

D12 TEACHERS' BUZZ

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Toronto

What We've Been Up To

It's hard to believe it is already November! Here's a recap of what we've been up to since June.

In conjunction with our brothers and sisters at the Elementary Teachers of Toronto, the District 12 Gay-Straight Alliance hosted a very successful brunch on Pride Weekend in June. The brunch was followed by the Dyke March in which several of our members participated—despite the dreary, blustery, rainy weather. This event grows in popularity each year.



As per our tradition, D12 had a large contingent in the Toronto and York Region Labour Council Annual Labour Day parade. Members marched with whistles and signs reading "Give students what they need to succeed." At the end of the long march, members gathered at the Gladstone Hotel for some refreshments and to catch up with each other after the summer.

In October, Toronto Teachers' hosted its annual Branch Presidents' training. This year, over 75 individual sites were represented and offered a "back to basics" approach to being a representative at the branch level. The event began with members completing a timeline activity which allowed them to see the spectrum of experiences they share with other Branch Presidents. President, Doug Jolliffe gave a rousing address which introduced our job action plan. The bulk of the training saw Branch Presidents working through various scenarios and learning about grievances. Finally, they were given an opportunity to review and comment on strike rules before hearing a report from Provincial President, Paul Elliot.

Student Awards

OSSTF Toronto has many award opportunities available for students. In conjunction with Provincial OSSTF, the Student Achievement Awards are a writing & creative arts competition open to all secondary students across the province. Locally, the Human Rights and Political Action committee sponsor the Camille Natale Awards, for students who promote peace and social justice while the Status of Women committee sponsors student awards in the areas of equity, leadership, community impact, feminist activism and mentoring. Call the office, or check our [website](#) for information about deadlines.

Upcoming Events

- * Nov. 25 —Retirement Workshop
- * Nov. 29 —Annual Winter Party
- * Dec. 5 — The Kathryn Maxwell Cook for the Cure
- * Dec. 10—STBU Council

Call the office or visit our website for more details about these events. Some require advance registration.

Women in the Labour Movement

On November 5 2015, the Status of Women committee held a panel discussion on Women in the Labour Movement. Panelists included Deena Ladd (Workers' Action Centre), Zoe Dodd (Toronto Harm Reduction Workers), and Megan Hillman (CUPE 3903 Trans Feminist Caucus). This was

the first of event of its kind for the committee.

Panelists began by explaining the specific ways in which their work impacts women in particular, and how this, in turn, impacts all workers. Using an intersectional approach, the panelists explored the connections

between feminist activism and the labour movement.

Attendees had the opportunity to ask the panelists questions which led to an important conversation around the ways in which OSSTF Toronto could potentially partner with other labour and community organizations.

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STBU Council—A Primer

Every month, usually the third Thursday, a group of people gather at a large meeting of the STBU (Secondary Teacher Bargaining Unit) called "Council", which is comprised of the Executive, Branch Presidents, additional delegates (depending on school size) as well as other interested members.

By coming to Council, you have an opportunity to hear first-hand from the President of our Bargaining Unit, Doug Jolliffe, our Chief Negotiator and other members of the Executive. The reports will inform you about the major issues as well as successes within our bargaining unit, the province and labour in general. You will also hear about the activities of our various committees (which you are always welcome to join) such as the Status of Women, Political Action and Gay-Straight



Alliance. In addition, the Provincial Executive makes a report about province-wide issues. Often, it is the Provincial President, Paul Elliot, and

Treasurer, Earl Burt who attend the meetings to give the report and answer questions from members. The reports are followed by a Q & A, which also includes other items of concern to branches and individual teachers. Here, issues can be aired and remedies are often suggested either by the Executive or other teachers who have experienced similar issues in their schools.

"Delegate" attendees can also move motions on actions and policies for the bargaining unit to undertake, they can speak to these motions as well as vote on them. This is where the use of coloured cards may be important. With the help of the instructions in your "Council package" and some tutelage from a long-standing delegate, you will be at the microphone with the appropriate card in no time. In order to make Council meetings more accessible, food is provided as well as a travel and dependent care subsidy, if required.

The best way to learn about council to attend. Check our website or ask your Branch President. See you there!

Upcoming Committee Meetings

- PD Committee —Nov. 24
- Political Action Committee —Nov. 24
- Human Rights Committee —Nov. 26
- Gay-Straight Alliance —Dec. 1
- Eco-Committee —Dec. 8
- Communications Committee —Dec. 15
- Political Action Committee —Dec. 15
- PD Committee —Dec. 15



- Unless Otherwise noted, all meetings are open to all members and take place on the 4th floor at 1482 Bathurst Street at 4:30 pm. Refreshments are served. Parking is limited. Walk from St. Clair West subway station.

A special thanks to all of our members who volunteer to serve on committees! The work of OSSTF cannot be done without you!

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