

# OPTA NEWS

April 2022



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

## President's Report

Retiree Recognition - We have 6 retirees that we'd like to honor. A subcommittee was formed to work on gifts for our retiring members.

OPEF Bingo Night - A motion was made to purchase a table at the event, which is honoring John Hodge this year, and add a \$400 donation. It was approved.

OPTA Shirts - Association Reps will be asked on Thursday to share link with members as one last effort to get sizes. The deadline for collecting info is April 29. We need two weeks to get the shirts back, and then we'll need to organize and distribute.

Sped Workload - The bargaining team has reached out to Exec about there being an annual review. Donna Middleton has agreed to do this work in the summer. Any member who might be interested in participating should contact Donna Middleton directly.

Committees - We need people to help OPTA by chairing and participating on committees. If the same people continue to stretch to get work done, members may miss out on opportunities. Planning an OPTA 101 type event to help inform the membership.

IPACE Recommendation Hearing - We can and should send representatives to these events to meet with and interview political figures who may have influence in our districts.

Meeting of the Membership - Our Spring meeting will be held on Thursday May 5 at 4:00 pm in place of the monthly Association Rep Meeting. The location is still TBD.

## Bargaining Team Updates

There are no tentative agreements to report. Our team has continued to plan and prep, and we will try one marathon bargain on April 20.

The Negotiations Support Team is in need of a member or members to represent Beye. Please email Stephanie Suerth directly at [ssuerth.iea@gmail.com](mailto:ssuerth.iea@gmail.com) if you would be interested in working to support our members at Beye.

## In Other News

**Elections** - Spring election will be held on May 19. Nominations were due by April 28. The following positions (2 years terms) are available: Member-at-Large on Exec, Ethnic Minority Rep on Exec, 2 Region 46 Reps on Exec & Region Council, Association Reps for Beye, Brooks, Holmes, Lincoln, Whittier, and Ed Council Reps for Hatch, Irving, Julian, Longfellow, Mann, Minority-at-Large, and Special Education. Please email nominations to Gabby Rosenblum at [gabeuph74@mac.com](mailto:gabeuph74@mac.com)

**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.

**Board of Education Meetings** - Public Comment - At our October Membership Mania, five members of the BOE came to meet with our membership. They spoke about wanting to hear from our members more about their experiences in the school buildings. Please consider sharing via email. The board will read aloud all public comments received by 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. To submit a public comment, please email [d97board@op97.org](mailto:d97board@op97.org) with the subject, "Public Comment." Your message must include your first and last name in order to be read aloud.

## Important Dates/ Upcoming Events

May 3 - Executive Board (Zoom)  
May 5 - Association Reps - CANCELED  
May 5 - Meeting of the Membership  
May 10 - Region 46 Meeting (Lombard)  
May 10 - Board of Education (Zoom)  
May 19 - Spring Elections  
May 24 - Board of Education (Zoom)  
June 14 - Board of Education (Zoom)  
July 12 - Board of Education (Zoom)  
Aug 11 - Association Training (TBD)  
Aug 16 - Graduation to Tenure (TBD)  
Aug 16 - Board of Education (Zoom)  
Aug 17 - OPTA Meet, Greet, & Eat with new hire (TBD)



\*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.