

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU December/January

12/4—HOR Meeting - (6:30 p.m.—Westmont)
 1/4—Registration deadline for Making the Best Choice in 403(b)s Workshop
 1/8—Making the Best Choice in 403(b)s Workshop - (4:30 pm. to 6 pm.—Westmont)
 1/8—ExBd Meeting - (6:30 pm.— Westmont)
 1/11—Registration deadline WTL—Module 1
 1/18—Worksite Leader Training Module 1 - (5 p.m. to 8 p.m. — Westmont)

Union Messenger

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 Rachel Esposito, Vice President
 Sandra Erickson, Treasurer
 Cathleen Pope, Secretary
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 571 Union Messenger Editor



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Sad Start for the Holidays

We all look forward to spending some quality time with family and friends as the year winds down. But isn't it a shame that a report released this fall shows student anxiety and hostility on public high school campuses has worsened since the president was elected in November 2016. The UCLA report provides insight into this growing epidemic.



Teachers in public high schools across the U.S. were surveyed about the political debates, combative political dynamics at the national level, heightened student stress and incivility, and the impact of the national political environment on student experiences. The key findings from the report of the study by John Rogers, U of California at Los Angeles, show the following.

- In schools enrolling mostly students of color, stress and concerns with welfare are greater.
- Incivility and reliance on unsubstantiated sources increased, particularly in predominantly white schools.
- In the predominantly white schools, there is a growing hostility for racial and religious minorities and other vulnerable groups.
- School leaders that did not act quickly with issues related to the political environment saw student behavior grow dramatically worse.
- Because of the vastly declining national political environment, more young people are subject to adverse social, emotional and academic consequences, undercutting the democratic purposes of public education.
- Educators need more support to help mitigate some of the challenges at the same time political leaders should be addressing the underlying causes of campus incivility and stress.

A Utah social studies teacher lamented, "I've never been in a school year where I've had so many kids, kind of on edge." Teachers surveyed made suggestions on how to mitigate some of these challenges. 91.6% of those surveyed agreed that: "National, state and local leaders should encourage and model civil exchange and greater understanding across lines of difference."

If your school or district staff have not discussed these issues, now may be the time. Those in the classroom with appropriate guidance and support from professional development opportunities can make a difference in alleviating the underlying factors that create stress and anxiety for young people and their families.

The Officers and Staff of Local 571 wish you a healthy and happy holiday season, and a more civil and less stressful New Year.

In unity,

Jane A. Russell

Local 571 President



West Suburban Teachers Union Twelfth Annual Legislative Breakfast

By Bonnie Saracco



The 2017 West Suburban Teachers Union Legislative Breakfast on October 21st at the Hilton Chicago Oak Brook Resort and Conference Center used a new format, giving the Illinois Democratic Gubernatorial candidates an opportunity to present their case to our members. Chris Kennedy and State Senator Daniel Biss spoke, and J.B. Pritzker was represented by his running mate, Juliana Stratton. Jane Russell, IFT Secretary-Treasurer and West Suburban Teachers Union President, presided over the breakfast, and Cynthia Riseman, IFT Director of Political Activities, was the M.C.

Juliana Stratton began by telling about her background, including her experience in the Illinois State Legislature. She talked about Pritzker's pro-public education positions and said that he will stop Governor Rauner's push to destroy organized labor. In response to a question by Cynthia Riseman, she said that she has sponsored a climate change bill, and that our Illinois standards will not be lowered to match any decreased environmental protections in federal laws.

Chris Kennedy talked about his background, starting with establishing an oil company in the 1980's to provide heat for people who could not afford it. He said that Ronald Reagan's presidency increased poverty, and that in response he founded Top Box to feed the hungry. He recounted his Merchandise Mart leadership. At one time the Merchandise Mart was the biggest building in the world, and has been an economic engine for Chicago and Illinois. In response to Cynthia Riseman's questions, he said that he opposes right to work laws, that our pensions should be secure, that SB 1's voucher scheme is unconstitutional, that he has always been for strong environmental protections, and that he sent all four of his children to the excellent Kenilworth public schools and to New Trier.

