

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU September Calendar

9/6 -Deadline for registration for 571 Bldg. Rep Workshop
 9/12-571 Bldg. Rep. Workshop Westmont
 9/16-571 EB Mtg.-Westmont-5:30 p.m.
 9/16-571 HOR Mtg.-Westmont-6:45 p.m.
 9/16-Last day for the 75th Anniversary ticket sales
 9/27-571 75th Anniversary Celebration-Lucky Strike Lanes in Yorktown Mall-4p.m. to 7p.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
 Kyra Lopez,
 571 Union Messenger Editor



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Legislated Changes that Affect Your Work

by Jane Russell

Although the summer has seen little positive results in solving the pension funding crisis, several pieces of legislation were passed during the 98th General Assembly session that would affect school district employees if signed by the governor. The governor signs many bills over the summer months. A more comprehensive list with details is on the IFT website the "2013 End of Session Report", www.ift-aft.org. The actual bills can be reviewed at www.ilga.gov/legislation.

HB 1443—Hazing (awaiting the governor's signature)

An employee can be charged with the crime of hazing if, as a school district employee, part of their duties include reporting the crime and that employee fails to make the report.

HB 2245—Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse (awaiting the governor's signature)

All educators including PSRP's, teachers and substitute teachers must complete the mandated reporting training occurring on first time employment and every five years thereafter. The work for this law came from recommendations of the Erin's Law Task Force.

HB 3063—Teacher Evaluation Timelines (awaiting the governor's signature)

Newly hired principals have the legal right to evaluate all staff during his/her first year in the school building. Many teachers on the two-year evaluation cycle found themselves being evaluated three consecutive years even though they may have received a rating of "proficient" or "excellent". This bill resets the clock from the date of the new principal's evaluation to two years for tenured teachers.

SB 1307—Early Childhood Education

This legislation lowers the compulsory school attendance age from seven years to six years and takes effect in the 2014-15 school year.

SB 1366—Early Retirement Option (ERO) (awaiting the governor's signature)

Renews the ERO for teachers considering retirement options through June 30, 2016.

SB 2199—Educator Licensure (awaiting the governor's signature)

Mainly impacting School Service Personnel, the applicable content area test no longer needs to be passed prior to the applicant beginning an internship or residency required for the licensure. The content area test however must be passed prior to granting of the license.

House Joint Resolution 27

By creating the Teacher Recruiting and Retention Task Force, the impact of Tier II pension benefits on the ability of school districts to recruit and retain teachers will be studied. The completed report with data is due to legislators by January 1, 2014 so that they may be better informed on making decisions about pension benefit changes.

The work done by the IFT Department of Political Activities cannot be overlooked. But neither can the intense lobbying efforts of our members both in the home districts and the State Capitol. Again, thank you for your continued efforts. As we move into the new school year and legislative session, we would like to involve more local members in training and lobbying efforts through the IFT Local Action for Statewide Results (LASR) program. Sign-up and training sessions will be offered for those interested in participating. It is important that we continue to educate our elected officials as well as our students.

Know that the officers and staff at West Suburban Teachers Union are happy to serve you. Please don't hesitate to call on us. Best wishes for a successful 2013-14 school year.

In unity,

Jane A. Russell

Local 571 President

Summer Was Super (Busy)



Welch Golf Outing

Representative Chris Welch at his annual golf outing with Proviso PSRP Council members (l-r): Robin Hancock, Kyra Lopez, Angela Higgins and Lee Stephens. WSTU President Jane Russell is also pictured next to Welch.

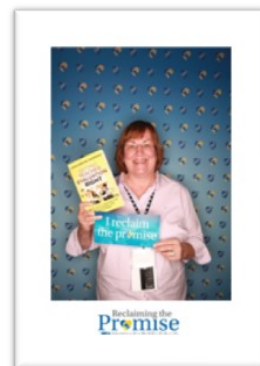


Backpacks

Local 571 retirees Marge Wunschel and Julie Phillips (in green shirts) joined IFT Professional Issues Department retiree, Carlene Lutz, at the DuPage Back-to-School Fair where they along with members of the North Central IL Labor Council, distributed several thousand back packs filled with school supplies to students who eagerly await the first day of school .

