



Union Messenger

October 2008

TRS/IMRF Assures Members: Benefits Are Secure

Both Illinois retirement/pension systems affecting Local 571 members have announced that recent Wall Street events “will have no impact on... benefits” provided by each agency.

Local 571 members now receiving a TRS or IMRF pension will continue to get monthly benefit payments in full and on time. According to IMRF Director Louis Kosiba, members currently making contributions, or with contributions on deposit, should consider their money safe.

Word from the TRS is an assurance that the Illinois State Constitution protects member annuities from being “diminished or impaired.” This means that member benefits “cannot be reduced, regardless of investment losses, a state budget crisis, or for any reason.”

A special October edition of *Topics & Report*, the TRS newsletter, will address recent market impact on its investments. The newsletter will be mailed to members during October, and will also be available on the TRS web site. Each agency’s web address is on page 8.

Illinois AFL-CIO Adopts IFT Sponsored Resolutions

Several Local 571 members, serving as delegates to the biennial Illinois AFL-CIO convention on October 8-10, took part in votes adopting resolutions introduced by the Illinois Federation of Teachers.

Local 571 president Jane Russell, IFT field service director Tom Smith, and members Mike Dale and Kathleen Greenawalt were among more than 600 delegates engaged in committee meetings, workshops, and business sessions. Illinois leaders addressing the convention included Mike Madigan, Emil Jones, Lisa Madigan, and Dan Hynes.

Six items introduced by IFT president Ed Geppert were adopted by the Illinois AFL-CIO. These included opposing Con Con, advocating school funding reform, supporting union schools, protecting public pensions, and creating limits on privatization & contracting out of services.

Enlisting the support of the more than one million members of the Illinois AFL-CIO on issues important to the IFT and Local 571 is part of influencing positive change for the Local’s members and the students they serve.

Inside this issue:

- From your president...
Be Part of the Ultimate Process2
- 2008 Early Voting schedule2
- Focusing on Student Success3
- Upcoming ER&D Courses3
- Local 571 COPE Campaign4
- PSRP News5
- National Board Fee Support5
- IFT Election Endorsements.....6
- IFT Election Endorsements.....7
- Scholarship Announcements8
- TRS/IMRF8
- Retiree News8
- Announcements & Calendar8

Why “No” on Con Con

The first decision Illinois voters make on election day will be on conducting a Constitutional Convention (Con Con.) October polling results suggest that the issue may be close.

Responding to the question “Do you support or oppose an Illinois Constitutional Convention,” 1000 “likely” Illinois voters answered as follows:

- 37% SUPPORT
- 31% OPPOSE
- 33% NOT SURE

A look at other organizations urging a “Vote No” on Con Con is reported on page 7 of this *Union Messenger*.

Coming in November:

Updates on a several recent *Union Messenger* stories are planned for November and December issues. Many of these involve the work of individual members of Local 571’s various councils.

- Keys For Cesar Chavez Campaign
- Katrina Relief Update
- Vision First Update
- Chicago Olympics 2016
- Local 571 Awards
- Family Literacy Program
- 2008 Women’s Rights Awards
- Union Messenger Reader Survey

Be Part of the Ultimate Process

from your president

Tuesday November 4th is Election Day, unless you choose to “early” vote. “Early” voting runs until October 30. Be sure to confirm the location and hours of your Early Voting polling site.

Whenever you vote, please consider candidates *endorsed* by the Illinois Federation of Teachers. A complete list of 2008 general election endorsements is on the IFT web site: www.ift-aft.org and in the Fall edition of *IFT Insight* magazine. A list of endorsed Chicago area candidates is on pages 6 and 7 of this month’s *Union Messenger*.

How does the IFT actually endorse candidates for office? The process starts with IFT member interviews of candidates asking our support. Eighteen regional Political Action Committees (PAC) across Illinois complete in-person interviews assuring opportunity for participation in the process.

Before a regional PAC votes local endorsement recommendations, candidate questionnaires asking position on issues critical to our members are carefully examined. In 2008, before *any* IFT endorsement was made, a candidate must have submitted a completed IFT questionnaire for review. Each incumbent’s voting record was also considered.

