

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU/September Calendar

9/17—ExBd Meeting - (6:30 p.m.—Westmont)
 9/17—Registration deadline for Legislative Breakfast
 9/29—571 Legislative Breakfast

Union Messenger

Jane Russell, President
 Rachel Esposito, 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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Let's **REV** it up!

The general election is **November 6, 2018**, so it is time to **REV** it up.

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

This can be done online at your county's voting website, at any Department of Motor Vehicles facility or at an early voting location.

Educate yourself and others about the candidates and the ballot issues.

For the list of IFT endorsed candidates, go to:
<https://www.ift-aft.org/vote/candidates>.

Vote for whomever you choose—by mail, early voting or on election day.

Both voting by mail and early voting can easily fit into our busy schedules.



The grassroots process to identify IFT endorsed candidates took place this summer. The process began in Local 571, as well as other Locals around the state, where two meetings were held on June 20. Local 571 has two Political Action Committee (PAC) Chairs, retiree Bonnie Saracco (PAC G) and Lyons teacher Julie McShane (PAC H). The candidates interviewed at each of these meetings completed and returned a questionnaire.

For incumbents, their legislative voting records were reviewed. The area PAC chairs met in July to determine proposed endorsements for federal and statewide legislative races. The final vetting was done by the IFT Executive Board on August 1. Both Jane Russell, WSTU President, and Alice Kautsky, IFT Vice-president, sit on the IFT Executive Board and contributed to the endorsement process. For the list of IFT endorsed candidates, go to: <https://www.ift-aft.org/vote/candidates>.

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Supporting Our Immigrant, Refugee, and Unaccompanied Students

By Bonnie Saracco

The Trump administration's immigration policies have made it more important than ever for us to understand the situation of our immigrant, refugee, and unaccompanied students, many of whom are in crisis situations. We are often the first people to whom students come out as undocumented, and we are also the first people to be able to help them deal with the impact of today's increased enforcement measures. AFT has put together materials which can help us prevent the deportation and criminalization of these children and their families. Good websites to start for an overview are:

www.aft.org and <https://www.aft.org/our-community/immigration/humanitarian-crisis-us-border>.

Federal law provides that all students residing in the United States are entitled to a free K-12 education regardless of their immigration status. In 1982, the Supreme Court decided in *Plyler v. Doe* that all students have this constitutional right, which they called the means to allowing them to become "self-reliant and self-sufficient participants in society."

Although they cannot be denied K-12 education, these students have few other protections, and a huge number of them are in our classrooms. Four million U.S. born students live in mixed-status households, meaning that they have at least one undocumented parent or family member in the home. There are an additional 2.5 million undocumented youth in the United States, and 80,000 of them turn 18 each year. Only 5 to 10 percent begin college each year, and, of these, only 1 to 3 percent graduate each year.

These undocumented students, whose families have come from all parts of the globe, face immense challenges. Many of them learn that they are undocumented only when they apply to college. And, even if their parents have paid taxes, they do not qualify for federal loans or grants.

We should understand the procedures by which public schools must abide regarding the enrollment of these students. It is legal for a school to request evidence of age and district residence, but not of immigration status. Also, schools cannot bar enrollment due to the lack of a student's or parent's birth certificate, social security number, driver's license, or state identification. Violations of these procedures should be reported to the AFT Human Rights Department at aft.humanrights@aft.org.

Parents should also be directed to call the Parental Readiness and Empowerment Program (PREP) at Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law at 844-PREP-4-US (844-773-7487).

The plight of unaccompanied refugee students is especially heartbreaking. These are the children who have no parent or legal guardian in the United States who is available to care for them. Since 2014, over 100,000 of these children have sought refuge in the United States. The vast majority of them are here to escape violence and abuse, and have come from Central America's Northern Triangle of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Many came here seeking family members already living in the United States, and many of them were brought here by human smugglers.

Next month we'll continue with practical information that we need to know, including what to do in the event of an immigration raid.



WHAT: Local 571 Political Action Days

WHEN:
September 15 & October 6
9 - 9:30 am – Breakfast
9:30 - 10 am – Training
10 am - 1 pm – Neighborhood Walks
1 pm – Lunch

WHERE:
Local 571 office
500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont

Choose a day and bring your colleagues, family, and friends to canvass local neighborhoods and talk about important issues in the upcoming election.

RSVP to Audrey Dunn at 800.752.2175 or adunn@ft-aft.org. (A limited number of phone banking opportunities are available for those who are unable to canvass.)

