

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU January Calendar

1/6—Deadline for registering for 571's PARCC Testing Update Workshop
 1/11—PARCC Testing Update Workshop - Westmont - 4:30 p.m.
 1/11—571 EB Mtg. - Westmont - 6:30 p.m.
 1/12 —IFT PAC Regions G and H Meetings - Westmont - 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 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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Yes, ESEA Does Affect Us

by Jane Russell

Do you remember No Child Left Behind (NCLB)? Most of us have tried to forget that bill which needed desperately to be "fixed." All of the required over-testing greatly affected curriculum, time and the love of learning. NCLB is being replaced by revised legislation, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), first passed in 1965.



The AFT found the following to be true by Americans about NCLB; more focus is needed on school funding, less on high-stakes testing. Sixty-three percent of Americans oppose vouchers. And 78% of Americans say student engagement is a better measurement than test scores.

It is quite possible that Congress will reauthorize the ESEA, now called the Every Student Succeeds Act, by the end of the 2015 session. For this to happen now, after waiting for several years, is tantamount to a miracle. Both the House and Senate passed bills, although different versions, in July 2015. In order to get a final bill, the bill is "reconciled," that is the different versions become the final bill reached by negotiations between the House and Senate leadership.

The AFT has played an instrumental role in both the reauthorization and reconciliation processes. Working with Congressmen Kline and Scott and Senators Alexander and Murray in the reconciliation process, the AFT called for two basic goals:

- ◆ The reauthorized law must reclaim the original purpose of ESEA by maintaining the focus on equity.
- ◆ The new law must fundamentally reset the accountability principles by moving away from the counterproductive fixation on high-stakes testing and sanctions and toward a more meaningful accountability system.

It appears the new ESEA will reverse many onerous parts of NCLB. Accountability, testing, involvement in teacher evaluation, states' responsibilities, struggling sub-groups, interventions, opt-outs, school choice as well as funding will be changed/affected.

Please encourage your Congressional Representative to vote in favor of the reconciled ESEA bill. Details of the new Elementary and Secondary Education Act will be provided in early 2016. Certainly there will be something to look forward to in 2016 and beyond.

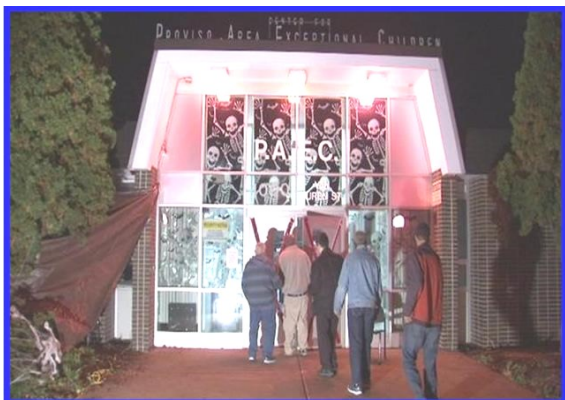
In unity,

Local 571 President

571 Members Make a Difference

PAEC Council

PAEC Council staff opened the creaking doors to the Halls of Horrors on October 21-22 at PAEC Center School in Maywood. PAEC students were guided through the “haunted” halls by staff dressed in scary costumes.



Elmhurst Teachers Council

There was a great turnout of teachers on Tuesday night, October 27, for the D205 School Board meeting. It was wonderful to see the sea of blue shirts showing support and solidarity in our school district.



Lyons Council

Over 150 Lyons Council members stood in solidarity with council president Toni Brandt



at a recent school board meeting as she read a statement on behalf of the members of her council. Brandt asked for respect and support for the district teachers.

Argo-Summit Council

Argo-Summit Council President, Laura Hosteny, was recognized at a luncheon on October 31 as “a woman you should know in education” by the Women’s Education League. This organization was founded by four teachers making an effort to uplift educators as professionals.



Retiree News

Don't Miss Out!

Beginning January 1, 2016, the IFT will no longer e-mail members at their worksite or school district addresses. Members who do not have a home e-mail address on file with the IFT by **December 31, 2015**, will not receive information from the IFT via e-mail after that date. This is being done to protect members from concerns arising from FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests and employers who prohibit union communications at work e-mail addresses.

