

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU June/July/August Calendar

- 6/11-15-Prof. Development Courses, Westmont
- 6/18-22-Great Lakes ULI - St. Charles, IL
- 7/1-Council election reports due to 571
- 7/15-Councils' annual financial statements & audit reports due to 571
- 7/26-30-AFT Convention - Detroit, MI
- 8/6-571 Presidents/Treasurers Workshop - Westmont - 5:00 p.m.
- 8/6-10-571 Prof. Development Courses, Westmont
- 8/29-571 EB Mtg.-Westmont - 5:30 p.m.
- 8/29 -571 HOR Mtg.-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
- Arnavaz Mistry-Mujthaba, IFT Field Service Director
- Judy Jennings, Office Manager
- Julie Masterton, Office Secretary
- Andrew Bendelow, 571 Web Administrator
- Angel Holmes,
- 571 Union Messenger Editor

More Successful Professional Development Courses

by Jane Russell

During the mild winter, several 571 members met on Thursday evenings in February and March to participate in two AFT TEACH (formerly ER&D) courses which were held in Westmont. All the attendees wanted to help students in their schools be more successful.

Support staff members worked with instructors Angela Caravetta (Cicero) and Rose Janas (Leyden) in the Managing Student Behavior for Support Staff course. School support staff may not just oversee the behavior of large numbers of students, but are also responsible for their safety. Through course activities, valuable strategies for handling all types of students including difficult or disruptive students, were shared and learned. One attendee commented: "...more members should get involved. This is a very informational class."



Managing Student Behavior for Support Staff

Back row: Instructors Angela Caravetta and Rose Janas
 Front row: Kathy Fierke-Indian Springs PSRP, Anna Salazar-Argo H.S. PSRP, Anthony Metoyer- Argo H.S. PSRP, Frances Bayer- Argo H.S. PSRP, Pamela McDonald- Argo H.S. PSRP, Lois Wick-Leyden Council

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IN MEMORIAM OF MARYANN KARLOVSKY

"One day I would like to teach just a few people many and beautiful things that would help them when they will one day teach a few people." - A Teacher's Prayer

The saying on the prayer card was a most fitting remembrance for West Suburban Teachers Union past president, Maryann Karlovsky. Maryann passed away unexpectedly on March 5, 2012, having served the labor/women's right movement for well over 50 years. Maryann began her teaching career when she was 20 years old in Cicero District 99 where she taught social studies until she retired. She was both secretary and president of Cicero Council, delegate to the Chicago Federation of Labor for over 30 years, member of the IFT Executive Board and IFT Retiree Constituency Council; President of the Local 571 Retirees Council, and served on numerous IFT and 571 committees. She was a delegate for many AFT and IFT Conventions. In 2006, Maryann received the AFT Women's Rights Living the Legacy Award for then 50 years of loyal and dedicated service. Maryann was president of West Suburban Teachers Union from 1979-1995, a time when Local 571 membership nearly doubled. Maryann is survived by her sister Rosalie, a retired music teacher from Indian Springs.



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President's Report...Change Is Not The End, But The Beginning

"This is your time and it feels normal to you, but really, there is no normal. There's only change and resistance to it and then more change." - Meryl Streep in a commencement speech.

During the 2011-2012 school year the changes heaped upon educational workers have been the most significant seen in many years. Some may say that the changes are overwhelming and this might be the new normal.

Let's list a few of the significant changes:

- Teachers are evaluated and receive one of four ratings. These are: unsatisfactory, needs improvement, proficient, and excellent.
- The cost of renewing both teacher and some paraprofessional certificates increased.

- For lapsed teaching certificates, the procedure to reinstate is more difficult and expensive.
- Having adopted the Common Core State Standards, supporting changes in curriculum and assessments should have been addressed.
- Due to legislative changes, there are new rules on teacher layoffs and recalls that went into effect.
- Principals and others who evaluate teachers must be trained in the new performance evaluation program by September 1, 2012.
- For some districts required to implement new teacher evaluation systems, student growth must count in the evaluation rating.

