

OSSTF Rainbow District 3  
184 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Lively, ON

Phone 692-3923  
Fax 692-0154

**MARCH**  
**2019**



# The LINK



**ESSU, PSSP and SSSC Bargaining Unit Leaders**

## *Dates of Interest:*

**March 4<sup>th</sup>: PSSP Meeting**  
**District Office 4:00 pm**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>: H&S Training**  
**4:00 pm**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>: District Meeting**  
**4:00 pm**

**March 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>: AMPA**

**March 9 - 17: March Break**

## Index

- President's Message: **AMPA**
- District Officer – Information for Members: **Deadlines**
- Paint Night Social: **ESSU, PSSP and SSSC**
- March Madness – PLUS! Find the leprechauns in this newsletter to win the \*pot o' gold !

## **Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (AMPA)**

It is the time of year that OSSTF has its annual assembly of provincial councillors, delegates and alternates in Toronto. It is a special year in that we are celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! There are many special events planned including the creation of anniversary vignettes, a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, a special presidents' dinner that will include many past presidents of OSSTF, and much more.



**March 19<sup>th</sup>: Health & Safety Meeting 4:00 pm**

**March 20<sup>th</sup>: TBU Meeting 4:00 pm**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>: PSSP-CBC Meeting 4:00 pm**

**March 25<sup>th</sup>: TBU-CBC 4:00pm**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> : District Meeting 4:00 pm**



I would like to thank those of the OSSTF D3 delegation that have given their time at the beginning of the March Break to attend. They include all of the bargaining unit presidents, as well as Eric Laberge (OSSTF D3 Treasurer), Kyle Craftchick (OTBU Rep), Todd Sintic (TBU Chief Negotiator and D3 VP), Sue Melville (D3 District Officer) and Kelly Morrow (Bussing Consortium VP/Treasurer).

### **District Officer's Message – March 2019**

We are reaching that point in the school year when many deadlines are fast approaching.

**Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** – deadline for teachers to submit their written intent to retire, apply for a teacher exchange, take a SLIP leave, notify the board of their intent to renew leaves or return to work in September 2019, or take a General Leave for the coming school year.

**Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** – deadline for applications by members of all bargaining units to the OSSTF/FEESO Financial Awards for Further Education. See <https://www.osstf.on.ca/en-CA/services/awards-scholarships-grants-and-bursaries/osstf-feeso-financial-assistance-awards-for-further-education.aspx>.

**Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** – deadline for applications for the OSSTF/FEESO Federation Family Education Fund <https://www.osstf.on.ca/services/awards-scholarships-grants-and-bursaries/osstf-feeso-financial-assistance-awards-for-further-education/federation-family-education-fund.aspx>. This is also the deadline for applications for OSSTF Rainbow District 3 Student Citizenship Bursaries for dependents of OSSTF District 3 members in all bargaining units in the year of their high school graduation. See <http://www.d03.osstf.ca/Information/Awards-and-Bursaries.aspx>.

**Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** – the first regular posting for teachers other than those declared redundant. Redundant teachers will be informed in writing on the same date.

**Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** – deadline for applications for the OSSTF Rainbow District 3 Student Technical Awards. See <http://www.d03.osstf.ca/Information/Awards-and-Bursaries.aspx>.

**Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** – deadline for teachers to advise the board of their intention to resign. This is also the deadline for members of the Educational Support Staff Unit (ESSU) to inform the board of their intent to retire before September 1<sup>st</sup> this year. (ESSU Local Article L31)

**Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** – the last internal posting will be issued for teachers. Vacancies that come available after this date will be filled through rebound, recall, or external hiring. (TBU Local Article L9.02)

**Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>** – teachers will receive tentative teaching assignments. (TBU Local Article L23)

If you have any questions about these dates, feel free to call us in the District Office.

### **ESSU, PSSP, SSSC Bargaining Units “Paint Night for Members”**

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, the executive of the PSSP, ESSU and SSSC Bargaining Units held a joint Paint Night Social here at the Federation Office in Lively. Good food, cold beverages, friends, and colleagues made this evening a great success and a lot of fun...as well as an opportunity to display some artistic talent!





## March Madness!!



No, I'm not talking about a huge midnight mattress sale! This is my effort to shake this snowy winter funk and come up with something read-worthy for the LINK! ☺

So apart from the 20<sup>th</sup> marking the onset of spring, here is what I learned about March.

