

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU November

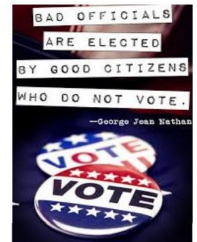
11/8—Election Day

11/9—Registration Deadline for the Wisely Using Social Media in/out of Classroom Workshop
 11/12-13—IFT ULI - Westmont
 11/14—Wisely Using Social Media in/out Classroom Workshop - Westmont - 4:30 p.m.
 11/14—571 EB Mtg. - Westmont - 6:30 p.m.
 11/15—Deadline for filing IRS forms for Councils that closed their books in June

YOUR VOTE

AS A

PERSONAL DECISION



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

HILLARY CLINTON

DONALD TRUMP

Supports public school education including free pre-school	Supports private school vouchers and charter schools as options to public education
Works to end overreliance on high-stakes testing and tying test scores to teacher evaluation and compensation	Supports merit pay and ending due process
Stands up for educators, school personnel and their students to succeed in a safe and healthy environment	Opposes gun-free school zones
Advocates for debt-free college	Wants to slash federal funding for education



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From the resolution at the July 2016 AFT Convention passed by the 3,000 delegates:

“Resolved, that for all these reasons and many more, the American Federation of Teachers endorses Hillary Clinton for president of the United States, as she is the candidate who shares our values and is committed to leveling the playing field and upholding our national principles...”

Make the right choice for president. Vote on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, or vote early.

In unity,

Local 571 President

Eleventh Annual Local 571 Legislative Breakfast

By Bonnie Saracco and Andrew Bendelow

Local 571 President Jane Russell welcomed a packed house to our 2016 Legislative Breakfast on September 24th at the Hilton Chicago Oak Brook Resort and Conference



Local 571 President Jane Russell reminded members and guests, as well as their families, friends, and co-workers, to VOTE up and down the ballot in this very important presidential election.

Center. The morning began with a video message from Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth, who is a candidate for the U.S. Senate. She talked about how important public education has been in her life and how she is inspired by us. She promised to be a strong advocate for our concerns, stating that she would “tell our story because there is no more important investment than investing in our children.”

We then heard from **City of Chicago Clerk Susana Mendoza**, who is running for state comptroller. She told about being raised as the child of Mexican immigrants, and said that she wants to control the state’s checkbook so that



Susana Mendoza animatedly discussed her campaign with the breakfast attendees.

“someone with a moral compass can decide where funds go.” She called herself an “independent truth teller who will stand up for the most vulnerable in the state,” in contrast to the current state comptroller who was appointed by Governor Rauner and has done things such as cutting state funding to help those with autism. She also recommended early voting.

Brandon Johnson of the Chicago Teachers’ Union talked about CTU’s fight against Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s anti-public school policies. He said that two billion dollars have been lost during Emanuel’s term, resulting in cuts in student services, rises in class size, and layoffs. He added that Chicago has



Brandon Johnson, CTU Local 1 Political Organizer, brings everyone up-to-date about the possible job action being planned.

millions of dollars in TIF money that is being withheld for special interests, and that these funds could solve the current CPS funding crisis.

Cynthia Riseman, IFT Director of Political Activities, presented an overview of the current political situation in Illinois, outlining the most significant races. IFT’s priority is to support the candidates who will fight against Governor Rauner’s “turnaround agenda.” The good news is that so far his agenda has been stopped by the courts and the General Assembly. Then she asked questions of the legislators who were present. The following are some of their responses:



Cynthia Riseman, IFT Political Director, shared the politics of the 2016 election.

Representative Chris Welch, 7th District, said that he was a product of public schools and is no fan of charter schools. He supports the NAACP’s call for a moratorium on new charter schools. He wants to weaken the powers of the state charter commission and to strengthen local school boards. He said it would be “absolutely ridiculous to lift the current cap on charters.”



Representative Chris Welch made a strong point about charter schools.

Senator Tom Cullerton, 23rd District, spoke against privatization in our schools. He said it hurts students and shifts the burden of inferior services at increased costs to taxpayers. He said that we need to talk to our friends and neighbors to educate them about the sacrifices and concessions that our members have already made on pensions.



Senator Tom Cullerton anticipated a question posed by M.C. Cynthia Riseman.



