

Union Messenger

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU September Calendar

9/5-Deadline for registration for 571 Bldg. Rep. Workshop
 9/11-571 Bldg. Rep. Workshop Westmont- 5 p.m.
 9/12-571 Deadline for submission of names for 571 Legislative Breakfast
 9/15-571 EB Mtg.-Westmont-6:30 p.m.
 9/26-Deadline for registration for 571 Legal Limits for New Teachers Wkshp.
 9/27-571 Legislative Breakfast-Double Tree Hotel-Oakbrook

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



President's Report

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To Vote or Not to Vote, That is the Question

by Jane Russell

Apologies to William Shakespeare for changing the opening words of the famous soliloquy in the play *Hamlet*. Hamlet was actually contemplating death and suicide. I would never suggest that we acknowledge as Hamlet did, the unfairness of life. However, by not voting in the November election, there could be radical changes in our jobs as education workers. Make the decision now to vote for the right candidate(s) and referenda.

First, register to vote. The law, PA 98-115, has made registration and voting easier than ever. Register online by going to <https://ova.elections.il.gov>. Applicants may request any of four languages—English, Spanish, Chinese or Hindi. In order to do the online registration, you must have an Illinois Driver's License or state Identification card. Additionally, there is a verification box on the application which must be checked to verify that the person completing the application is you. Then a request will be made by the Secretary of State for the applicant's signature. By providing a valid e-mail address, an email will be sent confirming receipt of the application.

Voting opportunities have increased. Absentee/mail-in ballots requests can now be made 90 days before the election (previously 40 days). Early voting has been expanded to the Sunday before the general election on November 4, 2014. If someone you know attends a university, the bill requires election authorities to provide in-person absentee voting. Finally, the grace period for registration and voting is extended through Election Day

at permanent Early Voting Locations. This effectively creates Election Day registration and voting in the general election.

There are five referenda on the November 4 ballot. An important non-binding referendum question asks "Shall the minimum wage in Illinois for adults over the age of 18 be raised to \$10/hour by January 1, 2015?" A "yes" vote would send a message to the legislature for them to help minimum wage workers and their families improve their quality of life.

Before voting, consider the choices. Be informed. The candidates for governor have very different views about education funding, public schools, collective bargaining and the minimum wage. Vote for the candidate who supports investing in public schools and services, that would provide a budget that avoids cuts to public education, and who believes teachers and public employees have a right to collectively bargain and strike. Have the conversations and encourage your family members and friends to vote too. How will you choose to answer the question? Choose to vote. Your education job depends on it.

In unity,

Jane A. Russell

Local 571 President

Ranking the Quality of Teacher Preparation Programs

by Bonnie Saracco

Education is about to be hit by another questionable accountability scheme, this time with teacher preparation programs as its target.

The demographics of United States teachers is changing, with many new teachers replacing retiring veteran teachers. Unfortunately, half of these new teachers leave the profession within the first five years. They cite their lack of effective preparation as one of the main causes of their difficulties. A 2012 AFT survey of new teachers found that two-thirds of them feel unprepared. They give the lowest marks to their training in the most crucial areas of discipline, time management, and lesson preparation. Although they report some good things about their training, they do not feel ready for the real world. And new teachers from alternative licensure programs feel least prepared of all.

Randi Weingarten has said, “We must do away with a common rite of passage, whereby newly minted teachers are tossed the keys to their classroom, expected to figure things out, and left to see if they (and their students) sink or swim.”

We need objective and well-informed evaluation and improvement of teacher preparation programs, and we already know the criteria to use. Effective programs include rigorous standards, courses built around a clearly-articulated research base, development of the skills that matter most in the classroom, intensive clinical experiences throughout the program, and sustained work with excellent teachers as mentors. But instead of requiring and supporting these components, the federal government has come up with a four-tier rating system that makes no sense.

