

CUPE 3913

Teaching Assistants and Sessional Lecturers at the University of Guelph

Member Newsletter • Jan 2015

President's Update

I'm still sounding the alarm in this issue of our newsletter to encourage you to come out to our next General Membership Meeting (GMM) which has been scheduled for **Thursday, January 29 from 4:30-7:30pm in MacKinnon Building (MCKN) 121**. We ran a poll on our website in early December in order to find a good day and time that works for the majority of our members (since we hadn't made quorum at either of our last 2 GMMs).

This GMM will focus primarily on the results of our financial audit and the challenges that the Local continues to face as a result. We'll need to make some decisions. We will also be reporting on what the Executive Committee has been doing since the last time the membership met at our Annual General Membership Meeting (AGM) last March.

With our AGM fast approaching on **March 19**, I'm focusing my remaining efforts on a successful transition between our current and future Executive Committee members and a general tidying up of loose ends (there are many).

It's crucial, especially now, that we continue to build institutional memory and encourage participation in the Local's Executive Committee. If you're interested in the future of *your* Local, I encourage you to run in our elections at the AGM in March.

I'm looking forward to my last semester as President of your Local and I hope to see you in attendance at our next GMM!

Cameron Kroetsch

President
CUPE Local 3913

Financial Audit

The detailed work of the financial audit has been completed. The Local will report about the results of the audit at the GMM on January 29. Based on the report and recommendations from the Executive Committee, the membership will be asked to decide which course the Local should follow. If the GMM does not have quorum, the Executive Committee will have no choice but to make these decisions on behalf of the membership.

It's important to note that the Local's Executive Committee has discovered a variety of issues related to the Local's finances that are outside the scope of this audit and that the Finance Committee and the President are actively attempting to resolve. Those will also be reported on at the next membership meeting so that all members will have a full and complete understanding of the work that needs to be done both before and after the end of the fiscal year.

If you have questions about the audit, we encourage you to attend our next GMM. In the meantime, please email the Finance Committee directly at audit@cupe3913.on.ca.

Revisions to the Bylaws

As you may know, the core language of our bylaws is considerably outdated and they no longer reflect the tone, culture, and practices of our Local. The Bylaws Committee has pored over other bylaws in the sector, reviewed our existing bylaws, consulted with CUPE National, and is nearly ready to present its revisions to the membership.

The process for revising the bylaws is a lengthy and complicated one, so please look out for information on our website about member consultation over the next few months.

This process is essential for the Local's continued success. While tedious in the extreme, the process must see meaningful progress before the end of the fiscal year (April 30).

When you receive the announcement for the revision of the Local's bylaws, please take a moment to give the Bylaws Committee your feedback. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to contact the committee please do so by emailing bylaws@cupe3913.on.ca.

Call to join the International TA Committee

The **International TA Committee** is planning its **first** meeting for W15 and welcomes International Teaching Assistants (ITAs) to join the committee. This is a new committee and it needs direction from its constituent members.

If you're an international student and have worked as a Teaching Assistant at any time in the past year, please consider joining the committee and coming out to a meeting this term.

Meeting times for the committee will be determined based on the availability of interested individuals, so please get in touch soon so a meeting time can be arranged.

The International TA Committee Chair, Ernest Damalie, can be reached at international@cupe3913.on.ca. Please contact him if you're interested in coming out to a meeting.

20th Anniversary Party

This academic year marks CUPE Local 3913's **20th Anniversary** and we're

throwing a party to celebrate (with food, drinks, and dancing)! The Communications Committee has been working hard to schedule the party and has narrowed it down to 1 of 3 possible dates:

Thursday, February 26

Thursday, March 5

Thursday, March 12

Visit this WhenIsGood poll to cast your vote for the time that works best for you: <http://whenisgood.net/2rjsjtw>