

**SEMESTER END**

I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. It is hard to believe we are almost half way through another school year.

**CENTRAL TABLE NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE**

Bargaining dates for the OSSTF Teacher and Occasional central table negotiations have been scheduled with Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the Government of Ontario on February 3 and 4, 2015. Please frequently check the "Members Only" section of the OSSTF/FEESO website for updated information on bargaining

**TEACHER TRANSFER REQUESTS**

All transfer requests will be done electronically again this year. Teachers requesting a transfer to a new school location or to change their part-time or full-time status should notify Human Resources by applying through a Posting by March 31, 2015. The requests will be considered by Principals and Senior Administration during the 2015-2016 staffing process. If someone is considering changing to part time status they should contact the District before doing so.

Any teacher requesting to transfer to a new school location is also encouraged to apply to postings as they occur and to which they are qualified.

**LTD PREMIUM RATE REDUCTION**

OSSTF has announced a 5% decrease in the premium rates in the Teachers LTD plan. The rate is 1.292%. This premium rate change will take effect March 1, 2015. The rate decrease is a result of a number of factors, including the growth of the OTIP pool, a decrease in new claims, continuous improvements in plan design, improved early intervention opportunities, and savings in administration costs

**RETIREMENT**

If you plan to retire sometime during the 2014-2015 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. District 10 will provide a package of information upon request. Notifying the Board prior to March 31, 2015 may prevent some of our younger members from being declared surplus or redundant.

**APPLICATION TO PROVINCIAL STANDING COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS**

The application for Provincial Standing Committees and Councils for 2015-2016 is now available on the OSSTF/FEESO website at [www.osstf.on.ca/provincial-council-application](http://www.osstf.on.ca/provincial-council-application).

The applications must be in on time in order to be considered. The deadline is **March 1, 2015**. Applications received after that time will be considered late and will only be considered for appointment if there are insufficient on-time applications for a specific committee/council.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Every year there seems to be confusion about what teachers should do if inclement weather delays or prevents them from attending school. The obligation on the part of the teacher is to contact the school to say they will be late or absent for the day because of the weather. Board Regulations state that “staff employed by the Lambton Kent District School Board are expected to use reasonable diligence when traveling to their place of employment during periods of inclement weather”. In the case of fog, the expectation is that employees would report to their work site when conditions improve.

### **AMDA, 2015**

The Annual Meeting of District Assembly will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at the Baldoon Golf Course in Wallaceburg. Contact your Branch President if you would like to be a Delegate at the AMDA, 2015. As an AMDA Delegate you are part of the decision making body which governs District 10 federation activities.

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