



Members Update for April 28th, 2022

This will be your regular update for this week – nothing coming tomorrow. Today is a somber day for workers across the country. On April 28th each year we remember those killed or injured on the job. The last few years have been especially tough in certain areas like healthcare which saw a number of CUPE and other workers lose their lives as a result of workplace neglect by employers that put lives at risk, a number of times because of pure greed. When you're at work today – please take a few minutes to look around and notice a few workplace hazards that could endanger a worker like yourself and document it with your supervisor in writing. It could be loose ceiling tiles that could fall. It could be daisy chained extension cords that could pose a fire hazard. It could be a damaged floor tile that creates a tripping hazard. By law, your supervisor is responsible for the safety of the workplace and all employees under their care. All health and safety issues by law must be brought to the attention of your supervisor before the Local gets involved. The Ontario Occupational Health & Safety Act (aka The Green Book) outlines this very clearly and the supervisor responsibility to take those concerns seriously and address them in a timely manner to protect workers. If your supervisor has been made aware of health and safety concerns and has not addressed them in a reasonable time frame – you need to let one of your provincially certified health and safety reps (Kathleen Powell, Danny Catanyag, Marilyn MacAloney) know right away so they can do their jobs to represent you properly. It is only through reporting issues that change can begin to happen.

Women's Committee Walk & Talk – Social event organized by our Women's Committee for all members on Saturday morning. Flyer attached – **please RSVP by tomorrow afternoon if you can come out!** You can either email or call the office and let them know if you plan on attending!

Provincial Screening Tool – The provincial screening tool for Education workers was updated again and **we all need to be completing our daily screening before coming to work.** Please check the current screening tool to see if you should be at work today or not - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

OFL March Sunday May 1st - There is an Ontario Federation of Labor event planned for **this Sunday at Gore Park and Gage Park** to fight for better working conditions across the province for all workers. Please attend and support workers rights if you're able – event flyer attached.

Birds, Birds and more Birds! - Usually at this time of year we have some teaching staff that bring in egg hatching stations that eventually turn into chicks. And while this is neat to watch and who doesn't think baby chicks are cute – the employer (not us) has a policy against this. There is an Animals in Schools policy that needs to be followed and birds are not permitted to be in schools. If you have a classroom(s) with the little hatching stations in them, please notify your supervisor about it and ask that they follow up with the principal. Feel free to copy one of our stewards or Executive on your email so we're aware of it and can follow up and make sure the policy is being followed. I've attached a copy of the policy at the end of the update for you to print off and keep handy for future reference.

So You Want To Be On the Union? - As most of you are already aware, next month we will have nominations for various positions within our Local. Some members may want to stay involved and run again – others may want to get involved and run for the first time for a position. Holding a union position can be very rewarding, fulfilling, helpful and satisfying. It can also be very frustrating, time consuming and make you want to drink or visit a dispensary. I hope to have the Election Committee in place by early next week and they can begin to decide on a few things about how the election will run. Before the rumors really start flying over the next few weeks about who's running for what or who's running against who – I wanted to share a few things after serving in my role for the past two years.

Just because someone is a nice person doesn't mean they would be good for a position. It's not a popularity contest. Would you trust the person you're voting for to fight for your rights and possibly your job if something happened to you in the workplace? Do you have that much confidence in them and their abilities?

It's not all fun and games. People don't see the evening meetings or hear the outside of work hours phone calls. They don't spend a few days away from home and loved ones in an unfamiliar city hotel room so that you can learn about new workplace issues. They don't practice making speeches to managers and supervisors about workplace problems. They don't spend hours looking over language and talking to other reps around the province on how to handle a situation. Being involved and running for any position requires commitment. Commitment that sometimes interferes with your personal life and causes you stress and anxiety.

I've gone through the bylaws and made a list of all the positions that members can be nominated for so you can think about what you may be interested in running for on the June 23rd ballot. That list is attached with this update.

Enjoy your weekend. Spend time with your family, friends, partner or just yourself. Do something that helps put work as far from your mind as possible. Find that balance.

Cheers,

Blake



June 2022 Electable Positions & Descriptions of Roles

Executive Positions: - 8 positions available - President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Recording Secretary, Secretary Treasurer, Chief Steward, Membership Officer (2 positions)

Stewards – 10 positions available

Health & Safety Committee – 10 positions available

Trustees – 3 year trustee & 2 year trustee positions available

Women's Committee – 6 positions available

C.A.R.D. Committee (Committee Against Racism & Discrimination)

– 6 positions available

** *Executive and Committee position descriptions can be found in Sections 9 and 17 of our Local Bylaws - [CLICK HERE FOR LOCAL BYLAWS](#)



WOMENS COMMITTEE'S 1ST WALK AND TALK SOCIAL

Come out and enjoy a hot beverage, a relaxing sit down chat and/or an optional walk with some of the wonderful people we work with. Make some new friends, get in your steps...just come on out and join us for a relaxing time out from our everyday! Can't wait to see you there!

When? SATURDAY APRIL 30TH @ 10:30 AM

Where ? CLIFFVIEW PARK

(Corner of Upper Paradise Rd and Scenic Dr)

Coffee and Tea will be provided

Please bring a chair and dress for the weather! If it is raining the social will be the following Saturday. Same time, Same place!

Open to all members

Please RSVP with Laurie Penner by Friday April 29th @3 pm.
Please email the office (cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca) with your name and number of people attending.