

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ON REVERSE SIDE

Please take the time to read the Message from your Local President which appears on the reverse side of this Intercom dealing with the progress being made towards the ratification of the Memorandum of Agreement between the ATA and the Provincial Government regarding the Unfunded Liability of the Teachers' Pension Plan.

Please mark your calendars for a very important night of voting scheduled for 4:30pm on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at the Mayfield Inn and Trade Centre, 16615-109 Ave. "The General Meeting of the Bargaining Unit will be called to allow teachers to vote on both the proposed new Collective Agreement between our teachers and our Board and the Memorandum between the ATA and the Government".

FAMILY FUN NIGHT - WEM WATER PARK - only \$5 a ticket!!!!

The Edmonton Public Local's Social Committee has extended an invitation for our members to join them at WEM's Waterpark on Friday, March 7, 2008 from 7:30 - 10:30pm. Tickets are \$5.00 per person (age 2 and under free). Normally these tickets cost \$20.00 each! The order form for tickets was included in the Nov. 15 mailing. Cheques are to be made payable to EDMONTON PUBLIC TEACHERS LOCAL 37 and sent to Local 54, Attention: Jan Bossmin, Room 402, Barnett House via IMC. Tickets will also be on sale at the December 11 Council meeting. If you have any questions, please phone the Local office (451-1196).

PD BOOK SHARE

The 25 members of the Local's Book Share will be completing study of John C. Maxwell's *Today Matters* with a final wind up dinner meeting being held on Monday, December 3. Watch for posters advertising the new book selection and registration date scheduled for January, 2008.

COUNCIL REPS: CHRISTMAS CHEER -December 11, 2007

During the month of November no Council meeting is scheduled. We would like to remind all Council reps to mark your calendars and plan to join us for the December 11 Council meeting of Christmas Cheer. Each rep is encouraged to bring a staff member to this annual event. A Christmas social will FOLLOW Council.

CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS

If a colleague has given birth, is hospitalized or has suffered the loss of a close family member, please call the Local office. On behalf of all of you, the Local will have a Mass offered, a donation made or flowers sent.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory."

Meetings and Events

Monday, Dec. 3, 2007

Final PD Book Share, 4:30pm,
Room 140, Barnett House

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007

Executive Mtg. #04, 4:30pm,
Room 406, Barnett House

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2007

Council Mtg. #03, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House.
Christmas Social to follow
Council Meeting.

**Please note: SANDWICHES
WILL NOT BE SERVED
BEFORE COUNCIL.**

December 24 - January 4, 2008

Christmas holidays!
Local office will reopen at
8:30am on Monday, January 7
Merry Christmas!

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Executive Mtg. #05, 4:30pm,
Room 406, Barnett House

Local Email:

G. McHugh, Executive Director
gmchugh@telusplanet.net

S. McElroy, Local President
smcelroy@telusplanet.net

J. Bossmin, Office Manager
jbossm@telusplanet.net

Website:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Council Dates:

Tuesday, Dec. 11/07-

CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Tuesday, January 22/08

Tuesday, Feb. 26/08

Tuesday, March 18/08

Tuesday, April 22/08

Tuesday, June 3/08

Included in this mailing:

Printed on reverse side: Message from the President re: Progress of Ratification of the Memorandum of Agreement between the ATA and the Provincial Government



Message to Teachers on the Progress of Ratification of the Memorandum of Agreement between the ATA and the Provincial Government

On Saturday, November 24, 450 delegates from across the province, including 25 representatives from Edmonton Catholic Local 54, attended an Emergency Representatives Assembly called to discuss the Unfunded Liability Agreement.

The one item of business on the ERA order paper was the following motion:

Be IT RESOLVED that the Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Teachers' Association on the matter of the unfunded liability of the Teachers' Pension Plan and collective agreements, dated 2007 11 15, be accepted and recommended to bargaining units for ratification under General Bylaw 11(3).

The Memorandum provides for stabilization of the Teachers' Pension Plan with the Government of Alberta assuming the entire pre-1992 unfunded liability, a framework for five year collective agreements with salary increases, continuation of sunset provisions on working conditions and the advancement of professional practice.

The motion carried with over 90 percent of the delegates voting in favour.

During the lively question period and period of discussion and debate, it was determined that, although not perfect, the Memorandum was one which made an enormous contribution to the future of the teaching profession in Alberta and to ensuring the stabilization and continuation of the Teachers' Pension Fund. It maintains the government's commitment to the class size initiative; it creates an improved relationship with Alberta Education; allows the ATA to take over Practice Review; and it commits government to not making changes to legislation, regulation or policy that will affect the employment conditions under which teachers work. It will not change the membership status of any member or revise current collective bargaining rights of teachers under the Labor Relations Code. (See ATA News Nov 26, 2007 for full Agreement and additional information.)

The Next Steps:

Your NSC has set aside the following two dates to conclude negotiations on our Local's Collective Agreement: November 29th and December 10th. After we have reached a Memorandum of Agreement with our Board, a General Meeting of the Bargaining Unit will be called to allow teachers to vote on **both** the proposed new CA between our teachers and our Board and the Memorandum between the ATA and the Government. This meeting of the Bargaining Unit has been scheduled to take place on **Jan 15 at 4:30 at the Mayfield Inn and Trade Centre**. The vote on the Local's new CA will be counted that night and results provided immediately. The vote on the Memorandum will follow the announcement of the CA vote and those ballots will be returned to Barnett House to be counted along with ballots from all Alberta teachers immediately after the Jan 31 deadline. *All 62 Locals must have reached an Agreement with their respective employers by the end of January before the Unfunded Liability Memorandum can be ratified.*

Please stay informed – the ATA website will continue to post new information related to this issue at www.teachers.ab.ca. Posted items to look for are the letter from Premier Ed Stelmach to Frank Bruseker and documents related to the impact of the Memorandum on teacher salaries.

I would like to acknowledge the following ARA delegates who joined me in representing you at the ERA and suggest that they could be further resources for any concerns which you may have:

Angie Bober
Florian Bruni-Bossio
Greg Carabine
Patti Clancy-Novosel
Amy Cooper
Markiana Hryschuk
Azza Ghali
Dolores Gillett

Sandy Gillis
Jeff Girard
Pina Hackman
Linda Honeychurch
Greg Hopchin
Jeff Johnson
Danny Kinal
Lynn Koss

Kathy MacIsaac
Melanie Mercier
Amber Nicholson
Lauren Podlubny
Kyle Porter
Wayne Prokopiw
Lynn Smarsh
Ron Zacharko

Finally, if you would like to have either Gerry McHugh, Executive Director, or me visit your school to respond to questions related to any of the above information, please contact the Local office to set up a time.

Shannon McElroy, President