

ComSoc MERC NEWS

News from your OPSEU Ministry Enforcement and Renewal Committee team for the Ministry of Community and Social Services

OPS Divisionals

BY ROXANNE BARNES

Chair, MCSS MERC team

During the OPS Divisionals the delegates elected their MERC Team. I am proud to be returning as your chair. Also returning to your MERC team is Brother Ron Strong representing the ODSP Occupational group, and Sister Liz Daubney, representing the Developmental Service Occupational Group. Liz was also elected as the Vice Chair. Your newly elected member is Brother Shawn Lavery, representing Family Responsibility Office/Disability Adjudication Unit/Social Benefits tribunal. We all look forward to representing you over the next two years.

I would like to thank all of the members who stood for election and I wish all the new teams well in their fight to make our workplaces a safe and healthy environment free from harassment and discrimination.

After a very busy weekend, I left feeling refreshed and rejuvenated and ready to take on the tasks ahead. I will fight for your rights and represent all of you to the best of my ability. I look forward to working with each and every one of you during my term of office. I would like to thank all of the members who took time away from their families to attend.

MERC all chairs meeting

Sunday afternoon at the Divisionals I attended the all-chairs meeting. We elected our CERC team, with all incumbents returning to their positions.

We discussed our agenda for the next two years, and what we need to do to get our message heard and delivered. It is time for our government to live up to their

campaign promise and rebuild the Ontario Public Service.

We thanked Brother Terry Baxter for his guidance during the last few years and wished him well in his future endeavours.

We left tired, but ready and willing to take on the challenges that lie ahead of us as leaders in the OPS.

OPSEU



SEFPO

Issue No. 4
March 2007

In this Bulletin:

- OPS DIVISIONALS
- MERC ALL CHAIRS MEETING
- OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS ELECT THEIR TEAMS
- MERC MEETING

A fond farewell

It was one of the hardest things for me to do to say good-bye to one of our strongest activists at our Divisionals. All the coaxing in the world would not change the mind of our sister. For personal reasons Sister Pam Smith decided not to run for re-election. Pam started her activism when in Developmental Services, continuing into ODSP after seeing her facility close. Pam is one of the most compassionate persons I have worked with, and she has always given 100-plus per cent to the work she has taken on. Pam is the driving force behind our LERC training. Under Pam's leadership we have moved miles in improving labour relations within our ministry. Pam, we thank you and we wish you well. I know you will be there when we need your words of wisdom.

Thank you, Sister.

Occupational groups elect their teams

BY ROXANNE BARNES
Chair, MCSS MERC team

It was election time for all of our occupational groups at Divisionals. The following are the newly elected members:

ODSP: Norm Pilon, Chair; Leanne Pold-Dellavedova, Vice Chair; Cindy Wright, Secretary-Treasurer; Stuart McInnis, Member at Large; Ron Strong, MERC Member.

Developmental Services:

David Chew, Chair; Elizabeth Smith, Vice Chair; Maria Doef, Treasurer/Secretary; Greg Bondy, Member at Large; Elizabeth Daubney, MERC member.

FRO/SBT/DAU: Shawn Lavery, MERC member (A team was not elected at this Divisional Meeting).

I would like to thank the outgoing team members for their commitment for their fight and their compassion when representing you during their elected term. DS: Sister Tammy Kirkwood and Brother David Lundy; ODSP: Sisters Pam Smith and Carolle Hamilton. I wish you all the best and personally thank each and every one of you. I know that you will continue our fight.

MERC meeting

BY ROXANNE BARNES
Chair, MCSS MERC team

Your new MERC team faced the employer for the first time Dec. 4, 2006. We delivered a strong message that we expect them to live up to the Premier's promise and to start to rebuild the OPS, so we will be able to provide the safe, clean, healthy communities all Ontarians deserve.

We reminded them of the upcoming elections and that we

will be a force to be reckoned with. We discussed the spring budget and how this Ministry needs to be pro-active instead of reactive. We need funds for staffing resources in the budget, so we can provide the excellence in public service that we all strive to reach.

The present programs within MCSS are at a critical state, as they are grossly underresourced. We need to continue to pressure the ministry at all tables.

We also discussed the planned closing of the three developmental services facilities and the OPSEU campaign. We are here to stay, stronger than before, and we are not going away. We will continue to pressure this ministry until they live up to their election promises. We will be there during the election campaign every step of the way. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2007. Until then stay strong and united.

Meet the new team members

Our next edition will include articles from your MERC members re: the meetings of their occupational groups at Divisionals including a brief biography on the newly elected members.

*In Solidarity,
Roxanne Barnes
MERC Chair*

MERC team

Roxanne Barnes Chair
roxanne_barnes@hotmail.com

Liz Daubney Vice Chair
ldaubney@rogers.com

Ron Strong Member
ronstrong@hotmail.com

Shawn Lavery Member
shawnlavery@inane.com



Authorized for Distribution:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leah Casselman".

Leah Casselman, *President*