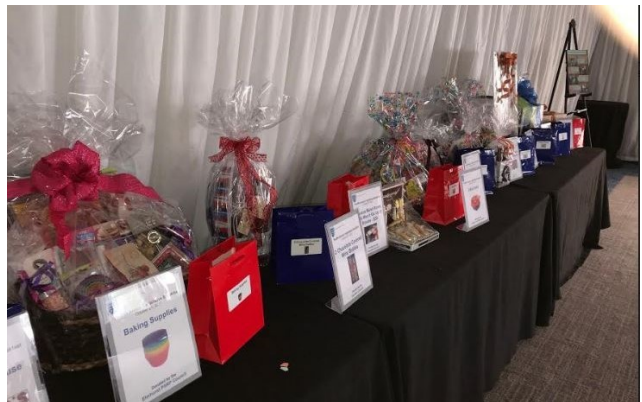
State Senator Daniel Biss (D-District 9) was the final gubernatorial candidate to speak. Biss is a former University of Chicago math professor, and said that he ran for the Illinois Senate to fight for his beliefs. He also said that this is a "unique moment of choice for our state" and "a battle for the soul of the Democratic party." He called Donald Trump a "horrifying president" and said that Governor Rauner held Illinois hostage without a budget for 206 days due to his obsession with destroying unions. Biss argued for a progressive state income tax in Illinois, strong environmental protections, and a better school funding formula. When asked about pensions by Cynthia Riseman, he talked about his previous proposal of a bill

to reduce our pensions. He clearly stated, "I was wrong. I was way too quick to accept a false choice. The Illinois Supreme Court unanimously found that my position on pensions was unconstitutional."

We presented recognition awards to **Senator Linda Holmes (D-District 42)**, **Senator Laura Murphy (D-District 28)**, and **Representative Chris Welch (D-District 7)**, for their extraordinary support for public education. Senator Holmes, the one "no" vote on the pension committee against the illegal "reform" proposal, spoke against the "charter school nonsense" and said that we "don't need public money going to charter schools." Senator Murphy said that "Without your support I would not have been successful in the 2016 election," and that "All that is going on in Springfield is just a distraction to the governor's agenda to destroy unions." Representative Welch said that he was honored to receive the award, that our team in Springfield is "top-notch", and that we have a "governor who wants to gut and dishonor this profession."

Brandon Johnson, Chicago Teachers Union Political Director, represented Karen Lewis. He said that the 1% is not paying their fair share, and that "for cafeteria workers in Illinois to pay the same flat tax rate as Governor Rauner is an injustice."

As always, our gift card and basket raffle raised funds for our scholarship and political education committees, and we look forward to another successful Legislative Breakfast next year.



The popular basket and gift card raffle raised over \$1600 for Local 571 scholarships and COPE.



Legislative Breakfast



Juliana Stratton, candidate for Lt. Governor and running mate with J.B. Pritzker, described her background and why she joined the Pritzker campaign.

Sen. Linda Holmes, Aurora, proudly displays the Local 571 plaque awarded to her.



Chris Kennedy, candidate for Illinois Governor, told about himself and his family and the meaning of his gubernatorial race.



Recipient Sen. Laura Murphy, Elk Grove Village, was also an award winner.



Cynthia Lund, IFT Political Activities and program M.C., listens intently while gubernatorial candidate, Sen. Daniel Biss, answered a question posed by Lund.

Rep. Chris Welch, Westchester, poses with the plaque presented by Local 571.



Chris Kennedy took time to talk with Local 571 members.



Candidate Biss got to know Proviso PSRP members present at the breakfast.



Cynthia Lund, event M.C. and Local 571 President Jane Russell with candidate Julianna Stratton.



Lead by the Legislative Breakfast Committee Chair, Rachel Esposito (not pictured), the committee took a moment together during set-up for the breakfast event.

AFT Civil, Human, and Women's Rights Conference 2017

By Kira Bonk

"An Attack on One is an Attack on All: Solidarity, Justice, Fairness, and Opportunity in the Era of Trump, Janus, & the New Gilded Age" was the theme of this year's American Federation of Teachers' Civil, Human, and Women's Rights Conference. What a fitting title, indeed, given the effects of 2017's tumultuous political climate; it seems that more people than ever before feel voiceless or attacked by elected officials claiming to have America's best interests at heart. The conference, held in New Orleans, sought to bring union professionals from across the country together to address these fears, provide resources, and inspire action.



