



Bluewater Occasional Teachers' Local

2019-2020 Report by A.J. Adams

Member Engagement Chair/Equity and Social Justice Officer

Wow! What a year it's been for Education in Ontario! Starting the academic year off with no contract, going through Central Bargaining with the Ford Government, and Covid-19 made this year quite challenging! I'd like to say "Thank You" to everyone who were active members of their Union through attending meetings, voting, and participating in Strike Days.

I had the honour of serving as the Member Engagement Chair this year! We were very ambitious with the events and activities I wanted to host for our members, doing my best to get everyone involved and get our numbers up. Firstly, we organized a Hiking Series around various locations in our area. These were aimed at engaging our members with Central Bargaining updates, information about what is going on with our Local, and a chance to network with other OT's. Unfortunately, only one Hike was able to take place as a result of Bargaining and Covid-19. In addition, the hike that did take place was on a very snowy day, which made travel difficult for many!

Secondly, we planned an event called "Sips, Snacks, and Succulents" that was aimed at providing members an opportunity to network with each other while participating in Horticultural Therapy. Members would create their own Succulent Terrarium under the guidance of Amy Petersen. Covid-19 once again changed the plans for this event. There was a lot of interest in this event, and as a result, we are planning to run the event during the next academic year.

Thirdly, the Membership Engagement Committee worked hard at planning the Local's Annual Meeting at Stone Tree. Earth Day was to be the theme, with numerous initiatives aimed around at bringing awareness to this important day. Members were once again going to have the opportunity to choose a Book Resource for attending. In addition, members would donated funds or items to local food banks. As a result of Covid-19, the BWOT Annual Meeting has been moved to the fall.

Stay Healthy and Have a Great Summer!

-A.J. Adams