



May 2015

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU June Calendar

6/15—571 EB Mtg. - Westmont - 5:00 p.m.
6/19, 7/3—Deadline for registration for the Social Security Workshops
6/24—Social Security Workshop - 2:00 p.m.
7/8—Social Security Workshop - 10:00 a.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
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V is for Victory

by Jane Russell



The Chicago Black Hawks and Bulls are currently in the playoffs. To sports-minded people who love their Chicago teams, the

feeling is great. Great goes to awesome for each playoff round that is won. Today our victory is great and will be even better when we can call the victory "awesome."

The IFT as part of the We Are One Coalition of labor unions claimed victory on Friday, May 8, as the Illinois Supreme Court unanimously agreed that Public Act 98-599 (pension reform) was unconstitutional. The pension protection clause in the Illinois Constitution was upheld. This judgment affects members of four of the five state retirement systems for Pre-K-12 teachers, university professionals, state workers and members of the general assembly. IFT Local 3939 President Mike Day from O'Fallon, was one of the plaintiffs in the pension reform litigation. We owe Mike our respect and thanks for stepping up on our behalf.

The State claimed that its pension systems were woefully underfunded and paired with the state's financial crisis, the reduction of Tier 1 retirement annuities in the law was justified. The

Justices in their written decision made this significant statement:

"The financial challenges facing state and local governments in Illinois are well known and significant. In ruling as we have today, we do not mean to minimize the gravity of the State's problems or the magnitude of the difficulty facing our elected representatives. It is our obligation, however, just as it is theirs, to ensure that the law is followed. That is true at all times. It is especially important in times of crisis when, as this case demonstrates, even clear principles and long-standing precedent are threatened. Crisis is not an excuse to abandon the rule of law. It is a summons to defend it. How we respond is the measure of our commitment to the principles of justice we are sworn to uphold."

To review the entire decision, which is both readable and compelling, go to:

<http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Opinions/SupremeCourt/2015/118585.pdf>

What are the next steps? Those who dreaded this decision responded that doomsday for the state is in the very near future. Why listen to the naysayers? Instead, AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan, in a statement from the We Are One union coalition suggests:

(continued on page 5)

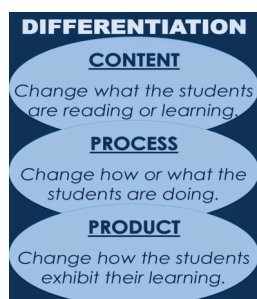
Supporting Common Core Instruction Through Differentiation

by Bonnie Saracco

The Common Core Resource Kit Training in Washington, D.C., last March closed with a session on differentiation presented by AFT national trainer Tina Steele.

She started by pointing out that differentiation is not about making teachers' jobs more difficult, but it is about giving students optimal learning experiences by adapting lessons to students' readiness, preferences, and interests. Educational research has validated that differentiation is part of best practice.

Differentiation does not have to be used for every lesson. It is an intervention to be used as needed. Differentiated activities are not done for their own sake. They are most helpful when they are based on evidence of need by formative assessments, interest profiles, or teacher observations.



Differentiation can be visualized as a three-by-three grid. Teachers can differentiate content, process, or product by students' readiness, interest, or learning style. This results in nine ways to differentiate.

Often student readiness differentiation is the most crucial. Resource materials at different levels, learning centers to teach skills or close knowledge gaps, extension activities, learning contracts, and tiered assignments can accomplish this.

Student interest differentiation can include allowing students to read about particular areas of interest as part of a unit, using student "expert groups" to specialize and teach peers, and varying student products such as independent research based on interests.

Student learning style differentiation can be accomplished by allowing students to explore topics through varying modes such as reading or watching, and allowing students to express learning in different modes such as models, charts, diagrams, and movements. Students can also be given some choice as to working alone or in a group, to draw before writing, and to present either part to whole or whole to part. It is also effective to help students understand their own learning strengths for self-direction.

A step-by-step guide to putting differentiation into a unit was presented. This is very similar to the guide for backwards design: set the objectives, design the summative assessment, assess the need for differentiation, plan activities with needed differentiation, support ongoing assessments, and administer summative assessments.