At the AFT Pre-Convention Network Conference last summer, Steve Wojcikiewicz of the AFT staff out-

lined this scheme in his presentation, “Teacher Preparation in an Era of Reform.”

An alphabet soup of organizations (NRC, AFT, NCATE, CCSSO, CAEP, NCTQ, AACTE, NEA, and others) has produced reports on this subject. We have a lot of good information. But instead of using it, Arne Duncan has chosen to fuel the fire for a punitive approach by calling teacher preparation in the United States “broken”.



The Department of Education has adopted an all-too-familiar test and punish model of the evaluation of these programs. Instead of being based on well-researched criteria, it will be based on the test scores of the students of the graduates of

the programs, employment data, and graduate and employer surveys. And, for the first time, alternative preparation programs such as Teach for America will be included.

The reason that all of this matters is that federal Teacher Quality Program Grants will be based on these rankings.

The unfair outcomes of this scheme are obvious. Even though we know that the teacher effect on Value-Added scores is about 10%, programs that prepare their graduates to teach children living in poverty, English language learners, and students with special needs will be punished. And, by definition, alternative programs such as Teach for America will rate 100% in employment because automatic placement is part of the deal. Also, graduate and employer surveys are wildly subjective.

It is not too great a leap to believe that this is all part of the “reform” push to deregulate entry pathways and disorganize public education. New teachers and their students deserve better.

Professional Development Continues in the Summer



L->R: Marge Wunschel (Cicero Retiree), Instructor Maureen Kaufman, Laura Hanrahan (Elmhurst Teachers), Colleen Niemeyer, (Elmhurst Teachers)



Participants in Advancing CCSS Implementation prepare to present their research findings.

Over 30 Local 571 members participated in three 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 and Jane Russell, WSTU President, taught a single day workshop on Advancing Success of Common Core Implementation for English/Language Arts and Mathematics for Teachers. 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 Professional Development hours 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, 2015.



Front L->R: Katie Nichols (Cicero Teachers), Wendy Harris (Lyons), Bobbie Kraft (At-large), Instructor Maureen Kaufman

Standing L->R: Jaime Martinez (Cicero Teachers), Helene Pawelek (Elmhurst PSRP), Lorraine Johnson (PAEC), Mary Ann Baudler (Cicero), Viktoria Vizek (Riverside), Susan Scaggs (Riverside), Mary Rozos-Kladis (Riverside), David Daigle (Cicero Teachers)

571 Councils and Communications Wins!



Andrew Bendelow receives the AFT Communications awards from AFT Executive Vice-President, Francine Lawrence

The AFT Pride of the Union Membership Award was presented to twenty-two 571 councils as well as the local at the July 2014 AFT Convention in Los Angeles, CA. There are three ways to qualify, but most councils have a membership level of 90 percent or above. Local 571 qualified because there was an increase of over 100 members in the last two years. Thanks for your hard work and support. Our union is stronger because of your efforts. Congratulations!

At the AFT Communications Network awards reception, Andrew Bendelow, 571 Website Administrator, collected two awards won by Local 571 members, at the AFTCN awards banquet.

Best Profile, 1st Place, "The Morton 65," October 2013 *Union Messenger*, authored by Tom White, Retiree from Morton Council

Best Layout, 2nd Place, August 2013 *Union Messenger*, by Kyra Lopez, Editor

AFTCN contest judges described the communications work among

AFT affiliates to be outstanding. Congratulations to the winners.



AFT President Randi Weingarten with Local 571 AFT Convention delegates who received the Pride of the Union Award at the reception.

L-R: Laura Hosteny (Argo-Summit Council President), Mona Johnson (Proviso Teachers Council President), Alice Kautsky (Local 571 Vice-president), Randi Weingarten, Cathy Pope (Rosemont Council President), Bonnie Saracco (Local 571 Legislative Comm. Chair)



AFT Convention 2014 Had Lots of “Stars”



Nicole Gamez and Mary Ann Putyra making their promise to “Reclaim and empower education.”