Day one of the conference included a highly informative Q & A session about the *Janus* case led by David Strom, director of AFT's legal department. Strom provided much needed background and context surrounding the *Janus* case, followed by an urgent plea for all local unions to begin preparing for the possibility of having their fair share rights taken away – a decision that would take effect immediately and could potentially cause extensive loss of revenue. Strom emphasized that while the fight against such a decision is (and has been for decades) going strong, this fight will continue even after the Supreme Court's verdict. Professionals from right-to-work states shared their experiences and offered hope for union leaders overwhelmed by the possibility of having fair share rights removed, stressing the need for organization and preparation.

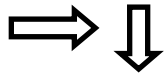
The conference also included breakout sessions with topics ranging from the intersection of gender, race, and sexual orientation in the workplace to the power of voting. Particularly moving was the session entitled Protecting Our Children and Their Families from the Threat of Deportation. Young educators from Austin, Texas shared their personal stories about the impact of DACA's termination on both them and their students. The stories were moving and real – it was immediately evident that the repeal of DACA is damaging the livelihood of thousands of young people who are simply trying to lead fulfilling lives. There were many resources shared from groups such as United We Dream and union leaders are urged to put pressure on Congress to support the Clean Dream Act in order to free thousands of people from the ever-present fear of deportation and provide a pathway to citizenship once and for all.



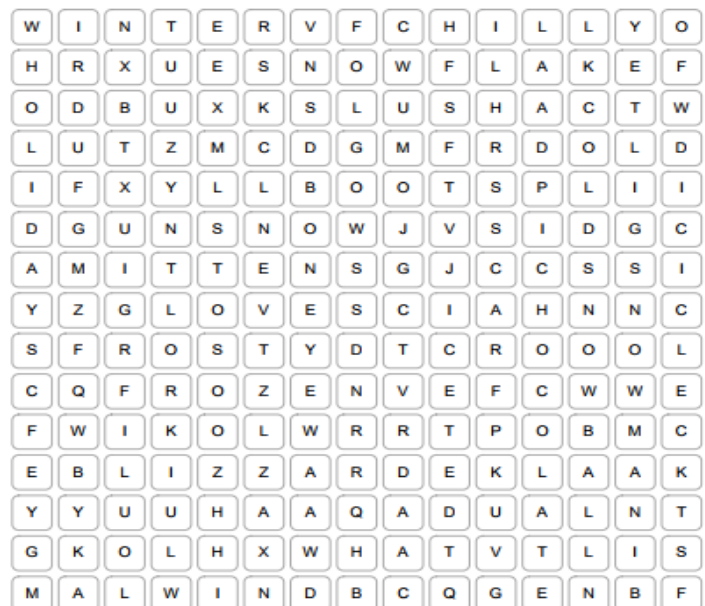
The conference closed with a panel discussion of how to talk about civil, human, and women's rights issues in our communities in meaningful ways, in addition to what local unions can do to fight back against *Janus*. Mary Cathryn Ricker, Executive Vice President of the AFT, encouraged union professionals to stay strong, get organized, and channel our outrage about our nation's current political climate into action rather than apathy.

Winter Word Search

Can you find all the hidden words in this word search?



BLIZZARD	MITTENS
BOOTS	SCARF
CHILLY	SLUSH
CHOCOLATE	SNOW
COLD	SNOWBALL
FROSTY	SNOWFLAKE
FROZEN	SNOWMAN
GLOVES	WIND
HAT	WINTER
HOLIDAYS	
ICE	
ICICLE	



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 January 27.
- 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 Thursday, January 4, 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 federal 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 December 20.

Region G

PAC Chair: Bonnie Saracco

Senators	House
Cullerton—23	Winger—45 Conroy—46
Oberweis—25	Fortner—49* Wheeler—50
Holmes—42	Chapa LaVia—83 Kifowit—84



Region H

PAC Chair: Julie McShane

Senators	House
Connelly—21	Wehrli—41 Ives—42
Nybo—24	Bellock—47* Breen—48
Curran—41	Olsen—81 Durkin—82



Bold = to be elected in 2018

*** = not seeking reelection in 2018**

Handwriting to Return to Illinois Public Schools in 2018!

