

The Call Out

The Official Newsletter of the Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit

District 12

Election Issue

2022

ELECTION ISSUE

Every two years, the members of the OTBU D12 elect the Executive which will lead us through the next term (2022-2024). In this issue, the candidates running for Executive positions have the opportunity to present themselves and their ideas to you, the members, for consideration. This issue contains information about how and when the vote will take place.

Our election system has been structured with two main principles in mind. First, that every member will have an opportunity to vote. Given the somewhat nomadic nature of our work and our membership, it is important that everyone be given the opportunity to cast a ballot.

The second important principle is

that every elector's vote shall be private and free. We are using a voting system which allows members to vote by internet or phone. **Union Strategies**, an Ontario company, is our voting system provider.

Our union can only remain strong if people take the time to read the campaign statements enclosed in this newsletter and make an informed choice. Only then can we continue to move forward with confidence that our leadership has been chosen democratically, and with the assurance that the membership has placed their trust in the elected executive leaders to speak and act on their behalf for the next two years.



Annual General Meeting

May 18th

The AGM will be virtual.

Does the OTBU have a non-TDSB email address for you? Needed to receive AGM related emails, the link to the AGM and any additional voting instructions.

Voting:
May 18th
8:00 p.m.
to
May 25th
11:59 pm

OTBU Executive Elections

Frank Cirone- Chief Returning Officer

Voting Procedures

The 2019 AGM approved a change to our voting method. Members will only be able to vote one of two ways:

1. phone
2. internet

You should receive from our election provider UNION STRATEGIES voting instructions with your name, I.D. number, and PIN between May 14th and May 18th. Should you have any questions about the process, call the OTBU Office at **416-423-3600** or for a more timely answer send your questions by email to: **otbu.office@d12.osstf.ca**

If you did NOT:

- a) receive a ballot by mail or email from Union Strategies or
- b) your name is not on the list of voters or
- c) you lost your voting instructions but can prove you are an occasional teacher with the TDSB.
call the OTBU office: **416-423-3600** or, for a quicker response, email: **otbu.office@d12.osstf.ca**
 All queries will be handled by the Elections Committee.

Electronic voting will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from May 18th starting at 8:00 pm up to 11:59 p.m. on May 25th. All voting ends on May 25th. Results will be posted on the OTBU website by May 27th.

You are voting to elect for the following positions:

- ◆ President
 - ◆ First Vice - President
 - ◆ Second Vice - President
 - ◆ Secretary
 - ◆ Treasurer
 - ◆ Executive Officer (4 to be elected)
-

The **Election Committee** is responsible for running the election, the Election Newsletter and ensuring the security of the vote.

The OTBU D12 Election Committee members are:

**Frank Cirone (Chief Returning Officer), John MacLennan, Deborah Cook (alt.)
 Anna Osterberg and Basia Stec (alt.)**

Candidates for President— One to be Elected



**Re-Elect
Linda Bartram**

EXPERIENCE: OTBU President for the past 10 years, former Vice-President and Executive Officer. Member of the Collective Bargaining Committee, Vice-President, District 12 Executive Committee, D12 Constitution Committee, OSSTF Provincial Councilor, Secondary OT Consultation and Staffing Committee.

DEDICATION: During my 16 years on the OTBU Executive, I have met, talked with, and advocated for hundreds of OTBU members. I have worked hard to improve OT working conditions and resolve member issues with the TDSB.

COMMITMENT: I am proud of my proven record of success in fighting for members' rights at the Board and at the school level. I am proud to represent you as your President. I will continue to fight on your behalf to improve your working conditions at the TDSB and at the negotiations table. I ask for your continued support for me and my excellent, experienced Executive Team:

Elaine Karroum, Jamie Whitaker, Michael Fraschetti, Lillian Speedie-Court, Jamie Cheslo, Sarah Kamalzadeh, Cassandra Kirchmeir-Gitt and Susy Taylor.

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADER-



**Elect
Laura Drexler**

Involved in OSSTF in various Districts since 1999 standing up for OTs as Executive Member, PD Committee, CBC, Secretary, Vice President running for OTF Governor 4 times to save our pensions. At 13 AMPAs, Laura was speaking up when others were silent. You, the D12 members have asked me to run for OTBU President so I can give a voice to your issues COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY, TRANSPARENCY. I'm here to continue advocating for your concerns in the schools, board wide and provincially. I'm here for you sharing information, and supporting you. Empower me to be your voice. Tell me what issues you want someone to stand up for.

lauradrexler@hotmail.com Visit my website <http://lauradrexler.wix.com/d12exec>
Vote for someone experienced who wants to be involved to make a difference for you.
Vote Laura Drexler for OTBU President/ Executive Officer.

<http://lauradrexler.wix.com/d12exec>

Please direct any questions concerning the election to a member of the Elections Committee via the OTBU D12 office.

