

Role of the Branch President



Presented by: Maryline Lanteigne Danica Izzard



Council Meetings





- Monthly
- Usually the third Thursday of the month
- Starts at 4:45 pm
- Need to be registered Council Representative to vote

- Want to check if you're registered? Info on how to register an Alternate? Contact Rony Masri
- at <u>rmasri@osstftoronto.ca</u>



Council Meetings

- Next meeting is Thursday, Oct. 21st
- This month is Monthly Council meeting

AND

District General Meeting

NOTE: This meeting will begin at 4:30 pm.



Have you <u>registered</u> for the District General meeting?



OSSTF Toronto Toronto Teachers' Bargaining Unit

Role of the Branch President (BP)

- Ensure the Collective Agreement is followed
- Stay informed
- Bring info from OSSTF to members
 - Have regular Branch meetings
 - Can be part of your staff meeting or...
 - Can be separate.
 - You have \$ to use for coffee, snacks or whatever you feel is appropriate in order to engage your members.
- Bring concerns to OSSTF from members
 - Questions of Concern at Council





Role of the Branch President (BP)

- Invite your Executive Officer to some Branch meetings.
- Your Executive Officer can help answer your members' questions and concerns.
- Major actions that the TTBU promote come directly from the membership. It is always good to listen to the great ideas that emerge from discussions at Branch meetings.



OSSTF Toronto Toronto Teachers' Bargaining Unit

Role of the Branch President (BP)

- Co-Chair of the Staffing Committee
- Stay in close contact with your Executive Officer (EO).
- Forward any questions or concerns to your EO
 - If you are not sure about something ASK!



Note: we only represent the **Teachers Bargaining Unit (TBU)**, not Professional Support Services Personnel (PSSP) or Occasional Teachers Bargaining Unit (OTBU).



Using the OSSTF Toronto Website

- Make sure to visit the OSSTF Toronto website for: events, committee meeting dates, TTBU council meetings.
- There are many helpful links posted under MEMBER RESOURCES on the website. Some links will require you to log in.
- Of particular interest is "The Role of the Branch President" document





Representing members in meetings

IMPORTANT!

• CONTACT your Executive Officer before going into the meeting



- ASK the principal if the meeting is disciplinary in nature
- It might be best for your Executive Officer to represent the member so make sure to contact your EO first



OSSTF Toronto

Toronto Teachers' Bargaining Unit

Representing members in meetings

Where it could reasonably be expected that an incident would lead to discipline or discharge, the principal or immediate supervisor will inform the Teacher that they may be accompanied by a representative of the Bargaining Unit.

Collective Agreement, clause L4.3







Representing members in meetings

IMPORTANT!

Take notes of EVERYTHING that is said during the meeting



You can stop the meeting if you need to speak privately with the member

If the TONE in the meeting is inappropriate/unreasonable/if you think that the meeting is heading towards disciplinary action → STOP THE MEETING and say that you need to consult with OSSTF. CALL your Executive Officer immediately!



• If a member is sent home or police is involved, call your Executive Officer right away. Keep everything discreet and confidential.





- You will need to separate union issues and non-union issues
- You are not a mediator
- OSSTF meditation available
- Grievances are between employer and union, not between members.



General tips

- Check your emails: weekly OSSTF all-member email updates usually happen on Thursdays
- It is important to keep things confidential.
- Be professional and discreet
- It's always okay to refer members to your Executive Officer directly



Biggest Take-Aways:

- REMEMBER: You are not expected to know everything or expected to know the entire Collective Agreement.
- It's always okay to say: "Let me get back to you."



Thank you

for volunteering as Branch President. We appreciate you and so will your Branch members.





