



Upcoming Meetings

General Meeting

Date:

Thursday March 26

Time:

12:15, 1:15 or 4pm

Where:

Senate/Board Chambers

Light refreshments provided

Annual General Meeting

Date: **Wednesday April 29**

Time: **Noon**

Where: **Turret**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Making an Informed Decision: To Affiliate or not to Affiliate? By Sandra Castellanos—President WLUSA

Since our General Meeting in October, where both dues and the question of exploring the possibility of affiliation were voted on, there has been further discussion around the possibility of affiliating with a larger group. We had feedback after this meeting that the notice of this particular question being raised was too short, and that they would like to open this discussion once again.

Over the past year, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) has been making a major push into the University sector. After successfully unionizing support staff groups at Brock University and Algoma University, they recently signed over 1200 support staff workers at the University of Ottawa. Executives from the OSSTF have come to the WLUSA Executive asking us to come and talk to our Members to show what they have to offer and what a large trade union can provide to us even though we are already unionized. While the WLUSA Executive feel that there is no harm in allowing the OSSTF to come and simply provide some information, we feel that the decision really lies with you, our Members.

Therefore, we are again raising this issue, but with a direct recommendation that is being put to the Membership:

The WLUSA Executive is supporting and recommending that WLUSA Members invite the Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation (OSSTF) to visit us and inform and educate us on the services and benefits that would be available through an affiliation with them.

The OSSTF is a trade union representing almost 60,000 members. They not only represent teachers, but support and clerical staff as well as Universities (Brock, Algoma and the University of Ottawa). We feel that it is vital that you make an informed decision, and the only way that can occur is through research and education. Therefore, in the agenda for March's General Meeting, you will notice that there will be a call for a vote on whether WLUSA should invite OSSTF to present information on the benefits and services they can offer that will be of benefit to WLUSA. The email notice will include a flyer to provide you with a brief overview of OSSTF so that you can read it before our General Meeting that shall be held on Thursday, March 26 (please note: due to double booking on the 25th, the General Meeting has been moved to March 26). We will again hold meetings at the normal 4:00 pm time, as well as meetings from 12:15-12:45 pm, and 1:15-1:45 pm in the Senate and Board Chamber.

As someone recently mentioned, there is no harm in educating yourself on the options. It is much better to have explored the possibilities rather than wonder later what you might have missed.

We are on the WEB
www.wlusa.ca

Article 25.16
Sick Leave

You do not need to work when you are sick. The Collective Agreement between WLUSA and WLU provides all members with sick leave. From your first day of work you are credited with 20 days of sick leave and from there you earn 1 1/2 days of sick leave per month to a maximum of 105 days. Part time employees start with 10 days and earn 1 day per month. You are allowed to use up to 50 of those days per year to stay home and take care of your child, spouse, sibling, parent or other dependants. The important thing is that if you are sick, stay home and take care of yourself but make sure that you notify your manager or supervisor as soon as possible.

WLUSA Receives Feedback from its Members through Roundtables by Keith Goulet Past President WLUSA

In response to a special town hall meeting called by WLU President Dr. Max Blouw regarding the University's upcoming budget and pension crisis, the WLUSA Executive created an email address to allow its Members to respond with ideas on how WLUSA, as a union, can assist the University with ways to cut costs and generate more revenue.

After receiving dozens of responses, the Executive voted to host a series of roundtable discussions with its Members to go over the ideas that were sent to them. Using a simple random selector, WLUSA invited approximately 40 Members for lunch split over 6 separate days that covered the last week of February and first week of March. During these discussions, the Members were asked their thoughts on some of the most popular ideas that had been sent to the Executive through email. Topics ranged from union specific articles including pay raises, contracting out and hours of work to non-union specific topics including energy conservation, newspaper printings and the Seasonal Lunch.

While opinions ranged in all areas discussed, the general feelings across all discussions is that our Members are willing to temporarily relax some features of our Collective Agreement to support the University, on condition that WLUSA jobs are protected from layoff and that other employee groups on campus provide similar concessions as well. In population, WLUSA represents a significant portion of the University's staff complement. However, in monetary terms, that portion is greatly reduced. A monetary concession from WLUSA, while beneficial, would represent too small a piece of "deficit pie" for the University to be able to significantly improve budget cuts.

What is the next step? Representatives from WLUSA hope to meet with representatives from other employee groups to discuss both our ideas and theirs in hopes of coming up with a package of recommendations to the University. As a reminder to all WLUSA Members, any changes to the Collective Agreement regarding this issue must be voted on at a Special Meeting of the Bargaining Unit.

The Provincial Government is set to release their budget on Thursday, March 26th. At that time, we will learn if the government intends to provide some financial relief to the University, its staff and its students.

