

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

The OH & S committee met on 10 December 2015, and 27, 28 January 2016.

The OH & S reporting forms have been re-vamped to include a place for your local number to be entered, and an area is available if it is a working short issue. With the new website the forms are easier to access.

AUPE assisted in launching a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, (PTSD), campaign with Deanna Lennox called '*Heroes Get Help through the Front Door*'. This was launched in late December, a time when people suffer most from PTSD.

28 April 2016 is International Day of Mourning, and will be held at AUPE Headquarters. This year's theme is PTSD. Guest speakers from Government of Alberta, Alberta Health Services and Workers Compensation Board will hopefully be attending. We are also hoping to have at least 100 AUPE members attend.

The OH & S committee members have been assigned locals to connect with, one from each sector. The OH & S liaisons will be getting e-mails from committee members in regards to OH & S issues within their local.

Violence within the workplace is becoming a huge issue. Health care is experiencing an alarming increase. The new policy on the use of anti-psychotics is a contributing factor to this. If there are any violent incidents, ensure that the correct paperwork is completed and filed. They are The Safety Occurrence Report and WCB claim. Some AHS sites are gatekeeping WCB claims, beginning with the workplace safety advisors not submitting these reports to WCB. You can complete the WCB claim online, or fax it directly to WCB, before submitting to the employer.

Perri Garvin from the United Way did a presentation to the committee on domestic violence and how it affects the workplace. Because of domestic violence, Alberta needs legislation for the safety of workers to keep them safe at work. There is hope that the Government will try to include this into the OH & S Act as domestic violence does cause safety concerns within the workplace.

A reminder to all members that you have the right to participate in workplace hazard assessments. Safety and being safe in the workplace is everyone's responsibility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Fader