

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU/May Calendar

5/14—ExBd Meeting - (5:30 p.m.—Westmont)
 5/14—HOR Meeting - (6:45 p.m.—Westmont)
 5/14—Vote on 571 proposed budget
 5/18—Registration deadline for IMRF Seminar (Westmont)
 5-24—IMRF Seminar (Westmont)

Union Messenger

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Let's **REV** it up!

Thank you for voting in the primary and choosing IFT endorsed candidates. The number of citizens who voted was up considerably from the last mid-term election held in 2014. I hope that you and your family members participated in the process.



It seemed, however, as if the “political season” went on forever. It probably did if you consider we have seen and heard political advertisements for at least the previous 8 months. The political season goes on for so long that we can become numb to candidates and issues. The general election is in November 2018, so it is time to **REV** it up.

Register to vote making sure your information is up-to-date.

Educate yourself and others about the candidates and ballot issues.

Vote whatever way you choose—by mail, early voting or on election day.

The process to involve IFT members in vetting the candidates for the Illinois Legislature and U.S. Congress from around the state begins in June. Eighteen IFT Political Action Committee (PAC) meetings are held to interview those candidates and incumbents who wish us to consider their endorsement. Each very informative meeting is 1 to 2 hours in length depending on the number of candidates to be interviewed. The area PAC meetings provide an opportunity for us to meet, listen to and question candidates before considering an endorsement. The dates for the area PAC meetings will be published prior to the end of the school year for you to add to your calendar. Join both Local 571 and other IFT local members and attend an area PAC meeting.

Now that you have gotten to know the candidates, choose one whom you believe can best represent you and other IFT members. Choose your favorite.

When your favorite candidate or incumbent has been endorsed by the IFT, educate others about the candidate. Which of the candidate's issues, policies and ideas appeal to you? Why is your candidate the best person to run for that office? Why do you believe your candidate will best represent you/your students/your family in the Legislature or Congress?

Talking to Children About School Shootings

By Bonnie Saracco

Tragically, we all have the task of talking to children about school shootings. Whether these children are our students, our own children or grandchildren, or the children of our friends and neighbors, we need to help them manage their reactions to these tragedies.

Research can help us get this right. The National Association of School Psychologists, the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American School Counselor Association have all published resources with consistent evidence-based guidelines for these conversations.

Although the guidelines vary by the developmental ages and needs of individual children, they all agree that, regardless of the child's age, listening is the best first step. Ask the child what he or she already knows.

Even preschoolers can be aware of mass shootings. They hear news, and they have experienced safety drills at school. This information is especially difficult for them to process. Because they typically have misunderstandings and fears caused by magical thinking, it is most important that they get their information from responsible adults rather than from peers. Soliciting their questions can be a helpful way to direct the conversation.

Avoid being too vague, such as simply saying that people got hurt. This will leave them wondering what is different about this situation, why people are talking about it, and why it is on the news. Don't deny what happened or say it was not important. In these media-saturated times children will soon learn that this is not true. After stating the very basic facts, including how far away the event happened, the main messages for young children should be that it is all right to be upset, that there are always good people who are helping, and that you are there to support them. Stress that the chance that they will be personally affected is extremely low, and that the

basic structure of their lives will not change. Be a model of calm reaction.

Older students in the upper elementary grades and middle school typically will have more specific questions. These children still need reassurance and help separating reality and fantasy. Obviously, disturbing images are as accessible to them as the nearest cell phone. To the extent possible, monitor or restrict their exposure to graphic images. **Avoid embellishing and speculating about the future, and help them identify inaccurate comments.**

In the upper middle school grades and high school, students become more opinionated and vocal about school shootings and their causes. Many of these students are motivated to join the movement to stop school violence and help its victims. **These older students still need us to listen, dialogue, and model critical thinking.** We can also help them by sharing our considerable knowledge about effective political activism.

Next month we will look at more tips, including how to support children with special needs, and what to do when warning signs show us that a child is not coping well.