Chair of the Election Committee: Frank Cirone

Members: Anna Osterberg, Deborah Cook (alt), John MacLennan and Basia Stec (alt.)

www.otbu.office@d12.osstf.ca

Candidates for First Vice-President



EXPERIENCED: Acting OTBU 1st V.P., since Sept.2021, Executive Officer 2019-21
Following retirement, I learned first-hand the joys and challenges of being a daily OT and LTO teacher. I am committed to bringing this experience to my work with the OTBU. Your vote will allow me to continue to support you, advocate for our rights, and contribute to the daily operation of the OTBU. My skills include: learning, communicating, planning and organizing.

DEDICATED: PD & GM/AGM Planning, answering office emails & calls, representing the OTBU at regular District and Provincial Meetings, participating in monthly problem-solving meetings with management at the TDSB, assisting members through the stressful discipline investigation process, Health & Safety Inspector, delegate to AMPA & OFL conference, 10 years on school's Branch Executive, attended annual Branch Presidents' training week, EduAction training, participation in Pride and Labour Day parades, committee work, lobbying MP s at Queen's Park.

Elect
Elaine Karroum

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP



Hi fellow Colleagues.

I wasn't going to run this year but I had a few people encouraging me to throw my name into the hat. I was hoping there would be at least 2 candidates for the position. This will afford you the chance to choose who you believe will be the best for us, myself included.

My background: In June I will have completed 51 years in the profession. I started out in elementary then moved to secondary.

My federation experience has been to work in 2 districts. I have been a division president, district treasurer. I have been the chief negotiator in both districts and sat on the Provincial CBC committee. I have attended many AMPAs including this year.

This year I have been employed pretty much daily as an Occasional teacher so I am very aware of what it means to be on the front lines.

As you can imagine I have amassed a tremendous amount of OSSTF information and contacts over the years.

If you think I have something to offer to make our work environment better I would be proud to serve.

Cheers Peterr Wilson

Elect
Peterr Wilson

Candidate for Secretary– One to be Elected



I am currently serving the membership as the OTBU Secretary, with 10 years as OTBU Executive Officer, 22 years as an Occasional Teacher with the TDSB, and over 19 years previous union experience and as a current member of the Collective Bargaining Committee. I have experience with contract maintenance, workload and scheduling, grievance and arbitration, member representation and contract negotiations, in addition to website maintenance. I know what issues affect OTs and I have the knowledge and experience to advocate for policies which will benefit us in our daily working lives, even more critical in these strange and unprecedented times! Increased OT representation within OSSTF, benefit packages, and increasing membership involvement are issues that I continue to advocate for, so I hope you will elect me as Secretary again so I can continue to work on your behalf.

My experience in the union movement over the past decades is a testament to my willingness put in hard work for you the members of D12 OTBU.

Re-Elect
Lillian Speedie
-Court

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Candidate for 2nd Vice-President– One to be Elected



EXPERIENCE: Nine years as an OTBU Executive officer, one year as 1st Vice-President, three years as *The Call Out* newsletter editor, three years as OTBU website administrator and six years as OTBU Health and Safety inspector. In the past nine years I have represented many of our members in their dealings with the TDSB. Over the years I have been Professional Development Representative, Branch President and AMPA delegate. I have been organizing meetings of OT's from across the province during AMPA, when in person, to work together for the interests of OTs at the provincial bargaining level.

COMMITMENT: I have been involved in union activities since my first year teaching. A two-month strike was my introduction to labour management relations. I am committed to working on behalf of the OTBU members to preserve and expand their rights. I am proud to be associated with all of the members of the current Executive.

Elect
Jamie Whitaker

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Candidate for Treasurer– One to be Elected



EXPERIENCE: Currently OTBU Treasurer, Staffing Officer, and Chief Negotiator. District Finance Committee, Human Rights Committee, Member Protection, Toronto/York Labour Council Representative, Data Management, OTBU Equity Committee. Successfully helped negotiate contracts for CUPE 3903, CUPE 3904, and the OTBU. Conducting my PhD research on equitable hiring practices in the TDSB.

DEDICATION: I will continue to protect our members' rights and forward you all protections we have under the Collective Agreement. I will continue to reach out and appeal to members in our Bargaining Unit in an attempt to help strengthen our ranks.

COMMITMENT: I am very proud to associate myself with the current Executive because I am inspired by their dedication and savviness in making sure the OTBU runs smoothly so we can advocate for our members and make our employer accountable in its actions.

Re-elect
Michael Fraschetti

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

\$30 Dinner Rebate for the May 18th, 2022 AGM

You must be present at the AGM and an "active member" as laid out in the Provincial OSSTF Constitution (see page 8).

There are **two** ways to be reimbursed:

1. Email transfer. Fastest. (2 weeks) The OTBU D12 must have a non-tdsb email for you.
2. Cheque. Slowest (8-12 weeks). Request the rebate form through the otbud12 office.