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - Legislation requiring cursive writing to be taught in Illinois' elementary schools is now law thanks to efforts by state Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, to revitalize this skill.

"As technology has advanced in the fast-paced world we live in, the way we write and communicate with each other needs to adjust as well," Welch said. "As a result, our schools have adapted to focus on teaching students how to print and type quickly, however at the expense of teaching cursive writing. To make our young students stronger readers, writers and critical thinkers, our schools will again teach cursive so they can begin to develop these necessary skills."

Welch is the chief sponsor of House Bill 2977, which requires public elementary schools in Illinois to teach at least one unit on cursive writing in their curriculum. Cursive writing has been shown to help children improve reading, writing and critical thinking skills. Additionally, many historical documents, including the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, were written in cursive. Following the General Assembly's successful override of Governor Rauner's veto of the measure, House Bill 2977 becomes law and takes effect during the 2018-2019 school year. By learning cursive writing, Welch believes students will be able to read and appreciate many important pieces of our history.

"Writing in cursive forces students to choose their words more carefully, improving their understanding of the topic and quality of their writing," said Welch. "By ensuring all students learn how to write in cursive, they will be given a tool that will help them deepen their understanding and improve their communication and creativity."



Learn more about UAW union-made vehicles at: <https://uaw.org/solidarity-magazine/2017-uaw-built-vehicles-list/>

UAW CARS (USA)

Buick LaCrosse
Buick Verano
Cadillac ATS
Cadillac CTS
Cadillac CT6
Chevrolet Bolt (electric)
Chevrolet Camaro
Chevrolet Corvette
Chevrolet Cruze*
Chevrolet Cruze (diesel)
Chevrolet Impala
Chevrolet Malibu
Chevrolet Sonic*
Chevrolet Volt (electric)
Chrysler 200
Dodge Viper
Ford C-Max (full hybrid/electric)
Ford Focus
Ford Focus (electric)
Ford Mustang
Ford Taurus

UAW SUVs/UVs (USA)

Buick Enclave
Cadillac Escalade
Cadillac Escalade ESV
Cadillac Escalade Hybrid
Cadillac XT5
Chevrolet Suburban
Chevrolet Tahoe
Chevrolet Tahoe (police)
Chevrolet Tahoe (special service)
Chevrolet Traverse
Dodge Durango
Ford Escape
Ford Expedition
Ford Explorer
GMC Acadia
GMC Yukon
GMC Yukon Hybrid
GMC Yukon XL
Jeep Cherokee
Jeep Compass

Jeep Grand Cherokee

Jeep Patriot
Jeep Wrangler
Lincoln MKC
Lincoln Navigator

UAW VANS (USA)

Chevrolet Express
Ford Transit
GMC Savana

UAW SPECIALTY VEHICLES (USA)

American General
MV-1 (for disabled drivers)

UNIFOR CARS (Canada)

Buick Regal
Cadillac XTS
Chevrolet Impala
Chevrolet Impala (police)
Chrysler 300
Dodge Challenger

Dodge Charger

UNIFOR SUVs/UVs (Canada)

Chevrolet Equinox
Ford Edge
Ford Flex
GMC Terrain
Lincoln MKT
Lincoln MKX

UNIFOR VANS (Canada)

Chrysler Pacifica
Dodge Grand Caravan

Nabisco Boycott

Last year Mondelēz International chose to ship more than 600 good jobs making popular snacks, like Oreos, to Salinas, Mexico. Stand up for our working men and women and against corporate greed.

**Nabisco
Boycott
National
Day of
Action**

#ChecktheLabel



Check the label, and don't buy Nabisco products made in Mexico.



Local 571 Professional Development Course Winter 2018



Reading Comprehension Instruction All eight (8) sessions are on Wednesdays

Dates and Times—8 sessions: January 31; February 7, 14, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 2018

Dinner: 4:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.; Sessions: 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

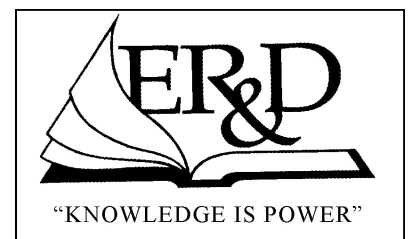
Workshop Credit: 30 Professional Development Units

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, January 15, 2018

Location: Robert M. Healey Conference Center
500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, IL 60559-5520

Cost: \$50 per course for members; \$100 for non-members (includes materials and a light supper)

The course description and registration form can be found on the Local 571 website (www.wstu571.org) or by calling the Local 571 office (630-468-4098).



