

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU/June/July Calendar

6/8 —Registration deadline for Social Security Webinar (Westmont)
 6/11—ExBd Mtg. - (5:00 p.m. —Westmont)
 6/14—Social Security Webinar—(Westmont)
 7-1—Councils' election reports due to 571
 7/11 —Registration deadline for Social Security Webinar (Westmont)
 7/13-7/16—AFT Convention (Pittsburgh, PA)
 7-17—Social Security Webinar (Westmont)

Union Messenger

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(We) Will Survive

The title is a paraphrase of the 1978 hit song by Gloria Gaynor, "I Will Survive." The lyrics to the song begin with "At first I was afraid, I was petrified. But then I spent so many nights thinking how you did me wrong. And I grew strong." The lyrics describe what has occurred this past year within our Union. As the 2017-18 school year comes to an end, we await what will be a momentous decision to public sector unions by the U.S. Supreme Court, *Janus v. AFSCME*. The decision will change our Union. In fact, the change has already begun.



We as members work with the boards of education and administrations to collectively bargain for our wages, benefits and working conditions. We are fortunate in Illinois, a non-right-to-work state to be able to negotiate the first and successor agreements. This is not a right in many other states which are right-to-work (for less). For example, a group of Union teachers from AFT Austin, Texas, presented several workshops to IFT Local members discussing and sharing their seven-year development of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) used to evaluate student growth. Based on the AFT Austin teachers' knowledge and expertise, we then began developing SLOs for use in our classrooms. During their workshops, the AFT Austin members often referred to "collective begging" which is their way of asking "permission" of their employers to attain adequate benefits and working conditions. This was a reminder to us, we need to work every day to maintain all the rights and benefits we currently enjoy.

This past school year, we asked our members and other co-workers who are designated fair share to sign new membership cards. By the time this final newsletter of the year is printed, the West Suburban Teachers Union which includes all the members of your Council, will be nearly 5,100 members strong. In fact, the "recarding" is nearly 95% complete. Individually we recognize that to be a Union, our strength lies in numbers. A strong Union membership will insure that your Union can continue to represent all members of the bargaining unit. There are many benefits to Union membership far beyond what is in your Union contract. Working Americans can thank the labor movement for many workers' rights.

Special Circumstances When Talking to Children about School Shootings

By Bonnie Saracco

We know that the guidelines for talking with children about school shootings include being factual, developmentally-appropriate, and a good listener. But it is especially challenging to have these conversations with a child who has special needs, or who is having difficulty coping emotionally with the news.

If a child has developmental delays, we need to gear these conversations to his or her developmental, rather than chronological age. This often means providing a more limited amount of information and avoiding graphic details. Adolescents with developmental delays still need reassurance that, although it is normal to feel anxious, the probability of personally being in a school shooting is very low, and that responsible adults are working to keep them safe. Parents and teachers of children with autism spectrum disorders should employ the same techniques that keep the child calm in other circumstances.

There are classic signs which show that a child is not coping well with news of shootings, and that professional support is needed. They include sleep problems such as unusual difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, and waking up. They also include physical problems such as headaches, stomachaches, chronic fatigue, and changes in eating habits. There are the emotional symptoms of regressive behaviors such as acting unusually immature, sensitive, demanding, and experiencing difficulty separating from parents. Teens can suffer overwhelming depression and engage in new or increased abuse of alcohol and other substances.



Children who have a personal connection to the shooting, or who have experienced prior trauma, are at increased risk for these problems, and need to be closely observed. They need professional help sooner rather than later. In addition to school and community resources, the American Psychological Association can help us find referrals with its Psychologist Locator, <https://locator.apa.org>.

Our hyper-connected, partisan world makes it difficult to control the messages that are bombarding our children. We need to counteract the stereotypes in the news, as children quickly generalize. Perhaps most challenging of all, we need to unceasingly fight bullying and teasing.

