

Vol. 1 No. 2 February, 1988

Annual General Meeting

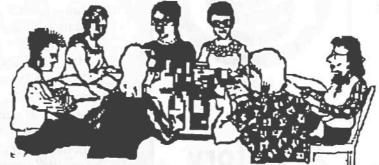
Monday, March 28, 1988 PSAC Regional Office 279 Carling Avenue

Buffet Dinner

will be served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (no charge)

members! OWW is a trade union organization. We provide strike support, skills building, and a forum to meet other union women. Send your cheque for \$20 to: OWW Ottawa Chapter c/o ODLC, 288 Dalbousie St. Ottawa. Or call Deborah. 234-4456

Join OWW! Sign up new



Chapter business will start at 7:30 p.m

On the Agenda:

- ☆ 'CUPW video: " Holding theLine After the Strike"
- ☆ Child Care Presentation
- ✿ Written Committee Reports
- ✿ Constitutional Changes
- chapter Plan for the year
- Chapter Elections

Coming up in March:

Union Sisters Dinner Friday, March 11, 1988 7:00 p.m. My Cousins Restaurant 283 Elgin Street at MacLaren Everyone Welcome

Please attend!

Have your say in the future of your OWW Chapter! For more information call Deborah, at 234-4456 or 234-3898

Introduce your local to OWW!

OWW would like to meet your Union. In the next few months, the OWW Ottawa Chapter will be writing to your local executive asking for a spot on the agenda of a local membership meeting to talk about Organized Working Women and what we do.

Please speak to people in your workplace about OWW and suggest to your executive that we be permitted to give a presentation to a membership meeting.

OWW has a lot to offer women in your Union and the women in your union have much to share with us! What we need is the opportunity to get together.

Alberta Nurses Need Support

by Jackle Desrochers

On Saturday, February 13, 1988, 11,000 nurses of the United Nurses of Alberta went back to work after 18 days on strike. In Alberta, nurses' strikes are banned by law.

They were fighting for better wages and working conditions, a safer work place and dignity at work. They won some improvements (nurses with over 6 years experience will get \$1.82 more per hour) but not everything they wanted. Nevertheless, it was enough to take down their picket lines.

The large majority of nurses are women, women who had to defy provincial laws that say they have no right to strike. They stood strong together to fight for their rights. Even when faced with police harassment, arrests and enormous fines, they stood in solidarity, prepared to go to jail if that is what it took to win.

The Alberta government is Tory. This strike shows just how far the Tories are prepared to go to use antiunion laws to smash unions. The government and the hospital association forced the nurses to break their unjust laws, and then they tried to use the courts to break their solidarity. Unions across the country came through to show their support for the nurses. Eventually the Tories had to back down, the hospital association had to negotiate an agreement and reprisals against individual nurses were dropped.

The nurses' courageous battle shows that it is possible to take the Tories on, provided workers are united and prepared to take whatever action is necessary, even if that means challenging unjust laws. That is how workers won the right to strike to begin with.

Our sisters in the United Nurses of Alberta have had a long, hard and costly strike. They need financial support. Please send any money you or your local can, to:

Friends of Alberta Nurses Society c/o Romanovski and Co., Chartered Accountants 510-10665 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, Alberta. T5J 3S9

Sign up now!

How to deal with Sexual Harassment CLC / ODLC Course April 8 - 9

OWW member Rosemary Warskett is teaching a workshop on dealing with sexual harassment. She says, "Most incidents of sexual harassment occur between an employee and a supervisor. Through our unions, we can fight the long-term causes of sexual harassment as well as develop short-term solutions that give relief to the vicitms. A union policy against sexual harassment will focus specifically on the types of harassment encountered in your workplace, and outline methods to combat it."

Other courses are also available. Contact your local union for information. Don't delay! Courses are on a first come first served basis.



A Victory for Women

by Deborah Bourque

In 1929, women were recognized by the Supreme

Celebrate International Women's Week!

Participate in the March and Rally, March 6, Parliament Hili. 12 noon to 3:30 p.m. Go to the IWW Fair at Landsdowne Park. February 27-28, noon to 5:00 p.m. Don't forget the Celebration, March 12, at Le Patro, 40 Cobourg. 8:00 p.m.- 1:00 a.m. These are just a few of the over 200 events taking place in Ottawa from Febraury 27 to March 12.

Court of Canada as persons. Finally, more than 50 years later, on January 28, 1988, women were accorded control over our own bodies. In a 5 - 2 decision, Supreme Court judges found that section 251 of the Criminal Code violates a woman's rights under the Charter of Rights. "Forcing a women, by threat of criminal sanction, to carry a foetus to term unless she meets certain criteria unrelated to her own priorities and aspirations is a profound interference with a women's body and thus an infringement of security of the person, "the judges wrote.

While this is a great victory for a woman's right to have a choice, the absence of guarantees or leadership from the federal government means that women in all provinces must continue to fight for equal access to safe abortions which are completely paid for by provincial health care plans.