

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – September 20, 2019

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

The good start to the year has continued. As has the busyness. A significant number of member calls, meetings with members in schools, meetings with the Board etc., have kept the office humming, as have committee meetings in the after-school hours. Great to see so many people through the office this week. Some specifics:

Bargaining – Gillian reiterated the mantra with the Reps this week: talks continue, there is no job action yet and we will be informed by OECTA of any developments. Until there is a strike vote OECTA cannot take any job action and as they have not taken a strike vote there is no planned job action. (Logic 101 ☺) Please ensure that OECTA has a personal/non-Board email address for you so you can be kept up to date.

Of course there are also a lot of questions about what other groups are doing and what we are to do if they take any job action? We don't have any answers, yet, but when they have something to share, they will let OECTA know and OECTA will inform us of how to deal with it. In the meantime, it's business as usual for everyone.

Association Reps – The first full Reps meeting of the year took place on Thursday. Check the OECTA Board in your school for all the posters and other info we provided them with. We have a full complement of Reps this year, which means every school will have direct representation from within, rather than relying on a release officer to come out for LSSAC meetings, etc. And, there is also a large number of Assistant Reps, as well as significantly more people taking on roles on the Local School OECTA Council. All in all, the increased engagement of our colleagues means we are well looked after. If you would like to be involved in any of the roles, please speak with your Rep about what is available. We're looking forward to spending time with the Reps and Assistant Reps at the annual Reps In-service on October 6 and 7. Again, a huge thank you to all who have volunteered to assist the members.

TSU Email – There are still a few people who haven't activated their TSU email addresses, yet, although we have had a huge uptick after sending out a voice message this week to remind those who hadn't got around to it. Please consider this a "gentle reminder" (to use that annoying phrase) to activate your account. It is very important that we are able to contact you without relying on the Board email. It also reduces the workload for the Reps if they don't have to be forwarding as much info to you. So, **be nice to your Rep.**

Occasional Teachers – We continue to work through how to best serve OTs within our various roles here in the office. The Occasional Teacher Representative (OTR) on the Executive, Joanne Maher, has been indispensable with that, as well as in our discussions with the Board about how we will be representing OTs there. Joanne will be handling concerns for the Daily OTs, as she did for years at TOTL. For LTOs, the Release Officer Liaison for the school at which they are working is the person to contact at the office. Please check with your Rep as to who that is, or have a look on the OECTA board for the info. If there are grievance or sick leave concerns OTs will then be directed to myself, Pete McKay or Angela Tersigni, respectively.

Website- Updating and refining the website (tsuoecta.org) is on-going. Please check in regularly to see what's new and what's upcoming.

Red For Ed – You'll notice the Red for Ed poster on the Members Section main page (and also on your OECTA board). All education workers are being encouraged by their Associations to show their support for the great publicly funded education system that we have worked so hard to create...and that the Ford Cuts to Education is undermining, by wearing red on Fridays. There's a chance to have some fun with this, while showing solidarity regarding a very important issue.