Finally, we should take good care of ourselves. When added to all of our other responsibilities, the task of helping children cope with news of school shootings can be overwhelming. In their publication *How to Talk to Children about Difficult News*, the American Psychological Association urges us to “Turn off the news, take a break, engage in physical activity, and do something that will lift your spirits and those of your family.”

cont'd from page 1

(We) Will Survive

No matter the *Janus v. AFSCME* decision which is expected by the middle of June, we will survive. The song lyrics go on to say, “Weren’t you the one who tried to break me with goodbye? Do you think I’d crumble and die? Oh no, not I, I will survive.”

As president, I am very proud to represent the nearly 5,900 members (including retirees) of the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, IFT/AFT/AFL-CIO. Thank you for your continued support.

Enjoy a relaxing and fun summer with friends and family. Congratulations to those retiring from education. We so appreciate your service to our students, their families and community. Even after retiring, you can remain a Local 571 retiree member. Together we are strong.

We will survive.

In unity,



Local 571 President



2018 WSTU Scholarship Winners



The West Suburban Teachers Union (WSTU), Local 571, proudly awarded more than \$24,000 in scholarships to outstanding students and teachers in April. Winning students are the dependents of Local 571 members.

College-bound high school seniors were judged based upon academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, and community service participation. Applications were reviewed and scored by members of the union's Scholarship Committee and Chair Chris Schulz, a counselor at East Leyden High School in Franklin Park.

Five WSTU *Mary Wheeler* scholarships of \$2,750 each were awarded to:

Katherine Cuscaden of Resurrection College Prep High School, Chicago. Her mother, **Lisa Cuscaden**, is a teacher at Willowbrook High School, District 88.

Adam Majka of East Leyden High School. His father, **Joseph Majka**, is a custodian at Franklin Park, District 84.

Camille Smith of North Side College Prep High School, Chicago Public Schools. Her father is **Roderick Smith**, a teacher at Morton West High School, District 201.

Ian Smith of Lane Tech College Prep High School, magnet school in Chicago. His father is **Roderick Smith**, a teacher at Morton West High School, District 201.

Brianna White of Willowbrook High School. Her father, **James White**, is a teacher at Willowbrook High School, District 88.

The union also awarded one \$2,750 *Jo Ann Horowitz/Maryann Karlovsky* Scholarship to **Nicolette Kelsay**, a student at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Her mother is **Mary Kelsay**, a teacher at Willowbrook High School, District 88. This scholarship is presented each year to a college student who is pursuing a career in K-12 teaching or women's /gender studies.

The final 2018 awardees received the *Julienne Phillips* Scholarship. Each recipient is a current, licensed educator who is pursuing an additional degree through graduate work. The six winners are:

Alexandra Beckwith, an educator at Dujardin Elementary School, Bloomingdale, District 13.

Jessica Kastner, a teacher at Sandburg Middle School, Elmhurst, Community District 205.

Katherine Kayastha, a teacher at Hauser Middle School, Riverside, District 96.

Vanessa Moreno, an educator at Ames Elementary School, Riverside, District 96.

Andrea Reyes, a teacher at Hester Junior High School, Franklin Park, District 84

Dana Thomas, a teacher at East Leyden High School, District 212.

The West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, represents over 5,000 K-12 teachers and paraprofessional and school related personnel in Cook and DuPage counties.

2018 WSTU Scholarship Winners

Congratulations



Smith



Camille and Ian with father
Roderick Smith

Beckwith



Lexy Beckwith and Justin

Cuscaden



(l->r) Mother Lisa with Katherine
Cuscaden, sister Tyler and father Bruce

Kastner



Jessica Kastner and Dan

Moreno



(l>r) Daughter Maya, Vanessa
Moreno and daughter Anna Bella

Majka



Adam Majka with mother Carole

Kayastha



(l->r) Chris Schulz, Katie Kayastha and
Jane Russell

Reyes



Andrea Reyes and spouse Steven

Not pictured: Brianna White, Nicolette Kelsay and Dana Thomas

Members Engaged

The Democratic Party of DuPage County held the annual Gala awards/dinner on April 15, 2018 at Drury Lane in Oak Brook. The keynote speaker was San Juan, Puerto Rico Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz. The AFT has provided schools and communities in Puerto Rico with fresh water through Operation Agua. Mayor Carmen thanked us for helping their citizens to again have fresh water for their schools and homes.

