



Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association

Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association
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NEWSLETTER OF THE SCOTTISH SECONDARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION JUNE 2016

SSTA to Ballot to cut Teacher Workload

The SSTA Indicative Ballot was to assess the measures proposed by the Government to reduce teacher workload and the assessment required for National Qualifications. The ballot clearly showed that members are unhappy with the current proposals with 91% of respondents prepared to take industrial action short of strike action with 64% prepared to take strike action if necessary.

The SSTA met the new Cabinet Secretary John Swinney on 7 June 2016 and he was urged to intervene with the employers and reach a way forward to tackle the excessive teacher workload created by National Qualifications. The Cabinet Secretary agreed that teachers needed to be focussed on teaching and learning and he said he wanted to remove the 'clutter' that stopped that focus.

The SSTA National Executive met on 16 June and sanctioned a Formal Ballot for Industrial Action at the start of the school year.

SSTA Annual Congress 2016

All members are encouraged to visit the SSTA website and see a full report of the 72nd Annual Congress of the SSTA www.ssta.org.uk

Included are the following presentations

Euan Duncan's Presidential Address

Seamus Searson's Report of the General Secretary

Ken Muir, Chief Executive GTCS address to Congress and answers to questions

Professor John Visser, University of Northampton speech on Inclusion

Margaret Smith and Alan McKenzie SSTA National Award Presentations

Also see all the motions debated at Congress 2016

SSTA NATIONAL AWARDS AT CONGRESS 2016



The key theme underpinning the relationship between the SSTA and **Margaret Smith** is one of a consistent dedication to serving the interests and meeting the needs of members.

Margaret was born and educated in Australia and taught in Canada before coming to Scotland.

As many people have done, Margaret started off as a school representative in St Andrew's RC High School

in Kirkcaldy - but just as a temporary measure to help out.

Her dedication to members has been absolute ever since - be it advising on the vagaries of conditions or more urgently representing members who have needed support in the face of unfairness, or bullying.

She responded to every approach for help or advice or action immediately and with determination - always going above and beyond.

As she rose to the highest office in the SSTA, she continued this support.

As Convener and then District Secretary in Fife, there are few members who did not either directly, or by reputation, come to know Margaret as a trusted source of support, advice and often a source of hope.

It is down to Margaret's leadership and devotion that many of the currently active school reps and district officials were first motivated to become involved.

Margaret served as a member of the General Teaching Council for Scotland over many years, convening the Chartered Teacher Panel and warning of the dangers to the Chartered Teacher Scheme of initial reform, and then eventual abolition.

Latterly as Vice-President then President she carried out many difficult tasks with great care and attention - the type of which has characterised her whole career.

Nominated by Fife District



Alan McKenzie joined the SSTA in 1986. Alan came to work in Inverclyde in the early nineties taking up the post of Principal Teacher of history at Greenock Academy, where he stayed for the rest of his teaching career. The staff were extremely lucky to have Alan as their school rep and SSTA membership quickly grew when it became obvious that his knowledge of conditions of service was second to none. He worked tirelessly on behalf of his members in the whole of Renfrew Area.

He took over the job of district Secretary when the post became vacant

due to retirement and quickly showed the Local Authority that his knowledge and understanding of the Scottish education system was far greater than anyone employed by the Council.

Between 2001 and 2003, Alan became Vice President. In that time, teachers were served greatly by him through many difficult years of contractual changes brought about by the McCrone agreement. In Inverclyde LNCT negotiations he skilfully secured the highest number of promoted posts of any area in Scotland.

In 2003 Alan became President a role that suited his outgoing and direct manner.

We were proud to nominate him first for vice-president and then President of the union, we had an articulate and decisive leader at the helm. His forthright manner showed government officials that the SSTA was a union with a clear vision for Scottish education and it would fight to provide the best conditions for our teachers in schools across the country.

When Alan retired from teaching in 2007, he used his vast experience to work as a professional officer in head office in Edinburgh and then to be appointed as Deputy General Secretary. This experience was to prove essential when he was required to step up and be acting General Secretary at a time of huge changes in the curriculum, exam system and more changes in teachers' conditions of service. We are grateful to have had Alan to guide us through these stressful times and lay the foundations for the future work of the SSTA.

Presently, Alan is advising and contributing towards a new constitution for the Association. This shows the continuous commitment Alan has shown towards the SSTA even after retiring from office.

Nominated by Renfrew Area

SSTA MEMBERS' BRIEFING

All members are encouraged to attend

Agenda

1. **General Secretary** - Members' Update, Workload, Industrial Action and Pay
2. **Named Person** - Briefing including how to manage in school
3. **Pensions** - How to make your pension work for you and retiring at 60?

The briefing will start at 5.00pm and be repeated at 7.00pm.
Refreshments will be available prior to the start of both meetings.

Dates for Diary

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Monday 5 September	Edinburgh	5pm & 7pm
Tuesday 6 September	Hamilton	5pm & 7pm
Wednesday 7 September	Glasgow	5pm & 7pm
Thursday 8 September	Fife	5pm & 7pm
Tuesday 13 September	Dundee	5pm & 7pm
Wednesday 14 September	Aberdeen	5pm & 7pm
Thursday 15 September	Inverness	5pm & 7pm
Monday 19 September	Stirling	5pm & 7pm
Tuesday 20 September	Fort William	5pm & 7pm
Wednesday 21 September	Ayrshire	5pm & 7pm
Monday 26 September	Scottish Borders	5pm & 7pm
Tuesday 27 September	Dumfries	5pm & 7pm
Wednesday 28 September	Armadale Academy, Bathgate	5pm & 7pm

Venues to be confirmed at start of term



Have we got your correct details?

Ballot for industrial action

Make sure your vote counts.

***If you have changed address recently,
tell your school rep or contact the
SSTA office.***

Vote 'YES'

Make a difference to workload.

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