

District 26 Education Services Officer

District 26 Executive is pleased to announce the appointment of Elaine Warner-Laxton, Rideau DHS, to the position Education Services Officer for the remainder of the 2010-11 year.

Equity Survey

Members may be contacted by Vector Polling. OSSTF Provincial Office is surveying a representative group of members to find out about their participation in Federation activities and the barriers they may experience. You are encouraged to participate.

Student Achievement Awards 2011

The topic for this year Student Achievement Award is "Become the Solution: Words into Actions". We spend a lot of time talking about local and global problems, but words alone don't solve them. What could you do to move from words into actions? How can you become the solution? Show us how you'd fix the world's problems. Each of eight provincial winners will receive a cash award of \$1000.

Sponsoring teachers: Please select one entry per category and submit to your OSSTF branch steward. Up to eight winners (one in each category) can be selected per district. School entries must be submitted to the district office no later than November 26th, 2010. To view the video of the 2010 winners and for guidelines and entry forms, go to <http://www.osstf.on.ca/studentachievementawards>

Recognize National Women's History Month

The federal government first designated October as National Women's History Month in 1992. The month was chosen to commemorate the historic Person's Case decision of October 18, 1929 which determined that Canadian women were legally "persons" after a long political and legal battle led by the Famous Five. Since 2009, OSSTF/FEESO has officially recognized National Women's History Month. Acknowledgement has been made through the OSSTF/FEESO Pocket Planner and articles in the September issue of Update. The Provincial Executive encourages members to promote recognition of National Women's History Month with students and within school communities.

Action Assembly and Health Funding and Sustainability Conference

The Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) Action Assembly will take place on November 6, 2010 at the Bond Place Hotel in Toronto. The assembly agenda includes updates on key issues for healthcare in Ontario, including hospital cuts and restructuring, rural access to care, long term care, homecare, and P3s and privatization. Participants from local health coalitions, community health groups, and union partners across the province will also discuss campaign strategies for the upcoming year, including strategies leading up to the provincial election in October 2011. The OHC Conference on Health Funding and Sustainability will take place on Sunday, November 7th, following the Action Assembly. Speakers at the conference will address whether healthcare costs are really out of control and the future of public healthcare is threatened, as recent news reports and politicians have suggested. A registration form can be obtained by contacting Danny at the District 26 Office.

Project Link

OSSTF offers Project Link, a career counseling service for members who may wish to explore career alternatives. Applications may be submitted through the District Office from members who are experiencing difficulties practicing their profession to such a degree that they are seriously considering other work options. Some typical issues might include: loss of contract; position elimination; burn-out; health or emotional problems; unsatisfactory performance appraisals; disciplinary procedures; loss of interest. The program may also assist members who are feeling stuck in their jobs and want to explore growth opportunities within their professions. The counseling service typically consists of vocational evaluation and a 2-hour counseling session with a career counselor. During the session the results of the assessment materials are reviewed and possible career options are explored and suggested. If interested, call Danny Thomas at the district office (1-877-826-7783) for an application form.

November School Visits

The three District 26 release officers are planning school visits in the month of November. These visits are a perfect opportunity to direct questions, concerns, or issues. More details will follow.

OSSTF Status of Women Conference: Nov 19/20, 2010

The 2010 OSSTF/FEESO Status of Women Conference, *A woman's place is in her union* will take place at the Westin Bristol Hotel in Toronto on November 19-20, 2010. The conference will focus on the contributions women members of OSSTF/FEESO can and do make to build the union, and the role unions can and should play in moving forward the agenda for women's equality. Funding for this conference is available from the District 26 Status of Women/Human Rights Committee. If you are interested, you must contact the District 26 Office (1-877-826-7783) no later than Thursday, Oct 14, 2010.

OTF Professional Learning Through The Arts – Phase 2

In the late spring of 2010, OTF made money available in the form of subsidies in order to assist teachers in engaging in professional learning opportunities in support of the new *The Arts, Grades 1-12* curriculum. Subsidies of up to \$200 were available for OTF members to engage in eligible PD activities. Phase 1 of the subsidy program has been completed, and some funds remain unallocated. As a result, Phase 2 of the project has been initiated, and OTF members may now apply for further subsidies. The subsidy amount remains \$200, and the eligible activities continue to be non-Honours Specialist AQ courses, conferences, workshops, and other Arts-related professional development. Members can apply for subsidies online by going to the OSSTF website (www.osstf.on.ca) and clicking on the "Professional Learning through the Arts" button on the main page. The application deadline for subsidies is October 15, 2010. For further information, please contact Bob Fisher at fisherb@osstf.on.ca or at 1-800-267-7867 extension 253.

New Members – Important Information

New members are urged to visit the District website at <http://www.osstf26.com/> and Quick Link to the **New Teacher Information** for important details on pay, related experience, group rating statements, and benefits. Occasional Teachers should also visit the website and peruse the wealth of information under the Occasional Teacher menu.

