

## The Importance of Continued Union Involvement

Dear Colleague,

“We Are One!” As educational workers, this was our mantra this past spring. Just as Local 571, the IFT, and other WE ARE ONE unions have worked for you at school, we continue to work for you in retirement. An active retiree Council exists in our Local of which you can be a part. Most of us thought that as retired members our days of needing a collective voice were over.

Unfortunately, this is not the case. Our profession and our pensions are under continued attack. These attacks are coming from House legislative leaders, Michael Madigan and Tom Cross, as well as Ty Fahner, President of the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago. Because of our collective efforts, we were able to keep a pension “reform” bill from moving forward through the legislature during the spring session. Union members contacted their legislators in great numbers generating over 80,000 phone calls and over 100,000 legislative e-mails. However, our pension systems are still in peril. Who knows what the late October 2011 veto session will hold.

So why is it important to remain active retiree members of the Local 571 Retiree Council?

- We are actively involved in lobbying for legislation that benefits our retirees and soon-to-be retirees. Many of us traveled to Lobby Day in Springfield where we met one-on-one with our legislators. Others of us are involved with the new IFT LASR program where we meet with legislators in their home offices to open communication lines between union members and legislators. Join us in October for the annual Local 571 Legislative Breakfast held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Oak Brook to hear legislators talk about proposed legislation during the veto session.
- Seminars focusing on Medicare, TRIP, Social Security, TRS, identity theft, financial planning, and elder law have been offered.
- There are opportunities for activities for recreation and entertainment such as lunch and matinee performances at Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, book discussions, game days, trips to various nature centers and museums, or even an evening with an actor portraying President Thomas Jefferson.
- Members are eligible to receive all IFT and AFT publications as well as the Local 571 *Union Messenger*. Additionally, discount movie tickets and See’s candy certificates are available through Local 571.
- You may be able to attend and participate in Local 571, IFT, and/or AFT Conventions by being elected a retiree delegate from Local 571.

We sincerely hope you will decide to continue your membership in the Local 571 Retirees Council. We believe that the benefits from your association with the Council are many and that our voice is a major force in working to develop and improve services for retirees.

In unity,

*Phyllis Meade Dee Pospishil Jane A Russell*

Phyllis Meade  
President  
Local 571 Retirees Council

Dee Pospishil  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Local 571 Retirees Council

Jane A. Russell  
President  
Local 571



## 6th Annual West Suburban Teachers Union Legislative Breakfast



*Illinois Representative Karen Yarbrough,  
House District 7*



*Steve Preckwinkle, IFT Department of Political Activities  
Director, recaps the spring legislative session for Local  
571 members.*

### **RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW!**

**What:** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual West Suburban Teachers Union Legislative Breakfast

**When:** Saturday, October 22, 2011

**Where:** DoubleTree Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois

- ◆ Meet, talk with, and hear from Illinois federal and state legislators as well as state officers.
- ◆ Gift card/basket raffle (Proceeds to WSTU Scholarships and COPE).



*Illinois Senator Don Harmon,  
Senate District 29*

*Contact your council president by Monday, September 19, 2011,  
for information and for a reservation. Only those mem-  
bers with a reservation will be admitted.*



*Congresswoman Judy Biggert,  
13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District*



*Basket raffle with  
proceeds to Local  
571 scholarships  
and COPE.*



*Illinois Secretary of State, Jesse White*

## 2011 Scholarship Winners

Over \$19,000 in scholarships were awarded to deserving children of West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, members during the House of Representatives meeting on May 16, 2011. Each student's parent is a member of a Local 571 council.



l-r: Rebecca Pendola, Daniel Flores, Robert Kleinhans, Robert Nystrom, Hans-Martin Ishida, Chloe Cummings and Sophiana Banholzer.

*Photographed by Amy Excell-Bailey*

Robert Kleinhans, a graduate of York Community High School in Elmhurst, received the IFT Robert G. Porter scholarship, a 4-year award of \$1500 for each year. IFT President Dan Montgomery and IFT Vice Presidents Alice Kautsky and Jane Russell made the presentation. Robert's mother is Laura Kleinhans, a support staff member at Fischer School in Elmhurst.

Scholarship Committee Chair Penny Loulousis and Vice President Alice Kautsky, along with Local 571 President Jane Russell, awarded six West Suburban Teachers Union Mary Wheeler Scholarships of \$1,650 each. Winners were:

- ◆ Sophiana Banholzer, a graduate of Oak Park-River Forest High School - on May 25, Sophiana also received the \$2000 William A. Lee Scholarship from the Chicago Federation of Labor. Her mother, Mary Banholzer, teaches at Hauser School in Riverside.
- ◆ Chloe Cummings is a graduate of Plainfield High School. Her mother is Megan Graham, a teacher at Willowbrook High School in District 88.
- ◆ Daniel Flores graduated from Addison Trail High School in District 88. His father is Ernest Flores, a

teacher at Passow School in Franklin Park.

