

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

December is upon us and the visit of Jack Frost has been evident to us all this week as we do supervision and anticipating the comfort of a warm drink as we return to class.

A heartfelt thank you all our school representatives and guests who attended our Christmas meeting and social on Tuesday evening. There was wonderful energy throughout the room as we celebrated two of our scholarship winners, Kayleen Schnellback and Evhen Dytyniak. It was our pleasure to welcome Donna Swiniarski back to present the award named in her honor to Kayleen. Dr. Heather Jamieson paid special tribute to Gerry for the work done behind the scenes for all us teachers and especially for the counsel given to us who experience special difficulties in our lives. Her concluding blessing was most appropriate for this classy Irishman. Towards the end of the evening Mark Ramsankar, President of Edmonton Public Teachers brought greetings and thanks to Gerry for his assistance and kindness to their Local throughout his years here at Barnett House.

This is a very exciting time of our year as we busy ourselves in preparation for all the demands that descend upon us involving school and community activities. The amount of work and dedication by the teachers of this Local is truly amazing and the patience and compassion needed during this Christmas season are but two characteristics that make you all true "heroes". In the rush of the season I urge you all to find a few minutes of quiet time each day to keep Advent and its promise of hope close to you. Please continue to care for each other!

On behalf of all your executive "team" I wish you all the blessings of Christmas. Return safe and rested!

Amber, Amy, Azza, Dolores, Gerry, Harold, Jan, Jeff, Kathy, Markiana, Mary, Patti, Pina Rob, Shannon, Sandy, Sherry, and Wayne.

GETCA REPRESENTATIVE APPROVED

At the December 2 Council meeting a motion was passed approving Rob Tait (St. John Bosco School) as a GETCA representative. Thank you, Rob!

ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE HAS FULL REPRESENTATION

Cathy Miller (St. Mark School) has volunteered to become a member of the Economic Policy Committee representing counsellors/resource facilitators. Thank you, Cathy!

TEACHERS' RETIREMENT RECEPTION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Sean McGuinness, H.E. Beriault Jr HS, has volunteered to chair the 2009 Teachers' Retirement Committee. The committee will be meeting in January to start preparations for this year's banquet which is scheduled for Friday, May 29, at St. Agnes Church (Mass) and St. Basil's Cultural Centre (banquet).

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"Like water, be gentle and strong.

Be gentle enough to follow the natural paths of the earth,
and strong enough to rise up and reshape the world." ~ BRENDA PETERSON

Included in this mailing:
Printed on reverse side:

Convention News 2009... (cherry)...one per school rep.. please post and share
Nothing

Meetings and Events

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008

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

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008

Final Intercom before Christmas Break.

Dec. 22 - January 2, 2009

Local office closed for the Christmas holidays!

Merry Christmas to all!

Monday, January 5, 2009

Local office reopens at 8:30am.

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

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

Monday, January 12, 2009

Pre Retirement Workshop-part I, 6 - 9pm, Auditorium,
Barnett House

Website:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

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Council Dates:

Tuesday, January 20/09

Tuesday, Feb. 24/09

Tuesday, March 17/09

Tuesday, April 21/09

Tuesday, June 2/09