Teachers need easy ways to differentiate. The use of Choice Boards is very efficient. Designed on a tic-tac-toe grid, the same choice board can be used over and over. For example, a Book Report Choice Board could offer nine choices: draw a picture of the plot, dramatize the plot, write a song about a main event, write a poem contrasting two main events, make a sequence poster, dress as a character and deliver a speech, create a Venn diagram contrasting the beginning and end of the story, write about the main character, and write about the setting. By not being based on a particular book, one Book Report Choice Board can be used for different books throughout the year. Similar Choice Boards can be designed for any content area.

TIC-TAC-TOE Choice Board For a Book Report		
Draw a picture of the main character.	Perform a play that shows the conclusion of a story.	Write a song about one of the main events.
Write a poem about two main events in the story.	Make a poster that shows the order of events in the story.	Dress up as your favorite character and perform a speech telling who you are.
Create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the introduction to the closing.	Write two paragraphs about the main character.	Write two paragraphs about the setting.

Steele summed up her presentation with a quote by TheodoreSizer from *Horace's Compromise: The Dilemma of the American High School*. "That students differ may be inconvenient, but it is inescapable. Adapting to that diversity is the inevitable price of productivity, high standards, and fairness to students."

Local 571 Provides Scholarships to Students

The West Suburban Teachers Union (WSTU), Local 571, proudly awarded \$18,000 in scholarships to outstanding college-bound and current higher education students in April. Winning students are Local 571 members or the dependents of Local 571 members.



(l->r) Chris Schultz, Alice Kautsky with **Kali Graziano**, mother Teresa McEntee and Jane Russell

Scholarship applicants were judged based upon academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, and community service participation.

Applications were reviewed and scored by Local 571's Scholarship Committee, including Chair Chris Schultz, Local Vice President Alice Kautsky, and Local President Jane Russell.

Six WSTU Mary Wheeler scholarships of \$2,250 each were awarded to: **Kali Graziano**, a graduate of Oak Lawn Community High School. Her mother, **Teresa McEntee**, is a teacher at Wilkins Elementary School in Indian Springs District 109. **Abby, Jake, and Neil Quigley**, graduates of Evergreen Park High School. Their mother is **Betty Quigley**, a teacher at Brodnicki in Indian Springs. It's the first time in the union's history that triplets have received the award. **Leah Reeves**, a graduate of Lisle High School. Her father is Mark Reeves, a teacher at East Leyden High school in Franklin Park.

Carter Truesdale, a graduate of Hoffman Estates High School. His father, **Tom Truesdale**, is a social worker at West Leyden High School in Northlake.



(l->r) Chris Schultz, Alice Kautsky, Kevin Quigley, father of the triplets, **Jake, Abby and Neil Quigley**, and Alice Kautsky



(l->r) Chris Schultz, Alice Kautsky, mother of Leah Reeves, Laura, with **Leah Reeves**, father Mark and Jane Russell



(l->r) Chris Schultz, Alice Kautsky, with father of Carter Truesdale, Tom, **Carter Truesdale** and Jane Russell

WSTU also awarded one \$2,250

Jo Ann Horowitz Scholarship to **McKenna Kelsay**, a student at the University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign. Her mother is **Mary Kelsay**, a teacher in DuPage District 88. This special scholarship is presented each year to a college student who is pursuing a major in education or women's studies.

The union awarded its newest scholarship in the name of former Local 571 President Maryann Karlovsky. The \$2,250 award is presented to a current undergraduate student pursuing a career in education. This year's winner is **Caren Kroliekiewicz**, a student at Northeastern Illinois University who currently works as a support staff member at Fischer School in Elmhurst Unit District 205.



(l->r) IFT President Dan Montgomery, mother Laura Kleinhans, **Matthew Kleinhans** and Jane Russell

Finally, York High School senior, **Matthew Kleinhans**, was awarded one of two \$6,000 Robert G. Porter Scholarships from the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the state affiliate of Local 571. His mother is **Laura Kleinhans**, a teacher aide at Jefferson School in Elmhurst. He is the brother of two previous Porter Scholarship Award winners, Robert (2011) and Joseph (2013).

