

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. . . .Greetings everyone

I had the pleasure of speaking to a representative of the **Veterans' Association** this past week and he wanted to let teachers in our District know how much the veterans and present day troops appreciate the efforts of our teachers every Remembrance Day. Many were invited to be part of celebrations last week and were overjoyed by being in the presence of our children and staffs as we remembered the fallen and prayed for peace. Great job folks!

This Wednesday the **Greater Edmonton Alliance** is organizing a meeting at St. Theresa's Church in Millwoods. This is the public launch of the sustainable works cooperative. It is a not-for-profit organization aimed at helping families reduce utility bills and creating green jobs by lessening the environmental impact. The plan is to have 100 homes retrofitted in the greater Edmonton area in the coming years. Several public figures will be speaking including Mayor Stephen Mandel and the representative from EPCOR. Since our Local is a member of the Alliance, we encourage as many members as possible to attend.

You will soon be receiving **Stop the Cuts** banners at your sites and I encourage you to display them prominently. Let your parent body know the importance of logging on to stopthecuts.ca and adding their names to the growing list of Albertans who have real concerns about cuts to our education system. This is also a good time to check with each other and encourage all who have not yet gone to the site to do so. It only takes a minute to get this done and, hopefully, we can all add our names along with our 40,000 peers across the province. This is one of the easiest initiatives we have ever taken on so please add your voice in an attempt to get our government to secure proper educational funding for the future.

This reporting period is in full swing and it is the time when every word we as teachers write is scrutinized closely. Being a diagnostician and reporting our findings clearly to parents is one of the most critical jobs we do . . .hence the stress. There is little we can do except support each other so I encourage everyone to spread the gift of calmness in the staffroom. Make sure to drop in on your peers' workplace and ask "How are things going?" A reassuring smile and pat on the back can go a long way :)

Stay well and take care of each other ~Sandy

PRE RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED!

Heather Johnson will be presenting a 2 part Pre Retirement Workshop in January for interested teaching staff. The sessions will include dinner and will run from 6-9pm on Monday, January 18, and Monday, January 25. This workshop is free of charge, sponsored by the Local, and is limited to 75 participants. Anyone interested is asked to email Jan to register: jan.bossmin@ecteachers.ca

COUNCIL REPS: CHRISTMAS CHEER -December 15, 2009

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 15 Council meeting beginning at 6pm. Each rep is encouraged to bring a staff member to this annual event. A Christmas social will FOLLOW Council - sandwiches will not be available before the meeting.

CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please advise the Local office by email of instances of bereavement, illness or births, so that the Local can recognize them accordingly. Send information to: jan.bossmin@ecteachers.ca

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

"Negativity, Enthusiasm - they're always at war with each other." ~ GARY THOMAS

Meetings and Events

Monday, Nov. 23, 2009

ARA Committee Mtg., 4:30pm,
Boardroom, Barnett House

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009

Political Engagement Mtg.,
4:15pm, Room 402, Barnett House

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009

New Teacher Mentorship Program Meeting for mentors and teachers, 1pm, St. Joseph High School

Monday, Dec. 7, 2009

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

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009

Council Meeting #03, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House. Council reps are welcome to bring a guest. The meeting will be followed by a Christmas social.

Website:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

Kathy MacIsaac, Exec. Director
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Sandy Gillis, Local President
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Jan Bossmin, Office Manager
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Council Dates:

Tuesday, Dec. 15/09*

*Christmas Social to follow

Tuesday, January 19/10

Tuesday, Feb. 16/10

Tuesday, March 16/10

Tuesday, April 20/10

Tuesday, May 18/10