**1) Happy New Year, ancient Romans!** According to the oldest Roman calendars, one year was ten months long, beginning in March and ending in December.

December was the tenth month, it was named for the number ten in Latin (decem), just like September was named for seven (septem).

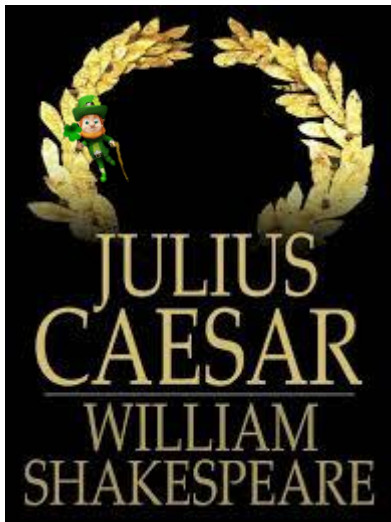
So, what about January and February? They were just two nameless months called "winter," proving that winter is literally, so awful it does not even deserve a spot on the calendar. Hear-hear!

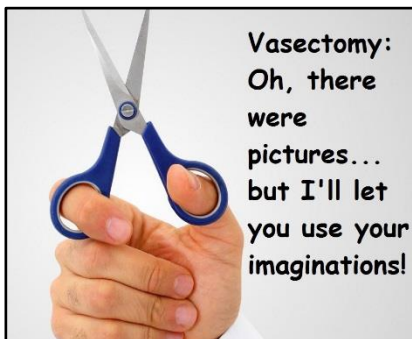
**2) Beware the Ides of March!** We've all heard it uttered, but what does "beware the Ides of March" actually mean? On the Roman calendar, the midpoint of every month was known as the Ides. The Ides of March fell on March 15th. This day was supposed to correlate with the first full moon of the year (the 2 winter months didn't count back then...) and was marked by religious ceremonies, but thanks to Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* we know it for another reason. Supposedly, in 44 BC, a seer told Julius Caesar that his downfall would come no later than the Ides of March. Caesar ignored him, and when the fated day rolled around, he joked with the seer, "The Ides of March have come." The seer replied, "aye, Caesar; but not gone." Caesar continued on to a senate meeting at the Theatre of Pompey, and was promptly murdered by as many as 60 conspirators. Ironically, the spot where Caesar was assassinated is protected in today's Rome as a no-kill cat sanctuary.

**3) March was named for war—and lives up to it.**

March was named for the Latin Martius—aka Mars, the Roman God of war and a mythical ancestor of the Roman people via his wolf-suckling sons, Romulus and Remus. With the winter frosts melting and the ground becoming fertile for harvest again in the Northern hemisphere, March was historically the perfect month for both farmers to resume farming, and warriors to resume warring.

**Interesting fact:** with the exception of the War on Afghanistan, almost all major US-NATO led military operations since the invasion of Vietnam have begun in the month of March.





#### 4) It's also the best month for vasectomies!

According to doctors at the Cleveland Clinic, the number of vasectomies surges by 50 percent during the first week of March. Why? According to urologists, patients typically need "at least a day with ice" to keep swelling down, so if they're going to spend a whole day doing nothing, it's not hard to figure out that they'd want to do it on a day they'd like to be sitting in front of the television."

#### Interesting Dates to mark on your calendar...

**March 5th:** A play on Cinco de Mayo, Cinco de Marcho is an unofficial holiday celebrated annually on March 5. According to the official Cinco de Marcho website, the day was created in 2007 in the United States. It marks the beginning of a 12-day period when "people train their livers for drinking copious amounts of alcohol on St. Patrick's Day." May it never come to that!

**March 6:** The Day of The Dude encourages participants to honor *The Big Lebowski* by takin'er easy all day, man.



**March 10:** Daylight Saving Time begins – as a joke, in 1784, Franklin penned a satirical letter to the editor of the *Journal of Paris* outlining how many pounds of candle wax the city would save (64,050,000 pounds, according to his calculations) if only its clocks were better aligned with the rise and set of the sun. If residents had trouble adjusting, he suggested the city "let cannon be fired in every street, to wake the sluggards effectually." More than a century after Franklin's letter, a British builder named William Willet became the champion of Daylight Saving, and lobbied Parliament to adjust the time in April and September in order to take full advantage of the day's light.

**March 14:** Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th (3/14) around the world. Pi (Greek letter " $\pi$ ") is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant — the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159. Pi Day is an annual opportunity for math enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi, talk to their friends about math, and to eat Pie. **Party on, math geeks!** (This includes you, Sue and Eric!)