Eleventh Annual Local 571 Legislative Breakfast (cont. d)

Senator LaShawn Ford, 8th District, said that he is leaning now toward Senator Lightford's proposal for reforming Illinois school funding because there is too much inequality between municipalities. He also stressed that we are wasting resources if we do not address the social and emotional needs of students.



Representative LaShawn Ford shared this thoughts in response to a question about school funding.

Senator Laura Murphy, 28th District, said that excessive testing hurts students by limiting teacher autonomy, and that it also wastes too much time. She stated that the Tier 2 pension system is grossly unfair because members are paying in more than they will get back. She said that everyone needs to be involved to negotiate a better bill for Tier 2.



Senator Laura Murphy discussed statewide testing and parent opt-out.

Senator Don Harmon, 39th District, said that we need a budget that adequately funds schools, rather than the "bare bones" six month budget that we have now. He said that the current budget is just "emergency provisioning." He derided the governor's efforts to take away our right to collective bargaining, apologized for all the stress caused to retirees by pension threats, and said that we need to keep our communities viable and vibrant with great public schools. He also said that we need to "hit the pause button" on charters, and that Illinois needs a fair, graduated income tax.



Senator Don Harmon answered several questions posed by IFT Political Director Cynthia Riseman.

As always, our raffle successfully raised funds for our COPE and scholarship programs. We are already looking forward to our twelfth annual Legislative Breakfast next year.



Rosemont Council members Laurie Kovalcik and Cathy Pope (also 571 Secretary) had an opportunity to catch up before the legislators arrived.



Both DuPage District 88 council leaders, Pam Sifuentes, PSRP President, (2nd from left) and Brett Blair, Teachers Council President, (top row) met with their members prior to the start of the breakfast.



Craig Miller, Franklin Park Custodians Council President along with his wife (on right) listened in rapt attention.



Comptroller candidate Susana Mendoza talked with retiree member and council officer, Dee Pospishil (on right).



Invited guests included members of Northwest Suburban Teachers Union, Local 1211, including John Braglia, IFT Vice-president (left) who listened intently to the presentations.



Alice Kautsky, IFT Vice-president, encouraged everyone to participate in the COPE/Scholarship gift card raffle.



The 2016 Legislative Breakfast Committee, with the leadership of chair Bonnie Saracco, worked very hard to make the 2016 breakfast a success for all who attended.

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>
11/14/2016	Wisely Using Social Media In and Out of the Classroom	11/9/2016
1/9/2017	Bullying in the Workplace	1/4/2017
2/13/2017	Impact of Student Growth on Teacher Evaluation	2/8/2017
3/13/2017	Student Debt Loan Forgiveness	3/8/2017

Movie Ticket Discounts for Union Members

\$8.00—AMC Theatres

(Some theaters have reserved seating; call ahead.)

\$10.25—Marcus Theaters

(No restrictions apply. Free certificate for \$3 worth of concession stand items for every two [2] tickets purchased.)



Order forms are available on the WSTU website (www.wstu571.org) or through your building reps.

Retiree Corner

Retiree Council Luncheon—The annual Local 571 Retirees Council luncheon in Westmont on September 29, 2016, hosted 65 attendees including 14 newly retired members. The business meeting was chaired by President Phyllis Meade and Secretary Treasurer Dee Pospishil. There was an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones before the program which featured IFT Political Activities Director, Cynthia Riseman. She provided a Power-Point presentation on the Illinois 2016 political landscape, citing IFT priorities in statewide races as well as the legislative races. Cynthia reminded everyone to support AND vote for the list of IFT endorsed candidates that can be found at www.ift-aft.org/vote.

Senior Power Lunch—On October 5, the IARA held its annual 2016 Senior Power Lunch in Chicago. The Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans, IARA, is a statewide organization with 145,000 members working together to make their voices heard in the laws, policies, politics and institutions that shape our lives. Retired members from unions such as AFSCME, IFT, SEIU Healthcare, UAW Re-

gion 4, CTU, United Steelworkers (SOAR), Workers United and community organizations and their guests rounded out the crowd of nearly 120.

