

Retired Teachers of Ontario District 31

Executive Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

UGDSB Room 4, Guelph, ON

1. Call to order and Welcome: *Marina Howlett*

Present: Marina Howlett, Stephen O'Connell, Denyse Gray, Brenda McGinnis, Audrey Lowe, Bob Paul, Carol Christie, Anne Smith, Joan Ksenych, Mike Curtis, Terry Sullivan, Nancy Baker, Lynn Morrison, Pauline Brown

Regrets: Audrey Gunson, John Ritchie, Nancy McNabb

- Information from the Heart and Stroke Foundation looking for potential volunteers from our membership was passed around. Nancy and Lynn are already involved.
- A thank you card from Simon for the gift certificate for the River Run Centre and the bottle of Kahlua was passed around.

2. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda: *Marina Howlett*

- **Motion** to approve the agenda as printed: moved by Carol Christie, seconded by Mike Curtis; approved

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Apr. 14, 2008 Meeting: *Anne Smith*

- Under 5d of the President's Report, change \$250 to \$200.
- **Motion** to approve the minutes as amended; moved by Nancy Baker, seconded by Denyse Gray; approved

4. Treasurer's Report: *Denyse Gray*

- Mike Curtis is taking over as treasurer.
- With the second instalment on June 16th, our balance is \$9 431.50.
- The account was changed from personal to business which should be cheaper in the long run because we are allowed twenty transactions a month; previously we paid \$3.00 a cheque.
- Expenses should be in to Denyse by the end of today.
- **Motion** to accept the treasurer's report; moved by Denyse Gray, seconded by Terry Sullivan; accepted

5. Reports:

Membership: *Mike Curtis*

- We have approximately 1000 full members and 90 associates.
- Carol Christie will be assuming this role.
- A recruitment workshop is booked for April 16, 2009.
- A Provincial Resolution was passed opening membership to anyone who worked in the school system.
- On 5/11 OECTA retirees joined RTO.

Newsletter: *Anne Smith*

- The fall newsletter has been printed and anyone on the executive who can stay after the luncheon is asked to help package it for mailing today.
- The deadline for getting information to the editor for the winter newsletter is December 19, 2008.

Goodwill: *Pauline Brown*

- Since our last meeting, 29 birthday cards, 5 sympathy cards, and 8 get well cards were sent; 24 telephone calls and 14 visits were made.
- Pauline has checked the website fairly regularly but thinks it's hard for people to get

used to using it as a way for making contacts with us.

- Our updated list will be arriving shortly.

Political Action: Brenda McGinnis

- Brenda witnessed the early ballots being packed up and sent to Ottawa, money and time wasted.
- If anyone is interested in helping any party, please volunteer.
- Our issue is still health, followed by the environment and infrastructure.
- Ask questions; candidates know that retired teachers vote.
- Brenda is working at Liz Sandals' office. She was concerned that it might be seen as a conflict of interest but the executive agreed it was not a problem. One good thing about this is that it's a good way to get RTO concerns out.
- There will be a workshop in March.

Travel: Lynn Morrison

- 32 people have signed up for Cabaret. Lynn is getting a smaller bus but she still needs 12 more people.
- Several ideas were put forth for a Christmas trip. Farndale Christmas Carol with the Oh Canada, Eh? cast in Niagara was chosen. Lynn was asked to look at a weekend date. She could have the information ready for the upcoming meetings since it doesn't allow time to be put in the newsletter.
- Ticket sales for Beauty and the Beast at River Run are going well but it's too late to arrange a group.
- We should consider supporting Canadian productions.
- Stephen suggested Happy Days the Musical, Anne of Green Gables and How the Grinch Stole Christmas (in North York) and that Lynn might want to check out what's coming up at the Shaw Festival.
- Stratford is putting on West Side Story and On the Way to the Forum next year.

Pension/Retirement Concerns: Marina Howlett

- Things are not in good shape for current working teachers because the market hasn't been strong. Although the Plan is doing well there is a deficit which will have to be addressed. It will not affect our pensions.

6. RTO Health Plan: Bob Paul

- There was a Health Rep conference in June. Districts were asked for suggestions for new inclusions/exclusions e.g. Yearly orthodontics to every second year; vision max every four instead of three years.
- One suggestion was that RTO work with several pharmacies province-wide to cut prescription dispensing costs for RTO members.
- The executive was asked to get ideas to Bob by October 15, 2008.
- In the winter newsletter, it is suggested that we put a list of dispensing costs in various pharmacies throughout District 31. Executive members can check some out and let Stephen know. He will compile the list.

7. President's Report: Marina Howlett

a) Pre-Senate Meeting

- District 31 is the host.
- Location: College Heights Crusaders Lounge
- Date: October 21, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.
- Our two senators (Stephen O'Connell, Brenda McGinnis) and two observers (Anne Smith, Mike Curtis) for the October Senate should go since we're hosting.

- b) **RTO Senate**
Highlights May 2008
- opening up the membership
 - leadership debate because Clarice resigned. Brian Kenny may stay on another year and then Marg Couture, currently Second VP, would be groomed to take over.
- Upcoming Senate**
- There is a President's Workshop on September 23 -24 which Stephen will be attending.
 - Upcoming Senate dates: Oct 27-29, 2008 and May 25-27, 2009
 - Senate dates are booked by the best rate.
- c) **District 31 Meeting Dates 2008-09**
- Oct. 15, 2008 - RTO luncheon (this was missed in the agenda)
 - Dec. 1, 2008 - Executive meeting in the UGDSB Boardroom
 - Apr. 6, 2009 - Executive meeting in the UGDSB Boardroom
 - May 13, 2009 - Spring Dinner
- d) **Proposed District 31 Executive 2008-09**
- The following members are leaving the Executive:
Audrey Lowe
Mary McNabb
Audrey Gunson
Denyse Gray
 - Joan Miller is willing to take on the Secretary role.
 - We need two Councillors. Patrick Brooder and Pam Niesiobedzki-Curtis have expressed interest.

8. **Other Business: *Marina Howlett***

- a) **Project STO**
- A proposal was made to support RCMP next season (fall 2009) with their production of Tommy.
 - This is a not-for-profit group.
 - There are many teachers, students, and retired teachers involved in the group.
 - It costs \$100,000 to put on a performance at the River Run Centre.
 - Sarnia RTO supported musical theatre in the amount of \$4000 previously.
 - Stephen will invite them to make a presentation in December.
 - If anyone hears of something else, let them know.
- b) **Fall General Meeting**
- 10:00 at Arthur arena with the same caterer
 - \$14.00 for turkey dinner (we'll go with this)
 - \$16.00 to add ham
 - Speakers:
Provincial President (intro: *Marina*; thanks: *Mike*)
Heart and Stroke (intro: *Lynn*; thanks: *Nancy*)
Geri Brombal (intro: *Stephen*; thanks: *Brenda*)
 - election of new officers
 - Marg Frayne: display from last year's STO project

c) **Sponsorship:**

- In the future, when we sponsor an event, we should request that RTO be written out in full as Retired Teachers of Ontario.

9. **Adjournment** 11:20 a.m.

- Catered Lunch at Marina's at 12:00
- Packing Fall Newsletter at Marina's to follow

Next Meeting: Monday, December 1, 2008
Location: UGDSB Boardroom