

Communication and Education Committee Report 2021

Monthly “Meet & Greets”

The ORC introduced a new monthly engagement call late in December 2020. Directed at new hires and those unfamiliar with the union, but open to all, the calls have been well received. 5 meetings have been held with turnout ranging from 30 to over 80 participants. Topics included union structure, interpreting the collective agreement, Other Paid Leave policy, and Regional Standing Committees. ORC has received positive feedback on these sessions and participating members have made connections with peers and committee bodies with shared interests. We are also able to use polling during the sessions to gather informal data on the needs and interests of the participating membership.

Roy Page Scholarship

The 2020 Scholarship competition was delayed in communication as a result of general delays and disorganization arising from COVID-19 lockdown. The callout was issued January 29, 2021 and resulted in only one response. Rather than release the scholarship at that time, the ORC agreed to combine the 2020 and 2021 scholarships into a single release of six (the Regulation calls for up to 3 scholarships annually), with a one-time allowance for first- and second-year students to accommodate the missed year. This callout was issued in September and submissions closed October 12th. The ORC is concluding the recipients as of the writing of this report.

Moving ahead, the Education Committee is examining causes for delay and working to improve future scholarship runs.

Website Improvements

CEIUontario.ca has been updated to include contact information for Regional Council and Regional Standing Committees. The Education Committee is supporting the NVPs in supplying ideas for continuing improvements to the website, including the inclusion of space for Locals. Improvements are ongoing as changes to the website require coordination with a technical advisor and caution to ensure there is no loss of data.

2022 Training Schedule

Education Committee has received the necessary details on National Union Representative training capacity for scheduling the spring 2022 schedule. This will include DTA, Local Administration, Grievance Handling, Staffing Complaints & Discipline, and Membership Engagement. An anti-racism course is in development but not confirmed. Scheduling will ensure the possibility of in-person training is considered however we expect at least some training to remain virtual, or to be hybrid in-person/virtual, in 2022.

In Solidarity,

ORC Communication & Education Committee