If you are a retiree working in a school district, go to the IFT website, www.ift-aft.org, to the top right-hand corner and click on “register.” Fill in the required information and hit “register.”

Morton East H.S. retiree Mary Mitchell reunited with one of her Jr. English students, LaShawn Ford, who is now the Representative for Illinois House District 8. Mitchell said of Ford, “I can’t believe I had a small part in helping him achieve some of his goals in life. He was a wonderful student.” Ford, who served on a panel at the Local 571 Legislative Breakfast, said Mrs. Mitchell was a great teacher.





Tenth Annual Local 571 Legislative Breakfast

by Bonnie Saracco



We held our tenth annual Legislative Breakfast on November 7 at the Hilton Chicago/Oakbrook Hills Resort and Conference Center.

Once again our Legislative Breakfast was emceed by **Toby Trimmer, IFT Director of Political Activities**. It began with a welcome and introductions by **Local 571 President Jane Russell**. Comments by featured speakers, two panels of Illinois legislators, and a special recognition of **Dan Kotowski, former Senator (D), 28th District**, followed.

IFT President Dan Montgomery delivered a scathing portrayal of “Governor Ruin-er,” pointing out that he belongs to the “1% of the 1%” and does not care about the vulnerable Illinois children, disabled and elderly who are being denied services as the budget is being held hostage to his labor-bashing agenda. President Montgomery also spoke about the upcoming Supreme Court case attacking Fair Share. He said that we must continue to support the group of embattled state legislators who are standing up for our rights.

Robert Reiter, Chicago Federation of Labor Secretary/Treasurer, spoke of the concerted effort to destroy the rights of workers, from public sector to industrial unions. He said that Rauner, in league with the Koch brothers, is using the people least able to care for themselves as pawns in his fight for Right to Work.

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs cited his own experience as a teacher and stressed that we must support our allies in the legislature who will face Rauner’s massive amount of money. He pointed out that one vote per precinct made the difference in his last election, and the choice between a sound budget and collective bargaining is a false one.

We recognized retiring **Senator Dan Kotowski (D), 28th District**, for his untiring support of teachers and students. Jane Russell cited the many contributions of his leadership. Senator Kotowski responded with his appreciation of our important support over the years, and said that this recognition was even more special because his father, an Illinois retired Cook County College Teachers Union educator, was in the audience.

Toby Trimmer, after giving an overview of the current political situation, conducted two panel discussions of legislators. In addition to stating opposition to vouchers, they made the following points.

Senator Kim Lightford (D), 4th District, a lifelong union supporter, said that the governor’s “turnaround agenda” has nothing to do with the budget, and that she has worked with five Illinois governors, but Rauner is the worst because he doesn’t even care about working relationships with legislators.

Representative LaShawn Ford (D), 7th District, also wants to do the right things for kids and protect collective bargaining. He pointed out the huge wage gap between working people and people such as Rauner who can “spend \$10,000 on a bottle of wine.”

Senator Laura Murphy (D), 28th District, has just been elected by the Democratic township chairpersons to replace retiring Senator Kotowski. She met with the Governor who, appallingly, told her that collective bargaining is what is wrong with our state. She will fight for us and backs a fair tax to produce more revenue and protect our pensions.

Senator Don Harmon (D), 39th District, assured all the retired teachers present that our pensions are finally secure, and said that we should never have been subjected to all of the uncertainty. He is a sponsor of fair tax legislation.

Representative Deb Conroy (D), 46th District, said that we must look at mandates on a case-by-case basis and is concerned that funding education by property taxes is unsustainable.

Representative Chris Welch (D), 7th District, said that we need to get dedicated revenue streams to fund pensions, that local school boards alone should decide on charters, and that Rauner wants charters or vouchers everywhere in the state.

Senator Tom Cullerton (D), 23rd District, said that the Illinois tax structure should be more like that of Wisconsin or Iowa, which are more equitable. He stressed that this is no time for us to sit on the sidelines, as the governor is intent on destroying our rights.

Representative Elizabeth Hernandez (D), 24th District, was a PSRP in Cicero for eighteen years, and said that any diminishment of collective bargaining rights also diminishes democracy. Like her colleagues, she said that the governor is disconnected and unwilling to listen and compromise.

