

# APSSP

Association of Professional Student Services Personnel

Niagara Chapter

Executive Update Report

Winter 2020

The New Year is here! We wish you good health and Peace in 2020



## Bargaining Update

APSSP with its EWAO-ATEO partners successfully ratified the Ministry Central Agreement on February 3, 2020. A summary of the agreement will be available on the APSSP website in the Member Section shortly. **Stay Tuned!** <https://apssp.org/bargaining>

## Welcome to all New Members, permanent and temporary!

We encourage all new members to take a quick moment and visit [www.apssp.org](http://www.apssp.org) to learn more about your union. Upon your initial visit to the site you are asked to register and create your APSSP e-mail, this allows Provincial to reach you with any important information for their members. **ANY CURRENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED ALREADY Please DO SO!!** This is a crucial step to ensuring everyone is receiving all necessary emails coming from Provincial.

## Reminders:

**Your T4A Tax Form** will be available on the OTIP website after February 28. You can log in on or after February 28 to access it securely until May 1.

**Signing in when you arrive at schools may be a good thing after all!** Some Boards have moved towards a fob or key-card system for entry into every school. This is like 'clocking in' and specifically tracks workers' time. **It's in all of our best interests to continue to comply reasonably with the sign-in expectation at schools.**

## Celebrations

Congratulations Jen Drury and her husband Steve Mahler! They were married on November 30, 2019. Wishing you a lifetime of love, health and happiness.



Charlie Watton is having a Stag & Doe on February 15, 2020 at the Grantham Optimist and her wedding date is May 2, 2020. *If you have any important event that you would like to include in our next newsletter please pass on to Joanne Mestek, Public Relations Officer for our group!*

## APSSP GIVES BACK

\$500 was donated to the EFN Foundation on behalf of our members in December 2019. A big Thank-you goes out to Jodie Miller who was asked to speak to senior Admin, and donors about how students benefit from this service.

## Supporting our Education colleagues!

Thanks to those of you who have taken time to support our ETFO and OSSTF colleagues as they fight for #NoCutsToEducation. Continue to provide this support as the work action continues! Follow @APSSPUnion on Twitter and @APSSPUnion on Facebook to see how colleagues across the province are supporting!



## PR SPOTLIGHT

As you know we are working alongside Kim Yielding in the communication department to put a spotlight on the good work of our members. Last Spring Social workers were spotlighted and this year we have included Youth Counsellors and the Assessment team. The intention was to video tape all disciplines but we could only include 3 for now. We aim to share it with all members when complete. We are so grateful to share with the DSNB, how APSSP is making a difference for students and families.

## Message from the President

Thank you to all the Executive Officers for the hard work they do on behalf of our membership!! It's been very busy times.

Joanne Mestek and Leanne Hasenack arranged and delivered a nice holiday gift in recognition of the membership dedication and service to students and families. Lots of members reached out in appreciation and we know this was well deserved.

Dave Peirce has been leading us through the process of Central and Local Negotiations. Thank you to everyone who completed the excellent survey he designed!! The Negotiating Committee (Dave Peirce, Courtney Moody, Marissa Geisa, Leanne, Tracey Gegieckas and myself) have been working on the Local Proposal. We are meeting with our Legal Consultant, Larry Robbins (Provincial assigns all Consultants) on February 13. Local Bargaining has been set for February 27th!

A Joint Consultation Committee (JCC) Labour Relations meeting was held on January 29 with Human Resources. It was an opportunity to discuss the Mileage and Technology Loss and Theft policies as these apply to our membership. This JCC is a way to air concerns and attempt to resolve these collegially.

The Seniority List has been finalized and a copy of this will be available in the Human Resources Folder on the DSBN staff portal. At our request, the Board added the members who are temporary, as they accrue seniority that can be applied if they become permanent employees.