Congressman Luis Gutiérrez, Congressional District 4, has played an instrumental role in providing necessities to the Puerto Rican people following Hurricane Maria's destruction of the island, a U.S. territory. Many AFT Puerto Rico members lost their homes and belongings as well as the schools where they worked. Puerto Rico is being rebuilt with the help of Union workers.

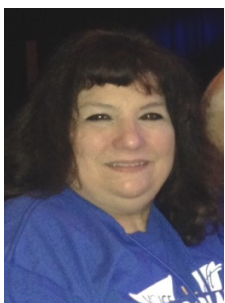


Lola Estrada, Cicero Council, had the opportunity to talk with Congressman Gutiérrez at the event.



Mayor Carmen is surrounded by union members, Louis Rivas (National Association of Letter Carriers), Julie McShane (Lyons Council) and Jane Russell (Local 571 President)

Cathy's Corner

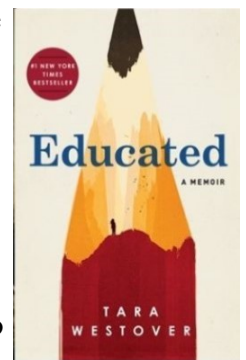


Cathy Pope, Rosemont Council President and Local 571 Secretary, would like your suggestions on what education/labor books you might be reading and want to share with others. Please send your suggestions to: 571editor@gmail.com.

Our suggested read for this issue is a memoir from Tara Westover called ***Educated***. In this age of standardized testing and assessments, it was

refreshing and interesting to read a story about a young girl who was kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. We watch this woman's narrow world open through education. Westover takes us on a journey from a minimalist lifestyle, abuse, and isolation to a new academic life and success. She was the youngest of seven children who grew up on a beautiful mountain in Idaho and was not allowed to go to school or to a doctor.

With the influence of her older brother, she tried to educate herself. At the age of 17, she walked into a classroom for the first time, and found herself on the path of education that took her away from her family. She learned about world events like the Civil Rights Movement and the Holocaust for the first time. Now she was able to see her life through new eyes. In the end, she struggles with the question, "What do you do when you find that loyalty to your family is in conflict with loyalty to yourself?"



This Random House memoir by Tara Westover is a Best Seller.

Interview the Legislative Candidates!

- Members who participate have the opportunity to weigh in at the regional PAC level on endorsements of legislative candidates. Those recommendations then go to the State PAC for consideration on July 10.
- The meeting for both PAC Region G and PAC Region H will take place starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center in Westmont, Illinois, on Wednesday, June 20, 2018.
- A review of legislative voting records and issues will take place during dinner.
- Legislators will be interviewed in 20-minute increments.
- In addition to the State legislative candidates, there is still conversation around inviting Congressional candidates as well.
- Members interested in attending this important meeting should contact Judy Jennings via e-mail at jjennings@ift-aft.org or by phone at 630-468-4098 by June 15.

Region G

PAC Chair: Bonnie Saracco

Region H

PAC Chair: Julie McShane

Senators	House
Cullerton (D) - 23 Lewis (R) - 23	Winger (R) - 45 Borbas (D) - 45 Conroy (D) - 46 Kinzler (R) - 46
Oberweis (R) - 25	Villa (D) - 49 Khouri (R) - 49 Wheeler (R) - 50 Leslie (D) - 50
Holmes (D) - 42	Chapa LaVia (D) - 83 Kifowit (D) - 84 Smith (R) - 84



Senators	House
Connelly (R) - 21 Ellman (D) - 21	Wehrli (R) - 41 Montgomery (D) - 41 Carrier (D) - 42 Grant (R) - 42
Nybo (R) - 24 Glowiak (D) - 24	Caffrey (D) - 47 Mazzochi (R) - 47 Breen (R) - 48 Howard (D) - 48
Curran (R) - 41 Fitzgerald (D) - 41	Olsen (R) - 81 Stava-Murray (D) - 81 Durkin (R) - 82 Chlystek (D) - 82



Bold = incumbent
Not bold = challenger

In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right-to-work.' It provides no 'rights' and no 'works.' Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining... We demand this fraud be stopped.