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

OSSTF Tools & Toys Technology in Education Conference

OSSTF is presenting this conference Oct. 28-29, 2010 in Toronto. Full conference information can be found at www.osstf.on.ca/tools-and-toys . Brochures have also been mailed out to all work locations. Delegates are responsible for their own travel arrangements and hotel accommodations. Expenses are eligible for \$500 funding and one release day coverage through the District 26 SPDF Funds for the first 10 applicants, maximum two per school. SPDF applications for individual conferences and guidelines can be found at www.osstf26.com . Travel costs will be reimbursed by Provincial office based on their expenditure guidelines.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – Oct 17

Make Poverty History National Day of Action is a campaign to demand that world leaders take meaningful action to end poverty now. For more information or to purchase a white wristband visit <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/>.

Locally, members can join the SDG Coalition for Social Justice in drawing attention to poverty alongside anti-poverty activists and those struggling to make ends meet. This will be followed by the free screening of the film *Poor No More* at the Seaway Valley Community Health. Executive producer David Langille will be in attendance and will be available for a question and answer session about the film that gives an in-depth look at solutions to ending the growing tide of working-poor Canadians.

When/Where? Friday, October 15, 2010 2pm at the Justice Building (340 Pitt St., Cornwall) followed by film at Seaway Valley Community Health Centre, 353 Pitt St. Contact Lori Taylor loritaylor11@gmail.com or Michelle Gratton 613-930-0211 for more information.

Took Courses to Upgrade your Category (Group)?

Members who have recently completed courses to upgrade their category (group) must ensure they apply to OSSTF Certification Dept. for a new Rating Statement and advise the Board they have done so. Detailed information at <http://www.osstf26.com/>, and link to *Certification, Experience, & Pay* in the Teacher's menu.

Occasional Teachers PD Fund

The OSSTF District 26 Occasional Teacher Bargaining Unit (OTBU) offers monetary support for your professional development activities to a maximum of \$150 per person per year. Information on types of materials and activities eligible as well as procedures for accessing the OTBU PD fund can be found at www.osstf26.com under the "Occasional Teacher" link. Casual Occasional teachers and Long Term Occasional teachers are eligible.

Some PD opportunities include (contact the District Office if interested):

- Invitation to attend a talk by Jim Leech, CEO of the Teacher Pension Plan on October 27, 2010 in Ottawa.
- On Thursday, April 7, 2011, OSSTF is holding in Ottawa a Wellness symposium: "Overload: Strategies to Stay Healthy in a Stressful World". Further information will be sent in the spring.
- The OTF website (www.offeo.on.ca) has a PD calendar for teachers, teacher resources, a PD newsletter, and other resources.
- OSSTF/FEESO offers scholarships for members furthering their education. Bursaries are also available for children of members who are going into their first year of postsecondary education. Applications can be found on the OSSTF website (www.osstf.on.ca)

~ Win a \$25 Chapters Gift Card ~

All D26 OSSTF members are invited 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 October 15, 2010.

The Question: What is the prize amount for each of the eight Provincial Student Achievement Awards 2011 winners?

Congratulations to Mario Ivanic, our September winner!

French Language Committee Award of Merit - 2010

This award recognizes an OSSTF member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in contributing to the growth and the promotion of the French Language in the workplace and/or in the Union and/or in the community. Please submit your nomination no later than Oct 22, 2010. More details at <http://www.osstf.on.ca/Default.aspx?DN=b1b16817-108b-4296-b303-233cc688f880>

PD Notes

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. Note: there are limited funds available for semester 1 activities. Guidelines and application forms are available at http://www.osstf26.com/teachers/PD_forms/PD.htm

Calendar of Events

October

17 - International Day for Eradication of Poverty
21- PSSP Exec
26 - TBU Exec
26- H & S Committee
27 - National School Library Day
28- District Executive

November

School Visits TBD
2 - Building Fund Cmte
2- Status of Women/ Human Rights
4- Wellness Committee
9 - Services Review Cmte
11- Remembrance Day
11 - Ed Services Cmte
12 - PA Day
25- TBU CBC meeting
25 - Day of Elimination of Violence against Women
30- CPAC

OSSTF members are also members of Edvantage, a rewards program offered exclusively to Ontario's Education Community! Visit www.osstf26.com. Get exciting savings and discounts with **Bell Mobility, CC Tickets, GoodLife, OTIP, The Brick, Electronics for Less, Edvantage Long Distance, Edvantage Mosaik MasterCard ...And more!**



OSSTF District 26 represents approximately 1000 Teachers, Occasional Teachers and PSSP members
OSSTF serves approximately 60,000 members in 140 Bargaining Units across Ontario

