

Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association



TODAY

President's Column

Date: May 14, 2015

Issue: #5

DTA Annual General Meeting

Earlier this week, on Tuesday May 12th, the DTA Annual General Meeting was held at Seaquam Secondary in North Delta with most positions being filled by acclamation. There was a single election to determine who would be the elementary teachers' representative on the Bargaining/Working & Learning Conditions Committee for next year.

2015/2016 DTA Executive and Committee members elected

I was pleased to see that there are an increasing number of experienced, mid-career teachers who are willing to step into positions of responsibility within the local and to devote themselves to particular areas of concern to us all. The names of the new and returning members of the DTA Executive and Committee members are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Constitutional Changes Approved – Three New Standing Committees Created

Also at Tuesday's Annual General Meeting, certain changes to the DTA Constitution and Bylaws were approved. As a result of the AGM-mandated Constitutional Review completed over the past year, the DTA has created three new "standing committees", each with a specific role and function. One of this is a new, Teachers-teaching on-call Advisory Committee created specifically to address the needs and concerns of teachers who work mainly as Teachers Teaching on-Call. This new committee will replace the former TTOC contact, who sat on the E.C., but whose capacity was limited by the lack of committee members to take on projects and do the work on behalf of Delta's TTOC's.

In addition, a new, Aboriginal Education Committee was created to do work in support of teachers working to meet the learning needs of the approximately 500 or so students in Delta schools who are identified as aboriginal.

Given the importance to teachers of issues relating to union finance, a new DTA Finance Committee has been created, a good place for DTA members to discuss and to make recommendations to the executive. Over the past many decades, we've always been very well served by successive Executive Committees who have worked to ensure that our budgets are sufficient to meet our needs, deficits are avoided, and any surpluses are either carried forward or invested in targeted funds.

In recent years, the EC has implemented procedures to support the identification, consideration and endorsement of Local Resolutions to the BCTF Annual General Meeting. The creation of our new Local Resolutions Committee will provide a place for this work to continue throughout the year.

President's Report

Tuesday's Annual General Meeting also provided me with an opportunity to speak directly to members and to report—in a general way—on the efforts of the DTA to support the work and professionalism of teachers.

With reference to the DTA Goals for 2014/2015, I told members that in broad terms it's the local's role to advocate, communicate and relate to members as effectively as possible. I told members that over the past year stress among teachers has been increasing, for a variety of reasons, and I described some of those reasons and reminded members that the DTA has a lot of support and services to offer members who are doing their best to cope under difficult, sometimes hostile circumstances.

I also reminded members of the recommendations the DTA made to Delta Board of Education Trustees as part of their annual budget-setting exercise. To reiterate those recommendations:

- 1) The DTA called upon the Board to commit to a more open, transparent and public budget setting process;
- 2) To direct all available District funds to staffing at the school level, including teachers, administrative and support staff;
- 3) To call upon the Board to advocate for increased REAL funding for Public Education.

A Simple Test

With so many competing demands on teachers' time, we've devised a simple, three question test that might help some teachers decide whether or not they should devote their time, energy, and support to. It consists of three questions, all of which, ideally, should be answered 'yes':

- 1) Does it help the student?
- 2) Does it help the teacher?
- 3) Does it help the District and the community as a whole?

As we move into Staffing Season and the final weeks and months of the current school year, please continue to take the best care of yourself and each other as we do our best work in support of the students we teach.

Thinking of Retiring? Planning a Leave?

Once you have made your decision, please inform Human Resources at the School Board and submit your paper work. This will be helpful for next year's staffing needs.

2015 - 2016 DTA Executive Committee Elected May 12, 2015

President	Paul Steer
1st VP/Bargaining Chair	Arabella Bowman
2nd VP/Grievance Support	Susan Yao
Treasurer	Tanis Maxfield
Executive Secretary	Kathleen Macfarlane
Local Reps:	
1 year	Susan Yao
2 year	Simon Isbister
2 year	Jessica Le Brun
Alternate Rep	Toby Mundy
Members at Large	Annie Coblin
	Elen Nikas
	Alison Roche
	<i>Vacant</i>
TTOC Rep	
Adult Ed, Itinerant and Non-Enrolling Teachers Rep	Peter Yang
Committee Chairs:	
Professional Development	Simon Isbister
Public Education Advocacy	Lucie Ferrari
Health & Safety	Greg Stafford
Social Justice	Trevor Spilchen

Employment Insurance Workshop: Navigating the EI Claim Process

This BCTF facilitated workshop is sponsored by the DTA TTOC Committee and is open to all teachers. This workshop will help you understand the steps to follow in applying for, and obtaining, EI benefits

Thursday, June 4, 2015

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Delta Manor Education Centre - Action Room

Please register with Debbie at the DTA Office by **May 19**
debbie@deltateachers.org or 604-946-0391.

DTA Retirement Reception & New Teacher Induction Ceremony

Monday, June 8, 2015

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Delta Town & Country Inn

All district employees are invited to attend this reception to honour our retiring Colleagues and welcome new teachers to the district.

A dinner for retirees and invited guests will follow.



"Tad" Boyes Scholarship



Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$800.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence.

Application forms for the "Tad" Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be printed from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org, under Forms. **Deadline is June 26, 2015**

PD Reminders

Have you attended a course, workshop, or completed a course and have not received your reimbursement?

The deadline for submitting receipts is **June 19** if you wish to receive a cheque before the school year end.

Are you planning on attending a course, conference, or workshop during the summer or the first week of September? If you are, you need to submit your application to the DTA office by **June 12**.

Please make sure you always use the forms from the DTA website as they are the most current. Effective July 1, 2015, funding limits will change. Please check the PD home page for complete details.

A message from the Delta Retired Teachers' Association

Congratulations Retiring Teachers and Administrators

We would like to invite you to join the Delta Retired Teachers' Association and the BC Retired Teachers' Association.

Membership entitles you to:

- Information about issues that impact you in retirement
- Luncheons to socialize with other retired colleagues four times a year at minimal cost (\$25)
- Eight newsletters/magazines from BCRTA and DRTA
- Qualify for superior travel insurance (Medoc)
- DRTA members email list (helps keep you up on BCRTA, DRTA and Delta District happenings)

Fees are \$48 per year (\$40 BCRTA, \$8 DRTA). More information and application forms can be found at www.bcrta.ca.

*A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind,
touches a heart, shapes a future.*