The sun shone brightly nearly all of the days from July 11-14, 2014, as nearly 3,000 delegates attended the AFT Convention at the Los Angeles Convention Center with the theme “Reclaiming the Promise.” There were plenty of speakers, business conducted, resolutions debated and passed, committee meetings, community events, and even some fun. Delegates could participate in an AFT delegate reception-- AFT Idol, an IFT and CTU reception in the LA Library courtyard, several other receptions, some sightseeing and maybe even a major league baseball game. Delegates came away inspired and with a renewed sense of union.

Participants reacted to the convention in many ways. These are just some of the thoughts of the delegates.

Patricia Gill comments: I was greatly inspired by Ilyse Hogue, speaker at the AFT Women’s Rights Breakfast. Ilyse is president of NARAL Pro-Choice America. Ms. Hogue passionately spoke about the “Hobby Lobby” decision and the long term consequences of the court decision. Hogue stated “It is not a coincidence that they started with women to dismantle our rights.” She also made me think about how important my vote is when it is time to elect judges.

Julie McShane was impressed by California Governor Jerry Brown who welcomed delegates. “If we can’t pay for students to receive a high quality education, then we need to invest in fully funding public education.” Brown also went on to discuss California’s stance on no double testing and how raising taxes helped pay for education with the adoption of Proposition 30. The governor believes that education is not like a business saying “The classroom is not a factory floor. It’s the encounter of minds, feelings, personalities, and faith and vision.”

Retiree Phyllis Meade said “she enjoyed the convention and had a chance to talk with other retirees from different states and learned that many of them are having their pensions under attack just like we are in Illinois.”

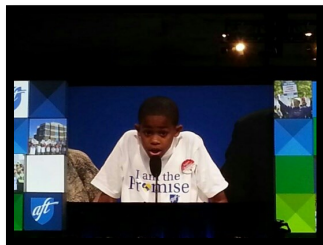
Nicole Gamez had several favorite quotes from the convention floor as she felt it was a rewarding and inspiring 5 days in L.A. “If you want to go quickly, go alone; but if you want to go far, go TOGETHER!” “Being in a union means you’re never alone.” “NOT TO SPEAK is to speak.” “Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.” (Sign hanging in Einstein’s office at Princeton displayed at the Los Angeles Convention Center). “It’s all about ORDINARY people working together to do the EXTRAORDINARY. Yes, WE can!”

Retiree Joy Joyce summed up the convention with several thoughts connected by the title, “Solidarity comes ‘Round Again.”

- Binding arbitration? Really. What is that?
- District 88 teachers, determined to secure it in 1974, taught me what solidarity felt like.
- Lech Walesa in 1980 showed me (and the world) what Polish shipyard workers in Gdansk could accomplish through Solidarność (solidarity).
- United We Stand read the t-shirts of teachers and public workers, with whom I circled Wisconsin’s state capitol in 2011, internalizing that this is what democracy looks like.
- At the recent Los Angeles convention a delegate stood and said, “Do not call me a charter school teacher; call me a teacher at a charter.” We are solidly linked.
- “Reclaiming the Promise” bound school professionals on all levels with nurses, parents, immigrants, students, and more and showed the extent of American Federation of Teachers’ solidarity.

I left having solidified my understanding of the issues on which we need to stand together in promoting dignity and respect through public service.

AFT Convention 2014 Had Lots of "Stars" contd.



Asean Johnson, a Chicago Public School student, rallied the convention delegates, "Education is alright, that is why we have to fight."



Above: "Selfies" of Cicero council delegates Nicole Gamez, Mary Ann Putura, Elodia Estrada, and Marlene Nakamura with AFT President Randi Weingarten.



WSTU Local 571 Convention delegates listed below.

