NEWS & VIEWS

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Wow, 30 degrees out and it's still play-off hockey as I write this. Global warming eh! No need for a countdown, summer is here. The end of another school year is fast approaching, along with much anticipated vacations, barbeques and trips to the beaches and pools. All of you boaters and water lovers, please remember to play safe and be mindful of others in your presence. West Coast living at its finest!

Some of our members have decided to take vacations to a whole new level – fifteen school board, as well as five Municipal, one Police, and two Library, members have chosen to hang up their hats in various support staff positions across our membership in this same time frame. I would just like to take a moment to wish to all of our retiring members, a very healthy and happy retirement as you script the next chapter in your lives and plot a course for future encounters and destinations. Bon Voyage!

It is with mixed emotions that I inform those of you who don't already know that our office administrator (Cathy Stokely) will also be leaving us this summer. Whilst I am extremely happy that Cathy has decided to take her foot off the accelerator and shift into cruise mode, I feel a great sense of loss of one of the greatest driving forces within our Association. Her highly professional, pleasant and courteous manner was balanced with a strong sense of motivation and organizational skills, which helped us all to weather many storms within our Association over the years. Cathy could always be counted upon to dot her i's and cross her t's, and always kept us on our toes. Congrats to you, Cathy, Jim and your faithful companion (four-legged) Murray.

I would like to wish everyone a very pleasant, fun and enjoyable summer with family and friends. Take care of yourself and each other.

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER



This is the time of year when minds begin to drift. Summer is the time of year when many are finally afforded the time in which to breathe, take stock of their own lives and think about what is next. Is it a summer job, a planned vacation, simple relaxation at home or a hectic two months looking after a busy young family? Whatever course you plot, ensure a balance of quality time with family members as well as for yourself. Oh yeah, have fun in whatever it is you do!

New Schedule A (School District)
By now each WVMEA School Board member should have received an amended salary grid (Schedule A) for their personal hard copy of the School District's Collective Agreement. The *Economic Stability Dividend* has been added into each hourly rate and is recorded in the new Schedule. The new rates came into effect May 1, 2016.

MPP-Post Retirement Group Benefit Changes
As of January 1st 2017 the benefits *for retirees* will change. Please see page 3 of this bulletin for a summary of changes. Links are now available on our website which include more details and explanations for the change.

Cathy Stokely Retiring!
In the event any WVMEA members missed the notice sent out last week, Cathy has announced her retirement from our organization. Cathy was hired in 1995 shortly after her arrival to BC and without delay she became an integral part of "the Association". Business Agents have

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A "SEE-YOU-LATER" MESSAGE FROM CATHY !



First off, I just want to say I don't believe in good-byes .. way too final and unnecessary. One never knows when one will see another out and about .. so I'll just smile and wave for now, and say "*see you later*".

You always hear people say *boy, time sure does fly!* Close to twenty-one years ago I walked in through these office doors and took my place behind the desk. Honestly it truly is just like yesterday. Those were the days of Doug Allan as Municipal Manager, Len Archer as the School Board's Secretary-Treasurer, Chief Librarian Jack Mounce, and Police Chief Hal Jenkins .. like many of our longer-term members, I've seen a lot of people come and go .. and with each change a new management "style" .. got a little tiresome needless to say.

I can't say that it's been all fun and games, but I have some very fond memories of people and fun times. Lots of great members – people who just wanted to put in a decent day's work for a decent day's pay – and maybe have a few laughs along the way. The Crash Crawly's Christmas parties for members' kids were a lot of fun – it was nice to see members out and enjoying time with their fellow members. Then there were the times when our School Board members stayed out in support of the teachers .. stressful, yes – but people pulled together and got to know their fellow members at a different level – there were lots of laughs and a feeling of satisfaction knowing we were doing the right thing.

Over the years I have worked with a variety of Executive Board and Shop Steward members – great people all joined with the common goal of keeping your Association strong and responsive to the varying demands from the workplace. May sound trite, but I'm here to say everything needs checks and balances .. and this Association serves that purpose!

I would be remiss if I didn't remark on the office team – working in a small office can be challenging for a variety of reasons – different personalities – heck, different senses of humour! Brian Schramm and I started around the same time (he a few months earlier). We were joined on a part-time basis by Sharon Worley, and then Cal Davis came on board when Sharon retired. Bruce Scott came in with Brian's departure, followed by Phil Bargen on Cal's retirement. Through it all we forged ahead and worked to keep the issues on the forefront. Good teams – dedicated to "the common cause" .. sometimes a thankless task, like in most jobs .. but you do the best you can do – just like anywhere!

Twenty-one years .. wow! To all of you who are at your varying stages in your work life, I wish you all the best .. hope to see you out and about .. and .. *see you later*!

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER *continued from Page 1*

come and gone during her employment, and she played a pivotal role in assisting them to assimilate into their respective bargaining units and providing historical background information over the years. With Cathy's direct involvement in negotiations, her extensive connections to the membership, her fairness, and her ability to anticipate the Association's needs, those qualities were crucial to paving the way for the Business Agents and the Association's Executive - making our jobs that much easier to do. Cathy's years with the Association are marked by unsurpassed efficiency and excellence.

While we are all sad to see Cathy go, we also share in her excitement and wish her well as she takes this next big step in life. I know we will come to appreciate Cathy even more when we try to fill the void she leaves.

Bruce Scott, Business Manager

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Two members (one with the Municipality and one with the School Board) were the recipients of the $100 door prizes at the General Membership meeting held June 7, 2016. This meeting there were also four "surprise" $25 Save-on Foods gift card door prizes won by: Elaine Holtz, Kristal Kaulbach, Pam Legg and MaryLee Smithers. Congratulations to everyone!

