



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER REPORT
OCRA™ 8TH GENERAL MEETING
MOHAWK COLLEGE, HAMILTON
OCTOBER 28, 2010

Since taking over the role of communications officer, I have been involved in:

- creating and editing the OCRA newsletter and on-line bulletins
- distributing the newsletter and bulletins by email to OCRA members, human resources personnel at the colleges, the CAAT Pension Plan and "The Council"
- maintaining an address book containing hundreds of email addresses for OCRA members, college human resources, CAAT Pension Plan and "The Council" staff
- assisting with other tasks such as the invitation to the general meeting
- other duties as assigned

Distribution of the newsletter, the June bulletin and the general meeting invitation by regular mail was efficiently handled by the "Fleming Connection" - Stella, Lorna and Jennifer, and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately the email distribution of newsletters, bulletins or reminders does not always run smoothly. Recently while sending the reminder for this meeting, the Sympatico server broke my message up into five parts without notifying me. This caused a great deal of confusion and bounce-backs. What this experience makes clear is that I should find a better email system. Members can help by notifying the OCRA membership co-ordinator immediately when they get a new email address.

OCRA has a membership in CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada), which provides information about the activities and events of post-secondary education retirees coast to coast. I represent OCRA on the CURAC executive and I am also the editor of that association's online newsletter (www.curac.ca). The association holds a conference each year, which provides up-to-the-minute information about pensions, benefits and other matters of interest to retirees. I joined the conference organizing committee for the 2010 conference being at York University and was able to arrange for publicity for, input from, and helpful advice to OCRA and its members who attended this conference. In all, there were four speakers with Ontario college connections.

Along with many other CAAT retirees whose service is mostly pre-1992, I sent an email to Derek Dobson protesting the possible end of indexation for pre-1992 service in 2014.

OCRA bookmarks are still available and so is the 2010 version of the extended health insurance comparison. If you would like bookmarks, please give me your mailing address. For a copy of the updated extended health benefit comparison, please give me your email address.

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