Regional PAC endorsements are reviewed by the IFT State PAC. The state PAC may also make its own endorsement recommendations for national and state offices: U.S. President, U.S. Senator, U.S. House of Representatives, the Illinois Supreme and Appellate Courts, and the Illinois House and Senate.

Alice Kautsky, WSTU vice-president, and I serve on the IFT Executive Board where finalized endorsement recommendations are reviewed before being voted, and only then are they considered official.

Many IFT endorsed candidates are also endorsed by Local 571. These are primarily candidates whose districts include the communities where Local 571 members reside. I am fortunate to work with many area legislators who make themselves both accessible and easy to reach, listen to our members’ concerns, educate themselves on our issues, and vote in support of IFT positions.

Voting records for many of these legislators is 75% or better on IFT issues. Most endorsed legislators have


records of support better than 90%. These are incumbents we want to keep in office.

There are a number of non-incumbent candidates who have shown a depth of understanding of issues surrounding education and families that has earned them IFT endorsement. We want to elect them as well.

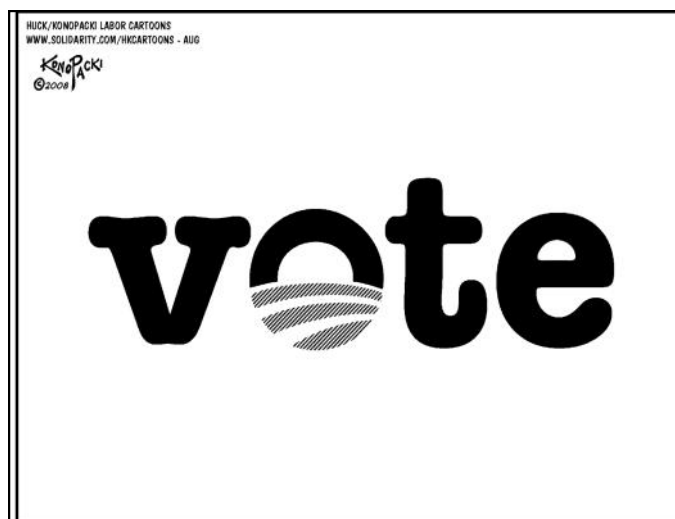
The IFT endorsement process is transparent, with several steps involving the work of hundreds of IFT members including a number from Local 571. I encourage you to vote for IFT endorsed candidates. With your help, the outlook for education and our families can be much brighter.

Thanks for being part of the “ultimate process.”

In unity,



Local 571 President



2008 Early Voting Schedule

OCTOBER 14 THROUGH OCTOBER 30

- No reason or excuse needed
- Must be done in person with valid photo identification
- Contact your County Clerk for locations/hours

For Early Voting locations, directions for absentee voting, status of voter registration, and other information on the Illinois State Board of Elections web site, you may use Google to search using the phrase “vote Illinois” or enter the following in your address bar: www.elections.il.gov/voting_information.

Focusing on Student Success

by Bonnie Saracco

The 2008 AFT pre-convention ER&D networking conference brought together union activists from all over the country for a dialogue focusing on expanding the AFT's professional development program while preserving its high quality.

ER&D national director Rob Weil stressed that "The currency of this program is quality." The importance of high quality professional development was the major conference theme.

Nationally recognized trainer Bob Darnell of Achievement Strategies Inc. presented the keynote session on achieving student success. He began by outlining elements required for success in school.

According to Darnell, students fail when they lack skills, motivation, confidence, perseverance, respect for the culture of school, a vision of the role school plays in life preparation, and positive relationships with teachers or peers.

The results of such deficits include poor attendance and attention, failure

to complete assignments, revengeful behavior, lack of participation in available interventions, and a continuous cycle of failure.



Darnell uses the acronym **IDEAS** to outline five steps which good schools follow to help students succeed. These steps are: **I**dentify essential learner objectives and prerequisites, **D**etermine the greatest areas of learning needs, **E**stablish smart improvement goals, **A**lign professional development with these goals, and **S**tart taking the decisive actions of monitoring implementation and making progress.

