

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE DECEMBER 1, 2011 BOARD MEETING

Warm Greetings to everyone as we begin the festive season. It has been a busy year as we continue to focus on Communications and strengthening the information flow among Directors, Committee Chairs and the membership.

A small work group consisting of OASBO Directors presented a report on future Annual Conference venues. Based on space requirements, costs, ease of accessibility and area attractions, the Board agreed on the following locations: London 2013, Niagara Falls 2014 and Toronto 2015.

Discussion took place on the current Certificate Courses offered at the University of Guelph. The number of attendees is problematic because of the decrease in numbers over the past year. In addition, the on-line version of the Diploma in School Board Administration seems to be in decline. Of the 6 modules, only the first 2 are fairly consistent. The Board suggested that Committees be encouraged to enroll in the various courses and to market the Diploma Course through Ontario's Principals' Councils for principals who wish to pursue supervisory officer qualifications. Completion of the courses could be considered as a desirable asset for job qualification.

Meetings have been held with Danima Technologies regarding improvements to the OASBO website. It was agreed that a test protocol will be put in place. Committee Chairs will be making a decision at the February 10 Joint Meeting to determine if the website has met expectations.

The Board received the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2011. General expenses have been consistent. An increase has been realized in both membership and workshop registration fees.

The GSN consultations for 2012 were discussed regarding process and timelines. Input will be sought from Committees to provide 2 top priorities



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**OASBO PRESIDENT**

emphasizing operational priorities and process efficiencies. Submission deadline is December 19.

The Board agreed to review the budget process and discuss how to bring amounts into alignment, areas where surplus could be utilized and increasing committee budgets.

Work is well under way for the 2012 Annual Conference to take place May 9-11 at the Ottawa Convention Centre. The theme is "New Voices and Communications: Reaching Our Partners...Nouvelles voix et communications – retrouver nos partenaires". The keynote address will be presented by Angela Mondou of ICE Leadership and Friday's plenary speaker will be Jones Loflin, co-author of the award winning book *Juggling Elephants*. Chairs have been contacted to establish Committee workshops for presentation at the Conference. Some discussion took place on how sponsorship revenue could be increased. Directors were asked to provide a list of potential sponsors and the OASBO office will follow up.

The annual Support Staff Conference will be held at the Delta Chelsea Inn, Toronto on April 19-20, 2012. The theme is "My Work Matters and So Do I". Keynote speaker, Jody Urquhart has been secured and will present



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"The Nerve to Serve – Say Hello to Humour and Goodbye to Burnout". Conference information brochures are being prepared and will be distributed in the New Year. Please share this information with support staff at your respective school boards.

A gentle reminder to all Standing Committee Chairs and members that we are seeking representatives for our Nominations Committee. This annual committee is responsible for recommending member appointments to the Board of Directors. This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in a leadership capacity and have a voice in the establishment of the new Board of Directors.

We will be making a call for nominations for Board of Directors in February 2012. Please watch for future notices and consider volunteering your time as a member of the Board.

**On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend best wishes to all OASBO members for a Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season.**

Tom Pechkovsky  
OASBO President