



# OCTU D21 NEWS

OCTU District 21 Newsletter

May 2018

A letter from our President:

Welcome to May, and dare I say it, but it feels like spring has finally sprung!

May brings sunny days, warmer evenings, and fresh spring air. It also brings an exciting time in the Office Clerical Technical Unit with many important dates and functions occurring. It was so great to see some of you at the OCTU Member Appreciation Social last week at Boston Pizza. What a great way to spend some time with friends and get to "put a face to the name" as many of our members don't get to see one-another in person. We had such a great time, we will be sure to hold one more social like this once patio season hits in June.

The OCTU Executive and I are looking forward to hosting many of you at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on May 16th. With registrations flying in, it looks as if we are going to have a great turn out! Please remember to submit your registration as we have just extended the deadline to do so.

Another event that occurs every spring for our bargaining unit is staffing with HWDSB. The staffing committee has attended one initial staffing meeting thus far with HR and are in the process of scheduling a second date. We are pleased to have begun the process within the timeline as stated in the collective agreement and hope to have an update and the process completed earlier than in years past. Once staffing has been completed and final information is available from HWDSB, an update will be shared with members.

We continue to work in collaboration with HWDSB by having regularly scheduled labour relations meetings to discuss issues affecting the members of the bargaining unit. Our most recent meeting was scheduled for what turned out to be our only inclement weather day of the school year, so have had to reschedule. We use information shared with myself and your branch reps from the members when creating our agenda for these meetings. Please continue to reach out if you have concerns or questions as you often are not alone.

On Tuesday, April 24th Tracie Wilson (OCTU Chief Negotiator) and I along with other affiliated union leaders attended a Ministry of Education run Conference with HWDSB with the focus on Collaborative Professionalism. It was a day full of working together to discuss how we can move forward working collaboratively in our daily operations. It was an opportunity to share and listen with representatives from HWDSB's HR and Executive Council team. We look forward to continuing down this path of collaborative professionalism and look forward to putting these actions into practice.

With an optimistic mind, we will continue to push for the rights of the OCTU members and continue to ensure the needs and concerns are being addressed.

Hope to see you all at this year's Annual General Meeting!

*Samantha*

## Key Dates

- May 1 International Worker's Day
- May 7 AGM Registration Deadline
- May 7-11 Education Week
- May 7-13 Mental Health Week
- May 9 Support Staff Appreciation Day
- May 13 Mother's Day
- **May 16 OCTU AGM**
- May 17 International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- May 21 Victoria Day
- May 23 OMERS Retirement Workshop





Dear OSSTF Hamilton-Wentworth District 21,

Core Entertainment is inviting OSSTF Hamilton-Wentworth District 21 to come and join us for Grammy award winning **Tim McGraw & Faith Hill's Soul2Soul The World Tour** coming to the **FirstOntario Centre** on **June 18, 2018!**

**USE CODE**

**S2SGroup**

**TO SAVE UP TO \$76 OFF YOUR TICKET!\***

**\*Promo code only available on P3 seats**

**\*Code valid now through to Sunday May 13th at 10pm**

**AND**

Core Entertainment is inviting OSSTF Hamilton-Wentworth District 21 to come and join us for **Marvel Universe Live!** coming to the **FirstOntario Centre** from **October 18 - 21, 2018!**

Marvel Universe LIVE! is taking the live entertainment experience to a whole new level, with a mind-blowing show unlike anything you've seen before. Watch your favourite Marvel Super Heroes including Spider-Man and The Avengers (Iron Man, Black Widow, Hulk and more) and threatening villains come to life in an action-packed arena performance. You'll definitely feel the energy with cutting-edge special effects, pyrotechnics, aerial stunts, martial arts, motorcycles and more.

Tickets go on sale on **May 8th at 10 am.**

**USE CODE**

**OSSTFD21**

**TO SAVE UP TO \$70 OFF EACH TICKET!**

Group pricing is as follows:

**P5/P6: \$32.50**

**P7: \$24.50**

**P8: \$20.50**

**P9: \$16.50**

**\*Online fees apply to all orders.**

Group discounts available only on the following shows:

**Fri, Oct 19 7pm**

**Sat, Oct 20 - 11am**

**Sat, Oct 20 - 7pm**

**Sun, Oct 21 - 11am**

Redeem by visiting **[Ticketmaster.ca/groupdeals](http://Ticketmaster.ca/groupdeals)**, calling Ticketmaster's toll-free line at **1-855-872-5000** or by visiting the **Dan Lawrie box office located at FirstOntario Centre.**



## OCTU Paint Night—Monday June 11

Registration details will be available in Mid-May—Keep an eye out for the flyer!

This paint night will involve signs with sayings and phrases about wine.

It will be open first to those who have not yet taken part in a paint night activity this year (including PD Day). A wait list of those members who have already participated will be created if you wish to add your name to the wait list.



### Mental Health Break

Calmness does not mean to be in a place where there is no chaos, trouble, or hard realities to deal with. Calmness means to be in the midst of all those things and still remain mentally, emotionally, and physically centered.

Try this exercise to help centre yourself and bring Mindfulness into your life. This is a simple exercise, requiring only a window with some kind of a view.

**Step 1:** find a space at a window where there are sights to be seen outside.

**Step 2:** look at everything there is to see. Avoid labeling and categorizing what you see outside the window; instead of thinking “bird” or “stop sign”, try to notice the colors, the patterns, or the textures.

