

OPTA NEWS

October 2021



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www.opta97.com
for contact info,
resources, links &
more.

President's Report

At the October meeting, the Exec Board set the agenda for the upcoming Membership Mania event happening at Brooks Middle School in the Commons and on Zoom. Please save the date!

We appointed members to the Leadership Roles Committee. Thank you Gina Harris (Julian elementaries) and Brianne Henrichs (Longfellow). We also appointed members to the Calendar Committee. Thank you Susan Walsh (Brooks), Georgia Tsaganos (Brooks), Leslie Weiss (Whittier), and Stella Turi (Mann).

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

Please also consider contacting your IL state representatives and share your educator stories about the need for COVID administration days. You can mention the bill sponsored by Janet Yang Rohr. Our political leaders need to hear stories of how COVID is impacting our educators.

Bargaining Team Updates

The bargaining team met in October to plan a Bargaining Team Meet & Greet for Wednesday, November 3. Please save the date and plan to attend. More information will be forthcoming.

Initial planning meetings are set with the Board of Education as the team preps for contract negotiations training and ground rules setting.

In Other News

Elections - Our elections for IEA RA delegate (spring) will be held on December 7. Nomination forms will be sent shortly. Elections for NEA RA delegates (summer) will be held on March 1.

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 - IEA is collecting information on Educator Well-being. Please consider completing [this survey](#) before December 1, 2021.

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) for more information. You can opt in and out of campaigns as necessary so to stay up to date, please email him directly.

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 3 - Bargaining Team Meet & Greet (Zoom linked to be shared)
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 under Member Resources. Contact Adrienne Court or Stephanie Suerth (communications@opta97.com) for the password.