Representative Michael Zalewski (D) 23rd District, also talked about the real acrimony in Springfield and how there are real victims. He said that the budget problem could be solved by enacting a 4% income tax, closing loopholes, and fixing the sales tax.

We also had a very successful raffle, which raised nearly \$1500 for our scholarship and COPE funds. We look forward to continuing the tradition of our Legislative Breakfast into its second decade next year.

Tenth Annual Local 571 Legislative Breakfast



Legislative Breakfast



The Legislative Breakfast is only as good as its committee. The 2015 Local 571 members who worked tirelessly for the outstanding event were:
Back row (l->r): Dee Pospishil, Bonnie Saracco (Chair), Julie McShane (COPE Chair), Robin Hancock, Vicky Lassard, Marge Wunschel, Judy Jennings, Carlin Martinez, Andrew Bendelow, Jane Russell, Irene Keleminic, Jane Thomas, Phyllis Meade
Seated (l->r): Pat Waggegan, Alice Kautsky, Cathy Pope, Lee Stephens, Katy Padburg, Margaret Gorman



IFT President Dan Montgomery reinforces the wrongs created by the Governor.



The new location for the 2015 breakfast provided a lovely and bright venue for sometimes “unsunny” comments of the speakers.



Chicago Federation of Labor Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Reiter, warns the members about the Governor’s grand plan to dismember all unions, including the IFT.



Panelists Representative Chris Welch, Senator Tom Cullerton and new Senator Laura Murphy respond to questions posed by Toby Trimmer, IFT Director of Political Activities.



Representative Deb Conroy listens carefully as Senator Kimberly Lightford lamented about the Governor's "turn-around" agenda.



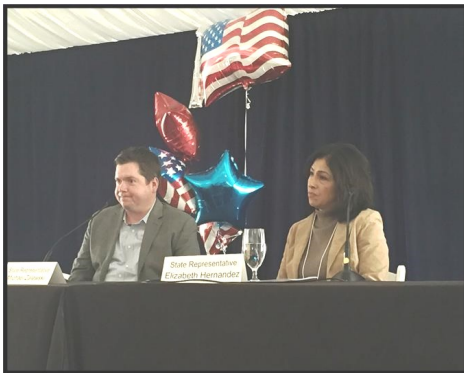
Senator Don Harmon responds to the question about pensions as Representative Deb Conroy waits to discuss the issue in agreement with the senator.



Mike Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer, thanked members for helping get him elected to his new office.



Responding to a question about collective bargaining rights, Representative LaShawn Ford agreed that it was important that the rights remain with union members.



Representatives Mike Zalewski and Lisa Hernandez have a conversation about current legislative issues.



Master of Ceremonies, Toby Trimmer, asked the legislative panelists for the answers to tough questions.



Local 571 President Jane Russell stands with retiring Senator Dan Kotowski and his father, Chas, who himself was an IFT member. Kotowski was recognized for his work on behalf of our members.

Legislative Breakfast photos were provided by:
Amy Excell, IFT Department of Communications

IFT PAC Regions G and H Meetings

Local 571 members have the opportunity to meet with other Union members for the purpose of considering regional endorsements of legislative candidates for the 2016 Primary Election. Each meeting (Region G at 5:30; Region H at 7:00) will have the following format:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Candidate interviews at approximately 15-minute intervals (Candidate questionnaires and incumbent voting records will be provided at the meetings.)
3. Endorsement recommendations

DATE: Tuesday, January 12, 2016

TIME: Region G: Pizza and beverages—4:30 p.m.; Interviews begin—5:30 p.m.
Region H: Pizza and beverages—6:30 p.m.; Interviews begin—7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Robert M. Healey Conference Center
500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, IL 60559
Entrance D or E

R.S.V.P.: If you wish to attend one or both of these meetings, please contact Judy Jennings by phone (630/468-4098) or e-mail (jjennings@ift-aft.org) on or before January 6, 2016. Please specify whether or not you will attend both meetings or which meeting you wish to attend.