AFT TEACH 2013

Robin Rogers, pictured right (Elmhurst Teachers), fully endorsed AFT's Reclaiming the Promise—Uniting for Public Schools. Robin, along with Katy Padberg (Elmhurst Teachers), Mona Johnson (Proviso Teachers), Bonnie Saracco (WSTU Professional Development Coordinator) and Jane Russell (WSTU President) joined several thousand AFT members in hot and steamy Washington, DC at the 2013 AFT TEACH conference in July.



DuPage Democrats Golf Outing

Local 571 was well represented at the end of June in the annual outing at St. Andrews Golf and Country Club in West Chicago. The golf foursome was (l-r): Fran Petterson, Alice Kautsky, Kamille Krupka and Sandy Erickson
Photograph by Dawnn Basaraba



Star in the Classroom

Karen Sasseti, Proviso West H.S. teacher and Proviso Teachers Council member, received the Illinois Council for Economic Education 2012 Star in the Classroom award. The Stars in the Classroom award recognizes teachers each year who have done an outstanding job of bringing Econ Illinois' signature economic education programs into their classrooms to benefit their students. The teachers and their students have been winners in our Economics Poster Contest, The Stock Market Game program, Personal Finance Challenge or Economics Challenge in the past academic years. They represent schools from around the state.



Yes, Charlotte Danielson is a Real Person

by Bonnie Saracco



Charlotte Danielson began her presentation “Teacher Evaluation Meets the Common Core State Standards” at AFT Teach 2013 by pointing out that “People don’t know that I am a person, they think I’m a noun, as in ‘We do Danielson’ or, even worse, a verb, as in ‘I’ve been Danielsoned.’”

Danielson said that teacher evaluation is necessary for accountability in all schools because public schools take public tax dollars and private schools take money directly. But she stressed that the more important purpose of teacher evaluation is teacher improvement because teaching is so hard that it is never perfect. She called teaching “a thinking person’s job. It is intense intellectual work.” Therefore teacher evaluation should be a tool to “move the curve, helping to make adequate teachers good and good teachers great.”

Unfortunately, teacher evaluation has too often been conducted in a holistic and subjective manner in which teachers were passive participants. The lack of a validated instrument with clear definitions of practice has resulted in a Lake

Wobegon effect, with almost all teachers labeled as above average without objective criteria or useful feedback for improvement.

But now, due to *Race To The Top*, most states have laws that necessitate taking teacher evaluation more seriously. Danielson’s *Framework for Teaching*, which has been updated for increased inter-rater reliability and the Common Core State Standards, is today’s most prevalent evaluation tool.

Danielson said that the identification of effective teaching must be based not only on teacher practices, but also teacher accomplishments, that is, on how well students learn.

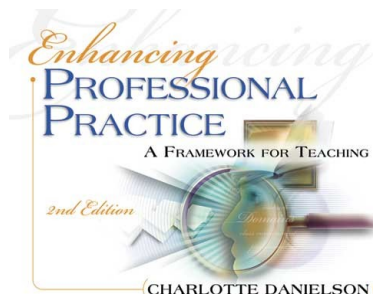
The most important question about measuring teacher accomplishments is what counts as evidence of student learning. Danielson stressed that standardized tests are “very invalid” as evidence of learning because the “x” is too small, scores fluctuate from year to year, and there is a huge problem with attribution because it is impossible to know who is actually responsible for the growth or lack of growth. She believes that the best evidence of growth is that which is “closest to the ground”, such as student writing samples.

Danielson believes that teachers need to have the opportunity to be active participants in their evaluations. Both teacher and evaluator

should have input into which Levels of Performance are accurate. The evaluator should ask, “Did I get this right?” A trusting professional conversation is crucial because the improvement of teaching is a reflective process, and fear shuts it down.

Valid teacher evaluation is very time-consuming. In Danielson’s words, “There is a huge capacity gap”. She said that it is not practical to do more than a portion of the *Danielson Framework for Teaching* for any evaluation.

Local 571 can help teachers with the challenge of meeting the criteria of the *Danielson Framework For Teaching*. Our professional development courses have consistently been called helpful and enjoyable by our participants, and have been updated based on the *Danielson Framework for Teaching* and the Common Core State Standards. The classes are specifically designed to support teachers’ ability to meet Danielson’s criteria in the domains of Planning and Preparation, The Classroom Environment, Professional Responsibilities, and Instruction.



