

**WELCOME BACK**

Our Executive Assistant, Carolyn Trigatti and Federation Officer, Bob Shaw, and I would like to welcome all of you back to a “negotiations free” year. Contract maintenance continues to cause a few “bumps in the road”.

BENEFIT ENHANCEMENT

Through negotiations we were able to enhance our benefits in several areas. The Board's website has not been updated as of yet but basically the changes effective September 1, 2009 include the following:

1. Vision: Eye exams up to \$75.00 every two (2) years are included in the \$500.00.
2. Basic Life: will increase from \$250,000.00 to \$275,000.00.
3. Basic AD&D: will increase from \$250,000.00 to \$275,000.00.
4. Dental: the annual maximum for major dental services will increase from \$2,500.00 to \$3,500.00.
5. Paramedical: the \$12.00 per visit limit for physiotherapy will be removed and the annual maximum for physiotherapy will be \$750.00 (maximum \$70 per visit)

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

There has been a significant change in the OHSA to include language to address workplace violence. Posters from Provincial OSSTF will be placed in the schools outlining your right to refuse unsafe/unhealthy work. It should be noted that teachers must ensure the safety of their students prior to a work refusal.

CERTIFICATION RATING

New teachers are reminded that they should apply for an OSSTF Certification Rating so they can be paid properly for their education and experience. Other teachers who have completed courses leading to an upgrade of their Certification Rating should make this known to Provincial Office. A reminder to all teachers to obtain written approval from Provincial Office Certification department prior to taking any course for upgrading categories. All the requisite forms for new applications, upgrades or course approvals can be obtained from either www.osstfd10.ca or www.osstf.on.ca.

RETIREMENT

Any teachers who plan to retire this year should make their intentions known to both the Board and OSSTF District 10 as soon as possible. With early notification, the Pension Board can have the first cheque sent by the end of July and the Lambton Kent District School Board can pay the gratuity in a timely fashion.

Finally, all potential retirees should attend one of this year's retirement seminars and carefully consider what type of benefits best serve their post work needs. Retirement workshops this year will be held Tuesday, October 27 at Country View in Chatham and at the District office on Wednesday, October 28.

ELECTRONIC PAY STATEMENTS

We encourage all members to regularly access their personal information on the Board's site to ensure accuracy. To do this from a Board computer go to the Board's Intranet site <http://harvey.lkdsb.net> select Employee Information Portal and log in. To access your statement from your home computer you need to go to the following website address <https://staffweb.lkdsb.net> and follow the same log in steps as above. The staffweb link can only be accessed outside of the Board's network.

All of us wish you an enjoyable and professionally rewarding school year.

Barb Young, President
OSSTF District 10
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September 2, 2009