Conference participants were led through several lessons which modeled how to make learning objectives clear and attainable for students.

One technique stressed by Darnell was repeated use of graphic

organizers which are most effective in helping students become better with comprehension skills such as finding main ideas and causal relationships.

These skills are essential to success in school. Making an analogy to the game Monopoly, Darnell argued that just as you can't win if you don't understand the concept of buying properties to collect rent, you can't "win" at expository reading if you can't find main ideas, and you can't "win" at science or social studies if you can't find causal relationships.

Darnell also emphasized that teachers need to defuse student anxiety by making sure that students have prerequisite skills for lessons, communicating clearly, and breaking down tasks so that students experience "little tastes of success."

Concluding that effective schools have data management strategies that are concise and usable, Darnell urged abandoning programs that have outlived their usefulness.



Completing the 2008 ER&D Foundations of Effective Teaching class are (seated) Consuelo Gil-Chacon, Kathleen Hilborn, Joyce Kordas, Laura Hmaid, Diane Chatbas; (standing) instructor Bonnie Saracco, Ambrosio Olague, Harry Kannry, Kristen Novotny, Sandra Poole, instructor Chris Schultz, and ER&D director Cathleen Pope.

Upcoming Local 571 ER&D Courses

READING COMPREHENSION

February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26

THINKING MATHEMATICS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL— JOURNEY TO ALGEBRA

February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES THAT WORK FOR ALL DISCIPLINES

June 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, September 26

MANAGING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

August 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, September 26

- Join West Suburban colleagues
- Taught by Local 571 Master Teachers
- At the Robert M. Healey Conference Center
- 30 CPDU's or 30 PTP's
- Credit Hours, for an additional fee, available from Governors State University or Prairie State College

+ Your benefits
cover your
family
members too.

Even if they have
four legs.



The Community Advantage

PET INSURANCE | 866/473-7387

- Your pets can have their own insurance.
- As low as \$12.95 a month.
- Pick your veterinarian.

buy where it counts!
www.aftplus.org



A Union of Professionals

AFT +
Member Benefits

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; or visit www.aftplus.org/disclosure.

WSTU OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00 AM—5:00 PM
THE LOCAL 571 OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED ON
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, PLEASE CALL AHEAD.

2008-9 COPE Campaign

“Hey buddy, got a dime or a dollar?” We’ve heard the line, or some variation. This time it’s from the Committee on Political Education (COPE.) To receive a \$10 per member AFT rebate, the Local must raise \$3.50 per member or about \$17,000 this year. Raising voluntary contributions can be daunting.

The Local 571 COPE account has been prudently used to help educate our members politically as well as provide contributions to the campaigns of local politicians who support education. Most importantly, Local 571’s COPE fund has helped support school-related referenda on behalf of several Councils. Lyons, Leyden, Morton, Elmhurst, District 88, and Franklin Park are among recent recipients.

Fundraising efforts that helped Local 571 make the AFT requirement last year included a Retirees Council contribution of \$940 and \$265 from Local 571’s officers and trustees.

One current effort involves the 571 COPE pin. For any contribution of \$10 or more, the COPE committee will return a COPE pin in thanks for helping Local 571 meet its goal.



ENCLOSED IS MY VOLUNTARY COPE CONTRIBUTION TO HELP THE **LOCAL 571 COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION** SUPPORT CANDIDATES AND ISSUES IMPORTANT TO PUBLIC EDUCATION AND WORKERS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. IF MY CONTRIBUTION IS TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) OR MORE, I WILL RECEIVE A LOCAL 571 COPE PIN.

AMOUNT OF GIFT:

\$ _____ \$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT: _____ WORKSITE: _____

PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOUR GIFT IS \$10 OR MORE AND YOU DO NOT WANT TO RECEIVE A PIN

GIFTS TO COPE ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTABLE ON FEDERAL OR STATE INCOME TAXES



Financial support from Local 571’s COPE fund and the DuPage District 88 Teachers Council helped the district’s “Building The Future” campaign mount a successful referendum. Voters approved \$110 million in bonds that are now paying for major renovations and new additions to Addison Trail and Willowbrook High Schools. October foundation work expanding Willowbrook’s music wing is pictured.

