

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU June/July Calendar

6/17- 571 EB Mtg. - Westmont-5:00p.m.
 7/1-Council election reports due to 571
 7/15-571 EB Mtg.-Westmont 5:00 p.m.
 7/15-Councils' annual financial statements &
 audit reports due to 571
 7/22-24-AFT TEACH- Washington, D.C.

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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What A Finish

by Jane Russell

It appears the 2012-13 school year was especially busy for all. You are to be commended for helping our students to become more successful and at the same time, working to incorporate all of the initiatives being implemented into schools and education. As you prepare for graduations, retirements and the closing of the school year, we continue to be on "high alert" because the Illinois Legislature still has an opportunity to "mess with" our pensions. As I write this, the Senate has passed SB2404 sponsored by Senate President Cullerton, the We Are One Coalition agreed upon bill. The bipartisan vote was 40 YEAS and 16 NAYS. The House Bill Amendment to SB1 sponsored by Speaker Madigan passed the House on May 2 but has not yet been taken up in the Senate. While neither bill is preferable, the proposed House bill will have a much more detrimental effect on both our active and retired members. If you happened to have missed this flurry of activity in the legislature, please go to the IFT website, www.ift-aft.org in the upper right hand corner labeled Pension Watch and get all of the details.

Yesterday I attended a reception at the high school where I taught for nearly 35 years. There were active and retired teachers and support staff, as well as administrators present, many of whom I had worked with during my tenure. I was struck by the fact that I received many "thank you's" for all of the work I had done in order to help secure our pensions. While I greatly appreciate their kind words, I want to be clear that it was in fact not only me, but *they* who had taken the time to reach out and talk to their local legislators. It is our collective

voice that resonates in the Springfield Capitol, not just "a" voice. And that must not stop. We still have more to do before the end of May.

We have heard repeatedly that Illinois funding, especially of our pensions, is in the worst shape ever. The We Are One pension bill that we worked so hard to pass is one of shared sacrifice. Over 700,000 active and retired teachers, nurses, university educators, police, fire fighters and state workers have and will continue to give back to help the state's funding crisis. The dollar amount is staggering, as much as \$45 billion over 30 years. Is it possible that large corporations, companies and businesses that reap the rewards of doing business in Illinois will step up as Illinois workers have done to offer their shared sacrifice in helping to solve the state's fiscal crisis? Sounds fair and equitable, right? We'll see how that goes!

What a start!

We look forward to celebrating with you this fall the 75th anniversary of Local 571. On May 18, 1938, ten teachers with great foresight signed the charter and became Local 571, West Suburban Teachers Union, IFT-AFT/AFL-CIO. We have grown to over 5500+ members who work in the public schools in western Cook and eastern DuPage Counties. The 75th Anniversary Planning Committee is assembled and working to create a memorable experience. Look for your invitation to arrive as the next school year begins.

In unity,

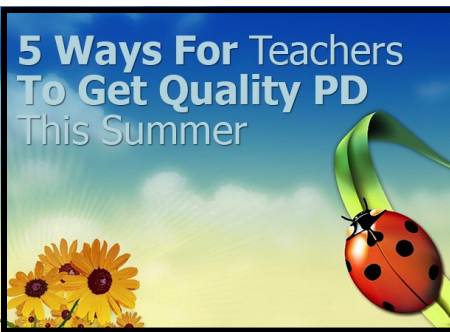
Jane A. Russell

Local 571 President

From the President...



A well-earned summer break is quickly approaching. The Westmont Local 571 office remains open through the summer, although the hours may be different. Please call in advance if you are planning to visit, 630.468.4098. For those who are retiring, we say thanks and wish you wonderful new experiences and the opportunity to remain active in WSTU as a member of the Retiree Council. The officers and staff of West Suburban Teachers Union wish all of our members a restful, refreshing, purposeful, and enjoyable respite from the rigors of educating students. We look forward to continuing our work together.



Need CPDU's or PTP's?