Together, we can put Illinois back on the right path on November 6.



RSVP to 800.752.2175 today!

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Let's **REV** it up**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,
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 candidates who value

- public education with adequate and equitable funding,
- our students,
- working families, and
- Union education workers like us.

Welcome back to the 2018-19 school year. We look forward to your enthusiastic participation and your excellent work in helping to develop all our students to the best of their potential. Have a great year.

REV it up!

In unity,

Jane A. Russell

Local 571 President

13th Annual Legislative Breakfast

Plans are underway for the 2018 West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 Legislative Breakfast on **Saturday, September 29**. This event will take place at Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort.

The following individuals have been invited:

J. B. Pritzker, Candidate for Illinois Governor
 Kwame Raoul, Candidate for Illinois Attorney General
 Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State
 Susana Mendoza, Illinois Comptroller
 Mike Frerichs, Illinois Treasurer

Please contact your Council President for more information. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!



Summer Around the Local Comes To An End

We honored scholarship winners and retirees. We attended PAC meetings and events of organizations which support students and families. We spoke to local legislators in their home offices or at events. We recommitted to our Union along with thousands of brothers and sisters.

Mary Wheeler scholarship winner Brianna White was recognized at the May Local 571 House of Representatives meeting.



L->R: Mom Laurie White, Brianna White and President Jane Russell. Brianna's father is James White, teacher at DuPage H.S. Dist. 88.

Horowitz/Karlovsky scholarship winner, Nicolette Kelsay, received recognition at the May Local 571 House of Representatives meeting.



Nicolette is pictured with her mom, Mary Kelsay, a teacher at DuPage District 88 (on left) with President Jane Russell (on her right).



Local officers President Jane Russell (left) and Secretary Cathy Pope attended the Voices for Illinois Children annual gala fundraiser at Savage Smyth in Chicago. Voices is an organization that does much to serve and advocate for needy children and families in the Chicagoland area.

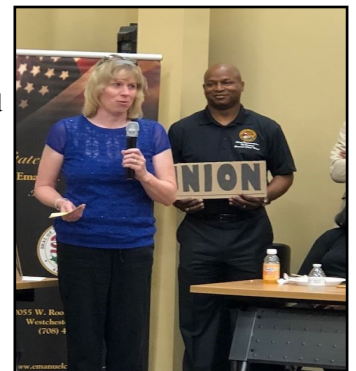


Steve Marten, Leyden Council President and retiree, received a congratulatory certificate at the May Local 571 House of representatives meeting.

Rob Bartlett, long time House of Representatives delegate from Morton Council, was honored and received a certificate as a retiring member.



Julie McShane, 571 COPE Chair, described to the Chris Welch Labor Breakfast attendees, what Union has meant to her. Representative Welch is in the background listening intently.



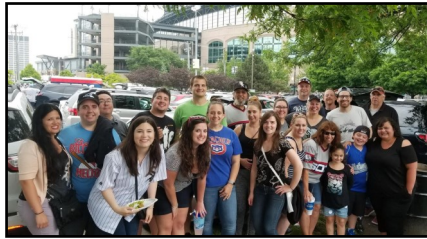
Showing support for IFT/571 endorsed DuPage County Senator Tom Cullerton, (l ->r) were Peggy Biesbor and Katy Padberg (Elmhurst Teachers Council), the Senator, and Julie McShane, Local 571 COPE Chair, who attended a Chicago fundraiser in July.

Summer Around the Local Comes To An End (cont.)

IFT members, including several from Local 571, were #Union Strong along with Representative Chris Welch (far left) who hosted the Labor Recognition breakfast at the new Cement Masons training facility in Bellwood.



Cicero Council members enjoyed the company of their Union brothers and sisters as well as family members, spending a day at Guaranteed Rate Field rooting for the White Sox.



It's back to school for Argo H.S. Council members. The Council officers proudly display the 100% membership commitment to their Union.



Local 571 members and staff interviewed candidates for the IL legislature at the PAC G and H meetings as part of the process for IFT endorsement. Shown being interviewed is Terra Costa Howard running for HD48.



Larry Benischek, 571 retiree, came to the Local office to pay his Union dues, proudly showing his Model A Ford (his first car he purchased at age 16) and holding the sign, "I'm committed to MY UNION."



