



June 2004



LOCAL 555

# Newsletter

Volume 1, N°1

## Message from the President - Normand Bazinet

It is with great pleasure, that I introduce the first edition of the Local 555 Newsletter. Our first task is to name our newsletter, so we are running a contest-draw for the best name. Please submit your suggestions to the Editor, Steve Kistoth, by June 30<sup>th</sup> at the latest. The winner will receive a bottle of wine selected by our Treasurer, Al Ternowski. For some reason, Allan thinks he knows something about wines, but we may need to help him out in this very important task!

We have a lot of activities currently underway in our local (in addition to this newsletter) including development of our new website ([www.opseulocal555.org](http://www.opseulocal555.org)), two LERCs, the recent Convention 2004, executive meetings, steward training courses, and the Demand Setting Process.

Back in March, you should have received an electronic copy of *Frontlines* (the official OPSEU newsletter, dated March 10, 2004). If you did not receive a copy, then please advise your shop steward. This document explains the new bargaining process adopted at OPSEU's "Convention 2004" held in April. The process will require a demand setting survey mailed out to members in late May-early June with the demand setting meetings to be held in early-mid September. Negotiations will then begin in mid-November with the goal of wrapping up the new contract before the old one expires on December 31, 2004. Further information can be found at the OPSEU website: [www.opseu.org/ops/procedures.pdf](http://www.opseu.org/ops/procedures.pdf).

You may be contacted as an OPSEU member by a provincial auditor for a survey. This survey has been sanctioned by OPSEU to review labour relations in the OPS. If you are contacted, please cooperate fully.

We have purchased a new laptop to set up our website and conduct business activities in the event of a strike. The website will be critical to keep the membership aware of progress in bargaining and strike activities, should this be the case.

Sophie Greco (OFM), Sam Chopra (MOE/V-P) and myself attended OPSEU's "Convention 2004" from April 15 to 17, 2004. In a future newsletter, we will provide an update of changes to the constitution and practices that affect the operation of your union and local. OPSEU currently has a total of approximately 107,500 members with 39,000 in the Ontario Public Service (OPS), 58,000 in the Greater Public Service (GPS) and 8,500 in the Colleges of Applied Arts & Technology (CAAT). This compares to the Canadian Auto Workers Union (CAW) with 300,000 members. Elections for a new president and executive are held every second year at the annual Convention with the next elections due in spring 2005.

Finally, I would like you *all* to mark **December 9** on your calendars as the date for the OPSEU Local 555 2004 Xmas Party.

## Contents:

TITLE	PAGE
Message from the President	1
Who's who at OPSEU Local 555	2
A summary of the demand setting process	3
Local 555 Contact List	4
Important Announcements	5
Report on Convention 2004 held April 15- 17	6
OPSEU Legal Assistance Benefit	6
Are you aware of	6

## Who's Who at OPSEU Local 555

Bruce Weaver (OFM)

There are approximately a total of 250 people in Local 555. The majority of our local members work out of 5775 Yonge Street, while approximately 80 - 90 work out of 305 Milner Avenue in Scarborough. All members work for the Ministry of the Environment or the Office of the Fire Marshal.

### Office of the Fire Marshal

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) is a Branch of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS). The role of the OFM is to minimize the loss of life and property from fire in Ontario by:

- Providing support to municipalities and fire departments across Ontario to meeting the needs of their communities, including public education, fire prevention, firefighting, fire protection, training, and fire investigation;
- Administering the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, including the *Ontario Fire Code*. The Fire Code is a regulation under the act, as well as the fire services' primary fire prevention tool;
- Providing leadership within the Ontario Government by advising on standards and legislation relating to fire prevention and protection;
- Providing recommendations for the provision of adequate levels of fire safety for buildings and premises within Ontario; and
- Investigating the origin, cause, and circumstances of fires, and providing valuable information about the origin and behaviour of fire under different conditions.

