



January 19, 2012

Issue No. 11

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

An exciting General Assembly followed by February's Council meeting on Thursday, Feb. 2, 6pm. Please note: the Feb. 21 Council mtg. has been cancelled.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Hi everyone

The balmy Christmas weather is long past and the frigid temperatures of this past week have tested the mettle of the best and strongest. Your wonderful gifts to the Mustard Seed were received so "warmly" and this week, the supplies in those winter backpacks ---especially those blankets--- have found their way into tents in the river valley, garbage bins in alleys along Whyte Avenue, under loading ramps in industrial parks, and in other places where we teachers would not last the night. Your kindness and caring natures have helped bring a bit of relief to the minus temperatures and you can take some pleasure that over one hundred of our displaced brothers and sisters are enjoying some comfort because of your selflessness and generosity. Your Executive and Chairperson Sandra Esposito send a resounding *thank-you* to all of our school representatives who brought the message back to staff rooms throughout the district!

You are all aware of possible changes that are being proposed to our constitution. It is interesting to note how fearful this is to some of our members, and yet all around us in the business, political and religious realms, we are being challenged to face change on a daily basis. This is the reality of the century we live and learn in, and if we don't meet the challenges head on, we are doomed to failure. Robin Sharma, who visited the district leadership this year, has eleven rules for change that can make this year the best ever. Perhaps we all need to consider number four and know deeply in our hearts what motivates us. Your local has been very active in the past few years and has seen many teachers become active and engaged. Take a look at the work being done by the chairs of our committees. Political Engagement, New Teacher Mentorship, and Social Justice are the tips of the icebergs in showing how much is happening on your behalf. The proposal regarding amending terms of office has been proposed by Darrin Bauer since he took responsibility for governance. He has been aligning our administrative guidelines with our constitution and last year, we had a revised constitution approved by our "Big A"--- the Alberta Teachers' Association. Darrin believes that the constitution is a living document and that the way we govern ourselves should regularly be in a state of review so that we, as a local, stay current and become better able to face the future. This proposed change was made to Executive a year ago and most recently on December 7th. As I did last time, I encourage you all to discuss this fully and come to our February 2nd General Assembly where you ALL can be a voice in our local. In late February we will be calling a Bargaining Unit General Meeting to present our opening negotiation package which Wayne and his Economic Policy Committee have been working very hard to get ready for you.

As always please continue to care for each other in this time of "cabin fever" ☺

Sandy

Meetings & Events

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

Wednesday, February, 2012

PD New Teacher Mentorship
Full Day Session, Room 213,
Barnett House

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Executive Mtg. #05, Local
office, Barnett House

Thursday, February 2, 2012

General Assembly and Council
Mtg. #04, 6pm, Auditorium,
Barnett House

February 12-18

Random Acts of Kindness Week

WEBSITE:

www.local54.teachers.ab.ca

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MATERNITY LEAVE INFORMATION NIGHT—Wednesday, February 15, 2012

If you are expecting a baby, or planning to start a family soon, we invite you and a guest to register for our Local's Maternity Leave Information Night being held Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012 in Room 213, Barnett House, beginning at 7:00pm. Topics covered during the evening will include: the Collective Agreement, Employment Insurance, and ASEBP. Refreshments will be served. Please register by emailing: jan.bossmin@ecteachers.ca

TEACHERS' CONVENTION-March 1 and 2, 2012:

Interested in chairing one or more sessions at this year's convention? Visit the website to register, www.getca.com

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

Words of Inspiration

"Dream as if you will
live forever;
Live as if today is
your last day on
earth."

~Anonymous