The next General Membership meeting is set for **Wednesday, September 7, 2016** at **5:15 p.m**. in the Welsh Hall at the **West Vancouver Memorial Library** on Marine Drive.

THREE 2016 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Just a reminder that this year the WVMEA is offering three $1,000 scholarships:

1. the *WVMEA Academic Scholarship*;
2. the *Roy Hunter Memorial Scholarship for the Visual Arts*; and
3. the *WVMEA Trades Scholarship*.

Deadline for application is in August 2016. Please go to our website (wvmea.com) to learn more, or call the WVMEA office to obtain an application package.

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

Francis of Assisi

FROM THE BUSINESS AGENT



As we approach the coming summer months, I thought this recent Canadian Cancer Society communiqué around sun safety was well prepared and appropriate for this column, especially given how many of our members work (and play!) in the great outdoors.

Be Safe in the Sun

Rates of melanoma, the deadliest type of skin cancer, continues to rise in Canada even though it is one of the most preventable cancers. The Canadian Cancer Society has released updated sun safety recommendations following collaboration with national health partners. This marks the first time in twenty years that there has been a nationwide consensus on how Canadians should best protect themselves from the sun.

Key updates to sun safety recommendations:

- Peak times to cover up: Canadians need to be extra careful to protect their skin between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. (previously it was between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.). This is when the UV index is 3 or more, typically between April and September in Canada.
- Clothing is better: cover up as much as possible with tightly woven or UV-protective labelled clothing. Clothes generally provide better protection than sunscreen.
- Higher SPF: use a sunscreen with a minimum skin protection factor (SPF) of 30 (previously it was SPF 15). Sunscreen should be labelled "broad-spectrum" and "water resistant."

I'd like to take a minute to recognize Cathy for all of her hard work and dedication to the membership of this local. On a personal note, for me, coming to the WVMEA was a big change from being with the Steelworkers. I know that I couldn't have made such a smooth transition without Cathy's knowledge and guidance, and ultimately her friendship. I'm gonna miss you Cathy, more than you know.

Have a great summer everyone!

YOUR 2016-18 EXECUTIVE BOARD



From left to right, back row:

Clive Mynott (President); Jon Graham (1st V-P); Marina McMaster (Treasurer); Lesley Childs (Secretary).

From left to right, seated:

Anne Russell (Warden); Connor Payne (2nd V-P).

BABY CONGRATULATIONS TO …



This information has been deleted due to electronic privacy issues. Our hard copies contain this information, and are available throughout our work sites.

GROUP BENEFITS FOR RETIRED MEMBERS CHANGING JANUARY 1, 2017

By now most people have heard of the impending changes coming down from the Municipal Pension Plan. Below is a summary of what is changing. For more information, please visit the Plan's website at: mpp.pensionsbc.ca/groupbenefits.

Current	Effective January 1, 2017
Open formulary with low-cost alternatives and PharmaCare pricing limits	Blue RX Drug Formulary
Annual deductible is $100 per family	Annual deductible will be $100 per person
Co-insurance is 80% on first $1,000 in claims per person per calendar year	Co-insurance will be 70% on first $1,000 in claims per person per calendar year
Lifetime maximum is $1,000,000 per person	Lifetime maximum will be $2,000,000 per person
Dental is subsidized	No dental subsidy; unsubsidized voluntary dental plan available

MEMBER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ...

NEW: **NexGen Hearing**, 114-2439 Bellevue Avenue (just down the hall from the Association office), West Vancouver, 604-281-3691, is pleased to offer WVMEA members a **10% discount** on all hearing aids. Their experienced Audiologists have been assisting clients on the North Shore for over 20 years from their Dundarave location. Please phone them for a free, no obligation, hearing test, or visit their website at www.nexgenhearing.com.

As a privilege of membership, just show your laminated membership card when at these participating merchants for special discounts (for complete details, please visit our website at WVMEA.com):

- *AUSTRALIAN BOOT COMPANY*;
- *DAYTON BOOTS FACTORY STORE;*
- *LIONS GATE FABRICARE CLEANERS;*
- *LORDCO AUTO PARTS*;
- *NEX GEN HEARING;*
- *ONO TRADING;*
- *SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.*

REMINDER: COSTCO MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that the Association has purchased a "business membership" to Costco which provides for a "transferable" card that may be borrowed from the Association (for *cash*-only purchases — no cheques, and photo i.d. may be required.) If you are interested in borrowing this card, please give Cathy a call (604-925-7447) to make arrangements.

WWW.WVMEA.COM

Check out current bulletins, newsletters, Collective Agreements and hot links on the Association's website.

MATERNITY, ADOPTION & PARENTAL LEAVE INFORMATION FOR [SCHOOL BOARD] SUPPORT STAFF EMPLOYEES

We are pleased to advise that this information guide is available on our website on the School page.

WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

We'd like to welcome the following people to our Association:

Jillian Abney, Sean Brown, Roderick Cadiz, Angel Wei-Yen Chu, Katharine Crombie, Sam Higgins, James Hinton, Michael Jaworski, Liam Johnston, Rochelle Maion, Heather McGinty, Michael Naish, Marcela Ruiz, Brianna Shariff, Samantha Spooner, and Leigh Vincent-Lambert.

If you have moved recently or are planning to move, *please forward your new address to us* at:



Moving ?

#118 - 2419 Bellevue Avenue
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[**or** fax it to us at 604-926-7059, **or** email us at info@wvmea.com]

Name: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____P.C: _____

Home/Cell Phone #: _____

Effective Date: _____

Place of Work: _____

Signature: _____

Your assistance in keeping us "up to date" is much appreciated.