Teachers and Support Staff Continue their Professional Development

How will you grow?



The month of June at West Suburban Teachers Union in Westmont saw local members participating in professional development classes or a workshop. Two teachers from the Peoria Federation of Teachers, Local

780, shared their work on the teacher evaluation plan that includes student growth measures. Teacher leaders from both West Suburban Teachers Union and South Suburban Teachers Union, Local 943, spent two days reviewing the Peoria Plan which uses an adapted Danielson Model framework as a basis for their evaluation system. Bryan Devine and Lana Myers, Local 780, also discussed the importance of the labor/management collaboration in developing their system, the steps they took to build their model, and how they educated their members on the evaluation system. Overwhelmingly, all present agreed there is much work to be done in developing and implementing a fair and effective evaluation system in their districts.

More than 30 Local 571 members participated in four professional development classes taught by AFT trained instructors who are members of WSTU.

Maureen Kaufman, Local 571 Professional Development Instructor and 571 retired member, taught two successful classes, *Managing Anti-Social Behavior* and *Instructional Strategies That Work for All Disciplines*. Bonnie Saracco, 571 retired member and Local Professional Development Coordinator, lead participants through *Beginning Reading Instruction*. *Thinking Mathematics: Journey to Algebra* had Nancy Bensfield, Elmhurst Council mathematics teacher and professional development instructor, working with participants to enhance their students' skills and abilities in algebra. All courses have objectives tied to the Common Core State Standards as well as helping to meet the domains in the Danielson Framework.

Participants earned 30 CPDU's and for an additional fee, two semester hours of credit from either Prairie State College or Governor's State University. Watch this newsletter for additional professional development classes to be offered in winter, 2014.



Front row(l-r): Mary Lou Wyderski (Indian Springs Teachers), Mary Waitas (Cicero Teachers), Dennis Ganta (Cicero Teachers), Karen Cosentino (Cicero Teachers)

Back row(l-r): Jerilyn Krsek (Argo-Summit), Kristen Rea(Cicero Teachers), Laurie Giblin(Elmhurst Teachers) and instructor Maureen Kaufman



Front row (l-r): Nancy LaRocque(Indian Springs Teachers), Mary Lou Wyderski (Indian Springs Teachers), Elsa Martinez(Cicero Teachers), Don Abernathy(Proviso Teachers), Katie Crnovich(Cicero Teachers) and instructor, Nancy Bensfield.

Back row(l-r): Rita Heneghan (Cicero Teachers), Mary Krejca(Indian Springs Teachers), Laurie Giblin(Elmhurst Teachers), Dennis Ganta (Cicero Teachers), Joyce Brown (Proviso PSRP), Crystal Lizon(Cicero Teachers), Ethan Cooke (Proviso Teachers), Julie McShane(Lyons), instructor Maureen Kaufman



Front row(l-r): Judith Lee(Franklin Park Teachers), Martha Tena(Cicero Teachers), Imelda Mendez(Cicero Teachers), Luz Munoz(Cicero Teachers), Julie Weber(Cicero Teachers)

Back row(l-r): Kathleen Lustgarten(Franklin Park Teachers), Nicolette Cacciatore(Cicero Teachers), Ricardo Munoz(Cicero Teachers), Julie McShane (Lyons), Joyce Brown(Proviso PSRP), Instructor Bonnie Saracco, Elodia Estrada (Cicero Teachers)

A Hearty Congratulations Goes to the Winners!



AFT Robert G. Porter Scholarship

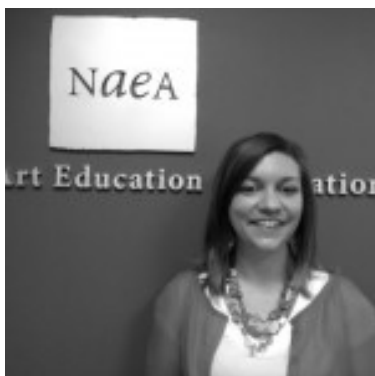
In April, Julia Cuscaden received one of WSTU's Mary Wheeler scholarships. Julia's mother is a teacher in DuPage High School Dist. 88 and a Dist. 88 Council member. In July, Julia received AFT's Robert G. Porter scholarship which was announced at the AFT TEACH conference in Washington, DC. The Porter scholarship award of \$8,000 is presented to four outstanding high school seniors who are children of AFT members. The scholarship winner must show exemplary service to their community and plan to pursue a career in labor, education, health or government service. Besides her academic ex-

cellence, Julia is involved in the Art and Film Clubs at Trinity High School as well as a volunteer for the St. Paul Church after-school child care program, the Oak Park Animal League and a hospital kitchen. Julia is a National Honor Society member and was an active peer tutor for other students in her school.