**Step 3:** pay attention to the movement of the grass or leaves in the breeze, notice the many different shapes present in this small segment of the world you can see. Try to see the world outside the window from the perspective of someone unfamiliar with these sights.

**Step 4:** be observant, but not critical. Be aware, but not fixated.

**Step 5:** if you become distracted, gently pull your mind away from those thoughts and notice a color or shape again to put you back in the right frame of mind.

### Quick Fact:

Unions continue to fight for the rights of workers and have extended their mandate. Not satisfied with having helped established, among other things: the weekend, eight-hour work days, public education, universal healthcare, public pensions, and the minimum wage, unions now also champion many social movements and causes that benefit everyone. Unions remain relevant and valuable in today's society.

## International Day Against Transphobia, Homophobia and Biphobia

Every year on May 17 the International community celebrates the Day Against Transphobia, Homophobia and Biphobia. This day is meant to bring awareness to the rights and work of the LGBTQ community and the challenges and opportunities for equality in the workplace. For 2018 the global theme is "Alliances for Solidarity".

"Indeed, no battle can be won in isolation. We all need to keep strengthening alliances, especially when we need to ensure safety, fight violence, lobby for legal change, and/or campaign to change hearts and minds.

Putting the focus of the Day on Solidarity and Alliances can create a valuable opportunity for all of us to reach out to our current partners to reinforce our bond, to reach out to new partners to raise awareness of our commonalities, and to engage in collective action around the Day.

This focus should also be a welcome reminder of the need for solidarity within the communities of sexual and gender minorities, as the rights of one specific group cannot be solidly secured if the rights of other groups are left unchallenged." (<http://dayagainsthomophobia.org/>)

MAY INTERNATIONAL DAY  
17 AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA  
& TRANSPHOBIA



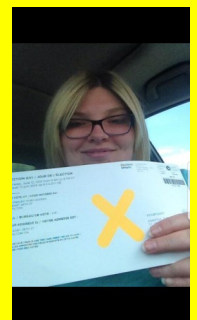
### AGM - Registration Deadline Extended

The deadline to register for the OCTU Annual General Meeting has been extended to Monday, May 7th at 4:00 p.m. Unfortunately the registration for childcare could not be extended and closed on April 30th.

If you have not yet registered, please make sure to get your RSVP in soon! We are expecting a great turn out this year! Dinner is no cost to members and we have some fun entertainment for the evening.

### Election Day Facebook Competition

Take a selfie of yourself either at an advanced-poll or on election day sharing your participation in the upcoming Provincial Election. Post it on the OCTU Facebook Page for your chance to win a prize!! All members who post a selfie will be entered for a chance at a prize. Contest closes at midnight on June 7 2018.



Post your photo to the OCTU Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/OCTU-OSSTF-District-21-1501189143295693/>

## Education Week May 7-11

The theme of Education Week 2018, *Public Education – It's for Everyone*, recognizes a publicly-funded education system is perhaps the province's most important asset, and that we must continue to ensure that we meet the needs of all who rely on it in a rapidly growing and changing Ontario.

The celebration of Education Week was established by OSSTF/FEESO in 1930 to recognize and celebrate the essential role public education plays in the lives of communities all over the province. Within a few years Education Week was being celebrated across Canada, and today, thanks to OSSTF/FEESO's initiative 88 years ago, it is officially recognized in Ontario and observed by education stakeholders throughout the province.

As part of Education Week, we celebrate Support Staff Appreciation Day on Wednesday, May 9. This is a day to recognize and celebrate the many and varied contributions that the team of secretaries, technicians, educational assistants, instructors, psychologists, speech-language pathologists, social workers, plant support personnel, attendance counsellors, early childhood educators and the many others in education, make to Ontario's publicly funded schools and universities as well as to Ontario's students of all ages.

### International Workers Day/May Day—May 1, 2018

May Day / International Workers' Day is an international day of celebrating workers' struggles and commemorating all the sacrifices that revolutionaries have made to change the world into a better place for working class people. Let us remember those that struggled to bring workers fairness and equity and those that continue to work for the rights of working Canadians.

### Mental Health Week May 7-13

Mental health is about more than mental illness, It's more than being happy all the time. It's about feeling good about who you are, having balance in your life, and managing life's highs and lows. Everyone deserves to feel well, whatever their mental health experience. And we all need a support system to lean on. Use this link to discover more about mental health and ways you can help support yourself and loved ones.

<https://mentalhealthweek.ca/yourmentalhealth/>

### Attached Flyers

Please see the attached flyers sent with the Newsletter email. These flyers have important information about the upcoming OMERS Retirement Workshop, the AGM and the OCTU Retirement Tea .

## Join Us!

We have openings for Branch Reps!

The time commitment for Branch Reps is 1 meeting per month 5pm to 7pm from Sept to June.

We offer training and support along the way, so you are never on your own to deal with a situation.

This year we are planning activities, new ways to communicate with members and ways to be involved in our community.

If you are interested in joining, you are welcome to come out to one of our meetings OR contact a branch rep for more details.

Meeting dates are posted on our website [www.osstf21.ca](http://www.osstf21.ca)

## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.osstf21.ca/>

Like and Follow us on  
Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/  
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## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEBSITE?

We've updated our website! Resources are available for all OCTU members including our current collective agreement, recent newsletters, Health Insurance updates, A branch rep list—including fun facts and photos about your branch rep! Please check out the OSSTF District 21 website and the OCTU Section for important information to all members. [www.osstf21.ca](http://www.osstf21.ca)