The following West Suburban Teachers Union members represented Local 571 as delegates:

Jane Russell
Alice Kautsky
Cathleen Pope
Sandra Erickson
Christine Schulz
Miriam Anleu
Yuri Anleu
Robert Bartlett
Andrew Bendelow
Esmeralda Bonk
Angela Caravetta
Rachel Esposito
Elodia Estrada
Nicole Gamez
Patricia Gill

Eilene Grandau
Laura Hosteny
Rose Janas
Mona Johnson
Carol Jones
Joy Joyce
Mark Karadimos
Beatriz Maa
Ramon Maa
Phyllis Meade
Arnavaz Mistry-Mujthaba
Julie McShane
Marlene Nakamura
Marianne O'Keefe
Patricia Ortiz

Kathrine Padberg
Mary Ann Putyra
Edward Raddatz
Maria Rivera
Bonnie Saracco
Andrea Schramm
Tom Smith
Lee Stephens
Sharon Stone
Gary Tolman
Olga Vazquez
Marcia Watson
Margaret Wunschel
Mary Ellen Nawara
Tina Caruso



1.6 million strong as our strength is seeing the best in ourselves during the WORST of times...United we stand to reclaim the promise of public education support and reform



WSTU President Jane Russell surrounded by 571 Convention Delegates after receiving the AFT's Women's Right's Committee, Living the Legacy Award, for 40 years of service to the union movement. Retiree Dee Pospishil also received the award for 30 years of service. (not pictured)

IFT and Local 571 Scholarship Winners



Proud parents Catherine and Mark Koch with Mary Margaret and 571 President Jane Russell



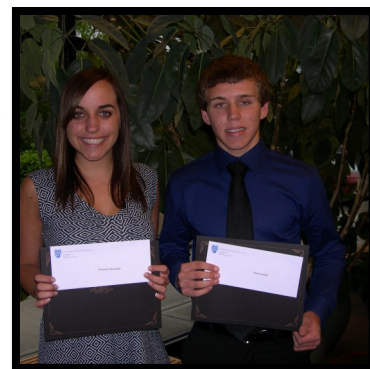
Mother Laura and Porter scholarship winner Megan Jankovec

Megan Jankovec, whose mother is Laura Jankovec (Elmhurst PSRP), received the IFT Robert G. Porter scholarship this summer just after graduating from York High School. Her excellent grades, school activities, volunteerism and community work won over the judges. Megan begins her essay, "Union members aren't just ordinary people; they are innovators. They have transformed not only the working

environment but also their communities. Teachers, nurses, sanitation workers, firefighters and many more work together to benefit the community; without them life truly wouldn't be the same."

Megan completes her essay with, "From the sanitation worker's protests, to specific events, to teachers bargaining for smaller class size and nurses fighting for better patient care, community members have much to be thankful for on the behalf of union members."

The Robert G. Porter scholarship award is for \$6,000 over four years. The scholarship is presented annually as a fitting tribute to Illinois native Porter, who served as secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers. Three Local 571 Mary Wheeler Scholarship winners were presented their awards at the May 19, 2014 Local 571 House of Representatives meeting.



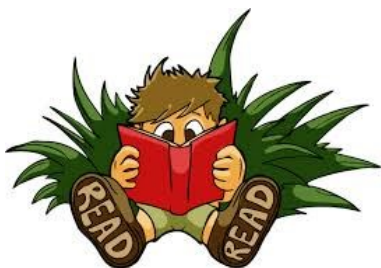
Mary Wheeler scholarship winners Melisa McLean and Mark Lundine happily receive their certificates and checks.

- Mary Margaret Koch graduated from York Community High School. Her mother is Catherine Koch, a teacher at Madison School in Elmhurst Community District 205.
- Mark Lundine is a graduate of Willowbrook High School. His mother, Kristine Lundine, is a teacher at York High School in Elmhurst.
- Melissa McLean is a graduate of Downers Grove South High School. Her father is Kevin McLean, a teacher at Morton West High School.

