

West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, IFT, AFT, AFL-CIO

# Union Messenger

## "A Union of Professionals"

### WSTU Calendar

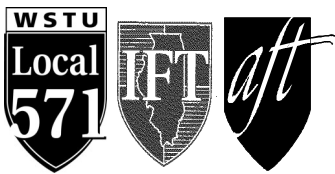
#### May

5/16-EB Meeting - Westmont - 5:30 p.m.

5/16-HOR Meeting - Westmont - 6:45 p.m.

### 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  
 Andrew Bendelow,  
 571 Web Administrator  
 Angel Holmes,  
 571 Union Messenger Editor



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## Convention Delegates and the Work of the Union

by Jane Russell

On March 21, 2011, Local 571 successfully amended its Constitution and Bylaws at the biennial Constitutional Convention. 50 delegates voted on adopting the changes that affect the membership of the Local.

During the fall, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, chaired by 571 Financial Secretary Jon Pazol, met to review potential amendments. Although there were only seven proposed changes this year, the committee met several times to ensure there was continuity between the changes and the entire document. The Local 571 officers and staff also met to provide assistance on appropriate wording. Draft amendments were shared with the WSTU Executive Board, which made final recommendations. All of the registered delegates were provided with the proposals one month prior to the Convention.



Cicero Council

Local 571 Vice President Alice Kautsky chaired the Convention Committee. Committee members planned the logistics of the Convention, including registering and certifying delegates, coordinating dinner, and providing Convention materials. They were also charged with ensuring that *Robert's Rules of Order* was used during the proceedings and that a Parliamentarian was present to provide assistance to the local officers both before and during the Convention.

The 2011 changes in the Local 571 Constitution and Bylaws adopted at the Convention included:

- 1) the addition of an 1/8 member category for those members who make less than \$8,500 per year, in accordance with AFT and IFT changes.
- 2) the adjustment of the 1/2 and 1/4 dues categories to reflect yearly salary earnings.
- 3) updated council dues, if applicable, for each council.
- 4) moving the first House of Representatives meeting of the school year from September to August to reflect changes in districts' school calendars.
- 5) adjusting the schedule for presentation and adoption of the Local 571 yearly budget.
- 6) allowing reimbursement for meetings attended for any committee chairs who are not elected through their council.
- 7) changing the procedure for hiring Local 571 employees to allow for use of e-mail and 571 website notification.

Although the Local's Constitution and Bylaws have just been amended, the officers are always mindful that the document can be improved and are already planning for the next Convention. Many Local 571 members have helped to make the Local 571 Constitution and Bylaws a timely, working document. The local officers appreciate everyone's efforts and thank them for participating in the 16<sup>th</sup> West Suburban Teachers Union Convention.

In unity,

*Jane A. Russell*

Local 571 President

# REDEDICATING THE HAYMARKET MARTYRS' MONUMENT



## The Haymarket Martyrs' Monument: Celebrate the rebirth

Join the community for a celebration and remembrance the 125th anniversary of the Haymarket tragedy, honoring eight martyrs of the world's labor movement.

International Labor Day, also known as May Day, is the most celebrated secular holiday in the world, except in the United States. Yet the most progressive changes in our country and across the world were due to labor movements.

2011 will mark the restoration and rededication of the Haymarket Martyrs' Monument, the statue of liberty for workers around the world. As a symbol of international labor solidarity, come together to honor our history and remember that the only way to stop the worldwide assault on working people by corporate greed is to stand together.

With special guest Liz Shuler,  
secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, and other dignitaries

1 p.m., May 1, 2011  
Forest Home Cemetery  
863 Des Plaines Ave.,  
Forest Park

Next to the Eisenhower (I-290) and Blue Line,  
nine miles west of Chicago's downtown

Presented by the Illinois Labor History Society, in conjunction with the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Illinois AFL-CIO



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.

West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571

**See's Candies Gift Certificates**  
Available at a Discount for Members of the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Today  
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Home City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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School District \_\_\_\_\_ Workable \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Description	Price per Ticket/Cert
	<b>AMC/Loews Theatres</b> Check the newspaper for restrictions regarding the use of these tickets.	\$6.00
	<b>Marcus Theatres</b> - No restrictions, valid anytime purchased Free bag of popcorn with every two tickets	\$7.00
	<b>See's Candies Gift Certificates</b> Good for up to \$16.10 worth of candies	\$13.10
	Service Charge (must be included with it)	
<b>TOTAL COST FOR ORDER</b>		

\* Prices are subject to change.  
 \* Only checks or money orders will be accepted, no cash payments. **NO CASH**  
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Mail to: West Suburban Teachers Union  
P. O. Box 300  
Westmore, IL 60559-0300

REMEMBER: Only mail orders with the payments enclosed will be accepted.