Without our involvement the implementation of these educational "reform" changes may be less than successful. As education union work-

ers, we must continue to advocate for our students, their families and our members. It's up to us to move forward despite the changes. There is an opportunity to help all of our students be better prepared and more successful in meeting the challenges of today's world.

The officers and staff of West Suburban Teachers Union wish you a relaxing summer, shared and enjoyed with both family and friends. Take time to ponder and consider the following from an anonymous source: *"All things are subject to change, and we change with them."*

Thank you for your continued work on behalf of Illinois' students. We look forward with renewed enthusiasm to working with you in the fall.

In unity,



Local 571 President

NEW PROGRAM LAUNCHES!!!

UNION PLUS CAR RENTAL CONTEST - www.unionplus.org/contest. Registrants are eligible to win a free week of car rental. Contest runs through June.

DISCOUNTS ON MOVING BOXES/SUPPLIES--www.unionplus.org/movingboxes or unionplus.org/boxes

- ◇ 25-50% savings off retail cost for moving boxes & supplies
- ◇ Free shipping within the U.S.
- ◇ A \$25 restaurant.com coupon for any purchase over \$40.

AUTO BUYING through TrueCar/Zag- www.unionplus.org/autobuying

- ◇ No haggling! Receive a suggested TrueCar price that the dealer will either match or beat
- ◇ Rebates: \$100 for a union-assembled new vehicle of \$200 if the union-assembled vehicles is also an EPA-approved "green" vehicle
- ◇ Auto Down Payment Rebate for Union Plus Credit Card Members (UnionPlus.org/AutoRebates). If you purchase a union-made vehicle through the Union Plus Auto Buying Service - - and you pay \$500-\$3,500 of your down payment on your Union Plus Credit Card, you'll receive a 10% rebate up to \$350.

UNION PLUS CREDIT CARD REBATE: AT&T Smartphone Rebate -- Union-Plus.org/ATTRbate

Switch to the ONLY national unionized wireless provider, AT&T union members save 15%! Plus, you can receive a rebate up to \$100 if you use your Union Plus Credit Card to upgrade to a smartphone and data services through AT&T.



2012 Scholarship Winners



Over \$11,500 in scholarships were awarded to deserving children of West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, members during the House of Representatives meeting on April 16, 2012. Each student's parent is a member of a Local 571 council. Scholarship Committee Chair Penny Loulousis announced the names of the award winners in March after the scholarship committee reviewed the applications.

Vice President Alice Kautsky, along with Local 571 President Jane Russell, awarded six West Suburban Teachers Union Mary Wheeler Scholarships of \$1,700 each. Winners were:

- ◆ Michael Dost, a graduate of Lyons Township High School - His mother, Patricia Dost, is support staff at Hauser School in Riverside.
- ◆ Blake Helton is a graduate of Niles West High School. His father is Gregory Helton, a teacher at Hester Junior High School in Franklin Park.
- ◆ Catherine Lawrence graduated from York Community High School. Her mother is Jacqueline Lawrence, an Elmhurst PSRP at Jackson.
- ◆ Molly Mitchell graduated from Prairie Ridge High School. Her father, Bill Mitchell, is a counselor at East Leyden High School in Franklin Park.
- ◆ Maggie Orłowski is a graduate of Lyons Township High School. Her mother is Mary Orłowski, a teacher at Ames in Riverside.
- ◆ Christian Vail is a graduate of William Fremd High School. Jeff Vail, a teacher at East Leyden High School in Franklin Park, is his father.
- ◆ Melissa Hochheimer won 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. Melissa attends the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana and her mother is Patricia Hochheimer, District 88 PSRP.



L-R: Alice Kautsky and Jane Russell with the parents of Melissa Hochheimer, Patricia (Dist. 88 PSRP) and Ron.



L-R: Alice Kautsky, father of Blake Helton, Greg (Franklin Park Teachers), Jane Russell.



L-R: Eric and Patricia (Riverside Council) parents of Michael Dost, Alice Kautsky, and Jane Russell.



