

Regional Report – Spring 2010

Happy 2010 everyone. We hope you've survived the winter and enjoying the great weather over the last few days.

Your region 3 executive board wanted to give you an update on what's happening with your Union.

First we'd like to welcome the following **New Presidents** to Region 3:

Zena Pendlebury – L318,
Jeanette Wilkins – L327, Ryan Way – L353,
Tanya Furlotte – L360, Derek Bailey – L362,
Clark Moss – L368,
William Carson – L369,
Don Lawrence – L372,
Tammy Rogers – L377, and
Jeremy Trainor – L378

Congratulations to Pat Lutz - New Staff Rep in the Peterborough regional office.

IMPT: All region 3 Presidents Meeting to discuss and strategize around the provincial budget – April 24th, 2010 - Orillia Regional Office, 10:30 am – 3 pm. If you have not RSVP'd yet, please contact one of your board members and let them know if you or a designate will be attending. Please note – space is very limited so only one person per local please.

Leah Casselman Award - OPS Student Protest: Last summer, OPS students across the province rallied and demonstrated when the Ontario government took away the vacation and holiday pay they'd been give for so many years. Something that students who worked for Tim Horton's, Sobey's, Walmart, etc still received to assist with funding their education. Sister Helena Whale – *Local 310* was the leader in this fight against unfairness.

Brothers Craig Laing and Ken Hord along with the support of the region 3 executive board submitted Helena's name for the **Leah Casselman Award** for Mobilization.

We are so PROUD to announce that Sister Helena Whale was selected by the OPSEU Executive Board for this award. She showed the government, OPSEU and

her fellow student workers what it takes to mobilize around an issue and get people active and involved. CONGRATULATIONS HELENA!!!

Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health : Local 331 held a demonstration on March 20, 2010 to protect the quality of mental health provided to our most vulnerable members of society. More and more layoffs and bed closures are hitting not only the families of these patients hard but the members who provide the care needed, and can't keep up.

Hospitals are still facing the same layoff's and bed closures. On March 15, 2010 Northumberland Hospital also held a rally to protest the closure of over 30 beds and nearly the equivalent in jobs. Layoffs will be hitting Peterborough and many other hospitals in region 3.

Please join whenever you can any rally or demonstration that tries to protect jobs and services but also gives voice to the right of quality health care to everyone in our communities.

Also, connect with Diablogue, www.opseudiablogue.wordpress.com – a website that updates you on the latest in Health Care. The link is also found on the OPSEU website.

College Part-Time Campaign: The fight to get those boxes open is not over. The CAAT divisions will be working hard over the next few months to campaign and get the votes counted. Please keep in touch with your colleges and support in any way you can.

CAAT/A: Members in the CAAT Academic division narrowly voted to accept a 3 year Offer made by the employer. Issues around workload are still ongoing with the college staff.

OPSEU 2010 Budget: The OPSEU Executive board has passed the 2010 operating budget with a small deficit.

Social Mapping: as most of you are aware, during the 2009 Convention OPSEU passed a resolution for a 'Social Mapping' of our union. The first phase has been completed with a 27% return rate. *Over 27,000 members* completed the Census! Next steps will be for Convention to decide what direction OPSEU will take with this information.

OPSEU 2020 Conference: Union, government, political and community leaders gathered in March to discuss the Economic situation in Ontario and how we can, collaboratively, work towards a solution that creates economic stability.

Please visit the OPSEU website for more information on this initiative.

Picnic: The last two Region 3 Family Picnics have been a great success and this year will prove no different. Mark your Calendars for August 21, 2010 being held again at Emily Park. Brother Peter Wright will be co-ordinating this event if your local wishes to support and attend this event.

Region 3 Holiday party: We will be holding our 2nd annual Holiday festivities at the Mariposa Best Western Inn in Orillia December 11, 2010. Keep looking for more updates.

Convention: May 6 – 8, 2010. Sheraton Centre, Queen Street Toronto.

Terms of Office Motion: As local Presidents you would have received an email from your region 3 executive board providing the language of the motion and the draft support document. If you did not receive this, please contact Claire Rowett – RVP at clairebmr3@sympatico.ca and you will be provided with the information.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this motion, please don't hesitate to contact any of your board members and please share with your local membership.

Education:

Feb 27-28, 2010 – Regional Education was a huge success. Our next educational will be May 1-2, 2010 – Equity Weekend. During the week of September 24-25, 2010 – Stewardship 1 & 2 will be offered and finally November 27-28, 2010 – will be our last Regional Educational for 2010. All weekends will be held at the Delta Grandview in Huntsville.

We're happy to advise that Health and Safety – Level 3 has been developed and will be offered in 2011.

The Local Treasurers Course – will no longer be held centrally. The region 3 Education Committee will be looking at offering this course regionally in 2011.

Video contest - Public Services: Good communities, good jobs, a valuable investment

Visit the OPSEU web site to get details on how you or someone you know can win \$1000 by simply making a 5 minute Video on the value of Public services! **Contest closes April 21st, 2010. Show us what you've got!**

Dates to Remember:

April 24, 2010 – Region 3 Presidents meeting
May 1-2, 2010 – Equity Weekend educational
May 6 – 8, 2010 – OPSEU Convention
June 17 – 19 – NUPGE Convention
August 21, 2010 - region 3 annual family Picnic
September 24-25, 2010 – Stewardship 1 & 2 educational
November 27-28, 2010 – regional educational
December 11, 2010 – Holiday dinner and dance

Region 3 Website: www.opseuregion3.org - reminder, we'd love to hear from locals regarding events, pictures of activities your local has been involved in, or even post your local web site on hours for greater access. To have anything posted on the region 3 site, please contact Pete Wright pwright6@cogeco.ca for approval. The region would love to hear about what's going on in your neck of the woods.

REMINDER: Please sisters and brothers, DO NOT use your work email to communicate union business. The executive board cannot reply to business email addresses and run the risk of getting the members in trouble. If you need to communicate with the board, or your members regarding OPSEU and local issues, please use a personal or alternative email address.

Keep informed, stay connected and remember that together we can achieve the extraordinary.

In sol,
Your region 3 Executive Board