

WVMEA News Bulletin

May 15, 2023



A WORD FROM YOUR UNION

“Always find time for things that make you feel happy to be alive.” – unknown.

May is here, with the sunshine and energy amping up everywhere well before the official first day of summer. School members are in the throws of wrapping up another scholastic year, while many Municipal members are gearing up for summer camps and activities, or preparing outdoor facilities for the summer crowds.

Since our last News Bulletin, we have welcomed two new Executive Board members, Olga Lamboff (from Transit) as Member-at-Large, and Isabell Nielsen (from the Schools) as Secretary. You will have the opportunity to meet both Executive members virtually at our next General Membership meeting scheduled for June 6th, 2023.

We also welcomed two new Shop Stewards since our last communication. Susie Chubb joined the Clerical Shop Steward duo for the Schools and Alan Fodor joined the Municipal Hall Shop Steward Team. In addition, we are happy to announce that after much time we now have a complete Trustee Team. Justin Fong from the Schools, has stepped up to fill the position of First Year Trustee. A big THANK YOU to our new volunteers!

In September we will have a couple more School members join our Shop Stewards Group. We are, however, still looking for volunteers to fill two Municipal Shop Steward positions; Parks Shops Steward and Community Services Shop Steward. It would be wonderful to have a complete group as this is a benefit to all members. Please contact the WVMEA office if you are interested to find out more about the vacant Shop Steward Positions. The WVMEA is your organization and can only be as successful as the level of participation of our membership.

GENERAL MEETING COMING UP!

Please save the date! Our next **General Membership Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 6th at 5:00pm**. We will be meeting virtually via zoom. Email the office at info@wvmea.com to be added to the attendee list. Reminders will be sent out closer to the date.

MUNICIPAL, LIBRARY AND POLICE MEMBERS

As you are all well aware the bargaining process for the Municipality began at the end of last year. We understand that members are anxious to see a settlement and we appreciate your patience during this process. A separate Bargaining Update is being provided to our Municipal, Library, and Police members.

The WVMEA office staff attended the Grand Opening of the Municipal Hall, marking the end of the renovations there. It was great to see many members from all departments in attendance and have the opportunity to connect.

SCHOOL MEMBERS

The rhythm of the school year changes and evolves rapidly, it is astounding that we are already nearing the end of another year. It was just last year that we were waiting for the Provincial Framework to be settled for us to begin local bargaining. Now on July 1, 2023, the year two wage increase of 6.75% comes into effect and the recently announced improvements to the benefit package begin.

It was recently announced that the budget process required some realignment of costs. The Administration tried to minimize the impact on permanent staff. While no WVMEA member is being laid off, the cost savings to the School District are coming from not filling vacancies. This recalibration is being applied to exempt, teaching and support staff across the School District. Hopefully with this thoughtful process, the balanced budget will also allow the continuance exceptional service you all bring to the district.

As many of you are gearing up for the last few weeks of school, please remember to work safely, take your breaks, breathe, and make the memories. For those members that work through the summer, thank you for getting everything ready for the upcoming year.

SCHOLARSHIPS 2023

As previously shared, the 2023 Scholarship packages are now available! The amount being awarded is \$2,000 for each scholarship; the WVMEA Academic Scholarship, the WVMEA Trades Scholarship, and the Roy Hunter Memorial Scholarship for the Visual Arts. Contact the office for more information, the deadline for applications is Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 1.30 p.m.

We are now looking for WVMEA members who would like to be part of the adjudication process, by joining a Scholarship Committee. Each committee is comprised of two WVMEA members and an Executive Board member. Three separate committees will convene in August of this year to determine the winners of the scholarships. If you are interested, please reach out to the office at (604)925-7447 or by email info@wvmea.com for more details. Please note, the only experience required is the desire to be part of this great opportunity!

MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN

Please be reminded that June is the time each year when Pension statements arrive in the mail. The Member Benefit Statement gives a snapshot of how much your future pension payments may be when you retire, It is also an opportunity for you to ensure the information that MPP has for you is up to date. If you do not receive your statement please contact MPP at 1-800-668-6335. MPP's website provides useful information on understanding your [Member Benefit Statement](#). You may also sign up online for [My Account](#) to access your information and make the switch to paper-free statements.

CONNECT WITH US

A reminder to all members to please keep us updated on any changes to your contact information, including home address, phone number and email. We also encourage all members to connect with the WVMEA and follow us on social media.

website: www.wvmea.com



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