

The Call Out

The Official Newsletter of the Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit

District 12

Volume 18, Issue 4

Election Issue

2020

ELECTION ISSUE

Every two years, the members of the OTBU D12 elect the Executive which will lead us through the next term (2020-2022). 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.



Voting:
May 14th
to
May 22nd

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the AGM is postponed. The election will continue as planned.

Annual General Meeting
May 13th at the Old
Mill

Postponed



OTBU Executive Elections

Voting Procedures

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

1. phone
2. internet

You should receive a letter from our election provider UNION STRATEGIES with your name, I.D. number, and PIN between May 13th and May 16th. This letter will provide you with voting instructions. 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, 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**

Electronic voting will be available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week from May 14th up to and including May 22nd. All voting ends on May 22nd. 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 positions available)

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

The OTBU D12 Election Committee members are:

Frank Cirone (Chief Returning Officer), John MacLennan and Jill Voges.

Candidates for President— One to be elected



**Re-Elect
Linda Bartram**

EXPERIENCE: OTBU President for the past 8 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 14 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.

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP



**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

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



**Elect
Sam Weisbrod**

A passionate advocate for education and equality, Sam believes strongly in the need for increased representation of Occasional Teachers, traditionally the most vulnerable group in the sector. If elected, Sam would apply his efforts towards

- Modernizing our communications systems, including the *Call Out* newsletter
- curating and creating pertinent resources for OT members both new and experienced,
- enhancing OT collaboration and socialization to consolidate our disparate member base. Sam is a Secondary School teacher with Business, Social Sciences (Hons. Specialist) and English qualifications. Sam joined the TDSB in 2015, and has also served extensively in the educational private sector in both administrative and teaching roles. Sam lives with his wife, Tamar, and their two children. He enjoys martial arts, gardening and Improv in his spare time (when that arises).

Candidates for First Vice-President– One to be elected



**Re-elect
Paul Bocking**

EXPERIENCE: Current Chief Negotiator and OTBU VP, Negotiations Team & Collective Bargaining Committee, OSSTF Annual Meeting Delegate, Ten Years LTO and daily experience, Co-Chair of District Political Action Committee, Toronto District Labour Council Delegate, OSSTF Delegate to Ontario Federation of Labour, Researcher on Education Policy and Teachers' Work, Former Branch President. **OUR CONTEXT:** This year we've fought against class size increases, mandatory e-learning and other cuts to public education that make teaching and learning more difficult, and cost countless jobs for LTOs and Daily OTs. Local negotiations over the OTBU-TDSB collective agreement has also begun. Now we face the uncertain implications of schooling during a pandemic. **COMMITMENT:** Strong advocacy for the rights of Occasional Teachers has never been more critical. Beyond that, we've seen this year the importance of being effectively organized as a union to take collective action when it is necessary to defend our rights. I hope to continue contributing to the strengthening our union as we negotiate with the TDSB for our new local collective agreement.

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

**Elect
Sam Weisbrod**

Sam Weisbrod is a drop down candidate for this position



**Elect
Peterr Wilson**

Get the Respect, Recognition and AUTONOMY You Deserve.

I have a wealth of OSSTF experience. I have held offices including Branch President, District Treasurer, Chief Negotiator of three Bargaining Units and served on the Provincial Collective Bargaining Committee.

I realize how important it is to be able to reach your union quickly. If elected to the Executive, I will make sure that a union representative will always contact you back. During these unprecedented times of **Covid-19**, daily OTs still have expenses. EI is not enough. All daily OTs should receive their regular pay (prorated based on their work history) during the shutdown. Also we have a reserve fund that should be returned to members to ease your financial burdens. I will fight for this.

Vote **Peterr Wilson**. I will work hard to get you the respect you deserve. I will put YOU in your Union. I will always have your back.

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



**Re-elect Vince
Zambrano**

EXPERIENCE: As OTBU Vice-President, Chief Negotiator, Chair of the Collective Bargaining Committee and member of the Constitution and Steering Cttes. I have served the members through tumultuous times. As a life-long member of OSSTF I have been a District Executive Officer, served on the District Constitution and Steering Committees, AMPA delegate and as Chair of the District 12 Professional Development Committee.

DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT: Working with the OTBU Executive, we have made tremendous progress. In these demanding times for teachers and education, we have an experienced, trustworthy and proven Executive that is best prepared to meet the challenges of this new decade. My commitment is, as always to serve and represent the members and continue to make progress in ameliorating the working conditions for the diverse membership that is the hallmark of the OTBU.

