

CUPE David Saunders Memorial Week Long School

Dear Cupe members of Local 973:

I want to thank you for allowing me to attend the Cupe School at the White Oaks Resort in St Catherines. It was a beautiful location boarding on Niagara on the Lake.

I attended the New Stewarding Learning Series focusing on :

- Handling Discipline and Discharge
- Representing Members in Front of Management
- Challenging Racism in the Workplace
- Creating Gender Equality
- Building Your Case
- Mobilizing Workers
- Disability Issues for Stewards

The Instructors were excellent both Marie Boyd and Steve Leviatte kept the workshops flowing and always had great examples of many of there encounters over there years involved as Cupe Reps.

The class dynamics also made the week long course very enjoyable with lots of experience and varying positions from the 30 students in the room. We had Paramedics, Parks and Rec Workers Custodians and School Secretaries along with City Planners and Social Workers.

I thought I gained a lot from the information provided on Representing Members in front of Management along with filing proper grievances. They also focused on Mitigating factors and just cause in arguing decisions and or discipline from management.

Overcoming more then one stereotype and challenging racism in the workplace was also very interesting.

We also joined our sisters and brothers of Local 1287 Lincoln County Humane Society on the picket line Wed April 25 to help support them in there month long strike. They were invited to the closing dinner and dance and the Cupe students raised over \$1800.00 for them.

One of the main themes that kept repeating within the workshops and week long course is that all of us face many of the same issues with our employers and our locals and that we need to become more involved and find ways to work in a more positive manner to resolve the day to day issues we face as stewards and executive.

I again would like to thank the members of Local 973 for allowing me to attend this training.

Respectfully,
Stephen Walmsley
Vice President- Local 973 County