



## Quick Update for June 1st, 2023

**Communications** – Currently, we have a few stewards and Executive off for various reasons, including myself for some health reasons. To help us keep the lines of communication open and getting members the correct answers they are looking for on various issues – **for the time being please call or email the office with any questions about work issues like overtime wheels, summer cleaning, priority cleaning, etc, etc, etc.** All calls and emails will be assigned by Janna to the best person available and they will be responsible for calling or emailing you back. Janna is in the office Monday to Thursday from 8am to 4pm. On Fridays she still checks voicemails and emails periodically through the day. Any immediate health & safety concerns should be directed to your supervisor or the on call supervisor after 4pm.

Office phone number – 905-544-7733

Office email – [cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca](mailto:cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca)

On Call Supervisor – after 4pm and weekends – 905-667-3079

**PD Place Signup** – **\*\*2<sup>nd</sup> week on\*\*** from Michelle Madley, Membership Officer. Signup is open for our PD Day in July. Some members have had issues with trying to sign up from home so we looked into that and it turns out that PD Place is not accessible by members outside of the workplace unless you install a piece of software on their home computers. The recommendation from the Local is that members use a work computer at their school to sign up for PD Day. The instructions on how to install something else on your home computer were quite lengthy and confusing and for everyone's sanity – let's just leave it at signing up from a work computer for a work related event is the best option for everyone.

**Ratification Celebration – \*\*2<sup>nd</sup> week on\*\*** Thanks to our Social Committee, they have planned a get together to celebrate the end of bargaining, our new contract and back pay! Members will be responsible for their own food & beverages – please confirm attendance with Darlene Barrick (289-237-8505) or Laurie Penner (905-518-7024) as they have a room booked for 30 people at this point. Please check the flyer attached for the details & we hope to see you there for some laughs and good times!

**When: June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm** **Where: Tracie's Restaurant on Upper James** **Why: Just for fun & catching up**



**OSBCU Classification Meetings – \*\*2<sup>nd</sup> week on\*\*** OSBCU will be running Classification Meetings again in the next few weeks. Classification meetings bring together people who do the same job from all over the province to share stories, get info on what other boards are doing, see how workers are handling issues they are having – just an all around good time for discussion and sharing. There will be classification meetings for both caretaking and trades staff at different times – please use the signup links below! Meetings will be held using the Zoom app.

Caretaking Classification Meeting – June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm

<https://osbcu-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvde6grj0tGtCUh7ZtSe0ghpoY6HuICcQN#/registration>

Trades Classification Meeting – June 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

[https://osbcu-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUodeyrrTMuGt0m3\\_88Vp7ngwxhCbRbDQ6y#/registration](https://osbcu-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUodeyrrTMuGt0m3_88Vp7ngwxhCbRbDQ6y#/registration)

**Heat Warnings** - All members should be aware of the early heat warnings being issued by the City of Hamilton this year. Unfortunately I don't think things are going to be improving on the global climate scene anytime soon. When it comes to heat warnings and work – please pay attention to your coworkers especially if you're in a building that doesn't have full air conditioning. If you find yourself slowing down, sweating or if you stop sweating – please slow down, make sure you're hydrating with water and seek a cooler spot for a couple minutes and let someone know you're struggling. The last call I want to get is that one of our members had to be taken to hospital for heat stress or heat exhaustion.

**Pride Flags** – Who knew this was such an explosive and divisive issue? I have to say that I wish we could focus our efforts on helping each other, working together for better changes in the workplace, combatting lies and bullshit from supervisors than attacking each other over a flag flying on property we don't own. If the HWDSB wants us to fly flags on their property – they can handle the phone calls and backlash from anyone who is offended or hurt by it or thinks it's breaking the law. If you're directed to do something in the workplace that doesn't have an immediate negative impact on your safety – you do it. CUPE has been built on decades of supporting workers, disadvantaged groups and anyone seeking equality. We read the Equality Statement every time we have a meeting and some of us could probably recite it word for word. **We don't support discriminating against anyone in this Local for any reason. Period.**

We have members who struggled for years to be accepted in society because they were “different”. And don't kid yourself, they still have daily struggles to be accepted. Could be a different color of skin, a different look they have, a different choice of who they love. If flying a flag for a few weeks helps someone feel like they belong in this often times crappy world we live in – then fly the flag.

So please take your nasty comments, your veiled threats, your keyboard warrior posturing and anything else that's intended to demean, intimidate or offend someone else and keep it offline or you may find yourself up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Ed Center being accompanied by one of our elected reps to a meeting about what's been said. And “the union” isn't likely to unring the bell that you so intentionally and loudly rang to attract people to whatever side of the argument you're on.

Play nice in the sandbox folks – it wasn't that long ago we had a termination over social media posts.

Cheers,

Blake

COME JOIN CUPE 4153 CELEBRATE THE  
RATIFICATION VOTE

WE

DID IT

JUNE

10

@ 7 PM

TRACIE'S PLACE  
RESTAURANT

592 UPPER JAMES ST  
HAMILTON

GOOD FOOD! GOOD TIMES! GOOD FRIENDS!  
AND GUESS WHAT???? ITS KARAOKE NIGHT!  
COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US - IT HAS BEEN A  
LONG TIME COMING!