PSRP News

One provision of the NCLB law is that a paraprofessional may not provide any instructional service to a student unless the paraprofessional is working under the direct supervision of a teacher. What this effectively means is that paraprofessionals SHOULD NOT be working as substitute teachers in their regular assignment or in another classroom.

As part of continuing efforts to monitor the law and its provisions, the AFT would like to learn more about how this provision has been implemented in your district and your worksite. A link to a 20 question national survey can be found on the IFT and AFT web sites. Click the **CONSTITUENCIES** button on the IFT home page to find links to all PSRP division items including the survey.

2008 PSRP CONFERENCE

The IFT 2008 Paraprofessional & School Related Personnel Conference concluded as this edition of the *Union Messenger* went to press. A variety of workshops ranged from professional improvement topics such as “Coping with Conflict” and “Workplace Violence” to union leadership training. Sessions on legal and legislative issues, as well as grievance and workers’ compensation training, were among the nine activities offered.

This year’s conference was held in Springfield, Illinois. Dawn Mushhill, CEO of Customer Service and Beyond, was keynote presenter.

PSRP SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Clerical & Medical
Custodial, Lunchroom, Security & Transportation
Higher Education & Technical
Special Education Teacher Assistants
Teacher Assistants in Classrooms

Fee Support for First-time National Board Candidates Application Due October 31

From now until the end of October, teachers with at least three years classroom experience may apply for the State of Illinois’ candidate fee support program for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) applicants. The 2008-09 subsidy application is due by October 31, 2008.

Some changes have been made to the application form. A tutorial document highlighting common errors made by past candidates has been developed to help current applicants correctly complete the forms. The document is posted on the Illinois NBPTS web site. The web site also lists candidate support sites in each region under services, along with other resources and information for educators seeking to become a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT).

There will be no fee support for TAKE ONE and renewal candidates this fall. NBCT renewal candidates will be responsible for the \$1,150 renewal application fee. NBCT renewal candidate information and resources are posted on the NBPTS web site: <http://www.nbpts.org/>.

October 19-25 Is National Safe Schools Week

During October 19-25 several organizations in the fields of education, violence prevention, and school safety host Safe Schools Week events that focus on empowering youth to stop violence in their schools.

Safe Schools Week is also a great time to spread the word about effective violence prevention programs in the community.

Students are encouraged to participate in a Creative Expression Contest designed for middle and high school students to convey their thoughts about school violence in America.

Students respond to questions about school violence in an essay, song, rap, poem, drawing, painting or computer-based design.

All contestants receive a prize. Outstanding efforts will receive a new iPod touch, and their school will receive a School Safety Package worth \$2,500!

Information about the Safe Schools program is available online at:

<http://www.safeschoolsweek.org/>



A Union of Professionals
Disaster Relief Fund

The **AFT Disaster Relief** Fund helps members affected by the devastation of natural disasters.

Many of our members are suffering in the aftermath of floods, fires and, recently, hurricanes like Fay, Dolly, Gustav and Ike. Please help your colleagues. Contribute today.

Send your tax-deductible contribution to:
The AFT Disaster Relief Fund,
555 New Jersey Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Attn: Connie Cordovilla