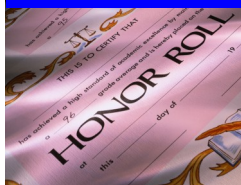
If so, don't forget to register for one or two of the five Local 571 professional development classes being offered this summer at the cost of \$50 each (\$100 for non-members). The \$50 charge includes CPDU's or PTP's, the manuals, refreshments, and lunch every day. In addition to the CPDU's or PTP's, four of the courses offer the option to receive either two graduate credits from Governors State University or two undergraduate credits from Prairie State College for an additional charge. All of the classes will be taught at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center in Westmont, Illinois. The classes will be:

- ✓ **Managing Anti-social Behavior for Support Staff** - (support staff) - 24 PTP's - no option for undergraduate or graduate credits - second week in June - registration deadline: May 24
- ✓ **Beginning Reading Instruction** (teachers & support staff) - 30 CPDU's or 30 PTP's - second week in June - registration deadline: May 24
- ✓ **Instructional Strategies That Work for All Disciplines** (teachers & support staff) - 30 CPDU's or 30 PTP's - second week in June - registration deadline: May 24
- ✓ **Managing Anti-social Behavior** (teachers & support staff) - 30 CPDU's or 30 PTP's - last week in June - registration deadline: June 7
- ✓ **Thinking Mathematics 6-8: Journey to Algebra** (teachers & support staff) - 30 CPDU's or 30 PTP's - last week in June - registration deadline: June 7

For more information, please visit the Local 571 website at www.wstu571.org. There you will find complete information for each class and the registration form. You may also contact Judy Jennings by phone at 630-468-4098 or by e-mail at jjennings@ift-aft.org.



WSTU LOCAL 571 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2013



The West Suburban Teachers Union (WSTU), Local 571, awarded more than \$18,000 in scholarships to outstanding college and college bound students on April 15. Each winning student's parent is a member of a Local 571 council.

The union's scholarship committee reviewed the applications and announced the winners in March. Successful candidates were chosen for proven academic excellence, outstanding involvement in extra-curricular activities, and active community service participation.

Local 571 Vice President Alice Kautsky and President Jane Russell awarded six WSTU Mary Wheeler scholarships of \$1,800 each.

Winners were:

- Julie Cuscaden is a graduate of Trinity High School. Her mother, Lisa Cuscaden, is a teacher in DuPage High School District 88.
- Miles Kalchik is a graduate of York Community High School. His mother is Michelle Kalchik, a teacher at Bryan Middle School in Elmhurst.
- Matthew Page graduated from Brother Rice High School. His mother is Laura Page, a teacher in Indian Springs District 109.
- Leah Gortowski is a graduate of York Community High School. Her mother, Jerri Hall-Gortowski, is a special education assistant in the Elmhurst Community Unit District 205.
- Batool Al-Rifai is a graduate of the Islamic Foundation School. Her mother is Hala Al-Daker, a teacher in Indian Springs District 109.
- McKenna Kelsay is a graduate of St. Francis College Preparatory High School in Wheaton. Her parents, Bruce and Mary Kelsay, teach in DuPage High School District 88.

Local 571 also awarded one \$1,500 Jo Ann Horowitz Scholarship. Stephanie Pierropoulos received the special scholarship, which is presented each year to a college student who is pursuing a major in education or women's studies. Stephanie attends DePaul University. Her mother is Karen Pierropoulos, a support staff member in DuPage High School District 88.

Finally, Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) President Dan Montgomery presented the IFT Robert G. Porter Scholarship to Joseph Kleinhans, a graduate of York Community High School. The Porter scholarship provides \$6,000 over four years. Laura Kleinhans, Joseph's mother, is a member of the Local 571 Elmhurst PSRP Council.



L-R: Alice Kautsky, with mother of Joseph Kleinhans, Laura (Elmhurst PSRP Council), IFT President Dan Montgomery and Jane Russell



L-R: Alice Kautsky, Hala Al-Dakar (Indian Springs Teacher Council), Mother of Batool Al Rifai, Chris Schulz, Jane Russell and father Amar



L-R: Alice Kautsky, Chris Schulz, parents of Julia Cuscaden, Lisa (Dist. 88 Teachers Council) and Bruce, and Jane Russell



Chris Schulz, mother of Stephanie (not pictured), Karen Pierropoulos (Dist. 88 PSRP Council), Alice Kautsky and Jane Russell



L-R: Alice Kautsky, Chris Schulz, mother of Leah Gortowski, Jerri (Elmhurst PSRP Council), and Jane Russell



Below: Alice Kautsky, Chris Schulz, father Bruce Kelsay (Dist. 88 Teachers Council), McKenna Kelsay and Jane Russell



Above: Alice Kautsky, Chris Schulz, mother of Miles Kalchik Michelle Kalchik (Elmhurst Teachers Council), Miles Kalchik and Jane Russell

L-R: Alice Kautsky, Chris Schulz, Matthew Page, mother Laura Page (Indian Springs Teachers Council) and Jane Russell



Getting The Common Core Right

by Bonnie Saracco



Standards until they are field-tested, revised, and aligned with curriculum, professional development, and instructional materials. She compared punishing teachers for student performance on Common Core assessments to “doctors being expected to perform a new medical procedure without being trained or provided with the necessary instruments.”