A Workshop for Local Leaders—Thursday, September 11, 2014

Persuasive communication is one of the most effective tools we have to build local power. At this year's Local 571 Building Rep. Workshop Aviva Bowen and Kenzo Shibata from the IFT Department of Communications will discuss how to craft a successful message and employ different tactics - like social media - to reach and move your audience from lack of awareness to action. The workshop will also provide an update on this fall's political campaigns alongside a call to action. The registration deadline is September 5, 2014. Please contact Judy Jennings by phone at 630-468-4098 or by e-mail at jjennings@ift-aft.org if you are interested in attending.

Reading is First at Sherlock School



Cicero teacher, Cecilia Navata, a kindergarten transitional teacher, was a lucky winner at the IFT Convention in October 2013 in Rosemont. AFT's First Book

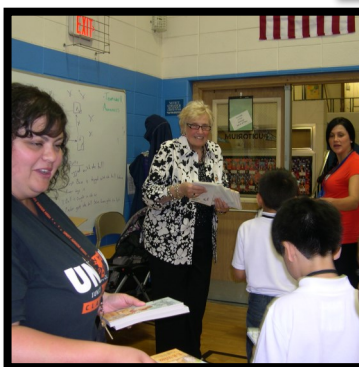
held a raffle to give away books in both English and Spanish to every student in a school. Cecelia shared all of the books she won with the students at Sherlock Elementary School at the end of the year assembly on June 6, 2014. Students, grades K-3, excitedly picked up their books to add to their home libraries. Helping to distribute books were Local 571 President Jane Russell, Alice Kautsky, 571 Vice-president, Cicero Council President, Rachel Esposito and Cecilia.

First Book provides books to students at Title I eligible schools. The program serves at least 70% students from low income families. For more information about First Book and to sign up for your class/school to obtain free books, register at www.firstbook.org/AFT.



Left: Cecilia Navata and Alice Kautsky distribute *Are You My Mother?* to waiting students.

Right: One young student could not wait to read his new book.



Left: Cicero council President Rachel Esposito and Alice Kautsky encourage students to have fun reading their new books.

Announcing Local 571's Ninth Legislative Breakfast

Join us for the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 Ninth Legislative Breakfast at the Double Tree Hotel in Oak Brook on Saturday, September 27, 2014.

- Legislators from federal, state, and local offices are invited.
- A plated breakfast will be served.
- A gift-card raffle will take place. (Proceeds will go to WSTU scholarships and COPE.)
- Interested individuals should contact their council presidents by September 10 in order to attend. Seating is limited.



Mark Your Calendars for the Legal Limits for New Teachers and Teachers' Aides Seminar



Members who are teachers' aides and non-tenured teachers, especially first- and second-year teachers, are invited to attend the Legal Limits for New Teachers and Teachers' Aides Seminar sponsored by the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 on October 2, 2014, at our conference center in Westmont. An IFT attorney and a School Board attorney 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. The registration deadline is September 26. Please contact Judy Jennings by phone at 630-468-4098 or by e-mail at jjennings@ift-aft.org if you are interested in attending.

Reduced Admission Movie Tickets FOR UNION MEMBERS ONLY

WHAT: Reduced Admission Movie Tickets



\$8.00 - AMC Theaters
(No restrictions apply.)

New Price

\$8.00 - Marcus Theaters
No restrictions apply. Receive a \$3.00 coupon for concession-stand items for every two tickets purchased.)

WHERE: West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571

HOW: Obtain an order form from the WSTU, Local 571 website (www.wstu571.org), send the completed form along with our payment to Local 571, and receive your tickets by mail within two weeks.

NOTE: A \$2.00 service charge is added to the total of every order. Since these tickets never expire, members usually purchase several at one time.

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Credit approval and new two-year service agreement required. Offer cannot be combined with any other discounts. Other conditions and restrictions apply, visit UnionPlus.org/ATT for details.

What's Missing from the
Union Messenger?
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We're on the Web!!!
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