Revised 1/6/2011

## Local 571 Professional Development Courses

### Instructional Strategies That Work for All Disciplines\*

**Dates and Times—5 sessions:** June 27, 28, 29, 30, July 1 (8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.)

**Workshop Credit:** 30 CPDU's or 30 PTP's

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, June 3**

### Thinking Mathematics for Middle School—Journey to Algebra\*

**Dates and Times—5 sessions:** June 27, 28, 29, 30, July 1 (8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.)

**Workshop Credit:** 30 CPDU's or 30 PTP's

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, June 3**

### Managing Anti-Social Behavior\*

**Dates and Times—5 sessions:** August 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.)

**Workshop Credit:** 30 CPDU's or 30 PTP's

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, July 8**

### Managing Student Behavior for Support Staff\*\*

**Dates and Times—5 sessions:** August 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.)

**Workshop Credit:** 24 PTP's

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, July 8**

### School-Home Connection: Partnership Supporting Student Learning\*

**Dates and Times—5 sessions:** August 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.)

**Workshop Credit:** 30 CPDU's or 30 PTP's

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, July 8**

**Location:** All courses will be held at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center  
500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, IL 60559-5520

**Cost:** \$50 per course (includes materials & light lunch)

**Course Descriptions & Registration Forms:** Visit [www.wstu571.org](http://www.wstu571.org) for course descriptions and registration forms or contact Judy Jennings by phone at 630-468-4098 or by e-mail at [jjennings@ift-aft.org](mailto:jjennings@ift-aft.org).

*\*Course is for teachers and support staff. Teachers earn 30 CPDU's and support staff earn 30 PTP's. For an additional cost, participants can earn two (2) Governors State University graduate credit hours or two (2) Prairie State Community College undergraduate credit hours. Participants may enroll and pay for university or college credit hours at the first class session.*

**West Suburban Teachers Union**  
**Local 571**  
IFT, AFT, AFL-CIO



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EXPLORE, ENJOY AND  
PROTECT THE PLANET

## Our Fight Continues

by Bonnie Saracco

Turning back decades of progress, Ohio has joined Wisconsin in attacking unions by passing SB5, which removed the collective bargaining rights of 350,000 Ohio public employees. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and Ohio Governor John Kasich have fought hard for legislation to eliminate workers' rights, and state legislatures across the country are considering similar bills.

Florida just passed damaging legislation masquerading as education "reform." Florida's Governor Rick Scott has signed into law the bill which his predecessor Governor Charlie Christ had wisely vetoed last year. It eliminates tenure for new teachers and uses financial incentives to currently tenured teachers to give up their tenure. Seniority will no longer be the basis for pay raises or a defense against layoffs. It defies logic to think that making teaching such a precarious career will attract the talented new teachers that we need.

This is obviously an effort to blame teachers' unions and collective bargaining for the fiscal crisis of many of our states.

AFT President Randi Weingarten pointed out the weakness of this point of view in a March 28 speech to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, citing the lack of correlation between states with bargaining rights and those with big deficits. Moreover, she said that collective bargaining actually can be part of

the solution in that "It can be a means to find creative ways to maintain or protect vital public services in the face of budget short-falls."

The fight will be waged again in Illinois, when the Senate Education Reform Committee will soon consider such proposals as the corporate-backed Performance Counts, which contains provisions similar to those in Florida. IFT was able to slow down this process in January, and we will continue to fight for Accountability for All, which is genuine education reform.

There has been some good news. Wisconsin's Circuit Court Judge Maryann Sumi issued a restraining order against the legislation curtailing collective bargaining there, which puts the bill on hold until May 23 unless the Wisconsin Supreme Court intervenes. In Indiana, Democratic state representatives defeated a push by Republican state representatives to enact "right to work" legislation. Also, many analysts and politicians now believe that anti-union candidates may be hurt by the right wing's miscalculation that unionized public employees would make an easy target.

It is now the crucial time to fight to save our hard-won rights.

## Life After Retirement

**R**etirement does not mean sitting back and watching the world go by! Jan Vitt, retired teacher from Indian Springs District 109, has continued her passion for entertaining! While actively teaching she enthusiastically brought her skills and talents to the classroom. Now, in retirement, she is sharing her talents on stage! She portrayed a lively character in the play "Murder at the Bingo Hall." Jan is proof that LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT IS FANTASTIC! Jan is a member of the Local 571 Retirees Council.

