



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (IN HONOUR OF MARION DRYSDALE)

The Student Achievement Awards in Honour of Marion Drysdale were a great success again this year. The District would like to thank all of the students from who participated as well as their teachers for encouraging and supporting them. The District would also like to thank Paul Fitch, Mary Groombridge, Peg Kivi, Craig Little, Joe Nadalin, Pam Seaton-McLean, and Diana Sheridan for exercising their supreme judging skills with the local entries. Selected entries will continue to the Regional and Provincial levels for adjudication and these students, along with their families and supervising teachers, will be honoured at the AMDA/SAA dinner on May 9, 2018 at the Baldoon Clubhouse.

SICK LEAVE – ESA CHANGES

As explained in D/BU #061/2017-2018, the provincial government amended the Employment Standards Act effective January 1, 2018, and this has raised questions about when the employer requires employees to produce medical notes. Since our Collective Agreement contains sick leave provisions that are superior to those provided by the ESA, the restriction on requesting medical certificates under the change will not apply to our members accessing sick leave under our Collective Agreement. In other words, the provisions in Article 14.08 of our Collective Agreement continue to apply.

BENEFIT PREMIUM DEDUCTIONS

- Benefit premiums for each member's benefit coverage under the new OSSTF Benefits Plan provided by OTIP are now being deducted once a month from members.
- Each month, 1/12 of the total annual premium cost is being deducted.
- For next July and August (2018) premiums, the standard practice is to have double deductions (2/12) in May and in June.
- Also, we await resolution on how our premiums for last summer (2017) will be deducted from those members who were covered during that time.

OTS' GENERAL MEETING

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of the OSSTF District 10 Occasional Teachers' Branch was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at the District Office. The Branch elected Barb Young as the interim OT Branch President.

RETIREMENT

If you plan to retire sometime during the 2017-2018 school year, it is important to let the Board and the District 10 office know as soon as possible so that there will be enough time to make appropriate decisions regarding pension, gratuity and post-teaching benefit plans. There is also the option to terminate LTD coverage and the associated premium costs. District 10 will provide a package of retirement information upon request. Notifying the Board prior to March 31, 2018 may prevent some of our newer members from being declared surplus or redundant.

DISTRICT ELECTIONS

2018 is an election year at the AMDA (Annual Meeting of District Assembly) to be held on May 9, 2018. All positions on District Executive are for a two-year term. Article 6 of the Constitution outlines the District Organization:

- “6.1 There shall be a District Executive consisting of
 - 6.1.1 Voting Members as follows:
 - 6.1.1.1 President;
 - 6.1.1.2 two (2) Vice-Presidents;
 - 6.1.1.3 Treasurer;
 - 6.1.1.4 two (2) Executive Officers;...”

Nomination forms will be sent to Branch Presidents early in February, 2018.

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