



May 2022 President's Newsletter

Shawn Martin – smartin@geetf.ca

Dear GEETF Member,

At our Annual Meeting on May 18th, members elected a new Executive Committee for 2022-24. The following members were elected or acclaimed:

President – Carolyn Proulx-Wootton (Oneida Central)

First Vice President – Michaela Kargus (Russell Reid)

Second Vice President – Heather Chwastiak (Elgin Ave)

Secretary – Roberta Ryerse (Elgin Ave)

Health & Safety Officer – Jennifer Orr (Seneca Central)

Executive Members at Large

Lori Burroughs Miller (Lakewood)

Connie Hill (Ryerson Heights)

Lyndsay Houghtling (Russell Reid)

Hayley Lapierre (Walsh)

Cheryl Mann (Princess Elizabeth)

Jennifer McColl (Woodman-Cainsville)

Jacqueline McEwen – (École Confédération)

Kataisha McQueen (Walter Gretzky)

Congratulations to the new Executive Committee! I wish you all the best and hope that the following two years are far more stable and positive than the last two have been.

It has been an honour to have served as your local President these past eventful six years. Both Nancy D'Aurora and I will be retiring next month. Together, GEETF members made it through some of the most challenging years in the history of Public Education. Nancy and I truly wish you all the best and thank you for your support, trust, and the confidence you placed in us.

Future GEETF Elections To Be Online

Members approved several resolutions to amend our Constitution at the May 18th Annual Meeting. The most significant change is future elections of the Executive Committee will be held online rather than using paper ballots at an in-person meeting.

Member Swag

This year's budget included funds to provide each member with a swag thank you item. This year's member gift is a stadium blanket in a case embroidered with the GEETF logo. We hope you enjoy this gift. Blankets will be picked up by your Union Steward from the GEETF office or will be delivered to your schools for distribution to each GEETF member.

2022 is an Election Year

Soon we will face another election. The Ontario election is fast approaching and the results of it will have a direct impact on our profession and working conditions. We've experienced how the Ford government mismanaged Public Education these past four years. And we saw how a round of bargaining went with the Conservatives in charge. Another four years of a Ford government will bring more change to Education, very likely not ones for the better. It's well past time an Ontario government provides the necessary resources and funding to our schools and replaces the faulty funding formula with a truly needs-based assessment and required investment.



Still Space for Members to Attend the ETFO Summer Annual Meeting

Space remains for up to three more GEETF members to attend the ETFO Annual Meeting taking place in Toronto this August 16-18. Accommodations and meals are covered. If you'd like more details and to be a member of this year's GEETF delegation to our Federation's Annual Meeting, please contact Carolyn Proulx-Wootton at cproulxwootton@geetf.ca

Upcoming Pride Events

The GEETF will be hosting a booth at both the Haldimand Norfolk Pride event on May 28th in Caledonia (100 Haddington St.) and at Brantford Pride on June 18th in Mohawk Park. If you'd like to volunteer some time at our tent in the park, please contact the GEETF office for details or just show up that afternoon.

GEETF Celebration & Retirement Dinner

The evening of June 15th brings a return to our in-person event to celebrate this year's retirees and award recipients. Details and how to order tickets have been emailed to members. If you have any questions, please contact Jeannette Dodds at the GEETF office.

Upcoming GEETF Events

May 26 & June 2 - 'Cultural Cardio' with Cher Obediah in Mohawk Park, Brantford

May 26 – 'Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy' virtual workshop

May 27 – 'Design a Custom Boutique Craft' workshop at Finders Keepers, Brantford

June 2 – 'LGBTQ Education Timeline' virtual workshop

June 15 – GEETF Celebration Banquet at the Hellenic Community Centre, Brantford

June 20 – 'Sharing Our Voices' on MS Teams