Candidates for Executive Officer

Four to be Elected



Elect
Jamie Cheslo

Experience: I represented the staff at Earl Haig S.S. as OSSTF branch president. During that time, I gained a lot of experience representing staff members and their rights in and out of school. Not only was I a regular attendee of TTBU council, but I also worked on several committees including the Collective Bargaining Committee on which I sat for quite a few years, and gained a lot of valuable insight from this in the process of collective bargaining. I have attended AMPA on several occasions and acted as “whip.” I have a lot of experience in political action organizing local job actions in times of protracted contract negotiations. Since January of 2022 I have been acting as EO and have already assisted several members and gained valuable experience and knowledge. **Commitment:** I have dedicated many years of my career to serving my colleagues through collective bargaining and representation with admin and Board members. I believe in the power of the Federation to further the causes of teachers and their students. I have always believed that a teacher’s working conditions are the students’ learning conditions. I wish to continue to serve my colleagues as an Executive Officer,

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Laura Drexler is a drop down candidate for this position.



Re-Elect
Sarah Kamalzadeh

EXPERIENCE: This is my 2nd year as an elected Executive Officer; during my term I founded the OTBU Equity Committee, negotiated for our Collective Agreement with the Board, and facilitated almost every virtual PD, GM, and AGM amongst other administrative tasks. I was a proudly elected AMPA Delegate two years in a row and have been an OT and LTO for 5 years now with the TDSB. I am very excited to have just started my first 0.5 contract this February.

DEDICATION: As a relatively new OT pursuing a permanent position with the Board, I am dedicated to bringing fresh perspectives to the OTBU Executive, speaking out on behalf of other members in my position. I seek to improve working conditions & hiring practices, and to create a stronger sense of unity amongst new members.

COMMITMENT: My commitment is to serve all members of the OTBU to the best of my ability. I will maintain professionalism and approach all issues through a lens of equity and intersectionality.

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Candidates for Executive Officer *continued*—



Your vote will allow me to use the knowledge and skills gained during my 20 years as a branch president to work for you. My experiences supporting my colleagues in discipline cases, my knowledge gained from attending union training workshops, and my role representing you as an AMPA 2022 delegate for OTBU, have together given me a strong foundation of knowledge and skills.

My two years of daily OT and LTO experiences have been shaped by our shared Covid life. Navigating challenging circumstances and changing TDSB requirements over this time has broadened my understanding of our Collective Agreement in action. I have benefitted from a knowledgeable and committed OTBU executive and I can be that person for you.

**Elect
Cassandra
Kirchmeir-Gitt**

I believe in the importance of a strong collective and I value each of our individual voices. I pledge to represent you to the best of my ability and to continue to expand my skills to support your needs.

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP



EXPERIENCE: Active union member since 2000, first as ETT steward, then as TTBU VP and Branch President (2006-2020), annual attendee at Branch Presidents' weekend training, strike captain in 2019-20, dedicated rally attender, and frequent participant in annual Labour Day parades. Currently OTBU Acting Executive Officer, answering office calls and emails, contributing to the preparation of a manual to guide new Executive Members in the performance of their duties, participating in OTBU Executive meetings and PD sessions, and note-taking during member representation meetings.

DEDICATION and COMMITMENT: Serving the membership is a privilege I take seriously. While my previous work at TTBU provided the foundation, I am dedicated to learning about OTBU member concerns and priorities. Attending AMPA as an OTBU delegate this year demonstrates my continued commitment to the OSSTF and to OTBU especially. During stressful times, members deserve to be treated with compassion and understanding. Your vote will allow me to pursue my goal of representing members, helping colleagues, and contributing to the day-to-day work of the bargaining unit.

**Elect
Susy Taylor**

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Peterr Wilson is a drop down candidate for this position.

Don't forget to:

- Complete your **Annual Employee Offence Declaration**.
- Respond to the renewal notice, sent by the TDSB board email in June indicating your wish to stay on the OT roster. This must be done before the end of June or you **will** be dropped from the OT roster.
- If you are dropped from the list because of circumstances or never received a return confirmation email you can apply for re-instatement in July. After July you apply to "Recruiting" at the TDSB for re-instatement. In either case reinstatement is not automatic or guaranteed.

NOTE: AGM and Voting Eligibility

The **OSSTF Provincial Constitution** states that a member who has not worked in the last 95 days is not an *Active Member*. You still remain our member should you need our support regarding violations of the collective agreement; however, only *Active Members* are eligible to participate in OSSTF GMs or AGMs. You will continue to receive our regular informational emails and be sent the AGM package. We are required to follow the Provincial OSSTF Constitution.

From the OSSTF Provincial Constitution p. 18

Terms of Membership 2.2.1 The membership of Members who are employed on a casual basis shall continue for a period of ninety-five school days after the date of the last day employed. (A.15) **2.2.2** The membership of Members who are employed on a limited term basis shall continue for a period of sixty school days after the date of the last day employed. (A.15) **2.2.3** Notwithstanding 2.4.1 and 2.4.2, if a person qualifies for membership again during the same membership year, such membership shall be deemed to have been continuous. (A. 15)

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