North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers' Association

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MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Staff Reps. |
| **From:** | Lynda Bennett, President |
| **Date:** | April 13, 2012 |
| **Subject:** | **Important reminder** |

**NOSTA President and Executive Positions:**

Please remind your staff that if they would like to run for the 2012/2013 NOSTA President position that their letter of intent needs to be into the NOSTA office by Monday, April 30, 2012.

Members who are interested in letting their name stand for positions on the:

* NOSTA Executive (18 positions)

President

1st Vice-President

2nd Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Local Assembly Reps (3 positions)

Bargaining Chair

Aboriginal Education

Professional Development

Communications

Member Involvement

Social Justice

Health & Safety

Teachers’ Teaching on Call

Member at Large (2 positions)

* Social Justice Committee (4 positions), and
* Professional Development Committee (5 positions)

please call the NOSTA office. Training and support will be provided for new members. The positions will be filled at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, May 14, 2012.

**By-Law Changes to the Policy Handbook:**

As per By-Law 15: Annual General Meeting Policy Amendments, the following will be considered for adoption at the AGM:

A review of the NOSTA Policy Handbook was undertaken and the 1st Vice-President, Brenda O’Dell, who is responsible for keeping the handbook current, is recommending the following changes. According to By-Law 15 changes must be sent to members one month prior to the Annual General Meeting and require passage of a simple majority vote. Changes to the handbook have been made in bold/italic.

Most of the changes are house keeping or changes in wording to make the policy more understandable.

Exceptions include:

1. Charitable Donations: changed to reflect current practice.

2. Financial Reviews: our accountant has advised us that an audit every 5 years is not required.

3. Joint Committees: an addition to reflect current practice.

4. LRA Structure: changed to reflect current practice.

5. President: #2 NOSTA does not have a fund called reserve fund. #4 current budget allows for $1,800 to $2,000 and is set annually in the budget presented at the AGM.

**By-Law Changes to the North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers’ Association Constitution:**

Pursuant to By-Law 16: Constitutional Amendments in the North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers’ Association Constitution, notice is hereby given of the intention of this body to add a Political Action Contact and two positions for Members at Large to the Executive Committee.

15. Political Action Contact shall:

In co-operation with the local president and executive committee, be responsible for:

a) Planning for lobbying of trustees, MLAs and MPs.

b) Establishing and building long-term working relationships with elected officials.

c) Promoting local media coverage of educational issues including earned media, communication plans, organizing letters to the editor, and op/ed pieces.

d) Organizing local election related activities during board of education and provincial election campaigns.

e) Informing and involving members in activities to promote the interests of teachers and public education.

f) Establishing and supporting a network of staff reps using electronic and other communication (e-mail and/or print).

g) Chairing the local political action committee as appropriate.

h) Other local and provincial activities as determined by the local executive.

16. Member at Large (2) shall:

a) Serve on the executive committee in a manner determined by the executive committee.

b) Have opportunity to sit on NOSTA Committees.

c) Be on the Bargaining Committee

The motion to amend the Constitution will be held at the Annual General Meeting of the North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers’ Association on Monday, May 14, 2012. A majority of 75% of members present is required to pass this amendment.