

February 2018 - No 4

www.staffassociation.ca

Upcoming Meeting

Please mark your calendar and join Staff Association at our upcoming meeting:

Spring Information Meeting

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

The Glenmore Inn & Convention Centre

2720 Glenmore Trail SE

7:00pm (Glenmore West/Heritage Room)



The information package will be sent out at the beginning of April and we hope to see you there!!

Message from the Chair...

We had a fantastic convention this year with the largest number of members registered for sessions ever!! A huge thank you to Sue Wenaas, our Convention Coordinator, who puts this event together! It is a major undertaking involving multiple sites covering 240 sessions. Thank you as well to her committee: Dawn Scott, Carol Binder, Kim Sahota, and Dara Oosterlee. These ladies assist with various things, particularly on the two days of convention. Thank you to Mike Minard, SA Director and Chef Instructor, who along with his students at Robert Thirsk made the 50th Anniversary cupcakes we all enjoyed. A big thank you also to the staff and students of Centennial High School for allowing us to use their building. We completely take over from 4:00pm on the Wednesday to set up, and the Thursday and Friday Convention Days. Huge appreciation goes to the culinary staff and students who helped with the lunch and goodies for the event, the facility staff, office staff, and the leadership students who run around and assist wherever needed. They are a fantastic group and represent their school well.

On behalf of the SA Board of Directors and Office Staff,

Lois Robb

Retirement Benefits

We receive many queries around retirement benefits. Support Staff working in the education sector can apply for retirement benefits through the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) as an affiliate member. There is currently a \$50.00 fee per year for affiliate members.

For detailed information and timelines around retirement benefits call 1.855.212.2400, email info@arta.net, or google Alberta Retired Teachers' Association and check out their webpage.

Negotiation Update

We have continued weekly meetings with the CBE representatives but meaningful progress is slow. We have now addressed all non-monetary issues and are awaiting responses on the last proposals presented. We have two further meetings scheduled, one next week with Brad Grundy, Chief Financial Officer, and another the following week in an effort to finalize unresolved issues and gauge CBE's appetite to address monetary proposals. The next step is likely mediation.

Reducing Positions or Hours

Initial decisions around staffing for next school year will be made during Spring Staffing, usually in mid-April. Please remember that our collective agreement includes provisions to determine:

- who is surplus if a position(s) needs to be eliminated (*Article 7.4.1 of the "Letter of Understanding Article 7: Layoff and Recall - Trial Provisions"*)
- whose hours get adjusted when total overall hours need to be changed (*Article 11.6*).

These provisions are not always well known, understood or correctly applied, so if you have any questions or concerns regarding what is being proposed in these matters at your worksite, please don't hesitate to contact us for clarifications and to look into the situation should it not appear to be correct.

| Staff Association Office Staff | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lois Robb , Chairperson | 403.242.7555 ext. 1 | lmrobb@staffassociation.ca |
| Albert Herscovitch , Manager | 403.242.7555 ext. 4 | aherscovitch@staffassociation.ca |
| Mark Johnson , Manager | 403.242.7555 ext. 2 | mrjohnson@staffassociation.ca |
| Dawn Scott , Administrative Secretary | 403.242.7555 ext. 0 | dawn@staffassociation.ca |
| Sue Wenaas , Staff Development Fund Administrator & Convention Coordinator | 403.242.7555 ext. 3 | sue@staffassociation.ca |
| <i>If you wish to visit the SA office, please e-mail or phone ahead to book an appointment to ensure that someone is available to assist you.</i> | | |