



January 12, 2012

Issue No. 10

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Monday, January 23 & 30-5:30pm**

Locally sponsored Pre-Retirement two-part workshop. Eighty-five registrants will enjoy dinner and informational sessions on how to prepare for retirement. Everything happens in the auditorium of Barnett House

## Meetings & Events

**Monday, January 16, 2012**

PD New Teacher Mentorship-  
Half day session at LSI.

**Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

EPC-Opening Proposal  
Committee Meeting-full day

**Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

Economic Policy Committee  
Mtg., 4:30pm, Local office,  
Barnett House

**Wednesday, January 18, 2012**

Political Engagement  
Committee Mtg., 4:30pm, Local  
office, Barnett House

**Monday, January 23, 2012**

Pre-Retirement Workshop,  
Part 1, 5:30pm, Auditorium,  
Barnett House

**Monday, January 30, 2012**

Pre-Retirement Workshop,  
Part 2, 5:30pm, Auditorium,  
Barnett House

**Tuesday, January 31, 2012**

District Faith Development Day  
at the Shaw Convention Centre

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Happy 2012 everyone!

Every year we get the opportunity to wish you a happy and blessed New Year on three occasions: in September, at Advent, the beginning of our new church year, and now! Each year at this time, many take time to make resolutions for themselves and in many cases the resolutions are about fitness and financial dreams. In fact, the papers and magazines these past couple weeks were rampant in giving hints about how to be successful in realizing our goal in the full knowledge that by the middle of February most people tend to lose their way and fall back to the default position of status quo! Our Local, your Local, had a wonderful year in 2011 and achieved recognition for your hard work and support by awarding Edmonton Catholic Teachers with two provincial awards of excellence. Our executive is diligent in carrying out their duties for you and your council representatives have been amazing in finding the time to attend meetings and report back to you at your sites. The next few months will be quite exciting for us teachers as we look to the possible formation of a new government along with new cabinet ministers. The new Education Act will be discussed more fully and holds promise of change in education for Alberta.

There are many ways to embrace the New Year and, as Catholic teachers, we welcome the year as a hopeful people. We know that because we are nourished by our faith, and in turn nourish each other with support and kindness, we can face any obstacle or challenge that befalls us. Many of our co-workers enter the year suffering the loss of family and friends. It is so satisfying that we get to live our faith in a publically funded school system and that we can offer ongoing support to those who need it. Ron Rolheiser tells us that "we need not journey alone." He urges us all to pray for a "softening of our hearts" so that we can be open to the wounded in those we meet and greet.

Having a soft heart helps us to be healers. Catholic teachers are healers. We meet the poor and marginalized on a daily basis and have numerous opportunities to be sources of hope and healing. May this new year of 2012 be one of healing for all. Let us grow closer in community and make this year the best ever.

Take care of each other, Sandy

## TEACHERS' CONVENTION UPDATE-March 1 and 2, 2012:

Visit [www.getca.com](http://www.getca.com) to see the lineup of speakers/bios/session descriptions.

Lanyards will be sent to the schools in the near future and must be worn to gain entrance to the sessions.

Interested in chairing one or more sessions? Visit the website to register.

The deadline to apply for Alternate PD is January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Go to the website, click on DELEGATES to access the link for your application of approval.

Due to rising costs, bus passes will not be available for this year's convention.

## FIRST RECIPIENT OF LOCAL'S "ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH MACNEIL SCHOLARSHIP"



*His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Joseph MacNeil,  
Mark Craig (Archbishop O'Leary HS), Sandy Gillis  
(Local President)*

**Mark was the first recipient of  
this scholarship for Outstanding  
Christian Service.**

## WEBSITE:

[www.local54.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.local54.teachers.ab.ca)

**Sandy Gillis, President**

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## Words of Inspiration

"We all live with the  
objective of being  
happy; our lives are  
all different and yet  
the same."

~Anne Frank

## UPDATE ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>

I hope everyone has had a chance to review the proposed amendments to the Local's constitution which were sent out via email in December. The motion concerning changing the terms for table officers has been considered for the past year around our Executive table. When it was brought before the General Assembly on December 20<sup>th</sup>, it was *laid on the table* to allow teaching staffs the opportunity for more discussion, since it was felt that there was not adequate time provided to give this proper consideration. The Constitution Committee's rationale for changing the terms of table officers (the motion which was tabled) is explained below. Please re-read it and discuss with your colleagues so that you are prepared to debate the motion when it is *taken from the table* at an upcoming meeting, the date of which will be announced in the near future. We encourage you to make every effort to attend this February meeting to have your voice heard.

### The following proposed amendments were tabled at the General Assembly:

#### 14 (5) Terms of Office

(a) Table officers – **President and Vice President terms will be 2 years** ~~for two years~~ beginning July 1, ~~for no more than two~~ **with no more than three** consecutive terms ~~in any one table officer position.~~ **The President and Vice-President (Finance) will be elected one year, and the Vice-President (Communications) will be elected in the alternate year.**

(b) Area Liaisons' terms will be 2 years and have no limit to the number of times they can be elected. Area liaisons – Professional Development, Communications, Governance, and GETCA will be elected one year. Area Liaisons – Member Services, Substitutes, and Social Justice will be elected in the alternate year.

#### *Rationale:*

*The President's and Vice-Presidents' roles on the Executive are complex and it takes 1-2 years to really understand the job. During this time they are also getting to know and make relationships with stakeholders. It is usually not until the 3-4<sup>th</sup> year that they reach their full potential, and it would be beneficial to our Local that they have the opportunity to carry on with the knowledge and networking that they have established to this point in their tenure.*

*Area Liaisons are just getting to understand their position and how the system works in the first year ("getting your feet wet"), and having a two- year term would give them the chance to really make a difference.*

*Splitting up the election years will ensure that there are experienced executive members on the executive at all times.*

#### 16. Amendments to the Constitution

a) Amendments to the constitution shall be made only by a two-thirds majority of a general assembly of the local and shall be, subject to ratification by the Provincial Executive Council of The Alberta Teachers' Association.

*Respectfully submitted by Darrin Bauer (Governance Liaison)*