

CUPE 3913

Teaching Assistants and Sessional Lecturers at the University of Guelph

Member Newsletter • Mar 2015

President's Update

First, a huge thanks goes out to all of the members who were able to make it out to our General Membership Meeting at the end of January. We made quorum and were finally able to share some really important information with you. It was a positive and welcoming meeting and I hope that others left with the same sense of accomplishment that I did.

This month I'd like to address some other issues which I think are really important. Our Queer and Women's councils and our International TA committee need your input. Simply put, they need more member participation.

As a member of the **Queer Council** I can say that this is an important time for those who identify as part of the queer community on campus. We're currently advocating for member-targeted services in discussions with the Employer.

As you may have read in our past 2 newsletters, both the **Women's Council** and **International TA Committee** are actively recruiting members and trying to organise meetings. If you identify as a member of either constituency I urge you to consider dedicating a small amount of your time (check out our past newsletters for more information). Here's the contact information you'll need to be in touch with the right person:

International TA Representative international@cupe3913.on.ca

Women's Council women@cupe3913.on.ca

Queer Council queer@cupe3913.on.ca

I'd also like to repeat what I said in the last newsletter (because I think it's *that* important):

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 Annual General Membership Meeting (AGM) to be held **on March 19 in MacKinnon Building (MCKN) 121 from 4:30-6:30pm.**

Cameron Kroetsch

President
CUPE Local 3913

Financial Audit

The outcome of our financial audit was discussed in detail during our last General Membership Meeting on January 29. Members have postponed a direct motion on the results of the audit until either a Special Membership or Annual General Membership Meeting is held. **We have received the preliminary results from the insurance company and will bring the matter to the AGM for a vote by the membership.**

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

Nominations

Nominations for **all** positions are open.

A nomination form may be downloaded from the [Documents](#) section of our website. It must be filled out and signed by you, your nominator, and your seconder in advance of the elections in order to make it official. The form must either be returned to the CUPE office (located in University Centre 213A - slide it under the door) or submitted in person at the [Annual General Membership Meeting \(AGM\)](#). The form should be returned in a sealed envelope and addressed to **Valerie Quinn, Chief Electoral Officer**. You may also scan and email the form and

send it to elections@cupe3913.on.ca in advance (but you must bring the original to the AGM with you).

Elections for 2015 will be held at the AGM. We will also be taking nominations from the floor at the AGM. Forms will be provided at the AGM for those who wish to make nominations from the floor. Candidates who stand for nomination will be given 2 minutes to speak (if they wish).

Use Your Member Benefits!

If you haven't logged in to the CUPE Local 3913 website lately (or ever) then you aren't accessing your member benefits. You're likely also not aware that we still have funds remaining in the benefits pool of **\$145,000** negotiated in the Collective Agreement.

For more information, please visit the [Benefits](#) section of our website, log in, look at the Benefits Pool information and assess your eligibility for **Unit 1** or **Unit 2** benefits before the academic year is up at the end of Summer 15. We don't want any of our members to miss out if they're eligible. For questions about logging in and basic answers to questions about benefits, visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

20th Anniversary Party

The Local is celebrating its [20th Anniversary](#) on **Thursday, March 12 from 5:00-8:00pm at the Brass Taps**.

Please join us in celebrating 20 years on campus representing Teaching Assistants and Sessional Lecturers at the University of Guelph.

Facebook and Twitter

Our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts are back up and running. Over the next few months we'll be working to get our messages out over social media especially leading up to the renegotiation of our Collective Agreement in **2016**.

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