There are 35 members of Local 555 from the Office of the Fire Marshal. These members provide technical and support services in the following sections:

- Academic Standards and Evaluation
- Administration
- Applied Research
- Corporate Support
- Field Fire Protection Services
- Fire Investigations and Fire Evaluations
- Fire Safety Standards
- Media Relations and Public Education

### Ministry of the Environment

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is responsible for restoring, protecting and enhancing the environment to ensure public health, environmental quality and community vitality. The Ministry sets clear policies, standards, rules and regulations to protect the environment and encourage conservation activities. Along with monitoring the environment and enforcing these rules, the Ministry looks for innovative approaches to complement legislation and regulations.

Key legislation under MOE mandate include the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Ontario Water Resources Act*, the *Pesticides Act*, the new *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, and new *Nutrient Management Act, 2002*, enforced in conjunction with Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF).

One of 5 Ministry regions, Central Region delivers programs in an area corresponding roughly to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), bounded by Lake Simcoe (north), Lake Ontario (south), Burlington (west), and Bowmanville / Newcastle (east). It has a total area of 4,481 km<sup>2</sup>, with a total population in excess of 5.2 million and a workforce of 2.9 million. Although the Region is divided into 3 districts (Halton-Peel and York-Durham), only the Toronto District located at the Regional head-office in North York is within Local 555. It is responsible for assessing compliance through inspection, responding to complaints, approving permits and providing outreach activities. The Regional head-office also includes the Director's office and Assistant Director's office which manages corporate issues such as

... See Next Page

## Who's Who at OPSEU Local 555 ... Cont.'d

waste management and contaminated sites, develops policy and programs, ensures consistency of program delivery within the region, and provides the region with business services support.

The Technical Support Section provides a variety of applied science and environmental services (ie, groundwater, surface water, biology, air quality, pesticide, environmental planning, and information technology) to Regional staff, other MOE Branch staff, and various ministries and agencies. The Spills Action Centre (SAC) receives and records reports of spills and co-ordinates appropriate responses on a 24-hr basis. Emergency field response is also provided by the Air Quality Units Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzers (TAGA), mobile high-tech lab for monitoring local air quality. The Environmental SWAT Team is an enforcement unit working in partnership with the District Office by conducting inspection sweeps of entire sectors across Central Region. The Vehicle Emissions Enforcement Unit (VEEU)/SMOG Patrol are part of the Environmental SWAT Team and is dedicated to inspecting vehicles suspected of emitting excessive smoke or for having emissions control equipment that has been tampered with or removed. The Investigations and Enforcement Branch (IEB) is responsible for the investigation of alleged environmental infractions under various statutes, including the ones shown on the previous page.

MOE offices located at 5775 Yonge Street include:

- Investigations and Enforcement Branch
- Central Region (Director's & Assistant Director's Office, Business Services, Operation Clean Water Team, Technical Support Section, Toronto District Office)
- Spills Action Centre (SAC)

MOE offices located at 305 Milner Avenue, Scarborough include:

- Environmental SWAT Team
- Sector Inspections and Enforcement Unit
- Continuous Improvement
- Vehicle Emissions Enforcement Unit (VEEU)/SMOG Patrol
- Assistant Director's Office/Field Operations and Business Services

## Report on Convention 2004 held on April 15, 16 and 17

*Normand Bazinet*

President Norm Bazinet (MOE) and Steward Sophie Greco (OFM) attended "Convention 2004" as delegates and Vice-President Sam Chopra (MOE) attended as an alternate. In my experience, this convention was a tremendous success.

We heard from two dynamic speakers: Jack Layton (leader of the Federal New Democratic Party) and Larry Brown (National Union of Public General Employees). Jack Layton is a passionately eloquent speaker who warned the membership of the evils of P3's. P3's are Public-Private Partnerships that are corporate attempts to grab the large pool of public funds that keep utilities, hospitals and educational facilities operating in the public sector. To maintain the quality of these services, campaigns must be conducted by unions to keep politicians from engaging in such agreements.

