



ADETFO INFO



Stewards: Please
Post

Jan./Feb. 2011

EDITED BY:
DOUG COULTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Is it too soon to think about OCTOBER 6TH?

We all have a responsibility to understand the issues for the next election. ETFO represents over 76, 000 public educators. Together with our affiliates, we have the ability to have our voices heard and make a difference! Recent statistics show a steady decline in voter turnout. If trends continue, there will be less than 50% voter turnout this year! The next election directly affects our next round of bargaining. Your working conditions and wages are at stake! We cannot afford to be uninformed. ETFO recently published an education agenda for the 2011 provincial election –

Building Better Schools. Platform highlights include:

- ~ **More meaningful student assessment (reduce standardized testing)**
- ~ **Greater access to specialist teachers**
- ~ **Small classes for ALL elementary students**
- ~ **More resources for special needs students**
- ~ **Greater focus on equal opportunity and inclusion**

Your local Political Action Committee will be involved in sharing this document with members, candidates, trustees, and the media. In addition, ADETFO will be sending information in the coming months to assist members in understanding party platforms. Many of us take for granted all that has been gained through Union activities. If you joined the profession in the last decade (post Harris Gov.) I encourage you to talk to your colleagues who experienced things like wage freezes and teacher recertification. We are already beginning to hear about wage freezes, cuts to Full-day Kindergarten and Merit Pay – the list goes on.

Stewards are currently in the process of gathering data. ETFO has asked for your input. Each staff will be meeting to determine their **top three PROVINCIAL bargaining goals** for the next round. Algoma voices will be heard in the province. (***)*Surveys will continue to be sent to you regarding LOCAL issues such as leave days, benefits, etc.*)

Contact the office at 942-3379 or adetfopres@shaw.ca if you would like to receive a copy of ***Building Better Schools*** or check out the following web-site:

www.etfo.ca/advocacyandaction/provincial/election/

BE INFORMED!

Kelly



~ *Thank you* to all schools who donated to Christmas Cheer this year.

~ *Thank you* to everyone who attended or donated the Gord Widget benefit this past January. With over 400 attending, it truly was a testament to the number of people Gord has touched over his career with ADSB and the community. The event raised over fifteen thousand dollars! Well done everyone.

~ *Thank you* to the Sault Unit for hosting our first P.A. Day pub of the year at Top Hat Billiards. The free food, free pool and numerous door prizes were greatly appreciated. Proceeds from this event benefited our local Soup Kitchen. We look forward to doing something like this again for our spring reporting P.A. Day. A special thank you to Jason, the manager at Top Hat for his generous donation to the Soup Kitchen.

We are pleased to announce that the following seven members have been approved to represent Algoma ETFO at this year's **"...and Still We Rise"** conference this February in Toronto.

- *Brenda Scheepmaker,
- *Ann Ciaschini,
- *Francis Fisher,
- *Crystal Lippe,
- *Lee-Ann Matteau,
- *Liana Seccareccia, and Alyson Turco.



Your PD Funds At Work:



In November, ADETFO member Jan Killen (Ester Park PS) attended the Sixth Annual National Character Education Conference held in Huntsville. In her thank you note she wrote, "The conference proved to be a very positive experience with many practical strategies provided by experts in the field of character education, such as Dr. Monte Selby and Dr. Michael Brandwein. It continues to be an excellent source of practical information for teachers and administrators who believe in and want to continue to promote positive character growth at all levels within a school board."

Again, many thanks to you and I hope other teachers and/or administrators will have the opportunity to attend this conference next year."

ETFO AWARDS:

Don't forget to nominate individuals for this year's upcoming ETFO awards to be given out at this year's annual retirement dinner.

Nominations are being accepted for:

- ~ Support Staff
- ~ Outstanding Bus Driver
- ~ Innovative Educator
- ~ Humanitarian
- ~ Volunteer



Nominations due: March 31st .

"Who is Nobody"



Who is nobody kits are available to borrow for your classroom. Please contact the ADETFO office if you would like to access this resource.

***Also, - new resource, "Thinking it Through Teaching and Learning in the Kindergarten Classroom" now available -first come first serve!**

FYI:

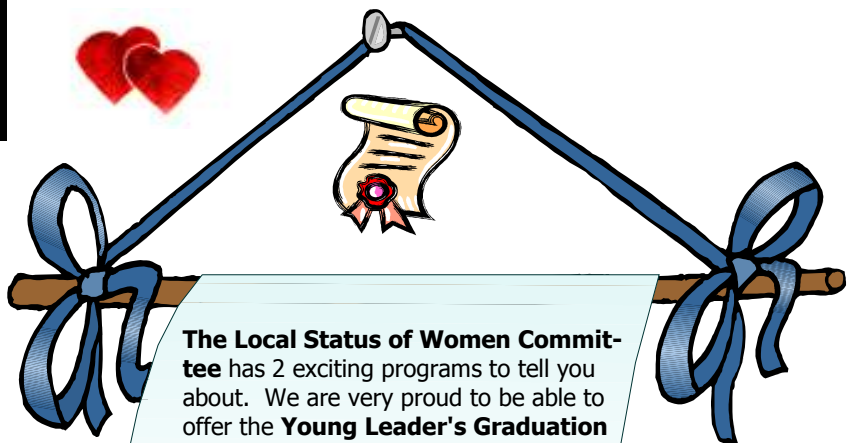
Staffing Processing Guidelines have been sent to your steward. Please ensure that you receive a copy from your steward to review this process if you plan to request a change in assignment.



NOTE: Deadline for application for transfers, or change in assignment from part-time to full-time or full-time to part-time is March 1st.



Call 942-3379 or e-mail adetfopres@shaw.ca or adetfopv@shaw.ca if you have questions or need advice.



The Local Status of Women Committee has 2 exciting programs to tell you about. We are very proud to be able to offer the **Young Leader's Graduation Award** to deserving grade 8 girls once again. This award was very well received last year as we were able to provide more than \$3000.00 to the students of ADSB. This is a wonderful opportunity for an additional award at your school's graduation ceremony this year.

We are also offering **Female Athletic Funding** for both girls and female teachers who are engaged in a variety of sport related activities. Please look for these 2 flyers in your school or see your school Steward or Unit Rep. for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Lee-Ann Matteau ~ Isabel Fletcher
Tawny Huff ~ Greenwood
Lisa Harasymiw/Christina Kelly ~
Hornepayne Public School.

We are very excited about these programs and look forward to receiving many submissions.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Matteau, Committee Chair

