

OPSEU 2014 Convention: Questions & Answers



Q: Why is Convention so important?

A: Convention is the highest decision-making body of our union. It's where policies get decided, decisions of the Board get approved and where OPSEU's Constitution can be amended. This is where the President, and 1st Vice President/Treasurer are elected every second year. Our budget is passed and your union dues are set. In short, it's where member-delegates have a voice in how your union is run.

Q: When and where is Convention being held?

A: The 2014 Convention is scheduled for May 8-10, 2014, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Q: Who gets to go to Convention?

A: Delegates/Alternates/Observers from each local go to Convention. Also eligible to attend: each member of the Executive Board, each member of a convention committee, the Executive Committee of the Retired Members' Division, the members of the Provincial Women's Committee, the members of the Provincial Human Rights Committee, the members of the Provincial Francophone Committee, the members of the Provincial Young Workers Committee and members of the Regional Aboriginal Circle. They are entitled to be delegates in their own right. That is to say, they are not part of their local's entitlement.

In This Issue

**OPSEU 2014
Convention: Q&A**

On the lighter side ...

Did you know ...

**Basic
accommodation:
Is your home
supplying what
it should?**

Q: How many delegates can my local send?

A: The number of delegates each local sends to convention depends on the local's size.

Q: How are the delegates, alternates and observer's chosen?

A: They are elected at a local's general membership meeting. The president of each local is automatically the first delegate to the annual convention. However, if the local president cannot attend (or is coming under another entitlement, such as an Executive Board Member, a convention committee member or a member of the PWC, PHRC, PFC, PYWC or Aboriginal Circle), the local vice-president automatically becomes the first delegate. A local may elect and send alternates up to the number of delegates to which it is entitled e.g. if the local has 200 members, then

it is allowed to have two delegates, alternates and "unlimited" observers. The number of observers is not limited by the constitution, but space at the convention is severely restricted, and locals are therefore asked to keep their observers to a minimum.

Local's delegate entitlement as per the OPSEU constitution

| Members in Good Standing | Delegates |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Up to 150 | 1 |
| 151 to 300 | 2 |
| 301 to 500 | 3 |
| 501 to 800 | 4 |
| 801 to 1,100 | 5 |
| 1101 to 1,500 | 6 |
| 1501 to 1,900 | 7 |
| 1901 to 2,300 | 8 |
| 2,301 or more | 9 |

Q: What is the difference between a delegate, alternate and observer?

A: Delegates may be seated on the floor of the convention, which allows them to cast a vote. Alternates may not be seated on the floor of the convention unless in possession of badges of absent delegates of the same local and approved by the credentials committee. Observers are not allowed to substitute in for a delegate. Alternates and observers will be seated in the alternates/observers section.

Q: I've never gone to Convention before. How will I know what to do?

A: If you are attending Convention for the first time as a delegate there is a New Delegates Seminar held each year, so be certain to get the meeting details before you arrive at the convention. This meeting is an opportunity to become familiar with the rules and procedures of the convention itself.

Q: What help is available, if I need assistance due to an issue requiring an accommodation?

A: If a member has an accessibility issue they need assistance with they should apply for an accommodation through the Equity Unit to gain access to the Accommodation Fund.

Q: What else can I expect at Convention?

A: There are special guest speakers, awards presentations and honorary life membership awards. In the outside hall there is information and educational booths staffed with staff and member-activists. There are also health and safety advocates and groups available to provide you with information and materials you can take back to your locals. There are many resources that OPSEU Convention has to offer. There is lots going on, and don't forget entertainment night!

On the lighter side...

An RN, RPN, and PSW from a small nursing home were chatting in the lunch room. In walks a lady dressed in silk scarves and wearing large polished glittering jewelry.

"I am 'Gina the Great'," stated the lady. "I am so pleased with the way you have taken care of my aunt that I will now grant the next three wishes!"

With a wave of her hand and a puff of smoke, the room was filled with flowers, fruit and chocolates, proving that she did have the power to grant wishes before any of the nurses could think otherwise.

The nurses quickly argued among themselves as to which one would ask for the first wish.

Speaking up, the RPN wished first.

"I wish I were on a tropical island beach, with single, beautiful women feeding me fruit and tending to my every need." With a puff of smoke, he was gone.