— Martin Luther King —



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AFT National Release**April 19, 2018****AFT Severs Relationship with Wells Fargo over Guns**

WASHINGTON—American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten announced today that the union would cut ties with Wells Fargo, after CEO Tim Sloan failed to follow up on meeting with the union to discuss the bank's relationship with the National Rifle Association and gun manufacturers.

Earlier this month, the AFT released correspondence from Weingarten to Sloan outlining the union's concerns about Wells Fargo's connections with the NRA as well as its intention to stop offering Wells Fargo mortgages if Wells Fargo continues being the NRA banker.

The Wells Fargo mortgage program is part of the Union Privilege program, and approximately 1,600 AFT members have opted for these mortgages annually. More than 20,000 AFT members currently hold mortgages through the program. Today, the AFT will officially remove the bank from its list of approved lenders, sending a letter to each of its state federation leaders alerting them of the change. The AFT will urge other Union Privilege members to follow suit.

"Gun violence is an epidemic, but Tim Sloan won't even engage in a conversation about mitigating it, much less take any real steps. We took him up on his offer to meet with us, then he went radio silent. So if Wells Fargo won't value children and teachers above guns, we won't do business with Wells Fargo," Weingarten said. "It can be the bank for America's teachers, or it can be the bank for the NRA and gun manufacturers. But, given the NRA's refusal to even help mitigate gun violence, Wells Fargo can't be both. Other companies, like Bank of America, BlackRock and Vanguard, have stepped up and engaged in meaningful conversations about what responsible relationships with gun companies look like, but Wells Fargo won't. In fact, when we tried to schedule a meeting to discuss it, its friends at NRATV started launching vile attacks on teachers and personal attacks against me.

"We're ending this relationship because we have a responsibility to our members and their students, who face potential gun violence every day. Gun violence is a public health epidemic, and in order to help stop it, we'll stop the flow of resources to the companies that manufacture these weapons that have caused so much civilian carnage and death."

A Social Security Webinar for Local 571 Members

Sponsored by the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571

Identical Social Security Webinars will be presented and questions will be answered by a representative of the Social Security Administration.

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

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.

Enjoy A Union-Made Memorial Day

Stock your summer BBQ with Union-Made Products

This summer, make sure to stock your barbeque with union-made products. From Vienna Beef hot dogs, Frito Lay snacks and Weber grills, show your support for union men and women by picking the right products to serve your friends and family.

To find out more about union-made products, go to:

<http://www.chicagolabor.org/union-resources/union-made-bbq>

**MONDAY
MAY 28**



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

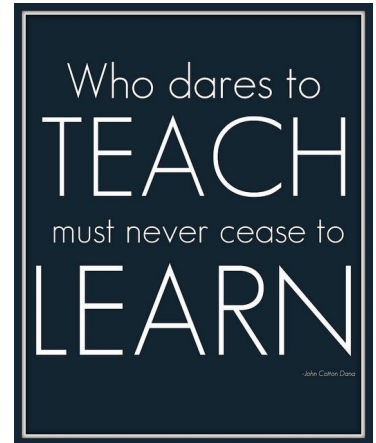
Supporting Grieving Students - 3 PD hours - 1 session - registration deadline: May 28

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.



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summer
Vacation!



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Free College is possible thanks to the early support and enthusiasm of AFSCME, who entered into a collaboration with Eastern Gateway Community College in 2016.

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

West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571
500 Oakmont Lane
P.O. Box 390
Westmont, IL 60559-0390
Phone: 630-468-4098 Fax: 630-468-4088
E-mail: jjennings@ift-aft.org