IFT 2008 Political Endorsements

BARACK OBAMA PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES		
UNITED STATES SENATE		
RICHARD DURBIN UNITED STATES SENATE		
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES		
REPRESENTATIVE BOBBY RUSH 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE JESSE JACKSON, JR. 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE DAN LIPINSKI 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE LUIS GUTIERREZ 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE RAHM EMANUEL 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	JILL MORGENTHALER 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE DANNY DAVIS 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE MELISSA BEAN 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE JAN SCHAKOWSKY 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
DAN SEALS 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DEBBIE HALVORSON 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	BILL FOSTER 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
ILLINOIS SENATE		
SENATOR WILLIAM DELGADO 2ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER 3RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	SENATOR RICKEY HENDON 5TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
SENATOR JOHN CULLERTON 6TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	SENATOR HEATHER STEARNS 7TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	SENATOR JEFF SCHOENBERG 9TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
SENATOR LOU VIVERITO 11TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	SENATOR MARTIN SANDOVAL 12TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	SENATOR ED MALONEY 18TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
SENATOR KIRK DILLARD 24TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	BILL GENTES 26TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	SENATOR TERRY LINK 30TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
SENATOR DAN KOTOWSKI 33RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	SENATOR MIKE JACOBS 36TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	STEVE STOUT 38TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
SENATOR DON HARMON 39TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	AUDREY MANLEY 41ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	SENATOR LINDA HOLMES 42ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
ILLINOIS JUDICIAL POSITIONS		
ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANNE BURKE	APPELLATE COURT 1ST DISTRICT JUDGE SHARON JOHNSON COLEMAN	APPELLATE COURT 5TH DISTRICT JUDGE JAMES WEXSTEN

Volunteer to Phone Bank

Through November 3, join colleagues working the IFT Phone Bank at the Robert Healey Center in Westmont to help elect candidates supporting education and labor.

For Monday through Thursday evening time slots between 4:30 and 9:00 p.m. contact:

Tom Smith at 630-468-4045/tsmith@ift-aft.org, or Judy Jennings at 630-468-4098/jjennings@ift-aft.org

Notes

- The IFT endorsements reported reflect northeast Illinois districts where Local 571 members reside and where an IFT endorsement was made. An online voting district locator can be found on the IFT web site or at:

<http://www.ift-aft.org/iftadmin/UserFiles/PAC/index.htm>.

- Incumbents are indicated by a title, as appropriate, preceding the candidate's name.

IFT 2008 Political Endorsements

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD ACEVEDO 2ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE ESTHER GOLAR 6TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE KAREN YARBROUGH 7TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE LASHAWN FORD 8TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE ART TURNER 9TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE ANNAZETTE COLLINS 10TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN FRITCHEY	REPRESENTATIVE SARA FEIGENHOLTZ	REPRESENTATIVE GREG HARRIS
REPRESENTATIVE HARRY OSTERMAN 14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE JOHN D'AMICO 15TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE LOU LANG 16TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE JULIE HAMOS 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH LYONS 19TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL MCAULIFFE 20TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
MICHAEL ZALEWSKI 21ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA CURRIE 25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	WILL BURNS 26TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE MONIQUE DAVIS 27TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT RITA 28TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE DAVID MILLER 29TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM DAVIS 30TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE MARLOW COLVIN 33RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MCCARTHY 37TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE AL RILEY 38TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE MARIA BERRIOS 39TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	DEBORAH MELL 40TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE RUTH MUNSON 43RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE FRED CRESPO 44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	JIM HAGERTY 45TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS REBOLETTI	JOSEPH HENEGHAN	MARY SCHNEIDER
REPRESENTATIVE MARK BEAUBIEN 52ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	CAROL JAVENS 53RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE PAUL FROEHLICH 56TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE ELAINE NEKRITZ 57TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE KAREN MAY 58TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE KATHLEEN RYG 59TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE EDDIE WASHINGTON	REPRESENTATIVE JOANN OSMOND	REPRESENTATIVE SANDY COLE
REPRESENTATIVE RENEE KOSEL 81ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE JIM DURKIN 82ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE LINDA CHAPA LAVIA 83RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE BRENT HASSERT	REPRESENTATIVE JACK MCGUIRE	DIANE MCGUIRE

Notes

- All IFT endorsements and live links to most candidate web sites can be accessed on the IFT web site by going to the IFT Political Action Center.
- The IFT endorsement process is explained in Jane Russell's column on page 2 of this *Messenger*.
- The IFT web site home page is <http://www.ift-aft.org>

On Record Against Con Con...

The League of Women Voters of Illinois
 The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
 TRS and IMRF
 The Illinois Association of School Administrators
 Illinois Education Association
 Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois
 Many of these organizations have posted their specific concerns online. Use Google to find each site.

Scholarships Announced

Information and application forms are now available for several IFT and AFT scholarships. Forms may be downloaded at the IFT web site: www.ift-aft.org. Enter "scholarship" into the IFT's home page search box for scholarship related links and updated information. Review eligibility requirements carefully.

