



March 8, 2012

Issue No. 15

Local Ph.-780-451-1196

WEBSITE:

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

## NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!

We are extending the deadline to file nomination papers for the position of Local Vice President due to a shortage of candidates. New deadline for filing is 4pm, Tuesday, March 13 at the Local office.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Greetings everyone

Welcome back from yet another excellent convention with new or improved ideas, suggestions for numerous activities and the good feelings that come from seeing friends and colleagues from past years.

I was impressed by several of my own sessions and after attending the talks by Senator General Romeo Dallaire. His talk, of course, centered on the horrific events of his time in Rwanda but his message of hope cannot be ignored by those of us who benefit from a democracy that respects diversity, the freedom of speech and movement, and the benefits gleaned from a strong public education. He pointed out several times during his talks that 80 percent of the population of our planet lives in conditions that destroy both the physical and spiritual body. At one point he said "We (20%) are heading for Mars and we are not giving a second thought to the fact that we are leaving behind 80 percent of our shared humanity!" Out of his pain and suffering he has found a way to harness his energy to be a global spokesperson for peace and harmony. His wisdom and practical knowledge is already causing great changes in international law and diplomacy.

His incredible message to the two thousand teachers in each session was powerful. You are in the most amazing profession that affords you the chance to form moral, ethical and compassionate citizens who one day, as leaders, will reach out and care for marginalized; the 80 percent. His talk reaffirms the need for us teachers and especially us Catholic teachers to form communities based on trust and integrity so that folks who observe us on a daily basis can say "My, how they love each other!"

Take care of each other and all you come in contact with!  
Sandy

## ELECTION FOR LOCAL PRESIDENT

The race is on for president of our Local! The two candidates are **Greg Carabine** (Austin O'Brien HS) and **Gregory Hopchin** (St. Joseph HS). Watch for their campaign literature in your school. The election is Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

## BARGAINING UPDATES

The opening proposal was presented at the B.U.G.M. on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>. Amendments that were passed at that meeting will be communicated to your personal email address in the near future.

## NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!

The Local has extended the deadline for nomination papers to be filed for the position of Local Vice President to 4pm on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in applying for this position, please phone Kathy MacIsaac 780-451-1196. Access nomination papers at [www.local54.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.local54.teachers.ab.ca)

## \$1000 to attend S.P.I.C.E and BLUEPRINTS!!!!

We are pleased to announce that this year your Local will continue its sponsorship of delegates up to four to attend SPICE (April 26-29) and BLUEPRINTS (May 1 - 4) at The Delta Lodge, Kananaskis. Accommodation (double occupancy), conference registration, materials and meals totaling \$1000 per person will be covered for each teacher chosen. The cost of your substitute will be your responsibility. If you are interested in sponsorship from the Local, just email [jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca](mailto:jan.bossmmin@ecteachers.ca) so that your name can go in the March 21<sup>st</sup> draw. For conference information visit: [www.acsta.ab.ca](http://www.acsta.ab.ca)

## Meetings & Events

### March 12-16, 2012

Substitute Teacher  
Appreciation Week

### Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Deadline for nomination papers for the position of Local Vice President is 4pm at the Local office.

### Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Council Mtg. #05, 6pm, Auditorium, Barnett House  
The agenda features speeches from all those running in the Local's election for President and Vice President.

### Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Ballots and campaign posters out to schools via IMC

### March 15-21, 2012

Voting for Local election of Table Officers takes place.

### Monday, March 19, 2012

Provincial Candidates' Forum at Archbishop O'Leary HS, 7pm, Cafeteria.

### Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Local Bursary draw to be made at the Local office.

### Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Local draw for SPICE and BLUEPRINTS to be made today.

### Wednesday, March 21, 2012

5pm is the deadline for the return of all ballots.

### Wednesday, March 21, 2012

5pm the Elections Committee will count the ballots, Room 402, Barnett House

### March 24 - April 1, 2012

Enjoy Spring Break!

## Words of Inspiration

"It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards.

~Lewis Carroll  
(1832-1898)



## **Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week March 12 to 16, 2012**

Take some time to show your appreciation to a Sub!  
Here are some suggestions:

- Wish him or her a "Happy Sub Week"
- Have your students make a thank you card & list why they are grateful
- Write him or her a personal note or email
- Arrange for a celebration in your classroom and invite your sub
- Offer to buy a "Sub" for them at lunch or offer a gift card from a submarine sandwich shop

...A "thank you" goes a long way!

~M. Giampa, Substitute Chair

### **SECOND WIND FOR RETIRED TEACHERS AND FRIENDS- Speakers, Art Show and Displays!**

We are pleased to advertise the inaugural GERTA Second Wind Conference for 2012 being held at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre, 11727 Kingsway Avenue on Wednesday, April 11 from 8:30-4:30pm. The conference focus on wellness encourages participants to seek balance in their lives (mind, body and soul), motivates them to explore new avenues and activities in their retirement and facilitates the renewal and formation of social connections. Visit [www.GERTASecondWindConference.com](http://www.GERTASecondWindConference.com) for conference information and registration. Cost is \$65.

### **DO YOU HAVE BALANCE IN YOUR LIFE?**

Linda Duxbury (Carlton University) is conducting a study on work-life issues as they affect a variety of professionals. The ATA has partnered with a survey to address the special issues facing teachers. We encourage you to participate in the online survey available at [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) The findings will be presented at two public lectures. Let your voice be heard!

### **DRIVING A SCHOOL VEHICLE?**

Did you know that you are required to have a Class 4 Alberta License to do so to avoid fines and liability concerns?

### **\$12,000 AVAILABLE!**

Teachers! Are you taking graduate courses? Other post-secondary courses? Catholic faith formation courses? The Local is offering 12 bursaries (\$1000 each) toward the cost of the course, seminar or conference you are registered in. To access the application visit: [www.local54.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.local54.teachers.ab.ca)  
Deadline for receipt of applications is March 16. Draw on March 20<sup>th</sup>