

# OPTA NEWS

September 2021



Check out  
[www.opta97.com](http://www.opta97.com)  
for contact info,  
resources, links &  
more.

## President's Report

Two members expressed interest in the Ethnic Minority Representative position for a one year term. One provided a statement of interest per the request of the Presidents. The Executive Board approved Mohogany Williams (Irving) to fill the position starting immediately. Congratulations Mogohony!

We also had a vacancy arise on Ed Council for the Minority-at-Large position. Stacey Hill (Julian) has agreed to fill the position and was also approved by the Executive Board. Congratulations Stacey!

The OPTA Logo Redesign ended on September 10. We received 244 votes for the 11 submitted designs. The winning logo, featured above, was by Jessica Colella. Congratulations Jessica!

The remainder of our Executive Board session was meeting with Dr. Constance Collins who is one of the persons leading the D97 search for a new Superintendent to share our thoughts about the role of superintendent and the qualities of the next candidate.

Please use [this form](#) to let us know if you would be interested in serving on a committee.

## Bargaining Team Updates

The bargaining team met in September to begin plans for 1:1 conversations with our membership, planning listening sessions, and a likely survey of members. Plans are still in the works, but are progressing. The team agreed to meet once more in September.

## In Other News

Communications - We encourage everyone to follow us on Facebook both our [public](#) and [private](#) pages. Please participate in our [Membership Spotlight](#) series for our public OPTA

Facebook page.

**Membership** - We are planning to host a Membership Mania on October 26th in conjunction with our Meeting of the Membership. Please save the date!

**Conference Opportunity** - EMELT (Ethnic Minority & Emerging Leaders Training) is November 5-7, 2021. If you would be interested in attending EMELT, OPTA can help with registration. More information can be found on [the IEA-NEA website](#). Please contact Stephanie Suerth.

**Region 46** - Our first meeting of the year was held in September. We approved the budget and election plan for the Region. Other information shared at the meeting includes:

Are you interested in politics or policy? Our Region Grassroots Political Activist is looking for members to be added to our GO-Team. Please contact Jonathan Baymon ([jonathan.baymon@ieagopa.org](mailto:jonathan.baymon@ieagopa.org)) for more information. You can opt in and out of campaigns as necessary so to stay up to date, please email him directly.

Do you have an ESP or TA that you love? Encourage them to attend the IEA ONE Conference. It's virtual and FREE this year. Please [visit this link](#) for more information.

## Important Dates/ Upcoming Events

October 1-2 - IEA ONE Conference  
October 4 - Education Council (Zoom\*)  
October 5 - Executive Board (Brooks & Zoom\*)  
October 7 - Association Reps Meeting (Brooks & Zoom\*)  
October 12 - Region 46 Council (Lombard IEA Office)  
October 26 - Meeting of the Membership (Brooks Commons & Zoom\*)  
October 26 - Membership Mania (Brooks Commons)  
November 1 - Education Council (Zoom\*)  
November 9 - Region 46 Council (TBD)  
November 11 - Association Reps Meeting (Brook & Zoom\*)  
November 16 - Executive Board (Brooks & Zoom\*)



\*Please use a personal device/email to log into session via Zoom. Links can be found on [www.opta97.com](http://www.opta97.com) under Member Resources. Contact Adrienne Court or Stephanie Suerth ([communications@opta97.com](mailto:communications@opta97.com)) for the password.