A Social Security Seminar

Sponsored by the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571

WHEN: Wednesday,
June 24, 2015
2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

OR

Wednesday,
July 8, 2015
10:00 a.m.—Noon

FOR: Local 571 members

WHAT: Identical Social Security Seminars will be presented by a representative of the Social Security Administration

WHERE: Robert M. Healey Conference Center
500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, IL 60559

R.S.V.P.: If you plan to attend the June 24 Seminar, contact Judy Jennings by June 19 at 630/468-4098 or jjennings@ift-aft.org.

If you plan to attend the July 8 Seminar, contact Judy Jennings by July 3 at 630/468-4098 or jjennings@ift-aft.org.

Light refreshments will be served.



Need PD Hours?

If so, don't forget to register for one or two of the six Local 571 professional development classes being offered this summer. The week-long classes will cost \$50 each (\$100 for non-members), and the single-day workshop will cost \$10/member or \$20/non-member if both the morning and afternoon sessions are taken. The single-day course is free if only one session is taken. The charge includes PD hours, the manuals, and refreshments. Those attending the week-long classes will be served lunch everyday, and those taking both sessions of the single-day workshop will also receive lunch. In addition to the PD hours, four of the week-long 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, IL 60559.

The week-long classes will be:

- ✓ ***Beginning Reading Instruction*** (teachers & support staff) - 30 PD hours - 5 sessions - June 15 thru 19 - registration deadline: May 29
- ✓ ***Managing Anti-social Behavior*** (teachers & support staff) - 30 PD hours - 5 sessions - June 15 thru 19 - registration deadline: May 29
- ✓ ***Thinking Mathematics 3-5: Common Core Edition*** (teachers & support staff) - 30 PD hours - 5 sessions - June 29 thru July 3 - registration deadline: June 12
- ✓ ***Instructional Strategies That Work for All Disciplines*** (teachers & support staff) - 30 PD hours - 5 sessions - June 29 thru July 3 - registration deadline: June 12
- ✓ ***Managing Anti-social Behavior for Support Staff*** - (support staff) - no option for undergraduate or graduate credits - 5 sessions - June 29 thru July 3 - registration deadline: June 12

The single-day workshop for teachers will be:

Advancing Student Success in Common Core for English/Language Arts and Mathematics
- (teachers) - no option for undergraduate or graduate credits - June 24 - registration deadline: June 12 - up to six PD hours can be earned for attending both sessions: 9:00 a.m. to Noon - CCSS/ELA; 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. - CCSS/Math

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.



Discounts to Six Flags Great America for Union Members!



To take advantage of the discounted prices for members, go to www.sixflags.com/partnerlogin and enter **wstuGM** for your user name and **SixFlags6** for your password. (The user name and password are case sensitive.) You can then purchase season passes for only \$74.15 (includes tax). You can also purchase one-day tickets for \$43 per person (includes tax). **A service fee will be added to each order.**

Children two (2) and under are free.
Season passes include entry to Hurricane Harbor.
One-day tickets purchased anywhere require an upcharge per ticket to enter the water park.

Here are more facts about the season passes:

- ✓ They have to be processed at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL. Once they are processed in Gurnee, they can be used at all Six Flags Parks.



- ✓ They are valid through the Fright Fest Season.
- ✓ Season passes include FREE entry to Hurricane Harbor.
- ✓ Each season pass comes with a coupon book with in-park savings.

Six Flags Great America is celebrating 40 seasons of thrills this year. The park's evolution over the past 40 seasons has lead the way with innovative, one-of-a-kind roller coasters, state-of-the-art shows, and development of a 20-acre water park. From just three coasters at inauguration to 14 today, Six Flags Great America, including Hurricane Harbor, is now home to more than 80 rides, slides, and attractions spread across 100 acres of land. It is home to the world's tallest, steepest, and fastest, wooden roller coaster—Goliath. This season, there will be fire-works every Friday!

V is for Victory

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"Public service workers are helpers and problem-solvers by trade. With the Supreme Court's unanimous ruling, we urge lawmakers to join us in developing a fair and constitutional solution to pension funding, and we remain ready to work with anyone of good faith to do so."

We may have won the sprint, but this is a marathon. We still have much work to do for our victory to be truly awesome.

