

The Ontario Government has launched its fourth year of the Premier’s Awards for Teaching Excellence to recognize outstanding teachers and education support staff who motivate, support and inspire Ontario’s students across the province. Award categories include: Teacher of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, Excellent Support Staff, Excellence in Leadership, Lifetime Achievement, and Team of the Year. Since the awards were launched in 2006-07, more than 3,000 nominations have been received and over 50 educators and support staff have been recognized—many of whom have been OSSTF/FEESO members. The deadline for applications is January 31, 2011. Nomination information can be downloaded from the Ministry website at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/teachingawards/howtonominate.html>

PAR Leader Duties – Final Semester 1 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 or reviewing the spread of marks for classes in their program area

PD Funds

All secondary OSSTF teachers are eligible for a one-time Professional Development amount of \$500.00 in the 2010-2011 school year. Pre-approval must be sought before the event from the SPDF Committee. Members who have attended their PD event are asked to submit their receipts asap using the expense claim form. Guidelines and forms are available at <http://www.osstf26.com/teachers/PD forms/PD.htm>

OSSTF Scholarships

OSSTF offers scholarships and awards opportunities to assist members undertaking research projects, masters or doctoral programs, undergraduate degrees or diplomas, or travel plans. The deadline date for such scholarships and awards is January 28, 2011. Application forms and the criteria are available <http://www.osstf.on.ca/Default.aspx?DN=d74bc03e-a51d-43cf-86e2-93fcb7bed54d>

OSSTF Pension/Retirement Workshops

OSSTF offers **workshops on pension planning and retirement**, discovering common sense financial strategies and retirement planning ideas. Members can ask questions and speak privately with the Pensions Officer and/or presenter. For more information and to register, please contact the District Office.

OMERS Feb. 9, D27, Kingston, 6:30 pm, Loyalist Collegiate Library

OMERS Apr. 13 – D25, Ottawa – details TBA

OTPP Apr 26 – Smiths Falls DCI Library @ 4:30

OTPP Apr 27– Best Western Hotel – Cornwall @ 4:30

OSSTF presents several awards each year. Read about them and email us if you know of a deserving colleague.
[details at osstf26.com, “Awards & Bursaries” Quick Links]

Status of Women Award, John McNeil Award, Educational Enhancement Scholarships, James Forster Human Rights Award, Ontario Premier Award for Teaching Excellence, Lamp of Learning Award (Jan 28)

Inclement Weather – Teachers

As potential inclement weather approaches, members are reminded of article 17.01.09: “when in the opinion of the Principal or Vice-Principal, it is considered hazardous for teachers to travel to or from school or to be in school, the teacher shall be excused so long as the hazard exists. If, in the opinion of the teacher, it is hazardous to travel, and the Principal disagrees, the teacher shall have deducted one (1) day credit from his/her accumulated sick leave credits”

It is OSSTF’s position that a teacher who advised their school that they have deemed it hazardous to travel, should not be required to drive to work. If the administration disagrees that it was hazardous to travel, the teacher will be deducted one (1) sick day from their account.

~ Win a \$25 Chapters Gift Card ~

All D26 OSSTF members are invited to enter a draw for a \$25 gift card from Chapters. Simply email the answer to the question below to office@osstf26.com with the words “Info Letter Draw” in the subject line. A draw will be made from those who submitted the correct answer. Deadline for entries is 4 PM on Jan 21, 2011.

The Question: How many bargaining units are there in OSSTF District 26?

[Congratulations to John Campbell, our December winner!](#)

Calendar of Events

	January
27- TBU Council meeting	
27-31- Exam Days	
	February
1-2- Exam Days	
3- TBU & PSSP Exec	
4- PA Day	
9- Education Services Committee	
10- District Executive	
17-Wellness Committee	
21- Holiday (Family Day)	
28 - Repetitive Strain Injury Awareness Day	