The Robert G. Porter Scholars Program is named in honor of the late AFT secretary-treasurer, who served for more than 30 years. Porter was known for his commitment to improving the quality of education and public service.



Alice Kautsky, Chris Schulz, Julia Cuscaden, parents Lisa and Bruce and Jane Russell



Illinois Art Education Association Award

Melissa Righter received the 2013 Early Professional Illinois Art Education Association Award (IAEA) which recognizes art educators who are dedicated to their students and committed to the art education profession. Melissa, a teacher at Cicero District 99 Warren Park School is also a member of Cicero Council of Local 571. She has been teaching art in the district for two years.

AFT TEACH Conference Prize

It pays to stay until the end. At least it did for Katy Padberg, Elmhurst Teachers Council President. Katy was at the closing brunch for the AFT TEACH conference held July 22-24, 2013 in Washington, DC. She participated in the TEACH Bingo Card game, completing all of the spaces before turning in her game card. Katy won the big prize; a mobile Apple iPad learning lab for her school which included ten iPads of her choosing. ABCmouse.com co-sponsored this conference prize.



It's Our Anniversary!

Please come to the...



West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571

75th Anniversary Celebration

September 27, 2013

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Lucky Strike Lanes—100 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard, IL 60148

Join us for food (unlimited assorted appetizers and pizza), unlimited soft drinks, two glasses of beer or wine, games, optional bowling competition** (bowling, shoes, and balls included), raffles, and more ... **all for just \$15.** Cash bar will also be available.

See your Council President or Building Rep. for tickets,
or contact Judy Jennings at the Local 571 office at 630-468-4098 or jjennings@ift-aft.org.
(Retirees must send in their checks along with the form printed below to Local 571 by 9/16/13.

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!

RSVPs and payments are due by September 16, 2013.

****WE NEED YOUR COUNCIL!**

to participate in the "571 Strikers Bowling Tournament"

How it works:

We have 24 Councils in 571 and 24 team openings. Perfect! Every Council is encouraged to be represented by a team of five or six members. There will be two tournaments: The first tournament will be at 4:45 (12 teams will play), and the second tournament will be at 5:45 (12 teams will play). Prizes will be awarded.

How to enter:

Please fill out the form below and give it to your Council President when you purchase your ticket to the 571 75th Anniversary Celebration (\$15). (Retirees must mail their checks and forms to 571.) All bowling costs are included in the \$15 ticket price.

If your Council has more than six members interested, please sign up anyway. You will be assigned to a team that needs members. You will be notified of your time, team, and lane number prior to September 27.

Please detach and give to your Council President along with your \$15 check by September 16. Retirees must mail the check and form to Local 571. (Local 571, P. O. Box 390, Westmont, IL 60559-0390)

Name _____ Council _____

- ☐ Yes! I want to bowl in the "571 Strikers Bowling Tournament." Check preferable start time. (We will try to accommodate.) _____ 4:45 _____ 5:45
- ☐ I do not want to participate in the bowling tournament, however I can still have a good time! Other activities will include: "open bowling" from 4:00 to 4:45 and 6:30 to 7:00, pool tables, "bags," and trivia!



Discounted Six Flags Great America Tickets

Through Fright Fest, members of Local 571 can purchase Great America any day tickets online at substantial savings. The tickets are \$40 each (includes tax) for everyone age 3 and older. There is a processing fee per order. To get your tickets, go to www.sixflags.com/partnerlogin. The user name is wstuGM, and the password is SixFlags6. Both are case sensitive.

What's Missing from the
Union Messenger?
Email the Editor:
Kyra_Lopez@hotmail.com



We're on the Web!!!
www.wstu571.org

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