



WVMEA News Bulletin

October 10, 2023

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower” – Albert Camus

A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hello WVMEA members, I hope you all had a great summer season and were able to find some time for rest and relaxation. The Fall is upon us now, and the cooler weather and the much needed rain are on the horizon.

This year has seen a surge of unionized workers and their representatives across North America taking a stand against outdated pay scales and labour practices. This is a worldwide issue and it's reached a tipping point. We all know that the cost of living has been running rampant and it's making life harder and harder for the working class to survive. We have been trying to bargain a fair deal for our Municipal members. Although it's been a long process, our bargaining committee have had some productive and positive bargaining sessions over the past couple of weeks and are moving forward in the right direction. There have been some good settlements coming to light across the lower mainland and the pressure is now on the employer which is helpful.

I would like to take a quick minute to thank the members that volunteered to be on our scholarship committee during the month of August. We had some great applicants as always and there was fair amount of work involved. Thank you as well to Marcela and Phyllis from the office as well for their work on this. And of course congratulations to the winners!

Attendance at our General Membership meetings has continued at a good level, with an average of 40-50 members in attendance and an average of close to a hundred when we run them via zoom. This is really nice to see and I encourage you to come if you can. The strength of a union is in it's membership, and being involved and informed helps everybody in the big picture. Our next General Membership meeting will be held via zoom on Thursday, November 2nd. We will be recording this and all future zoom membership meetings. Therefore, if you can't make one of our regularly scheduled meetings during the year, you will be able to come into our office at a prearranged time and watch the meeting there in order to avoid the \$25 assessment.

Have a great month, and I hope to see many of you online November 2nd!

Cheers,

Connor Payne, WVMEA President

2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

This year the Executive Board made the decision to award one Academic Scholarship, one Visual Arts scholarship and one Trades Scholarship. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the exceptional students who applied and to wish them well in their continued studies. The three winners of \$2,000 each are as follows:

Alyza Joy Tajas of Burnaby South Secondary School has been awarded the *WVMEA 2023 Academic Scholarship*. Alyza has a keen interest in the medical field, particularly stem cell research, anatomy and genetics. In addition to achieving outstanding academic excellence, Alyza was also Grad Council member, Youth Ambassador, and a volunteer at the Burnaby Neighborhood House. Alyza is the child of School Board member Deborah Carrera. In the fall, Alyza is attending UBC, with plans to major in Biochemistry or Molecular Biology.

Jonathan Hinton of Handsworth Secondary School in North Vancouver has been awarded the *WVMEA 2023 Roy Hunter Memorial Scholarship for the Visual Arts*. Jonathan is passionate about conveying artistry and storytelling through filmmaking and dance. Jonathan was the primary videographer at his dance school, showcasing his filming and editing skills, as well as a volunteer dance assistant and mentor to younger students. Jonathan recently became a WVMEA member and is the child of Municipal Member James Hinton. Jonathan is attending Capilano University this fall to embark on a 4-year Motion Picture Art Degree.

Trevor Robertson, of West Vancouver Secondary School has been awarded the *WVMEA 2023 Trades Scholarship*. Trevor completed the Youth Work in Trades program as an apprentice carpenter, with over 900 hours of work experience. Trevor received honours standing while participating in school and high-level community sports. Trevor is the child of Catherine Schier, School Board Member. Trevor has begun his Bachelor of Management at the UBC Okanagan Campus with plans to specialize in Construction Management.

MUNICIPAL, LIBRARY AND POLICE MEMBERS

We are happy to report the resumption of bargaining with the District of West Vancouver. A full day bargaining session was completed at the end of September, and we have 6 more days scheduled for October and November. We appreciate your patience as we move through this process. We are hoping that by the end of November we will have a tentative agreement in place for our members to ratify.

The City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver can be added to the growing list of Municipalities that have recently ratified Collective Agreements.

Bargaining in 2022 and 2023 was very challenging everywhere in the country and many Unions had to use job action or mediation/arbitration to achieve their settlements. The latest example occurred with Metro Vancouver outside workers represented by GVRD-EU. They have entered an impasse during their bargaining and are in the process of job action. We are asking all our members if they encounter any of the Metro Vancouver employees' picket lines to not interfere and respect their job action. We are fully supporting their efforts to achieve a fair collective agreement.

We will reach out to our Municipal members as soon as we have any more news to share on local bargaining.

SCHOOL MEMBERS

Autumn is an interesting time of year, summer vacation has ended and the schools are bustling once again with students, teachers and many support staff. A big 'Thank You' to all of those who worked the summer to make the schools ready for the 'New Year'. These include the Custodians, the Facilities group, the IT department, Payroll, Accounting, and those involved in registration and student information services. We have entered into the second year of our three-year Collective agreement and with that School members saw and increase in their wages and benefits. You will find in each school's lunchroom a copy of the current collective agreement; the booklet cover is a vibrant purple. The agreement is also posted on our website. If you would like your own copy of the agreement, please contact the office to arrange receipt. The upcoming year looks to be full of interesting opportunities for growth and development. Stay tuned!

SHOP STEWARDS

After much time with Shop Steward vacancies we are happy to announce that we now have a complete Shop Steward team! Since our last communication 5 WVMEA members have volunteered for stewardship. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Shop Stewards: **Jeff Palmer** - Police Shop Steward, **Lori Holtrop** - Municipal Community Services Shop Steward, **Catherine Schier** - Schools Clerical Shop Steward, **Adam Barraclough** - Schools Custodial Shop Steward and welcome back **Joseph Tan** - Schools TA Shop Steward.

Typically, Shop Stewards are the first point of contact for members with questions or concerns regarding their position, the Collective Agreement and/ or the workplace. They are invaluable for providing information and support to their peers and also participate in the Bargaining process. Get to know your Shop Stewards, click on each for the complete [Municipal](#) and [Schools](#) Shop Steward Team.

We also would like to take this opportunity to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to **Colleen Denman** for her many dedicated years as a Schools Clerical Shop Steward. Colleen, please know your demeanor, experience and input was very much appreciated and incredibly valuable, you are missed!

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The next **General Membership Meeting** is scheduled for **Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 5:00pm**. This meeting will be held virtually, it is the fourth of five meetings for year, we hope to see you there! The last meeting of the 2023-2024 year will be held on February 5, 2024.

For the 2024-2025 meeting schedule, there is a change of date for the **Annual General Membership Meeting**. It will be now be held on **Monday, April 8, 2024**.

HALLOWEEN TREAT!

It's coming! It's the time of year when everything turns spooky; Halloween is a fun holiday for kids and adults alike. The WVMEA is holding a contest in the spirit of Halloween. Send in your funniest kid friendly jokes to info@wvmea.com October 30th. Each joke submitted will be entered into the Halloween prize draw. On **October 31st**, we will randomly draw **two** entries and award a **\$50 gift card** to the lucky winners!



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