Local 571 Professional Development Workshops for Union Members



Managing Behavior In School Communities (MBSC)

Dates and Times

—2 sessions:

September 25 and
September 27, 2018

Dinner:

4:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Workshops:

5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Workshop Credit: 6 Professional Development Units (provided both sessions are attended)

REGISTRATION

DEADLINE:

**Wednesday,
September 19, 2018**

Location:

Robert M. Healey
Conference Center

500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, IL
60559-5520

Cost: No charge*

Managing Behavior in School Communities

provides educators and other school personnel with effective strategies for managing unwanted behavior across a variety of learning environments. MBSC will provide teachers and support staff with the information, tools and skills they may need to prevent or eliminate challenging or anti-social behaviors and/or to manage much of this behavior when it occurs.

If you wish to attend these workshops, please send an e-mail to Judy Jennings at jjennings@ift-aft.org, or call her at 630/468-4098.

**Members who sign up to attend but do not without giving Local 571 at least 24 hours advance notice may be charged \$15 for the cost of the meal.*



Identity Theft Protection

The American Federation of Teachers is launching a **free benefit** to protect members against identity theft—the fastest-growing crime in America. The AFT has partnered with **CLC ID Protect** to offer all Union members, including retirees, an ID Threat Score as well as assistance in the event you are a victim of identity theft.



Members who register for the free benefit will have an opportunity to purchase additional comprehensive individual or family ID theft protection. These upgraded services include 24/7 credit monitoring, \$1 million of ID theft insurance, enhanced fraud and credit resolution services, and more. To register for this free benefit, go to <https://clcidprotect.net/co/home/aft>.



2018 AFT Convention—We Care. We Fight. We Show up. We Vote.

Thirty-six Local 571 delegates traveled to Pittsburgh, PA, the founding home of the American Federation of Labor. Later the AFL would merge with the Congress of Industrial Organizations, thus forming the powerful AFL-CIO, an organization which works tirelessly to improve the lives of working people. What better city than Pittsburgh to hold a Union convention where a couple of hundred steel mills employed thousands of workers. Pittsburgh is often called the “Steel City,” although today, no steel mills exist in Pittsburgh city proper but in the wider metropolitan area.

There were plenty of speakers including past presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders along with US Senator Elizabeth Warren. The four public sector Union Presidents from AFT, NEA, SEIU and AFSCME all appeared together and pledged “All in—together.” Business was conducted, resolutions debated and passed, committee meetings and community events attended, and even some fun. Delegates could participate in an AFT delegate reception, award receptions, some sightseeing and a major league baseball game. Delegates came away inspired and with a renewed sense of Union.

On the second day of the convention during the IFT breakfast where we were joined by AFT convention International Guests, Local 571 delegates donned their royal blue t-shirts to show Local 571 is #IFTStrong.

Two Local 571 delegates, Beatriz and Ramon Maa, acted as AFT Sergeant-at-arms for all convention sessions at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Twenty- two Local 571 Councils *as well* as the Local received the 26th anniversary AFT Pride of the Union Award for membership growth. AFT President Randi Weingarten presented the awards at an awards reception and ceremony.

The AFT Women’s Rights Committee breakfast was held on the last morning of the convention where the Living the Legacy Awards were presented. The award serves as an ongoing recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of female members who serve as role models in the AFT. The Local 571 treasurer Sandy Erickson received a plaque and pin signifying 40 years of Union service.

The following thirty-six West Suburban Teachers Union members represented Local 571 as delegates:

Jane Russell	Elodia Estrada	Maria Rivera
Rachel Esposito	Nicole Gamez	Bonnie Saracco
Cathleen Pope	Robin Hancock	Andrea Schramm
Sandra Erickson	Richard Kosensky	Lee Stephens
Christine Schulz	Beatriz Maa	Kyle Stern
Jon Pazol	Ramon Maa	Sharon Stone
Carlin Martinez	Julie McShane	Melanie Thomas
Arnavaz Mistry-Mujthaba	Phyllis Meade	Olga Vazquez
Tom Smith	Justin O’Brien	Marcia Watson
Alice Kautsky	Katy Padberg	Margaret Wunschel
Michelle Bowles	Kimberly Poleski	
Angela Caravetta	Michael Poleski	
Tina Caruso	Mary Ann Putyra	

Thanks to those who provided photos of the convention experiences: Julie McShane, Nicole Gamez, Aviva Bowen, Cathy Pope and Jane Russell.

The International guest from Zimbabwe enthusiastically jumped into the Local 571 delegate picture so she could be part of #UnionStrong.



Local 571 delegates were easy to locate on the convention floor where they had an opportunity to meet with other IFT local delegates before the sessions began.

