

May News

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What's Happening ?

Your Union

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As expected, the weather did not disappoint and we had some good rain and winds that were darn strong. I wonder if this is a way for Mother Nature to clean up winter debris and make way for summer warmth and sunshine. Lets hope it sets us all up for a great season with successful talks with our employer.

The time has come for the exchanging of proposals. The Mobilization Committee will be very important to all as they will be responsible for relaying information necessary to keep the Negotiations positive and moving forward.

One of the most relaxing things this writer has found that releases stress like nothing else is to plant a garden. Yes folks, to plant seeds in dirt, water, feed and watch it grow and give back two plus fold. I highly recommend you try it out. And enjoy the benefits and knowledge that you are consuming good, healthy nutritious food. Helps lower the grocery bill too.

Allison Prusky– Our President– Came back from the spring conference in Windsor with information to share and expressed she was happy to have networked with others in the Social Service Sector that seem to have many stressors as we do here in the north. She shared her contact info. with other Union Presidents and this could lead to positive feedback in the future. Allison is back at Northern Ave. in a new (old) role of CPW once again but under the Kinship umbrella with Tina.

Jill Paquin- Our Vice President - enjoyed a well deserved vacation with her husband this month. We might have to start booking our vacations with her as she has first hand knowledge of all the great places we can go to get away and refresh ourselves. Jill is quickly getting accustomed to her new position as Vice. She now has a dedicated laptop that should make communication and safe storage of union business easier for her.

Lora Johnson– Recording Secretary— has booked the CUPE National boardroom for all the regular membership and executive meetings for the rest of the year. Lora and Kim found an awesome laptop deal for two members of the executive who desperately needed upgrades and have dispensed them.

Tina Gauthier –Secretary Treasurer -attended the conference with Allison. She enjoyed networking as well. The vocals got a work out in the car while travelling to and from the conference with Allison. And yes, Tina did most of the driving!

Ami Madsen– Chief- Lead Steward– Is currently adjusting to her title she was acclaimed for. Ami has received her first Steward training session. She knows she can lean on others who have experience as well. Ami and Ami are making a difference one day at a time for our members.

Kim Montgomery– Membership Officer –had a small coffee machine that was not being utilized at home so if you ever attend the union office on Wilson St. know that we can offer a nice cup of coffee or tea as you discuss any concerns with the executive. Kim spearheaded the t-shirt sales and felt it went better than expected with a total of 28 shirts marked with CUPE 5269. There was only water available and no baking for last meeting but maybe for the last one before the summer she can whip up some awesome chocolate chip cookies if that will get members to attend to receive first hand news of union business. Kim is taking Steward training in early May so she has better knowledge of how to support members.

Ami Gilmour– Shop Steward-Has resumed her duties and we are happy knowing Ami feels she is able to assist other staff with concerns. Ami has a new position at the agency and is learning the ropes of Assessment Worker.

Welcome to our newest members this month: Alicia Gioventu CPW and Willow Houston CPW

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Negotiations:

As you likely have felt the vibe out there, the staff are feeling uneasy. The executive has noticed and want staff to know we hear you, and CUPE National (who has already said they will support us financially if we need to go the route of strike action) are really trying to support us as well as CUPE Ontario. It's a good feeling knowing we really do have people behind us who care.

We need to ensure our workers are respected, and heard. Words and promises can only go so far. It does not put food in our bellies or fuel in our vehicles. We have not even been able to keep up with the real cost of living rate. (How about the cost of grapes or a watermelon- Who can afford them?)

So, collectively we can do something. With the help of CUPE Ontario we have successfully been able to tap into funds for an e-campaign that will educate the public on what is occurring in Algoma District and Child Welfare. And how our Management has chosen to treat us with the outcome of Bill 124!

Our special membership meeting on April 25th was to inform ALL MEMBERS TOGETHER of Bill 124 reply by Management and how we have withdrawn our arbitration date to join with other unions to fight this collectively with a good chance of a better outcome than going it alone through the arbitrator. But this could take time.

Would it ever be nice if our Agency would open discussions with the Ministry and award a fair deal to the workers who are doing the work, seeing the families, and the support staff cleaning the buildings, and paying the bills and fixing the computers and maintaining the grounds. We all work together to ensure the families who need us are taken care of. Who is taking care of us?

Did we mention there is some awesome "BLING" headed your way? We have sun visor shades for your vehicle coming soon. Place them inside your vehicle to keep harmful UV rays out and prevents fading of the interior. They have a clear message facing outside for all who walk by to see. We have also ordered mouse pads with CUPE logo. They will be arriving any day now.

May 3rd is the day the Union and Management exchange proposals. The Negotiation Committee then meet on May 7th all day to review the proposals and come up with their action plan from there. May 13th and 14th are the next set of dates where they actually sit down together and discussions begin. Stay tuned.

IN SOLIDARITY

CUPE 5269

Children's Aid Society of Algoma

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

Mobilization Committee –The Mobilization has been established and had their first meeting on April 23rd at the Wilson Street Office. Kelly has stepped up and offered to take a lead role.

Please Please Please let Kelly know what your personal email and personal telephone number is so they can reach you with vital information if necessary.

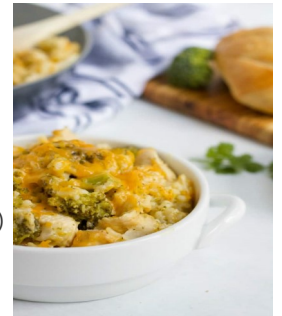
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Easy Recipe for Fast Family Meals-Most of the younger families working at CAS Algoma have children involved in some kind of after school activity or weekends are full of running as well. To help with the stress level and to save the budget (and your waistline) from getting fast-food, I thought I'd post an easy and cost efficient recipe for you.

One-Pot Chicken & Broccoli Rice

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 3 boneless skinless chicken breasts chopped
- 1 yellow onion chopped
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 broccoli chopped
- 1 can cream of broccoli soup
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup white rice uncooked (not Instant rice)
- 1 ½ cup cheddar cheese shredded



- * Heat olive oil over medium high heat in a large skillet. Add chicken breasts and saute for two minutes.
- * Add in onion and garlic and continue to saute until chicken is cooked and onions are soft (about 6-8 minutes).
- * Stir chicken broth, cream of broccoli soup, broccoli and rice and bring to a boil. Cover and reduce heat to medium low.
- * Cook for about 20 minutes, or until rice is cooked.
- * Remove from heat and let stand five minutes, covered.
- * Stir in cheddar cheese and serve hot.

Serving: 1g | Calories: 519kcal | Carbohydrates: 28g | Protein: 44g | Fat: 26g | Saturated Fat: 11g | Polyunsaturated Fat: 12g | Cholesterol: 130mg | Sodium: 1301mg | Fiber: 1g | Sugar: 4g

One-Pot Chicken & Broccoli Rice by Simply Stacie

Spot the Support:



If you spy something around the agency that is sporting our UNION colours or representing SOLIDARITY in any way, shape or form, please send it along to an executive person. We will feature it in future newsletters.

Next Month – September Edition – this is the last until fall