Larry Brown is also an excellent speaker who talked about globalization. Corporations claim that this will result in a more equitable distribution of wealth amongst the poor. Poverty has increased in countries, such as Mexico, that have engaged in globalization agreements like NAFTA. Now, low paying jobs are leaving Mexico, which operates at a minimum daily wage equivalent of \$4.25 an hour, and moving to China, which operates at a minimum daily wage equivalent of \$1.25 per day!

The new OPS compressed bargaining procedures were approved at "Convention 2004". The union refused to give the executive board of the union the powers to merge locals without mutual consent by the affected members. More than 1,300 members attended the convention over a four day period.

The McGuinty government has just released a discussion paper with a proposal to privatize public utilities, education and the health system in Ontario. The intent is to pass the responsibility onto the private sector so that McGuinty doesn't have to pay a political price when fees are increased.

# Who's Who in Local 555 Contact List

Here is the list of OPSEU Local 555 Executive, Stewards, Trustees and LERC Members and their phone numbers.

Please copy, cut out or save this page for your convenience and future reference.

LERC Members		
Organization	Name	Telephone
Fire Marshal	John, Angela	5-3212
	Montgomery, Mike	5-3127
	Greco, Sophie	5-3121
MOE	Ternowski, Allan	6-3576
	Paul Celsie	6-5946
	Cooney, Irena	6-5684

## Executive and Stewards

Row	Name	Position	Telephone	Section
1	<b>Bazinet, Norm</b>	Steward / <b>President</b>	<b>6-3766</b>	<b>Tech Support</b>
2	<b>Chopra, Sam</b>	Steward / <b>V-President</b>	<b>6-5047</b>	<b>Business Service</b>
3	<b>Ternowski, Allan</b>	Steward / LERC / <b>Treasurer</b>	<b>6-3576</b>	<b>Tech Support</b>
4	<b>Rolston, Romania</b>	Steward / <b>Secretary</b>	<b>6-6853</b>	<b>Business Service</b>
5	<b>Kiss-Adams, Maria</b>	Steward	<b>6-3961</b>	
6	<b>Byng, Elayne</b>	Trustee	<b>5-3227</b>	<b>Fire Marshal</b>
7	<b>Greco, Sophie</b>	Steward / LERC	<b>5-3121</b>	
8	<b>Headrick, Craig</b>	Steward	<b>416-481-9747</b>	
9	<b>John, Angela</b>	Steward / LERC	<b>5-3212</b>	
10	<b>Montgomery, Mike</b>	Steward / LERC	<b>5-3127</b>	
11	<b>Mitchell, Jason</b>	Steward	<b>5-3000</b>	<b>SAC</b>
12	<b>Hansen, Thomas</b>	Steward	<b>2-6665</b>	<b>SMOG</b>
13	<b>Pearson, Don</b>	Steward	<b>2-6673</b>	<b>SWAT</b>
14	<b>Smith, Marsha</b>	Steward	<b>4-4278</b>	
14	<b>Wilson, Michael</b>	Steward	<b>4-4278</b>	
15	<b>Kistoth, Steve</b>	Steward	<b>6-3701</b>	<b>Tech Support</b>
16	<b>Wakefield, Charles</b>	Steward	<b>6-3781</b>	
17	<b>Zurawsky, Myron</b>	Chief Steward	<b>6-3787</b>	
18	<b>Cooney, Irena</b>	Steward / LERC	<b>6-5684</b>	<b>Toronto District</b>
19	<b>Celsie, Paul</b>	Steward / LERC	<b>6-5946</b>	
20	<b>Fuller, Sean</b>	Steward	<b>6-5590</b>	
20	<b>Dugas, Celeste</b>	Steward	<b>6-5699</b>	
21	<b>Miller, Gary</b>	Trustee	<b>6-5713</b>	
22	<b>Stevenson, Mike</b>	Steward	<b>6-5582</b>	

# Important Announcements



**HEYYYYYY....  
Brothers & Sisters!**

Mark **December 9** on  
your calendars as  
the date for the  
OPSEU Local 555  
2004 Xmas Party.