- **The Carl J. Megel Special Education Scholarship** honors AFT President Emeritus Carl Megel. Application for the Megel scholarship is due by 5:00 p.m. Monday, December 8, 2008.
- **The IFT Robert G. Porter Scholarship** honors the late AFT Secretary-Treasurer Robert G. Porter. Application for the Porter Scholarship is due by 5:00 p.m. Monday, December 8, 2008.
- **Union Plus Scholarship** — The application deadline for the 2009 Union Plus Scholarship is January 31, 2009.

TRS/IMRF Fall Meetings & Updates

Current information from the Teachers' Retirement System and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund is available from each agency's web site. A schedule of remaining Fall IMRF and TRS member meetings explaining the retirement process and member benefits is posted on agency web sites.

Teachers' Retirement System — <http://trs.illinois.gov>
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund — <http://www.imrf.org>

Retiree News

IFT Retirees Chapter members spent several hours on September 25 in a financial and estate planning seminar with executives from AIG Retirement and Peck, Bloom, Austrianco & Koenig LLC.

AIG Retirement vice president Svend Tranberg assured members



Local 571 Retirees Chapter members discuss *Saving the World* by Maria Alvarez during the September 17 book discussion led by Jean Bernstein.

that AIG annuities are safe because they have \$60 billion in assets protected by state regulation and state insurance guarantees. Variable accounts are overseen by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Tranberg strongly encouraged writing a financial plan for the future.

Kerry Peck, Peck Bloom's managing partner, corrected common misperceptions about Illinois probate law, emphasizing the importance of estate planning. Risks and limitations of online legal programs were explained. Many attendees stayed after the presentation to ask additional questions.

JOIN

Members interested in joining the Retirees Chapter may contact Judy Jennings at 630-468-4098 or send an e-mail to jjennings@ift-aft.org.

Council Volunteers Sought For Retiree Membership Drive

The 571 Retirees Council is looking for active or retired volunteer(s) from each Local 571 Council to help update that Council's list of retired members and former members. Contact your Council president or Retiree Council president Matt DuPree for more information.

WSTU Calendar

October

- 10/18—571 Legislative Breakfast - Oakbrook Doubletree Hotel
- 10/20—571 EB Meeting - Westmont - 5:30 p.m.
- 10/20—571 HOR Meeting - Westmont - 6:45 p.m.

November

- 11/4—Election Day - *Don't Forget to Vote*
- 11/8-9—IFT ULI Westmont
- 11/17—571 EB Meeting - Westmont - 5:30 p.m.
- 11/17—571 HOR Meeting - Westmont - 6:45 p.m.

December

- 12/8—571 EB Meeting - Westmont - 5:30 p.m.
- 12/8—571 HOR Meeting - Westmont - 6:45 p.m.

January

- 1/12—571 EB Meeting - Westmont - 5:30 p.m.
- 1/12—571 HOR Meeting - Westmont - 6:45 p.m.
- 1/26—Grievance Training Workshop - Westmont

Reminders...

IFT Union Leadership Courses
November 8-9 Westmont

Retiree Dinner Theatre
Some Enchanted Evening — October 23
Name — November 13

571 Grievance Training Workshop
Reservation deadline January 16

Union Messenger

Jane Russell, President
 Alice Kautsky, Vice President
 Sandra Erickson, Treasurer
 Cathleen Pope, Secretary
 Jonathan Pazol, Financial Secretary
 Ed Hohman, Legal Defense Secretary & COPE Chairperson
 Tom Smith, IFT Field Service Director
 Mike Linder, IFT Field Service Director
 Judy Jennings, Office Manager
 Julie Masterton, Office Secretary
 Mike Dale, *Union Messenger* Editor
 Andrew Bendelow, 571 Webmaster



West Suburban Teachers Union
 Local 571
 500 Oakmont Lane
 P.O. Box 390

Phone: 630-468-4098
 Fax: 630-468-4088
 E-mail: jjennings@ift-aft.org
 Web site: www.wstu571.org