Joanne Mestek and Tara Colavecchia have been busy collaborating with Kim Yielding to create the Spotlight on APSSP videos. These videos are for the System - to help our stakeholders understand our Professions and Roles within DSBN and to learn how APSSP is 'making a difference for students and families'.

Tara Colavecchia represented us on the DSBN Calendar Committee this past fall. This committee, with the Board, helps to sort out the Yearly work hours, holidays, school days, PA days etc. This coming summer has required creative problem solving as it's a longer 9 week holiday. Two PA days will be held prior to students attending school after labour day, in order to ensure Boards meet the criteria for the number of days students must be in school learning and that all worker contract language is observed (#work days and work hours per worker group). This calendar will be widely available as soon as it has been approved.

Jen Grundy continues to champion Health and Safety, representing our interests as part of the Board Health and Safety Committee. Remember to complete incident reports! These are now available electronically. Board accountability to your safety is important!

Sarah James has pulled together our Chapter Directory and provided this to Provincial. This is a big endeavor, since we often forget we need to let Sarah know when our personal information changes! It's important to keep this updated so that Provincial and EWAO can accurately act on your behalf for Benefits, Sick Leave, Long Term Disability and other financial items that are negotiated and managed with the Ministry of Education.

Tracey Gegieckas and Jen Drury have been assisting me with member concerns, Board issues and Provincial consults. They are on my 'hot-line'!! I am grateful to them, and all the Executive Officers for being responsive and supportive when I reach out for their assistance.

As I review the above, I am truly in awe of the outstanding work these people do for us! Their combined and individual efforts, dedicated time, energy and expertise continues to ensure the highest quality outcomes for our membership.

In solidarity,  
Lynn Orr



## DID YOU KNOW

The [www.apssp.org](http://www.apssp.org) website has a wealth of information for members!

May 4-10 is the week CMHA recognizes mental health week. Log on and find some helpful tips.

**OMERS** continues to suggest changes to Pension Indexing that will members you when you retire. Now is the time to be vigilant for your Retirement.

Over the last two years, some members of the OMERS Sponsors Corporation (SC) Board have attempted to remove the guaranteed indexing of your pension. So far, CUPE Ontario, allies, and plan members have been able to defeat these attempts.

Unfortunately, there is a good chance that this year another attempt to remove your pension's guaranteed indexing will be made.

The OMERS plan is doing well financially and when you retire you deserve to have a pension that keeps up with inflation. Please take a moment and send this email to OMERS CEO Michael Rolland and other members of the SC board.

Join the Campaign and let OMERS know you want pension indexing preserved. CUPE members are doing this already!

**Please consider notifying OMERS : Log into your OMERS - go to My Communications and send off this email. [www.omers.com](http://www.omers.com)**

Dear Michael Rolland, CEO OMERS Sponsors Corporation:

I'm writing to you as a proud member of the OMERS pension plan. I rely on my pension and its benefits for my retirement. That includes guaranteed indexing against inflation.

I know there've been proposals to end guaranteed indexing, including a vote that failed last year. Repeated attempts to remove this important benefit are stressful for plan members. I'm asking that OMERS leaves guaranteed indexing in place because without it, the value of my pension, my retirement income, will suffer.

The plan is performing well. Plan members also need to do well. There should be no attempt to make any damaging changes to guaranteed indexing this coming year.

Cuts will hurt my future pension. OMERS must protect our pensions and abandon all attempts to remove guaranteed indexing. As an OMERS plan member, I will work together with other plan members, to protect our pension benefits against any attempts to weaken them.

Sincerely,  
Your Name

**As always if you have any questions please reach out to any of your executive members who are working on your behalf. We believe our members in APSSP are "MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES"**

Sincerely,  
Lynn Orr-President  
Tracy Gegieckas-Vice President  
Dave Peirce-Negotiations  
Jen Drury-Grievance  
Tara Colovecchia-Governing Council  
Jen Grundy-Health and Safety  
Leanne Hasenack-Treasurer  
Sarah James-Secretary  
Joanne Mestek-Public Relations