The PSW went next. "I wish I were rich and retired and spending my days in my own warm cabin at a ski resort with gorgeous men feeding me cocoa and doughnuts." With a puff of smoke, she too was gone.

"Now, what is the last wish?" asked the lady.

The RN said, "I want those two back on the floor at the end of their lunch break."

Did you know...?

You can buy great OPSEU merchandise on the OPSEU website at www.opseu.org. Just click on the "Shop OPSEU Enterprises" button on the right hand column of the home page. Then click merchandise. It will open a link to www.opseushop.com. There you'll find:

- Quality, domestically-made and sweatshop-free products
- Made in Canada and union-made products where possible
- Each item is guaranteed for 90 days
- Exceptional customer service
- Competitive prices
- Timely delivery
- FREE SHIPPING! Free freight is available through OPSEU's regional mail. Merchandise can be picked up at your regional OPSEU office.

When you shop, you are also supporting OPSEU's Live & Let Live Fund as a portion of all proceeds from purchases made on the website will be donated to the fund. Items are added on a regular basis so check back often.

Basic accommodation: Is your home supplying what it should?

By Joan Corradetti



In long term care, we have now had three years to work within the new legislation. There has been some improvement, i.e. whistleblower protection. However, the government failed to include specifics from previous legislation and manuals. I am referring to the Long Term Care Home Program Manual, basic accommodation language, listed under 0608-01.

In this manual, it is very specific in what was included or what was to be supplied by the home. Specifically: "Supplies and equipment for personal hygiene and grooming, including skin care lotions and powders, shampoos, soaps and deodorant, tooth paste, toothbrushes, denture cups and cleansers, toilette tissues, facial tissue, hairbrush, combs, razors/shavers, shaving creams, feminine hygiene products."

The current legislation (LTCHA, 2007) states in Section 91(1): "A licensee shall not charge a resident for anything, except in accordance with the following:

1. For basic accommodation, a resident shall not be charged more than the amount provided for in the regulations for the accommodation provided.

2. For preferred accommodation, a resident shall not be charged more than can be charged for basic accommodation in accordance with paragraph 1 unless the preferred accommodation was provided under an agreement, in which case the resident shall not be charged more than the amount provided for in the regulations for the accommodation provided.
3. For anything other than accommodation, a resident shall be charged only if it was provided under an agreement and shall not be charged more than the amount provided for in the regulations, or, if no amount is provided for, more than a reasonable amount.

Under Ontario Regulation 79/10 of the LTCHA, 2007, Section 32 Personal Care states that every licensee of a long term care home shall ensure that each resident of the home receives individualized personal care, including hygiene care and grooming, on a daily basis.

Included in the same regulations, Oral Care Section 34 states similar language.

Current legislation does not include the previous manual's list of items, though it is understood to include such articles. Some may question the importance to us

...continued

continued...

working in LTC. We have a job to do and we take pride in our work. If we do not have the supplies on hand to perform that job because the licensee does not provide them then we are limited in our ability to provide that care. Our residents' dignity may also suffer.

Some employers may try to cut corners and have their residents supply their own items, as in the hospitals—for those of us old enough to remember when those items were supplied!

We are now in an era age where more than 60 per cent of LTC facilities are “for profit.” As such, cutting back on supplies is one way where money can be saved. We have already fought the battle over limiting the supply of incontinent products and won.

We can and should advocate for our resident/clients. If your home does not supply these necessary products, ask, “Why not?”



Diablogue
OPSEU Health Care Divisional Council
 News & Commentary on Ontario's Health System
OPSEU SEFPO

Medicare is as sustainable as we want it to be.
 Get a different view of Ontario's health care system.

A project of OPSEU's
 Health Care
 Divisional Council

diablogue.org

2013-2015 Executive

Chair: Joan Corradetti

Email: twins92@gmail.com
 L261

Vice-Chair : Shannon Nolan

Email: shannonnolanl214@gmail.com
 L214

Secretary/Treasurer: Cindy Eagle

Email : cindyeagle@hotmail.com
 L320

Communications Coordinator: Sonya Palaisy

Email : sonyapalaisy@gmail.com
 L494

It's my
 nature
 to **care.**
OPSEU LONG TERM CARE

**Your March 2014
 Bulletin is
 authorized for
 distribution by**

Warren (Smokey) Thomas
 President, OPSEU



Follow us on the web and social media!
facebook.com/opseu twitter.com/OPSEU www.opseu.org