

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

Get Ready to Vote

WSTU/November Calendar

11/3-4—IFT-ULI—Westmont
 11/6—General Election
 11/9—571 80th Anniversary Celebration
 11/12—ExBd Mtg. (6:30 pm.—Westmont)
 11/15—Deadline for filing IRS forms for Councils that closed their books in June

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



Inside This Issue:

13th Annual Legislative Breakfast	2-4
Indian Summer	5
Local 571's 80th Anniversary	6
WSTU Pre-Meeting Workshops	7
AFT Give Away—Identity Theft Protection	8

The 2018 election for Illinois governor is not about two billionaires. It is an election about our values, our responsibility to and support of all our students. It is about providing them with the quality education to which they have the right so that our future citizens can have a positive impact in their communities.

You are registered to vote. The next step is to be sure you are educated about the candidates in preparation for voting. With the help of WBEZ radio questionnaires and candidate interviews in their own words and descriptions, the following comparisons can be made about the two candidates and their views on educating Illinois children. <https://www.wbez.org/shows/sbez-nws/rauner-and-pritzker-tackle-5-questions-on-education/29d7bcd6-57fe-4224-894e-1d4876e9350f>

J. B. Pritzker	Bruce Rauner
<u>Education Policy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has been a national advocate for childhood education for over 20 years Quality public education should start with early childhood education for all children Has a 5-point plan for early childhood education Helped to expand the federal school breakfast grants to 200,000 Illinois children in low-income school districts 	<u>Education Policy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passionate advocate for educational opportunity Diana, his wife, is President of Ounce of Prevention, a non-profit to help low-income students to be successful in school The Rauner College Preparatory, 4-year charter high school in Chicago, part of the Noble Charter School Network, was named after Rauner for support of the first Nobel charter expansion campus
<u>School Funding Gap</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wants to be sure the school funding reform directs the new funding to students and schools needing it most To continue to provide equitable and sustainable funding, supports a fair income tax to help balance the state budget and expand investment in public schools 	<u>School Funding Gap</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed into law the education funding reform bill in August, 2018 Vetoed the previous education funding reform bill, SB1, in August 2017
<u>School Choice</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposes diverting public education funds to private schools Opposes school vouchers 	<u>School Choice</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need more access to school choice in Illinois Signed bill to create the first ever scholarship tax credit program in Illinois, the "Invest in Kids" program
<u>Students Leaving Illinois for College</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need a world class education system; will lead an effort to build student-centered higher education system which is more affordable, attractive to all students, aligned with jobs of tomorrow Make college more affordable by increasing financial aid and restoring funding for colleges and universities 	<u>Students Leaving Illinois for College</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced plans to establish Discovery Partners Institute in Chicago to help grow businesses and keep the brightest in Illinois to take those business jobs, thus keeping them in Illinois to grow the economy To incentivize new business, will lower taxes by eliminating burdensome regulations and welcoming new businesses



Thirteenth Annual Local 571 Legislative Breakfast By Bonnie Saracco



On September 29 at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center, **Jane Russell, West Suburban Teachers' Union President and IFT Secretary-Treasurer**, opened our 13th Annual Legislative Breakfast with a warm welcome and the strong message that we need to work to ensure that our IFT-endorsed candidates are elected. A packed room of attendees then heard from them.

Cynthia Riseman, IFT Director of Political Activities, made the introductions. Although gubernatorial candidate J.B. Pritzker could not attend due to a family emergency, **Lieutenant Governor candidate Juliana Stratton** conveyed their respect for us, saying, "You have the creativity and insight. Our role is to listen to your voices," and emphasizing that Governor Bruce Rauner surely does not listen to us. She also spoke about the damage Rauner has done by two billion dollars of cuts to Illinois higher education, which have resulted in many Illinois college students fleeing to other states. She said that she and J.B. will increase student MAP grants by 50% and will work for a progressive and fair state income tax. She concluded that Democrats care about all people and will especially protect seniors, veterans, and children.