**March 17:** Immigrants brought the holiday to America and turned it into a celebration of Irish pride. Although St. Patrick's Day originated in Ireland, the parades, parties, and practice of dyeing rivers green is a purely American tradition and celebration of Irish-American pride. St. Patrick's Day is not an official national holiday in Canada. It is, however, a provincial holiday in Newfoundland. What?!



Why shouldn't you let advanced math intimidate you?



It's really as easy as pi!





A **leprechaun** is a type of fairy in Irish folklore, usually depicted as little bearded men, wearing a coat and hat, who partake in mischief. They are solitary creatures who spend their time making and mending shoes and have a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. If captured by a human, they often grant three wishes in exchange for their freedom.



**\*Win the Pot o' Gold:** find all the little leprechauns in this issue of the LINK, then email [osstf@d03.osstf.ca](mailto:osstf@d03.osstf.ca). Tell us how many you found and the first 5 members to send in an email will receive the OSSTF "pot o' gold" swag. 😊

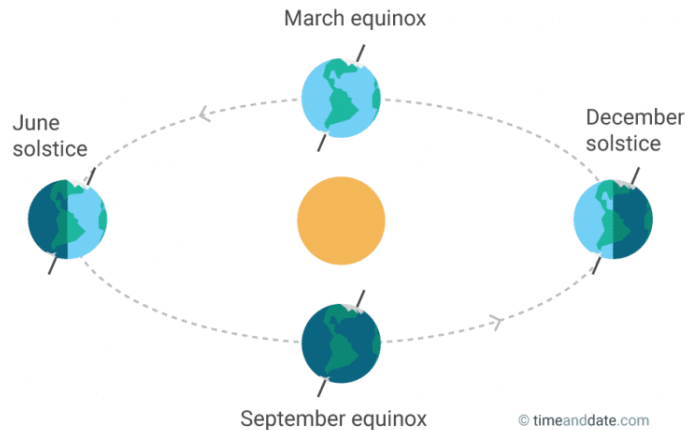


**Interesting trivia:** On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 17 days after it's release on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1973, Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of The Moon" hits the Billboard Top 200 chart at number 95. A mere 14 years later, it finally leaves the top 200 for the first time, setting a still-unbroken world record.



The lunatic is in my head... 🤪 I'll see you on the Dark Side of the Moon

**March 20:** At the equator, the sun shines for the Vernal Equinox, giving a near 50-50 split of day and night. In the Northern Hemisphere, the astronomical vernal equinox (varying between 19 and 21 March) is taken to mark the first day of spring. And it can't come soon enough for me!



### Planning on Driving Across the Border this March Break? Here's a Pre-Departure Checklist

Visiting family? Attending a special event? Chasing some warmer weather? Whatever the reason, if you're planning on driving your own car to the United States over March Break, it's important to be prepared.

Follow this pre-departure checklist to ensure your border experience is a smooth one, so you and your loved ones can spend more time enjoying your well-deserved break:

**For all of your insurance needs, check out the link to OTIP OSSTF members page:**

<https://www.otipinsurance.com/OSSTF3>

From the  
District  
Office, we  
would like to  
wish all of  
our members  
a safe and  
happy March  
Break!



James, Sue and  
Donna.



## Walk into Retirement with a Plan



### Retiring in the next five years? Have questions about retirement benefits and finances?

OTIP and your local union invite you to attend the Walk into Retirement with a Plan workshop.

#### During this workshop, you'll learn about:

- Retirement benefits for life – discover why OTIP is now the leading choice for plan flexibility regarding retirement health, dental and travel benefits
- Your Pension – OTPP and/or OMERS
- Other sources of retirement revenue, including CPP and OAS

This complimentary workshop is open only to members and spouses. A light dinner will be served. Please note any dietary requirements at time of registration.

<b>Time:</b>	5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
<b>Location:</b>	Caruso Club - Lower Hall 385 Haig St. Sudbury

Register online at: [www.otip.com/events](http://www.otip.com/events)

#### Ontario's insurance industry enters hard market:

If you are shopping for car or home insurance, chances are you may have heard that Ontario is now entering what industry veterans refer to as a 'hard market'. It is a challenging cycle that comes about every six to eight years that can lead to higher insurance premiums and stricter underwriting practices.

To learn more, visit [www.otipinsurance.com/article35](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article35)