Argo HS teachers supported their students rallying against gun violence on the March 14 National School Walkout.



**WELLS
FARGO** HOME
MORTGAGE

Home financing benefits designed with union families in mind



If you're an active or retired member of a participating union, or the parent or child of one, you may be eligible for special benefits through the **Union Plus® Mortgage** program with financing provided by Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

Through the program you'll have access to Wells Fargo's full range of home financing programs - including **yourFirst MortgageSM**, a low down payment option with the opportunity to earn a closing cost credit through homebuyer education, for both first- and next-time homebuyers.

Special benefits

Receive an award. Finance your home with Wells Fargo and we'll send you a **My Mortgage GiftSM** award after closing — \$500 for buying a home, or \$300 for refinancing your home – for use at participating retailers.¹

Mortgage payment assistance. In the event you experience an unexpected loss of income, Union Plus provides an interest-free mortgage assistance loan or grant to eligible union members and their parents and children.²

Call me today!

Be sure to tell me if you think you're eligible for these benefits. As a Wells Fargo Home Mortgage consultant, I'm here to help you find the home financing that meets your needs.

Jody Gerut
Home Mortgage Consultant
Phone: 847-240-2133
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NMLSR ID 1564972

1. Eligible individuals can receive the Wells Fargo **My Mortgage GiftSM** award approximately 6 weeks after closing on a new purchase or refinance loan secured by an eligible first mortgage or deed of trust with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage ("New Loan"), subject to qualification, approval and closing, when identifying themselves as eligible. The **My Mortgage GiftSM** award is not available with The **Relocation Mortgage ProgramSM** or to any Wells Fargo team member. Only one **My Mortgage GiftSM** award is permitted per eligible New Loan. This award cannot be combined with any other award, discount or rebate, except for **yourFirstMortgageSM**. This award is void where prohibited, transferable, and subject to change or cancellation with no prior notice. Awards may constitute taxable income. Federal, state and local taxes, and any use of the award not otherwise specified in the Terms and Conditions (available at wellsfargo.com/mmgterms and provided at receipt of award) are the sole responsibility of the **My Mortgage GiftSM** recipient.

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Let's Rev it up! (cont. from page 1)

How will you help to get your favorite candidate elected? What is most appreciated by any candidate is participation in his/her campaign. Donate an hour or more to make phone calls, stuff envelopes, canvas your neighborhood, put up a yard sign, or send a donation. It's fun to join other IFT members who, like you, want to see their favored candidate represent them.

Finally, vote for your favorite candidate and other IFT endorsed candidates. Important 2018 General Election dates are listed below.

August 8, 2018	First day to apply for mail ballot.
September 27, 2018	First day for early voting at the office of local election authority. Each election authority can establish locations, dates and hours for early voting.
October 21, 2018	Last day for voters to register through the State Board of Elections website.
November 5, 2018	Last day for early voting.
November 6, 2018	General Election: Polls open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Together we can elect our favorite candidates. **REV** it up!

In unity,

Jane A. Russell
Local 571 President

Important Information for Educators Renewing Licenses in 2018

More than 200,000 educators have licenses up for renewal this year. To put this number in perspective, approximately 60,000 educator licenses are normally up for renewal in a given year. The 2018 renewal year is much larger than usual because it is the first year that educators who were issued a substitute teaching license (SUB) or educator license with stipulations endorsed for paraprofessional (ELS-PARA) in the 2013 certificate-to-licensure exchange will be able to renew these licenses.

As licensure renewal season approaches, ISBE is focused on educators having the best experience possible with the Educator Licensure Information System. ISBE will stagger renewal periods for educators according to license type in an effort to prevent the system from overloading due to increased user traffic.

- Educators who hold a **PEL** and **ELS-CTE** license with an expiration of 6/30/2018 may renew beginning April 1.
- Educators who hold an **ELS-PARA** license with an expiration of 6/30/2018 may renew beginning April 15.
- Educators who hold a **SUB** license with an expiration of 6/30/2018 may renew beginning May 1.
- The "renewal" hot link in educators' action centers will not be activated until the dates identified above.