Region G includes:	Region H includes:
Senate Districts 23, 25, and * <u>42</u>	Senate District * <u>21</u> , 24, and * <u>41</u>
House Districts 45, 46, 49, 50, 83, and 84	House Districts 41, 42, 47, 48, 81, and 82
<i>*<u>These Senate Districts will not have a Primary Election in 2016.</u></i> All of the House Districts will have a Primary Election in 2016.	

We encourage you to attend one or both of these meetings. It's your chance to be part of the IFT's legislative endorsement process!

West Suburban Teachers Union Pre-Meeting Workshops

The following pre-meeting workshops were requested by our members and are open to all Local 571 members. Each one will begin at 4:30 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge, and a light dinner will be served. Some of the workshops award professional development units.

Please contact Judy Jennings by phone at 630-468-4098 or e-mail at jjennings@ift-aft.org by the deadline dates listed in the table.

<i>Date of Workshop</i>	<i>Workshop</i>	<i>Deadline for Reservations</i>
1/11/16	PARCC Testing Update	1/6/2016
2/8/16	Student Debt/Loan Forgiveness	2/3/16
3/14/16	Creating/Using SLO's	3/9/16

Local 571 2016 Winter Class & Workshops

Opportunities to Earn Professional Development Units

If you want to...

- Earn up to 30 professional development units,
- Earn two undergraduate or graduate credit hours (Reading Comprehension Instruction Class only)*,
- Learn research-based activities to use in the classroom, and
- Gain valuable information about how this professional development course and these workshops are tied to the domains of the Danielson Model for teacher growth and evaluation.

Register for the Local 571 Professional Development Class or Workshops being offered this winter.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The following workshops will be held at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center (500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, Illinois 60559). For each workshop, a light dinner will be served at 4:30 p.m., followed by the workshop from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. There is no cost to members. Members will earn six professional development units per two-session workshop attended. Contact Judy Jennings at 630/468-4098 or jjennings@ift-aft.org by Thursday, February 4, if you wish to attend one or both workshops.

Effective Classroom Arrangement and Group Management Workshop - *Thursday, February 11, 2016, and Thursday, February 18, 2016:* You will leave this workshop knowing research-tested techniques to make your classes run more smoothly with smart classroom arrangement and improved group management skills.

Time on Task and Homework Workshop - *Thursday, March 3, 2016, and Thursday, March 10, 2016:* Time is precious, and we all have too much to do. Learn what the research says about increasing academic learning time and how to minimize the troubling aspects of homework.



READING COMPREHENSION INSTRUCTION CLASS

DATES: January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 3, 10, and 17, 2016 (8 sessions)
All 8 sessions are on Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, Illinois 60559
Entrance D or E

COST: \$50 for members; \$100 for non-members
Cost includes materials and a light supper each day.

*For an additional cost, participants can earn two GSU graduate credit hours or two Prairie State Community College undergraduate credit hours. Signup and payment is due on the first day of class.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNITS: 30

R.S.V.P.: Complete the registration form which can be found on Local 571's website (www.wstu571.org), and return it to the address on the form.

The deadline for registration is Friday, January 15.

The course description can also be found on www.wstu571.org.

Making Memories and Staying Connected



Celebrate the Holidays with union member only Savings from Union Plus.

Stay connected with 15% off AT&T wireless service.

Savings on just about everything from clothing and flowers to gift certificates. Discounted tickets to movies, plays, sporting events and theme parks. Great deals on computers, electronics, travel and more.



A Union of Professionals
AFT+
Member Benefits

Get Connected to Savings

UnionPlus.org/AFTDiscounts

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

As we head into the holiday season, the officers and staff of West Suburban Teachers Union, wish you and your family the best and hope you look forward to a new and exciting 2016.



Auld Lang Syne

The title of the Scottish tune translates to "times gone by" and is about remembering friends from the past and not letting them be forgotten.

Despite its strong association with New Year's Eve, "Auld Lang Syne," written by Robert Burns in the 1700s, was never intended to be a holiday song. Guy Lombardo is credited with popularizing the song when his band used it as a segue between two radio programs during a live performance at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York in 1929. By coincidence, they played "Auld Lang Syne" just after the clock hit midnight, and a New Year's tradition was born.

What's Missing from the Messenger?



Email your news and thoughts to Robin Hancock at:
571editor@gmail.com

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

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