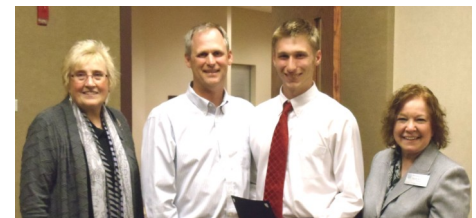
L-R: Alice Kautsky, Mary Orłowski (Riverside Council), Maggie Orłowski, and Jane Russell.



L-R: Alice Kautsky, Bill Mitchell (Leyden Council), Molly Mitchell, and Jane Russell.



L-R: Alice Kautsky, Jacqueline Lawrence (Elmhurst PSRP Council), Catherine Lawrence, and Jane Russell.



L-R: Alice Kautsky, Jeff Vail (Leyden Council), Christian Vail, and Jane Russell.

Common Core State Standards Update

by Bonnie Saracco

AF T's professional development program, formerly called Educational Research and Development (ER&D) has changed its name to AFT: Together Educating America's Children (AFT TEACH).

At the AFT TEACH Local Site Coordinators Meeting last March in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, AFT presented the ways that it is aligning its professional development to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Melanie Hobbs, Assistant Director, Educational Issues Department, began her session with an overview of AFT's support for the CCSS. She stressed that the CCSS will enable teachers to make public education more equitable and to bring about positive and lasting change.

Alice Gill, Senior Associate Director, Educational Issues Department, explained that the Math CCSS called for more focused and coherent instruction.

The Math CCSS contains three major instructional shifts. They are a stronger and narrower focus on the standards, coherence across grades, and rigor. Rigor demands deep concept understanding as well as procedural skill, "learning math as opposed to getting answers." All of this will require closer collaboration among teachers of different grade levels.

The AFT Teach Thinking Math courses are already focused along these lines, and are being further updated to fit the new Math CCSS direction, sequencing, and vocabulary even more closely.

AFT also has a Parent/Caregiver Project for math activities which is developing four letters per grade level to be posted on a Common Core site. These letters will give parents and care-

givers activities to use with their children. Two of the letters were shared at the conference. They dealt with number operations and the multiplication and division of fractions, all of which call for radically different teaching under CCSS.

Darion Griffin, Senior Associate Director, Educational Issues Department, talked about the English Language Arts (ELA) Common Core State Standards. She noted that teachers have not yet systematically received information about the ELA standards, and that we urgently need a "crosswalk" between what we are doing now and what the standards require.

The ELA standards also contain three major instructional shifts. These are the move to more balance between informational and literary texts, more attention to content area literacy and vocabulary, and shared responsibility for literacy between ELA and content area teachers.

A big change in the ELA standards is the switch to text-dependent questions. For example, after reading the Gettysburg Address, it is now common for students to be asked questions about Lincoln, the causes of the Civil War, or their own related experiences. These questions are text-independent because they can be answered without reference to the speech. Under the ELA standards, students will primarily be asked questions which require citing key details in the text and referring to it explicitly, quoting directly to support their inferences.

The ELA standards will also increase emphasis on speaking, listening, collaboration, and classroom discourse.

As in math, most of the material in the ERA TEACH courses dealing with literacy already fit the new standards, and adjustments are being made to make the match even closer.

The adoption of the CCSS is a huge project requiring intensive collaboration among teachers and the alignment of professional development, curricula, materials, and assessments. AFT is hard at work with practical support for this process.

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K-12 teachers focused on exemplary practices for use with their students in acquiring strong reading comprehension skills. Jane Russell (retiree), instructor for the Reading Comprehension Instruction course, provided participants with many instructional strategies for use with students of all ages and abilities. A participant said she "could take information after each class and start using it (immediately with her students)."

AFT TEACH professional development courses are being offered again during the summer at WSTU. Information about these professional development classes may be found elsewhere in this publication. Course enrollment is now open.



Reading Comprehension Instruction

Standing: Instructor Jane Russell

Seated: Sharon Montag-PAEC, Peggy Ruiz-Cicero, Jane Thomas-Argo H.S., Jeryllyn Krsek-Argo-Summit, Linda Ludwig-Riverside, Elaine Pesek-Cicero, Valentina Allen-Indian Springs Teachers