Finally, thank you for doing your part in the last several years, to push for a constitutional solution for state fiscal reform. As we have pointed out repeatedly, this is not a pension crisis, but a fight to have the state balance its budget. However, it should not be on the backs of Illinois workers.

As the 2014-15 school year comes to a close and you look forward to the summer break, the Officers and Staff of the West Suburban Teachers Union wish you a summer of rest and relaxation, time to spend with your family, and hopefully have an opportunity to enjoy the nice weather. We look forward to working with you again in the fall.

In unity,

Jane A. Russell

Local 571 President

Memorial Day—Monday— May 25

Memorial Day, is observed on the last Monday of May, and honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S.



military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades.

Please Have a Safe Memorial Day!

Lobby Day in Washington, D.C.

Several IFT members attended Lobby Day in Washington, D.C., on March 10, including Proviso PSRP President Marcia Watson. Marcia, an administrative paraprofessional who works in the business office of Proviso West High School, says all paraprofessionals in Illinois are now highly qualified, and they now know the right way to uphold standards and handle school procedures. "If you don't have qualified people, then you basically just have babysitters."



1->r) Marcia Watson, Jesse Sharkey, Mary Fran Wessler and Amy Alsop represented the Illinois Federation of Teachers during lobby day at their senators' offices.

Photo by Brian Pascale

To learn more about this year's Lobby Day, go to: <http://www.aft.org/news/psrps-launch-full-court-press-essea-reauthorization>

Retiree News



Save the Date!

- WHAT:** Local 571 Retirees Council Meeting & Annual New Retiree Members' Luncheon
- DATE:** Wednesday, September 9, 2015
- TIME:** 11:00 a.m.
- PLACE:** Robert M. Healey Conference Center
500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, IL 60559
- AGENDA:** Introduction of new retirees
Business meeting
Lunch
Update on retirees' issues

Detailed information will be provided closer to the date.



Going Green - Reminder

In last month's issue of the *Union Messenger* we asked you to consider having future issues sent to you via e-mail rather than the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you to those of you who have responded. We hope many more will decide to "go green." If you want to have future issues of this newsletter sent to you via e-mail, please send an e-mail to Judy Jennings to tell her of your wishes. You can e-mail Judy at jjennings@ift-aft.org.

Thank you!



ISBE Teacher of the Year Awards

The Illinois State Board of Education announced the award winners who will attend the June 18, 2015, Teacher of the Year Luncheon in Bloomington, IL.

Congratulations to the following WSTU members who received these awards.

T.E. Rine Secondary Mathematics Teaching Award, **Sue Brown**, York H.S., Elmhurst

Illinois Art Educator of the year, **Deyana Matt**, Westfield Middle School, Bloomingdale

Outstanding Economic Educator, **Jessica Weldon**, York H.S., Elmhurst

Sarah Mueller

Named a Golden Apple "Teacher of Distinction"

Golden Apple, a leading nonprofit committed to celebrating and developing great teachers with the ability and passion to make life-changing differences in the lives of students, announced that **Sarah Mueller**, a Kindergarten teacher from North Elementary School in Franklin Park, was named a teacher of distinction by the organization. Sarah has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with an Endorsement in Special Education from Dominican University and has taught in Franklin Park for six years.

Excellent Job Sarah!



Union Plus delivers summer discounts. Planning anything fun this summer? For Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day outings, plus all summer long, union members get special discounts on travel, entertainment and special attractions. Save up to 25% on car rentals and up to \$19 per ticket at theme parks, including Disney. Movie, sports and theater tickets are reduced as well. Let Union Plus ramp up your summer—and your savings.



A Union of Professionals
AFT +
Member Benefits

Save the Union Way at
UnionPlus.org/AFT

AWESOME !!

At Argo High School., kids succeed.

On April 22, 2015, it was announced that 16 juniors earned a composite score of 30 or higher on the Spring 2015 State of Illinois administered ACT exam.



Nearly 4% of those who took the exam at Argo Community High School achieved the high score. By earning a composite score of 30 or higher, the students place in the top one percent nationally out of the more than 1.8 million students that take the ACT annually.

What's Missing from the Messenger?



Email your comments, suggestions and news to: Robin Hancock at:
571editor@gmail.com



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