## ATTENTION MEMBERS

Members **must** advise their managers about the **2004 Xmas Party on Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup>** to ensure that the scheduling of any job related training courses, workshops, seminars, or meetings do not conflict with this event during that week of December.

### IMPORTANT:

#### FOR TOLL FREE LEGAL GUIDANCE:

1. Call the toll-free number on the front of this card.
2. Choose the option that applies to you.
3. Give the receptionist your name and membership number.  
In the U.S. identify yourself as a Law Protector member.
4. State the nature of your problem and how urgent it is.

We do our best to have a lawyer available with expertise in your area of need. If you have to leave a message, your call will be returned as soon as possible and not later than within 24 hours during the regular business week. Please make only 1 call per matter.

To purchase any L.P.I. Plan for special discounted legal services call: 1-877-529-7768.

**LAW PROTECTOR**  
INTERNATIONAL INC.

## Who will be the lucky WINNER???

Our first task is to find a name for our newsletter. We will be running a contest-draw for the best name. Please submit your ideas to Steve Kistoth, Editor, by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The winner will receive a bottle of wine selected by our treasurer Al Ternowski. For some reason, Allan thinks he knows something about wines!

## A Summary of the Demand Setting Process

Normand Bazinet

OPSEU executive has approved a shortened version of the demand setting process that begins with the Information Package that you received this week. This survey must be completed and returned to your steward by June 15, 2004. The information you provide in the survey will be tabulated, summarized and presented to a demand setting meeting to be held during the week of September 13-17, 2004. At that meeting, delegates will be elected from each bargaining group within the local to attend a regional bargaining conference to be held on September 18, 2004. At the Regional Bargaining conferences, regional reps and regional category reps will be elected to represent each region at the Central Bargaining Conference. At the Central Bargaining Conference held on October 2, 2004, category reps will be selected for the final bargaining team. Issue bargaining and essential services bargaining will be carried out throughout November. The earliest strike vote can be taken on December 1, 2004 (30 days before expiry of the current collective agreement).

Previous Essential Services agreements will be mailed to Local Presidents in mid-June. Local presidents will use the information to develop a position on essential services in their locals. October 15 is the deadline for the essential services local canvassing. By October 22, this information will be made available to Head Office. Essential Services Agreements must be in place before a strike is called.

**REMEMBER this is your newsletter, so the success & continuation of this forum depends entirely on you! We are looking for input & contributing articles from our membership. If you have any, please contact your newsletter staff representative or the editor.**

### OPSEU Legal Assistance Benefit



**LAW CALL Membership Card**  
For FREE preliminary telephone legal guidance during business hours:  
**CALL TOLL-FREE: 1-877-529-7768**  
SPONSORED BY:  
**OPSEU**  
GROUP MEMBER # 1048 - 5271780  
FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY IN NON-BUSINESS HOURS: 1-888-353-3713  
For services about U.S. matters when visiting there: 1-800-323-4620

**LawCALL** is an OPSEU sponsored service providing unlimited preliminary legal guidance by phone. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt perhaps you should talk to a lawyer but didn't? Your new **Legal Protector International Inc. (L.P.I.) LawCALL** benefit makes getting preliminary guidance from a lawyer quick and easy – **and, best of all, IT'S FREE!**

For more details see your steward or call the toll-free number on the card shown to the left. Please copy or cut-out and save the card for future use.

### Are you aware of:

Any interesting websites that may be useful and informative to the membership? Let us know!

#### Local 555 Newsletter Team

Andy Gemza	Staff Rep	MOE / IEB
Bruce Weaver	Staff Rep	CSCS / OFM
Parsa Pezeshkpour	Staff Rep	MOE / TSS
Stephen Kistoth	Editor	MOE / TSS

#### Contact us:

email: To be announced

Local URL (under construction):

[www.opseulocal555.org](http://www.opseulocal555.org)

OPSEU URL: [www.opseu.org](http://www.opseu.org)