

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU April Calendar

4/18—571 EB Mtg. - Westmont - 5:30 p.m.
 4/18—571 HOR Mtg. - Westmont - 6:45 p.m.
 4/18—571 Area Trustees election ballots ready for pickup
 4/18—IFT Convention delegate ballots ready for pickup
 4/18—571 proposed budget presented to HOR
 4/22—Deadline for reservations for 571 TRS Seminar
 4/23-24—IFT ULI -Westmont
 4/28—TRS Seminar - Westmont - 4:30 p.m.

Union Messenger

Jane Russell, President
 Katy Padberg, Vice President
 Sandra Erickson, Treasurer
 Cathleen Pope, Secretary
 Jonathan Pazol, Financial Secretary
 Brett Blair, Legal Defense Secretary
 Julie McShane, COPE/PAC 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
 Robin Hancock,
 571 Union Messenger Editor



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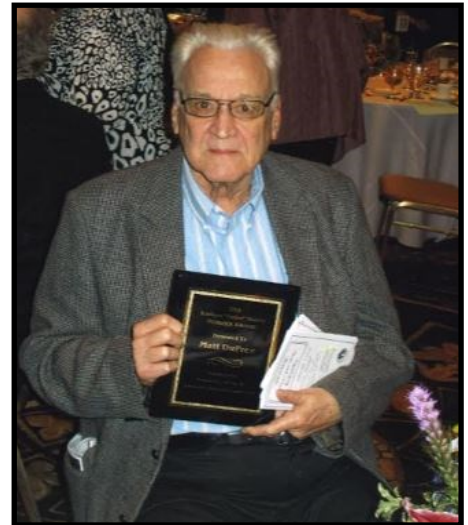
About a Long-Time Local 571 Union Activist Matt DuPree

Matt DuPree was an active member of the AFT, IFT and Local 571. He was recognized in the Local as a tireless advocate for his students, our members, for all union workers. Matt passed away at the age of 84 on January 22, 2016. He leaves behind his wife, Grace, 5 children and 10 grandchildren.

Matt served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, received a BA from Calvin College and MA from Columbia University. Matt taught for 39 years, the last 31 years at both Addison Trail and Willowbrook High Schools in DuPage District 88. Every year during Matt's last decade at Addison Trail the graduating seniors picked him as their favorite social studies teacher.

From 1980 until 2003, Matt served as a Director of Field Services and later as a Staff Coordinator for West Suburban Teachers Union. During this time, he negotiated more than 40 contracts in 14 school districts.

From 2008-2010, Matt served as the president of Local 571's Retiree Council. He was an IFT Vice-President from 1978 until 2005. Matt chaired several committees especially the Legislative, for which he was honored with the *Excellence in Legislative Leadership* award.



Matt's involvement with the labor unions was extensive. Not only was he a union member for most of his life, but he also served as both treasurer and president of the DuPage County Federation of Labor.

Cathy Pope, WSTU Local 571 Secretary and President of Rosemont Council writes the following.

The members of Local 571 will miss Matt DuPree for his commitment, loyalty, dedication and knowledge. We will miss his input at meetings, his leadership at conventions and his "Fence Post" commentaries. When we walk the picket lines of life, we will take each step and recall the inspiration that Matt has given us, who has led us in so many ways. In the song, "Solidarity Forever," we sing "the Union makes us strong." Thank you, Matt DuPree, for making us strong and always reminding us, "You are the U in Union." You will be missed.

Every Student Succeeds Act—A New Day In Public Education

by Jane Russell

While not perfect, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is now law, signed by the president in December, 2015. **What effect will ESSA have in our classrooms?** At the state level, states will be re-



sponsible for taking the lead for accountability, resources, interventions and teacher evaluation systems. This gives an opportunity for teachers to gain the latitude to meet our students' needs rather than focusing on tests. For the classroom teacher, the ESSA provisions show that the voices of educators were heard.

At both the state and local levels, there will now be an opportunity to create systems to include the following:

- ◆ Consideration of factors such as resources, working conditions and teacher voice
- ◆ Teacher evaluation will not be used to sort and punish, but rather growth and strengthening the profession.
- ◆ Assessments will be used to help schools inform instruction.
- ◆ Goals and objectives can be collaboratively established that align to students' needs.