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Candidate for Treasurer– One to be Elected



**Re-elect
Michael Fraschetti**

EXPERIENCE: Currently OTBU Treasurer, Staffing Officer, and member of the negotiating team. District Finance Committee, Human Rights Committee, Member Protection, Toronto/York Labour Council Representative, Data Management, OSSTF Leadership Conference. Current member of member benefits committee for CUPE 3904, previously was a member of the Employment Equity Ctte. and the Race/Ethnicity Labour Management Cttees for CUPE 3903.

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, and how they are making our employer accountable in its actions.

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Candidate for Secretary– One to be Elected



**Re-Elect
Lillian Speedie-
Court**

I am currently serving the membership as the OTBU Secretary, with 8 years as OTBU Executive Officer, 20 years as an Occasional Teacher with the TDSB, and over 17 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 willing-

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Candidates for Executive Officer– Four to be Elected



Committed: AMPA 2020 delegate, brought forward a provincial motion that proposes a stronger voice for OTs in Central Bargaining (OTBU GM - November 2019)
Experienced: Communications & Political Action Officer for the OTBU (2019 - 2020)
Former Executive member of the ETFO Toronto OTs (2016 - 2020) Has worked as both a daily OT & in LTOs (2014 - 2020)
Issues: An enhanced benefits package for both daily OTs & LTOs, and pay that better reflects the cost of living in Toronto
Values: Building solidarity between all workers, including permanent teachers and admin.
Equity and Social Justice: Moving towards an OSSTF where all voices are consistently represented and where policy is inclusive and supportive. I envision a union where more OTs want to be actively involved and engaged. piacbl@gmail.com

**Elect
Pia Berger**

**I will be an organized, transparent, and accountable
advocate for the needs and priorities of OTs**

**Elect
Laura Drexler**

Laura Drexler is a drop down candidate for this position



EXPERIENCE: This is my 2nd year as a member of the Collective Bargaining Committee and first year as a proudly elected AMPA Delegate. I have been an OT and LTO for 3 years now with the TDSB, mainly working in central downtown Toronto schools.
DEDICATION: As a relatively new OT pursuing a permanent position, I am dedicated to bringing fresh perspectives to the OTBU Executive team and speaking out on behalf of other professionals in my position. I seek to improve working conditions, hiring practices, and 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.

**Elect
Sarah Kamalzadeh**

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP



For several years I have worked as an OT (including an LTO), learning first hand the challenges & joys of supply teaching. Working with our Executive, I have contributed to supporting you and preserving & enhancing our rights. Your vote will allow me to continue using my organizational and communication skills to provide: informative PA Day events & annual meetings, representation during stressful meetings with administrators, and continuity in the day- to-day operation of the bargaining unit.

EXPERIENCE:
Acting Executive Officer, OTBU (2019-20). Answering office calls and emails. Planning of PA Days: ROM in October & Victoria College in February. Provincial Leadership Conference delegate. AMPA delegate numerous times. Collective Bargaining Cttee. Member. Health and Safety Inspector (4 years). 10 years on school's Branch Executive: informing and helping colleagues. Annual Branch President's weekend training. EduAction training. Years of participation in Pride and Labour Day parades.

**Elect
Elaine Karroum**

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Candidates for Executive Officer *continued*— Four to be Elected



For trusted leadership, vote Jane Sorel for Executive Officer.

Experience: Jane brings a breadth of OSSTF experience as a Branch President and a strong voice on district committees aimed at advising leadership on member issues and increasing member participation in the union.

Vision: Jane’s vision is of an OTBU where a greater diversity of member voices and perspectives are represented at all levels within the union.

Dedication: As an Acting Executive Officer in the OTBU, Jane has been dedicated to addressing member concerns, and ensuring member access to information and support in a timely and transparent way.

**Elect
Jane Sorel**

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP



EXPERIENCE: Seven years as an OTBU Executive officer, two years as *The Call Out* newsletter editor, three years as OTBU website administrator and four years as OTBU Health and Safety inspector. In the past six 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. At the past four AMPA’s I have been organizing meetings of OT’s from across the province to work together for the interests of OT’s 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.

**Re-elect
Jamie Whitaker**

VOTE FOR PROVEN, EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

**Elect
Peterr Wilson**

Peterr Wilson is a drop down candidate for this position.

otbud12.com

Don't forget to:

- Complete your Annual Employee Offence Declaration.
- Respond to the renewal notice, sent by the TDSB board email, indicating your wish to stay on the OT list. This must be done before the end of June.

95 Thorncliffe Park Dr.
Suite 1708
Toronto, ON M4H1L7
416-423-3600
General email:
otbu.office@d12.osstf.ca
Website: www.otbud12.com