Professional development for this renewal cycle must be completed by June 30, 2018, and all licenses eligible for renewal must be renewed by August 31, 2018.

A Social Security Webinar

Sponsored by the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571

WHEN: Thursday,
June 14, 2018
10:00 a.m.—Noon

OR

Tuesday,
July 17, 2018
2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

FOR: Local 571 members

WHAT: Identical Social Security Webinars will be presented and questions will be answered 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 14 Webinar, contact Judy Jennings by June 8 at 630/468-4098 or jjennings@ift-aft.org.

If you plan to attend the July 17 Webinar, contact Judy Jennings by July 11 at 630-468-4098 or jjennings@ift-aft.org.

Light refreshments will be served.

Need PD Hours?



We encourage members to register for one or two Local 571 professional development classes being offered this summer. The week-long classes are \$50 each (\$100 for non-members). Lunch will be served and all materials will be provided. In addition to the PD hours, most 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 held at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center in Westmont, IL 60559.

June 11-15, 2018 - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Managing Anti-Social Behavior* - 30 PD hours - 5 sessions - registration deadline: May 28

June 13, 2018 - 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - 1 day only—Free to Union Members

Supporting Grieving Students - 3 PD hours - 1 session - registration deadline: May 28

June 25-29, 2018 - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Instructional Strategies That Work for All Disciplines* - 30 PD hours - 5 sessions - registration deadline: June 4

**Reading Comprehension Instruction* - 30 PD hours - 5 sessions - registration deadline: June 4

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, simply go to www.sixflags.com/partnerlogin?m=13046 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 and one-day tickets at greatly reduced prices, print them on your computer, and have them in hand when you arrive at the park. You will not have to wait in the line to purchase tickets.

A service fee will be added to each order.

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.
- ✓ Money-saving coupons are pre-loaded on the passes.

World's Largest Loop Coaster

New in 2018! A Record-Breaking,
100-Foot Tall Looping Coaster.

Great Lakes ULI

The Union Leadership Institute is a four-day training and leadership development program to be held June 24-28, 2018, at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wisconsin. It is co-sponsored by the Illinois Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers. The courses are designed to enhance local capacity for all AFT constituency groups (Healthcare, PSRP, Public Employees, Higher Education, and Teachers). The program is open to any AFT member. The registration deadline is Friday, May 15, 2018.

2018 Courses

- ◇ Union Leadership Skills
- ◇ Effective Grievance Administration - Part 1
- ◇ Introduction to Negotiations and Contract Campaigns
- ◇ The Union Solution to Stress and Trauma at Our Worksites

Please contact your council president if you are interested in attending or have questions.



April is National Autism Month

*Quote from a parent of an autistic child
— I wouldn't change you for the world
but I'd change the world for you. "*

Earth Day

Sunday, April 22



Administrative Professionals Day

Wednesday, April 25

Arbor Day

Friday, April 27



NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY

May 9



NBPTS Candidate Subsidy

The Illinois State Board of Education is pleased to announce the opening of the 2018 Spring Window for the Illinois \$1,900 NBPTS Candidate Fee Subsidy. The National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University will process applications for eligible Illinois teachers. Funding has been available for 500 candidates. Please take this opportunity to start the NB process and invite other outstanding teachers or counselors to join you in becoming a National Board Certified Teacher. The NBPTS certification process takes from one to three years to complete.

Throughout this period, candidates:

- Analyze and reflect on student learning, based on small and large group work with students, which is supported by video recordings of classroom teaching.
- Analyze and reflect on student learning using student work samples.
- Document accomplishments of working with families and the community, colleagues and the profession and show evidence of how that work impacts student learning.
- Respond to online assessment exercises that demonstrate subject-matter expertise.

For more information, please visit:

<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/>

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



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

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