- ◆ Hans-Martin Ishida graduated from York Community High School. His mother, Emily Ishida, is a support staffer at Jackson School in Elmhurst.
- ◆ Robert Nystrom is a graduate of Addison Trail High School. His mother is Linda Nystrom, a teacher at Willowbrook High School in District 88.
- ◆ Rebecca Pendola is a graduate of Riverside-Brookfield High School. Geri Lynn Pendola, a teacher at Central School in Riverside, is her mother.
- ◆ Rebecca's sister, Jackie Pendola, was awarded the \$1,500 JoAnn Horowitz Scholarship. The award is presented each year to a college student who is pursuing a major in education or women's studies. Jackie attends the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana.
- ◆ Miranda Thompson, daughter of Amy Thompson, graduated from Glenbard West High School. Amy is a counselor at York Community High School in Elmhurst. In June, Miranda received the IFT's Carl J. Megel Special Education Scholarship for \$1000.

Congratulations to all of the 2011 scholarship winners and their parents. All of the scholarships are offered yearly. Watch for the 2012 scholarship information in an upcoming *Union Messenger*.

*Sophiana Banholzer, the recipient of the 2011 William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship, was recognized by Chicago Federation of Labor President, Jorge Ramirez and Secretary Treasurer Robert G. Reiter. Local 571 President Jane Russell was also present.*



*IFT Porter Scholarship winner Robert Kleinhans is shown with IFT Vice-president Alice Kautsky, Laura Kleinhans, IFT Vice-president Jane Russell, and IFT President, Dan Montgomery.*

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**KEEP ON SMILING**



HEALTH

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The Community Advantage



\*THIS PLAN IS NOT INSURANCE. THIS IS NOT A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION PLAN. The plan provides discounts at certain healthcare providers for medical services. The range of discounts will vary depending on the type of provider and service. The plan does not make payments directly to the providers of medical services. Plan members are obligated to pay for all healthcare services but will receive a discount from those healthcare providers that have contracted with the discount medical plan organization. You may access a list of participating healthcare providers by clicking the link at [www.aftdental.com](http://www.aftdental.com). Upon request, the plan will make available a written list of participating healthcare providers. Discount medical plan organization and administrator: Careington International Corporation, 7400 Gaylord Parkway, Frisco, TX 75034; phone 800/441-0380.

AFT + is your advocate. For information on all AFT + programs, call 800/238-1133, ext. 8643, or e-mail [aftplus@aft.org](mailto:aftplus@aft.org). The AFT has an expense reimbursement and/or endorsement arrangement for marketing this program. For more information, please contact AFT Financial Services at 800/238-1133, ext. 4493; send an e-mail to [disclosureinfo@aft.org](mailto:disclosureinfo@aft.org); or visit [www.aft.org/benefits/disclosure](http://www.aft.org/benefits/disclosure).

### Discounted Six Flags Great America Tickets and Season Passes

Through October 30, 2011, members of the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 can continue to save if they buy their daily tickets and/or season passes to Six Flags Great America via the special link located on the WSTU's website ([www.wstu571.org](http://www.wstu571.org)). Daily tickets are \$35 and season passes are \$66.94 plus a \$5.00 processing fee for each order. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Jennings at the Local 571 office (630-468-4098).

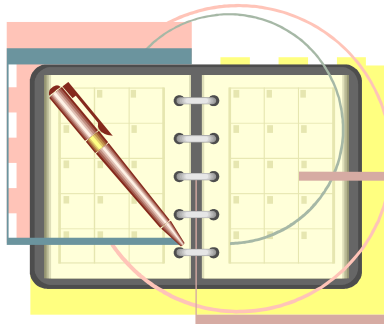
### Attention All Union Members

Within the fall issue of the AFT's *American Teacher* and *PSRP Reporter* publications (distributed to members), you will find the 2011-12 AFT+ Member Benefits booklet. The booklet details the money-saving benefits and other opportunities available through your union membership.



### Mark Your Calendars for the Legal Limits for New Teachers Seminar

Members who are non-tenured teachers, especially first- and second-year teachers, are invited to attend the Legal Limits for New Teachers Seminar sponsored by the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 on October 25, 2011, at our conference center in Westmont. One of Local 571's attorneys will present information focusing on professional conduct, DCFS obligations, adhering to district policies, confidentiality issues, internet and technology issues, student discipline, suspensions, certification, special education, tenure, free speech, leaves of absence, etc. See your Council President or Building Representative for registration information.



### AMC/Loews Movie Tickets & See's Candies Discounts

Discounted Marcus or AMC/Loews movie tickets and certificates for See's Candies are available again from the WSTU office. Order forms can be downloaded and printed from [www.wstu571.org](http://www.wstu571.org) or requested from your Council president. Unrestricted Marcus tickets are \$7.00 each. AMC/Loews tickets are \$6.00 and subject to limited restrictions. See the order form for additional details. A See's candy certificate costs \$13.10 and buys up to \$16.10 in candies. For additional information contact Julie Masterton, [jmasterton@ift-aft.org](mailto:jmasterton@ift-aft.org), or phone the WSTU office at 630-468-4098.



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