This course is for teachers and support staff. Participants earn 30 professional development units. For an additional cost of \$846.00 participants can earn two (2) Governors State University graduate credit hours or \$362.00 for two (2) Prairie State Community College undergraduate credit hours. Participants may enroll and pay for university or college credit hours at the first class session.

WORKSHOPS FOR BUILDING REPS. & OTHER COUNCIL LEADERS

If you wish to attend one or more of the following workshops which will be held at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center (500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, IL 60559), please contact Judy Jennings by phone at 630-468-4098 or by e-mail at jjennings@ift-aft.org by the deadline listed for each one. Light dinners will be served. These workshops are free to all Union members.

Worksite Leader Training - Module 1 Workshop

Union 101 provides an overview of the worksite leaders' responsibilities and their vital role in the labor movement.

Thursday, January 18, 2018

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Reservation deadline: January 11

Worksite Leader Training - Module 2 Workshop

Communications and Information reviews the importance of communication in Union building. Participants will review tools and methods for maintaining worksite data and provide opportunities to improve communication skills.

Thursday, February 15, 2018

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Reservation deadline: February 8

Worksite Leader Training - Module 3 Workshop

Worksite Advocacy will use individual and group activities to review four areas of member advocacy: gripes and grievances, member representation, contract enforcement, and member mobilization.

Thursday, March 15, 2018

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Reservation deadline: March 8

Worksite Leader Training - Modules 4 & 5 Workshop

Mobilization and Engagement (Module 4) will focus on the use of one-on-one conversations to recruit, engage, and mobilize co-workers.

Political, Legislative and Community Engagement (Module 5) will review the Union's policy making and endorsement process.

Thursday, April 12, 2018

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Reservation deadline: April 4

OFFICIAL ELECTION NOTICE

Nominations are open to all Local 571 members.

American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Convention Delegates

Nominations are now being accepted for delegates to the American Federation of Teachers Convention that will convene in Pittsburgh, PA, on July 13-16, 2018. All Local 571 members are eligible to be nominated as delegates to this convention. There can be up to forty-five (45) delegates, including the ten (10) Officers which include Area Trustees, who became delegates by virtue of being elected to office. Ballots will be counted, and candidates will be ranked by the number of ballots received. Allowing for the ten (10) Officers, the thirty-five (35) 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 \$1,120/delegate. Nominations must be printed or typed (name and Council) and received in the Local 571 office on or before February 5, 2018. 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. Retired members' ballots will be mailed via U.S. Postal Service to their homes.

Reminder. . .

Local 571 scholarships are available to our members and/or their children. They are:

Mary Wheeler Scholarships,

Horowitz and Karlovsky Scholarships

Julienne Phillips Scholarships

Applications can be obtained from our website (www.wstu571.org) or by calling Judy Jennings at (630-468-4098).

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. ***Members who register to attend a workshop, but do not attend and have not informed us of the absence at least 24 hours prior to the date of the workshop will be charged \$15 for the cost of the meal.***

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>
1/8/2018	Making the Best Choice in 403(b)s	1/4/2018
2/5/2018	Impact of Student Growth on Teacher Evaluation: A Sharing Session on What Your Council Has Learned	2/1/2018
3/12/2018	Student Debt Loan Forgiveness	3/8/2018

Winter is Coming

Winter Solstice –the shortest day of the year begins on December 21.



Very best wishes from the officers and staff of Local 571.



We hope you have a joyous and safe holiday season, and a new year filled with great expectations and success.

Word Search Solution

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W I N T E R + + C H I L L Y +
H + + + + S N O W F L A K E +
O + + + + S L U S H + C + +
L + + + + + + + + O + +
I + + + + B O O T S + L + I
D + + + S N O W + + S + D + C
A M I T T E N S + + C C S S I
Y + G L O V E S + I A H N N C
S F R O S T Y + + C R O O L
+ + F R O Z E N + E F C W W E
+ + + + + + + + O B M +
+ B L I Z Z A R D + + L A A +
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The "Word Search" is on page 4.

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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