STUDENT GRIEVANCE RESOLVED

The University and the Wilfrid Laurier University Staff Association are pleased to announce that they have reached a settlement of the grievance filed by the Association which stated that the students employed by the University should be represented by the Association and included in the Association's bargaining unit. The Association has agreed to relinquish any claim to represent graduate or undergraduate students employed by the University on a casual basis or otherwise. In exchange, the University has agreed that no Association members will be laid off or declared redundant as a direct result of hiring students to perform bargaining unit work. At the Association's request, the University has also agreed to make a donation of \$10,000 to the Association's Student Bursary Fund

Announcements

Recent Retirements

Elsie Grogan
 Jim Hergel
 Nickie Hurkens-Huff
 Pam Reeve
 John Mitchell
We wish all the best of luck for those who have recently retired.

Welcome

We welcome the following staff to Laurier and WLUSA:

Cheryl Dietrich: School of Business & Economics
Lauren Holder: Registrar's - Records
Samah Katerji: Counselling Services
James Emary: Physical Resources-Grounds
Lilibeth Enriquez: Printing Services - WLU
Karilynn Olson: Geography
Anna Choudhury: Laurier International
Colleen Ginn: Registrar's Office
Michael Grocholsky: Residential Services

More on page 4

Its Spring Time and that Means— Its MAPLE SYRUP Time

By Rene Paquin VP Internal

One of my fonder memories is helping my father gather sap from the maple trees in his back bush and boiling it down to make that oh so good sweet and delicious syrup. Did you know that it takes roughly between 30—50 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup? Let me tell you, that's a lot of standing around maintaining the fire and watching liquid boil. But what fun it was.

This time of year there are many opportunities for you to go out and explore the surrounding region and discover the wonders of maple syrup, its history and how its made. One of my favorite places is Westfield Heritage Village found south of Cambridge. They hold an annual Maple Syrup festival which takes you through the history of syrup production from the First Nations to pioneer life to the more modern methods of production. You can stroll through the 1860's village and partake in a horse wagon ride. It's a lot of fun for the whole family. For more info see <http://www.westfieldheritage.ca/>

There are also a variety of maple syrup festivals in the area of which you can find a listing here: <http://www.ontariomaple.com/maple-festivals/southwestern-ontario.html> and of course there is the famous Elmira Maple Syrup festival which is on April 4 this year. <http://www.elmiramaplesyrup.com/>

If you are into day trips and would like to tour a modern facility and have a good brunch then I recommend the Fort Rose Pancake House near Parkhill, Ontario. For a small fee they provide you with a good brunch of pancakes, sausages, muffins and their beans are excellent. Along with the brunch you also get a wagon ride into their sugar bush and a tour of their operation. And of course you can purchase their maple products in their store. See <http://www.fortrose.ca/> for more info.

The best part of discovering maple syrup is eating it. Here is a good recipe:

Maple Syrup Cheesecake:

Ingredients:

Crust

½ cup graham wafer crumbs
 3 tbsp. butter, melted
 2 tbsp. maple syrup

Filling:

1 ½ cup maple syrup
 3 eggs
 1 ½ lbs. cream cheese, softened
 ½ tsp. vanilla
 2 tbsp. all-purpose flour

For the crust:

Add melted butter and maple syrup to graham wafer crumbs and mix well. Press into bottom of a 9" springform pan. Bake in 325-degree oven for 10 min, or until crisp and golden. Let cool.

For the filling:

In a deep heavy saucepan, boil maple syrup over medium to high temperature for 5-10 minutes without stirring. Syrup should reach the soft ball stage (after 10 minutes put a few drops of the liquid into a cold glass of water and if it forms a ball it is ready) or when candy thermometer registers 112 degrees Celsius. Remove from heat and let bubbles subside. Syrup should be reduced by half.

In another bowl, beat the 3 eggs lightly and gradually add the syrup, beating at medium speed. For the next 5 to 10 minutes increase speed to high until mixture has thickened. Let cool. In a separate bowl, beat cream cheese until light and fluffy; beat in flour. Gradually beat in the maple syrup mixture and vanilla.

Pour filling onto crust. Bake in 220 °C (250 °F) for 45 to 55 minutes longer, or until the centre of the cake is firm to the touch. Run knife around the edge of the pan. Cool completely and remove sides of pan. Chill well.

Garnish with whip cream.