Under ESSA, testing remains the same, but the consequences are different and greatly diminished. Students are tested annually in reading or language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8 and once in grades 9-12. Science is tested annually in grade spans: 3-5, 6-9 and 10-12. The elementary school assessment must be the same for all public school students statewide. A nationally recognized assessment may also be offered at the high school level (ACT or SAT, for example). There is also a limit on the amount of time students spend on assessments for each grade.

Teacher evaluation is no longer federally mandated. States will develop and implement systems as long as there is cooperation with stakeholders including teachers and paraprofessionals. No federal funding like Race to the Top will be attached to federally mandated test-based teacher evaluations. Recall that in Illinois, we work under

the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA), Public Act 96-0861. Perhaps now there may be a window of opportunity to effect change in PERA.

There will be resources available to states and school districts to implement activities to support teachers, paraprofessionals, principals and other educators. There will be funds available for professional development, professional growth and leadership opportunities. ESSA includes that states and districts have an ability to use Title II funds to assess and evaluate teachers' working conditions and stress levels.



Licensure requirements continue for paraprofessionals who are also included in the list of stakeholders to be consulted in development of district Title II plans. **There is also language about the state forming pathways for paraprofessionals to earn teacher certification.**

Although the ESSA base year for implementation is 2016-17, the new state accountability system that would identify the lowest performing schools begins in 2017-18. Reshaping Illinois Education will not happen overnight. We will no longer be burdened by federal prescriptions for accountability, interventions for struggling schools and specific requirements for teacher evaluation. There is now a path for Illinois to reset these education systems. Let's make sure this gets done.

In unity,

Jane A. Russell

Local 571 President

Cathy's Corner

Selected books about education and labor will be reviewed each month by various members. Cathy Pope, Rosemont Council President and Local 571 Secretary, would like your suggestions on what education/labor books you might be reading and want to share with others. Please send your suggestions to 571editor@gmail.com.

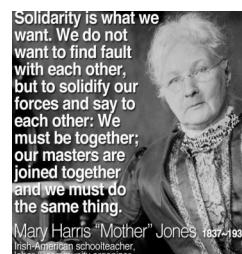


Mother Jones

by Elliott J. Gorn



March is Women's History month. And what better time to read about a woman who was instrumental in shaping the modern American labor movement. *Mother Jones*, written by Elliott J. Gorn, was an Irish immigrant who had survived famine, fire, plague, hard labor and unspeakable loss. Mother Jones was known as "the most dangerous woman in America" in the early twentieth century. She was an agitator and an organizer. She was a militant matriarch uniting the family of labor through her words and her raw physical courage. Elliott Gorn assures us that she is not forgotten. One cannot easily forget someone who once said, "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living!"



Read *Mother Jones* by Elliott J. Gorn for information and inspiration.

How to Improve Labor Education in the United States by Bonnie Saracco

Much of the rhetoric swirling around the budget crisis in Illinois and the presidential primaries shows that many people have little or no understanding of unions and labor history. Because high school textbooks are still the major source of labor education in the United States, AFT's Shanker Institute surveyed our four leading high school history textbooks. It found many gaps and inaccuracies in their coverage of labor history. The resulting report, *American Labor in U.S. History Textbooks*, concluded with specific recommendations for improvement.

History textbooks should accurately present organizing as a democratic process, protected by both the freedom of assembly provision of the First Amendment and by federal labor law. When labor and management conflicts are presented, the whole story should be told, including a long history of dangerous working conditions in sweatshops, child labor, and ruthless suppression by business owners of the right to organize. Also, our legislative and judicial institutions have often been biased against labor, leaving protests and strikes as the only viable responses.

The Shanker report did not suggest that the textbooks omit the shortcomings of unions or to write about them in an inaccurately positive way, but rather to present a balanced view. Strikes, while recognized as the implementation of a basic human right, are very rare. Ninety-eight percent of labor contracts are settled without a strike. But strikes are highly-publicized, which leads to a slanted and incomplete understanding of labor activities.

The textbooks contain heroic life stories of many American leaders in politics, the military, technology, and industry. But few if any labor leaders are given similar treatment. Their stories also need to be told, including the fact that many of them endured prison, injury, or death in their quest for workers' rights.

Also missing is coverage of labor's role in the fight for gender and racial equality and other societal benefits beyond the workplace, as is labor's role in the international fight for democracy and human rights throughout the world. We often hear that union membership in the United States is declining, leading to the common misunderstanding that less workers want to organize. The truth is that outsourcing, offshoring, right to work laws, and anti-union campaigns by employers are all huge contributing factors. It is more important than ever that our students leave high school with an accurate understanding of labor history to take through their lives.