Senator Warren implored the delegates assembled to "be the change you want to see."



Photo courtesy of the AFT



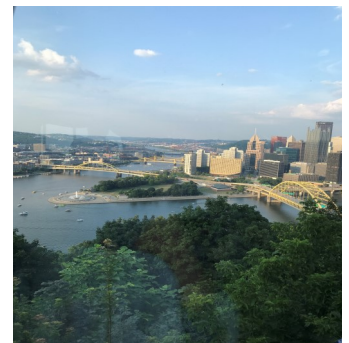
Presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton accepted the AFT Living the Legacy Award. In a straightforward speech pointing at the current administration she said "We have never seen such organized hostility. People are showing up (to protest) in record numbers."

Photo courtesy of the AFT

Grinning from ear to ear were 571 delegates Kyle Stern, Argo H.S. Council President and Arnavaz Mistry-Mujthaba, IFT Field Staff, who were able to snap a picture with their favorite US senator and past presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.



The Cicero delegates' dinner included a picture with student Mei-Ling Ho-Shing from Marjory Stoneman Douglas H.S. in Parkland, FL. Mei-Ling addressed the convention delegates repeating the continuing students' outcry, "We demand change."



On Mt. Washington above the city of Pittsburgh showing the confluence of the 3 rivers. Can you name all three?



IFT members, well over 90, spent a lovely evening together at the Pittsburgh Pirates ballpark, where much to the delight of Cubs fans, the Pirates beat the Milwaukee Brewers. Cicero Council delegates soaked up the congeniality, liquid refreshments and ballpark pierogis, a local food staple.

Delegates well over 1,000 strong, marched through the streets of Pittsburgh to demand equitable funding for public schools. Richard Kosensky, Cicero Council, proudly marched and hoisted the parachute flag in support of public schools.



(l->r): Breakfast attendees from Local 571 gathered around Sandy Erickson who received an AFT Living the Legacy Award. Shown are (l->r) Lola Estrada, Marge Wunschel, Alice Kautsky, Sandy Erickson, Jane Russell, Phyllis Meade, Bonnie Saracco and Cathy Pope.

Official Elections Notice—2019

Nominations are open to all Local 571 Union members.

Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) **Local 571 Convention Delegates Election**

Nominations are now being accepted for delegates to the Illinois Federation of Teachers Convention that will convene in Rosemont, Illinois, on October 18-20, 2019. All Local 571 members are eligible to be nominated as delegates to this convention. Including the ten (10) Officers and Area Trustees of Local 571 who became delegates by virtue of being elected to office, the number of delegates to be elected to this convention will be up to fifty-five (55). Ballots will be counted, and candidates will be ranked by the number of ballots received. Allowing for the ten (10) Officers and Area Trustees, the forty-five (45) candidates with the most votes will be declared delegates. The remaining candidates will be declared alternate delegates; and should any delegate(s) notify the Local of an inability to fulfill the duties of delegate, these alternate delegates will be selected in rank order of votes received to serve in place of the delegate who is unable to serve. Delegates who attend the convention will be reimbursed for expenses up to \$567/delegate. Nominations must be printed or typed (name and Council) and received in the Local 571 office on or before March 11, 2019. Nominees will receive a written or electronic acknowledgement of receipt. Voting will take place in each Council of the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 via secret ballot. Council leaders will notify members of the date(s) and location(s) that voting will take place. Retirees' ballots will be mailed to 571 retiree members via U.S. Postal Service.

Local 571 Officers' Election

Nominations are now being accepted for the following Local 571 Officers: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Legal Defense Secretary, and a Financial Secretary. The term of office is two (2) years beginning July 1, 2019, and by virtue of their election, they shall be elected also as delegates to the AFT and IFT Conventions. Nominations must be printed or typed (name and Council) and received in the Local 571 office on or before March 11, 2019. Nominees will receive a written or electronic acknowledgement of receipt. Voting will take place in each Council of the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 via secret ballot. Council leaders will notify members of the date(s) and location(s) that voting will take place. Retirees' ballots will be mailed to 571 retiree members by U.S. Postal Service. Interested individuals may request further information about the duties of the office by contacting Local 571.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All Local 571 members are:

- **Members of their Council (such as, Argo-Summit Council, Cicero Council, Proviso HS Teachers Council, Rosemont Council, etc.)**
- **Members of the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571**
- **Members of the Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT)**
- **Members of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)**
- **Members of the AFL-CIO**

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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