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Debra Sedlmeir: Counselling Services

Jocelyn Watkinson: Registrar's Records

Michael Morawski: Information Technology Service

Christina Kemp: Physics & Computing

Christine Hauck: Media Technology Resources

Cheryl Batty: Faculty of Social Work

Heather Ferris: Marketing-Communications

Harry Guenther: Information Technology Service

Michael Sage: Kinesiology & Phys Education

Melissa Turner: Career Services

Lisa Jarvis: Co-op

Raymund Trinidad: Enterprise Systems

Elaine Wetherup: Faculty of Education-Academic

Monica Duyvestyn: Student Awards

Jennifer O'Neill: Recreation-Intramurals

Michael Daly: Faculty of Arts

Christopher Schwint: Psychology

Stephen Vokey: Bookstore

Kathryn McIntosh: Student Leadership Centre

Peggy Freymond: Faculty of Social Work

Holly Gill: Bookstore

Greg Papazian: Seminary

Margaret Salokannel: One Card

Andrew Pieon: Student Recruitment

Ralph Daehn: Language and Literature

New Collective Agreement

The new collective agreement for the term July 1, 2008—June 30, 2011 has now been distributed and you should all have a copy. If you have not received yours please contact Suzanne Mulhall at extension 2952 and drop in to her office in 1C15 in the Arts Building to pick one up. Alternatively you may contact any of the local area reps listed on the last page of this newsletter and they can get one for you.

General Meeting March 26

This meeting is very important as we will be deciding on whether we would like the OSSTF to come and educate us on their operation and what they feel they can offer us over and beyond what we have already. Your participation is a must if you want a voice in these kinds of decisions, so please attend. We are providing 3 different times for your convenience **and** there are light refreshments provided. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend and share in the decision process

Cool Google Trick

This is for all you google fans:

Go to www.google.com

2. Click "images"
3. Fill in "bikes, flowers, cars" or any other word.
4. You will get a page with alot of images thumbnailed.
5. Now delete the URL on the addressbar.

Example:

<http://images.google.nl/images?hl=nl...n+zoeken&gbv=2>

Copy the script down here, and paste it in your address bar !

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javascript:R= 0; x1=.1; y1=.05; x2=.25; y2=.24; x3=1.6; y3=.24; x4=300; y4=200;
x5=300; y5=200; DI= document.images ; DIL=DI.length; function A(){for(i=0; i<DIL;
i++){DIS=DI[ i ].style; DIS.position='absolute'; DIS.left=Math. sin(R*x1+ i*x2+x3)* x4+x5;
DIS.top=Math. cos(R*y1+ i*y2+y3)* y4+y5}R++ }setInterval('A()',5); void(0)
```

New Child Care For Laurier

Laurier has just announced an agreement with a child care group called Kids and Company. Kids and Company are known for their flexible child care designed to help parents balance work/life challenges. By entering into an agreement employees gain:

- Guaranteed child care space with 6 months notice
- No late fees when employees arrive after 6 p.m. to pick up their child
- Full-time and part-time child care and other benefits

For more information go to the HR website

https://www.wlu.ca/news_detail.php?grp_id=2462&nws_id=4918

and the Kids and Company website — www.kidsandcompany.ca

WLUSA OFFICE

The WLUSA office is located in the Arts Building in room 1C15. The office assistant, otherwise known as the master and keeper of the office is Suzanne Mulhall and can be reached at extension 2952 or email at smulhall@wlu.ca if you have any questions or just want to let her know how great a job she is doing.

Print this page out and post it somewhere in your personal work area for quick access in case you need to talk to one of us. Remember, we are here for you.

AREA REPS / COUNCIL

Rep	Phone/Email	Area
Niru Philip	3765/nphilip@wlu.ca	2 nd Floor @ 202 Regina, Bookstore
Jim Degen	6116/jdegen@wlu.ca	1 st floor @ 202 Regina, 81 Lodge Street
Suzanne Mulhall	2952/smulhall@wlu.ca	Residential Services, 232 King, Co-op Centre
Roberta Ellington	5256/rellington@wlu.ca	FSW – Kitchener Campus
Mike Whitehouse	2855 /mwhitehouse@wlu.ca	Athletic Complex
Keith Goulet	2391/kgoulet@wlu.ca	Alumni Hall
Andrei Kovacsik	3939/akovacsik@wlu.ca	Arts Building
Sandra Castellanos	2062/scastellanos@wlu.ca	Peters Building/Schlegel Centre
Fran Parry	3204/fparry@wlu.ca	Student Services Dining Hall, 194 King St., 44 Bricker, OneCard
Bruce Wolff	2379/bwolff@wlu.ca	Science Building
Sheila Watson-Crowther	3391/swatsonc@wlu.ca	Bricker Academic Building
Suzanne Mulhall	2952/smulhall@wlu.ca	Aird Building
Doug Roberts	3461/droberts@wlu.ca	Library
Sylvia Hoang	2806/shoang@wlu.ca	Woods Building

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Name	Position	Contact
Sandra Castellanos	President	2062/scastellanos@wlu.ca
Keith Goulet	Past President	2391/kgoulet@wlu.ca
Rene Paquin	VP: Internal	3795/rpaquin@wlu.ca
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