Retiree News

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/5 - Presentation & Luncheon: Ralph Martire - "The Illinois Budget...Changes Needed for Proper Funding"
- 5/4 - Presentation & Luncheon: "Fraud Watch Network Developed by AARP"
- 5/19 - Retirees Council meeting and election of officers
- 5/25 - Luncheon & Show: *Hazel*—Drury Lane Theater Oak Brook

The Illinois Teachers Retirement System (TRS) Seminar

- WHEN:** Thursday, April 28, 2016
4:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
- FOR:** Local 571 members (professional staff) close to retirement
- WHAT:** Light dinner followed by a presentation by a representative of the Illinois Teachers Retirement System
- WHERE:** Robert M. Healey Conference Center
500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, Illinois 60559 (Entrance D or E)
- R.S.V.P.:** If you plan to attend, contact Judy Jennings by April 22 at 630-468-4098 or jjennings@ift-aft.org.



Seating is limited, so call today!



Thursday, March 17—Saint Patrick's Day
Sunday, March 20—Spring Begins

Saint Patrick's day is in honor of the Patron Saint of Ireland, who brought Christianity to the Emerald Isles, as Ireland is known. It is truly a day of celebrating Irish history, ancestry, traditions and customs. Over 34 million Americans are of Irish descent. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland!

Erin Go Bragh is a common Irish term you may hear. It means "Ireland Forever."



Just some of the programs available to AFT Members!

- ✓ AT&T Wireless discounts*
- ✓ College scholarships, and discounts on prep courses and textbooks
- ✓ Theme parks, car rentals and movie ticket discounts
- ✓ Exclusive home mortgage program including hardship assistance
- ✓ The opportunity to apply for an AFT+ Credit Card

*Discount available only to members of qualified AF-CIO member unions. Member must show valid union membership card or other acceptable proof of union membership and be the wireless account holder. Discount applies only to recurring monthly service charge of qualified voice & data plans, not overages and may take up to 2 bills. Discount subject to an agreement between AFT and UnionPlus & additional restrictions apply. See details at www.UnionPlus.org/Phone or visit an AFT store.

**Credit approval required. Terms & Conditions apply. See AFTcard.com for details.

AFT+
Member Benefits

UnionPlus.org/AFTBenefits

What's Missing from the Messenger?



Is there something innovative or exciting happening at your school? If so, we want to hear from you!
Email your news to Robin Hancock at: 571editor@gmail.com

March is National Women's History Month

The National Women's History Month theme for 2016 honors women who have shaped America's history and its future through their public service and government leadership.

National Women's History Month has its roots in a March 8, 1857, protest against low wages and harsh working conditions launched by female garment and textile factory workers in New York City. Although there had been increased concern about the lack of representation of women in history throughout the 20th century, it was not until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History week, the second week in March, coinciding with International Women's Day (March 8). In 1987 National Women's History Week was expanded to a month-long observance. Since then, every year Congress passes a resolution for Women's History Month along with a proclamation from the President.

Did You Know?

Sheila Johnson, a graduate of **Proviso East High School**, co-founded Black Entertainment Television (BET) in 1979. Since 2006, she has served as a global ambassador for CARE, a leading humanitarian organization that seeks to battle global poverty while placing a special emphasis on empowering women. Among other roles, she also sits on the Board of Governors of Parsons The New School for Design in New York. The successful Johnson is currently part-owner of several sports teams including the Washington Capitals (NHL), the Washington Wizards (NBA) and the Washington Mystics (WNBA). With an estimated net worth of \$400 million, she ranks second only to Oprah Winfrey among the wealthiest black females in the United States.

Brenda Barnes, a graduate of **East Leyden High School**, has been listed in *Forbes* list of *The World's 100 Most Powerful Women* since 2004, appearing in the top ten in 2005 and 2006. She is the former president, chairman and chief executive of Sara Lee, and previously was the first female CEO at PepsiCo. Barnes is or has been on the board of directors of Avon Products, Inc., Augustana College, Grocery Manufacturers Association, LucasFilm, Ltd., The New York Times Company, PepsiAmericas, Inc., Sara Lee Corporation, Sears, Roebuck & Co., Staples, Inc. and Kellogg Center for Executive Women at Northwestern University.



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