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky talked about her history with the IARA going back to its beginnings. Congresswoman Schakowsky also introduced one of her Congressional colleagues, Congresswoman Robin Kelly, who described her efforts in Congress most recently lobbying for a bill about senior dental health. Congresswoman Kelly has a 100% voting record with the Alliance for Retired Americans. The program would not be complete without an outstanding speaker who always excites the crowd, William McNary, Co-Director of Citizen Action/ Illinois.



Local 571 Retiree Council Secretary-Treasurer, Dee Pospishil, enjoyed the program along with other IFT retirees.

Worksite Leader Training at WSTU

Ten members from Local 571 councils received their pins and certificates on Thursday, October 6, 2016, after completing the five modules in the training. Sessions held in Westmont at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center began in September and finished in October. The instructors were IFT staff from various departments including field staff, communications, organizing, political activities and research. The Worksite Leader Training Workshops included modules covering:

- **Union 101**—provides an overview of the worksite leaders' responsibilities and their vital role in the labor movement
- **Communications and Information**—reviews the importance of communication in Union building
- **Worksite Advocacy**—uses individual and group activities to review the four areas of advocacy
- **Mobilization and Engagement**—focuses on the use of one-on-one conversations to recruit, engage and mobilize co-workers
- **Political, Legislative and Community Engagement**—reviews the Union's policy making and endorsement process

Congratulations to the following Local 571 members who completed the Worksite Leader Training:

Nicole Den Hamer, Cicero
Rachel Esposito, Cicero
Nicole Gamez, Cicero

April Grant, Argo-Summit Teachers
Robin Hancock, Proviso HS PSRP
Dalia Merrill, Cicero

Michael Poleski, Cicero
Lynne Stokke, Cicero
Carol Yurkovic, Cicero
Robert Brunet, PAEC

Brian Clements, PAEC Council and Sandra Bryant, PAEC Council completed the Worksite Leader Training modules at the ULI in March.

Worksite leader Training continues to be offered at other locations and will be offered again in Westmont in the spring. Watch for more information in future newsletters.



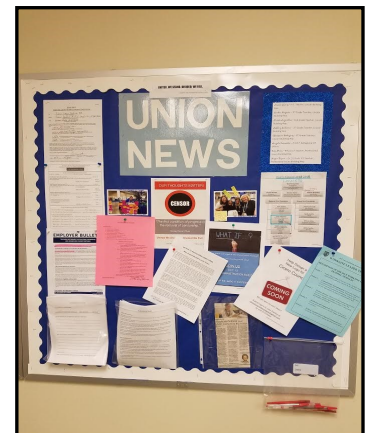
(L>R): Maggie Riley, Francis Lattyak, Clotilde Frankiewicz, and Carissa Gillespie, all from Proviso Teachers Council, have an opportunity to discuss their ideas for member engagement.



(L>R): Cicero Council members, Carol Yurkovic, Nicole Gamez, Dalia Merrill and Lynne Stokke, proudly displayed their certificates for completing the IFT Worksite Leader Training.

Cicero Council is proud of its new, upgraded bulletin boards in every school in the district. Cicero Council purchased butcher paper, borders, and made duplicate "Union" signs to create unified bulletin boards that maximize space and meet the needs of our members with readily available communications on beautiful display. Due to many members from Cicero attending the Worksite Leader Training Modules offered at the Local this past September and October, Cicero Council was inspired to generate union activism through an eye-catching example of union mobilization & engagement. Thank you Cicero Council officers for passing this initiative in our budget. I think ours turned out great!

— Nicole Gamez, Cicero Council Member and Building Representative






Halloween is
Monday,
October 31

School District # 209's Proviso Math and Science Academy Ranked # 1

Chicago Magazine in its September 2016 issue, ranked the *Proviso Math and Science Academy (PMSA)* in Forest Park as the number one public high school in suburban Cook County. We congratulate the students, staff and administrators on a job well done.

SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY TOP 20 HIGH SCHOOLS								
		ENROLLMENT	SPENDING PER PUPIL	FRESHMEN ON TRACK	ACT ATTAINMENT*	ESSENTIALS	GRADUATION RATE	
1	PROVISO MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY (S)	Forest Park	751	\$7,661	95	75	n/a	100
2	NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL	Northfield/Weneta	4,099	\$15,829	98	92	n/a	99
3	JOHN HERSEY HIGH SCHOOL	Arlington Heights	1,949	\$11,820	93	78	n/a	92
4	HINSDALE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	Hinsdale	2,813	\$12,357	99	87	n/a	95
5	GLENBROOK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL	Glenview	2,914	\$13,527	97	77	n/a	96
6	WILLIAM FRENCH HIGH SCHOOL	Palatine	2,750	\$10,773	97	81	3.0	96
7	EVANSTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL	Evanston	3,230	\$11,817	92	65	n/a	89
8	ROLLING MEADOWS HIGH SCHOOL	Rolling Meadows	2,011	\$11,820	88	64	n/a	91
9	GLENBROOK NORTH HIGH SCHOOL	Northbrook	2,051	\$13,527	96	86	n/a	97
10	PROSPECT HIGH SCHOOL	Mount Prospect	2,214	\$11,820	93	79	n/a	94
11	JAMES B. CONANT HIGH SCHOOL	Hoffman Estates	2,409	\$10,773	96	66	n/a	96
12	BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL	Buffalo Grove	1,985	\$11,820	95	68	n/a	93
13	SCHAUMBURG HIGH SCHOOL	Schaumburg	2,395	\$10,773	93	60	3.5	92
14	OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL	Oak Park	3,294	\$13,378	91	68	4.0	94



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This 11-year-old near-west suburban magnet, which has a 58 percent low-income student population, has boasted a 100 percent graduation rate for the past three years.

Programs Designed With AFT Members In Mind

- AT&T WIRELESS**
 - 15% off the monthly service charge of qualified plans*
 - 20% discount on select accessories*
 - Only unionized carrier
- CREDIT CARD***
 - Several card choices
 - Competitive rates
 - U.S.-based customer service
- MORTGAGE**
 - For union members, their parents and children
 - Hardship assistance
 - Competitive rates
- OTHER PROGRAMS**
 - Savings on more than 25 programs available to union members including flowers, theme parks, movie tickets and more!

UnionPlus.org/AFT

1. Available only to current members of qualified AFL-CIO member unions, other authorized individuals associated with eligible unions and other sponsoring organizations with a qualifying agreement. Must provide acceptable proof of union membership such as a membership card from your local union, a pay stub showing dues deduction or the Union Plus Member Discount Card and subscribe to service under an individual account for which the member is personally liable. Offer contingent upon in-store verification of union member status. Discount subject to agreement between Union Privilege and AT&T and may be interrupted, changed or discontinued without notice. Discount applies only to recurring monthly service charge of qualified voice and data plans, not overages. Not available with unlimited voice plans. For Family Talk, applies only to primary line. For all Mobile Share plans, applies only to monthly plan charge of plans with 1GB or more, not to additional monthly device access charges. Additional restrictions apply. May take up to 2 bill cycles after eligibility confirmed and will not apply to prior charges. Applied after application of any available credit. May not be combined with other service discounts. Visit UnionPlus.org/ATT or contact AT&T at 866-499-8008 for details.

2. AT&T will apply the Accessory Discount to the prices of select Accessories available through AT&T, which may be modified by AT&T from time to time. The term "Accessory" or "Accessories" means supplementary parts for Equipment (e.g. batteries, cases, earbuds). The Accessory Discount will not apply to Accessories purchased for use with data-centric Equipment such as modems, replacement SIM cards and car kits or to Apple-branded Accessories, and the Accessory Discount may not be combined with any other promotional pricing or offer.

3. The Union Plus Credit Cards are issued by Capital One, N.A., pursuant to a license from MasterCard International Incorporated. The MasterCard Brand Mark is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. The credit card in this image is for promotional illustration; it does not contain actual cardholder information combined with any other promotional pricing or offer.

Sunday, November 6—Daylight Savings Time Ends!



Remember to turn back your clocks one hour at 2:00 a.m.

PSRP DAY

**Paraprofessional and School-Related Personnel
Wednesday, November 16**

The third Wednesday in November is PSRP Day in Illinois. On this day we honor our clerical staff, teacher aides, nurses, security, monitors, bus drivers, custodians and other school support personnel. We appreciate all you do to help our students and schools be successful.

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



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