

**Special Meeting of Provincial Assembly, May 31, 2014**

In order to implement the enhanced financial support for members during strike action, it was necessary to hold a special meeting on Saturday, May 31, 2014, to discuss and vote on a motion that gave the Provincial Executive the authority to proceed under the OSSTF/FEESO Bylaws and give Provincial Council the authority to approve a supplemental levy. Seven delegates represented District 10 including Tim Allen (AMSS), John Callaghan (Occasional Teacher President), Dave Page (CKSS), Dave Parkes (NCIVS), Steve Spring (LCCVI), Terry Stitch (WDSS) and Barb Young. I wish to thank these members for giving up their Saturday to attend this very important meeting.

Provincial OSSTF has made its position clear that following the cuts and freezes of the past two years, real improvements for all members are required in the next round of bargaining. The government demonstrated through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) release that it is looking for further reductions. Regardless of the provincial election results, we must be prepared to fend off further cuts and be prepared to fight for the reasonable improvements that members are demanding. Bargaining in this environment may well lead to conflict. The District Office will continue to send Bargaining information to non-Board email addresses. We also encourage you to use the Members Only section of the OSSTF/FEESO website over the summer months.

**Staffing for 2014-2015**

Hugh and I continue to monitor the staffing process for next year and have had recent meetings with senior administration. Progress continues as many of our surplus members have been placed in contract positions. There will be more job postings and all surplus teachers should be placed soon. Following that, the redundant teachers will begin to be recalled into jobs that they are qualified for. Thank you to Branch Presidents for assisting us with the staffing issues at their schools and for helping to ease the anxieties of those individuals who are affected by declining enrolment.

**Labour Day**

On September 1, 2014 there are two events planned by the local Labour Councils, one in Lambton and one in Kent. In Chatham there will be a Family Day BBQ at 280 Merritt Avenue from 11 am to 3 pm. Entertainment and activities for kids will be provided. The event also includes a BBQ at no cost. In Sarnia, the annual Labour Day Parade runs through downtown beginning at 9:30 am.

**President's Award**

This award is given to members of District 10 who have made outstanding contributions to OSSTF at the local, District and Provincial levels. This year's Award was presented to Steve Spring. Congratulations Steve. We appreciate your efforts both as a former Provincial Councillor and in your role as District Executive Officer.

*I am especially grateful to our District Executive and Branch Presidents for their support and to Carolyn Trigatti, our Executive Assistant and Hugh Garrett, Federation Officer for their hard work this past year.*

*Finally, whether you are taking courses, travelling or enjoying a good book, I want to wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer.*