A major piece of this alignment is the adoption of instructional materials that truly support the Common Core.

In English language arts, we now have a set of publishers’ criteria that has been developed by the Common Core authors and revised with the collaboration of stakeholders including teachers and researchers. These key criteria for English language arts and literacy materials developed out of the standards coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

How do we recognize which materials to adopt for the Common Core in English language arts?

Early literacy materials must systematically use all the research-based elements of effective beginning reading instruction. These are concepts of print, phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, syntax and fluency. These elements must be used to support comprehension right from the start.

Materials for the early grades should also have a strong focus on fluency. Good programs contain a variety of specific fluency-building techniques such as choral reading, repeated oral reading, and monitored partner reading. Also, a strong focus on academic vocabulary is needed to address the extreme variances in vocabulary

knowledge among students.

Because the listening comprehension of young readers surpasses their reading ability, there must also be coordinated and high-quality read-alouds for the teacher.

Materials for all grade levels should meet key guidelines for text selection. An equal balance between literary and informational texts is a significant shift. Also, only high-quality selections that are well-written and worth reading and re-reading should be included. Selections should also be accompanied by specific Close Reading lessons across genres and text-lengths.

How do we recognize which materials to adopt for the Common Core...?

Looking at the questions and tasks in an instructional series is also a useful way to see if they fit the Common Core. Common Core questions are text specific and avoid being generic. Al-

though there is a place in instruction for general questions, Common Core materials will limit their use and not rely on “cookie-cutter” questions, such as finding the main idea and three supporting details, which could apply to any text. Good questions also integrate what the students have just read to what they have read previously.

Ample practice writing to sources is another important component, as is instruction in grammar and language conventions that match those given by grade level in the Common Core.

Randi Weingarten pointed out that the Common Core will either “lead to a revolution in teaching and learning, or end up in the dustbin of abandoned reforms.” Adopting excellent materials is a large part of getting this right.



Congratulations!

A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to a retiree at the final House of Representatives meeting of the year on May 20, 2013. Congratulations to Michelle Hashimoto who has served as a delegate for her council for several years and will be retiring from her district. Michelle is a school nurse at Unity East in Cicero. We hope as a retiree that you will continue your involvement as a member of the Local 571 Retirees Council. Best wishes and thank you for your years of service.



Reduced Admission Movie Tickets

FOR UNION MEMBERS ONLY



New Prices!

WHAT: Reduced Admission Movie Tickets

\$6.50 - AMC Theaters

(Some restrictions apply. Check with theater for details)

\$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 a current order form from the WSTU, Local 571 website (www.wstu571.org), send the completed form along with your payment (check only) to Local 571, and receive your tickets by mail!

NOTE: A \$2.00 service charge is added to the total of every order. Since these tickets don't expire, members usually purchase several at once.





MEMBERS of the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, can purchase Six Flags Great America any day tickets and season passes online at substantial savings once again this year. These can be purchased with a credit card, printed, and taken to the front gate for admittance at Great America. Parking tickets and meal vouchers can also be purchased through the special link. *Any day tickets are good for the Gurnee location only. Season passes must be processed in Gurnee, but once the photo card is obtained, they can be used at any Six Flags amusement park.*

The online tickets are available at:

www.sixflags.com/partnerlogin

User Name: wstuGM

**Password: SixFlags6
(case sensitive)**

\$40.00 each (includes tax) - Any Day Tickets (age 3 and older)

\$69.00 each (includes tax) - Season Passes (age 3 and older)

Processing fee PER ORDER

With world-class roller coasters, multiple children's play areas, the FREE Hurricane Harbor water park, and exciting entertainment, one will create many fond memories and enjoy endless thrills at Six Flags Great America!

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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