IFT President Dan Montgomery continued the theme, saying that "J.B. and Julianna want to hear from us" and that their election will bring about a big positive change because "we are coming out of a dark time." He told the revolting story of how Rauner began his term by suing the teachers at the Illinois School for the Deaf to take away their union rights under the guise of first amendment freedom. Under Rauner, five of our Illinois universities now have junk bond status, many of our social service agencies have simply closed due to lack of funding, and Illinois has sixteen billion dollars of unpaid bills.

Next up was **Illinois State Treasurer Mike Frerichs**, who explained the work he does as Illinois treasurer. Despite massive debt, Illinois does have invested money. His office controls investments in seven hundred funds, which bring in twenty-three million dollars a month to the state. He talked about his teaching experience which began in Taiwan where teachers are revered. He firmly believes that talent is spread equitably among all of our children. He said that a study has shown that any amount of money invested for a child in a college-dedicated savings account significantly increases the child's likelihood of attending college by sending the profound message "I believe in you." Along that same line, he talked about the improvements he has made to the Bright Start program, which have reduced fees paid to financial institutions and double-upgraded its bond rating from bronze to gold.

Comptroller Susana Mendoza also talked about state finances, pointing out that she made sure that Illinois schools still received their funding during the budget impasse. She has brought about four major transparency reforms in the Illinois budget process because "light is the best disinfectant," and she also cut her own office's budget. She summarized, "All Bruce Rauner cares about is money..., more for him, less for you."

Kwame Raoul is running for Illinois Attorney General. He thanked us for helping him communicate his message throughout this large state. He said that it is the state attorney general who protects us from the overreach of the federal government, including from attacks on our health care coverage. He has over 25 years of legal experience, while his unqualified opponent has only tried one case. In addition, she actually ran for Congress four years ago on a platform of removing the Affordable Care Act and is against basic human rights which are already settled law.



Thirteenth Annual Local 571 Legislative Breakfast



Secretary of State Jesse White, recounted his many years of service to Illinois and the various functions of his office. His service to Illinois includes 32 years as a teacher, 16 years as a state representative, 6 years as Cook County Recorder of Deeds, 19 years as Secretary of State, and 59 years running the Jesse White Tumblers. He also talked about his role as the Illinois chief librarian, and as the administrator of the Illinois Organ and Tissue donor program. It has signed up 6,300,000 potential donors, but there are still over five thousand people in Illinois waiting for organs. Due to a new law that he supported, fifty-five thousand high school students have now signed up as donors when getting their driver permits.

As always, we had a successful raffle for the 571 Scholarship and COPE Committees netting over \$2,100. **Jane Russell** closed the program by vouching for the character, genuineness and service of all these candidates, reminding us, **“We care. We fight. We show up. We vote.”**



Over 170 attendees packed the Marquis for the 2018 Legislative Breakfast.



IFT Director of Political Activities and program coordinator, Cynthia Riseman, watches as candidate for Lt. Governor, Juliana Stratton, shares J.B. Pritzker and her platform.



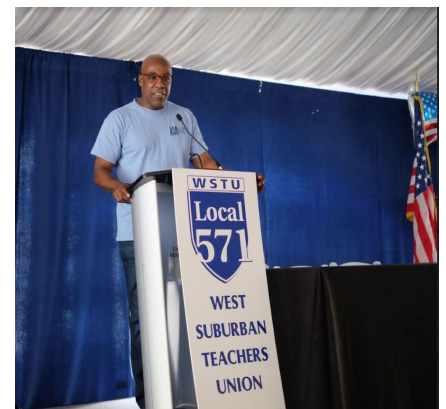
IFT President Dan Montgomery emphatically points out how the state has suffered under the current governor.



State Treasurer Mike Frerichs talks about his work investing in education for our kids.



Comptroller Susana Mendoza enthusiastically returned to the 571 breakfast as she was a candidate at the 2016 breakfast. Susana was supporting Attorney General candidate Kwame Raoul.



Attorney General candidate Kwame Raoul relates to the participants as he explained the need for adequate health care and his family members fight to beat prostate cancer.



Thirteenth Annual Local 571 Legislative Breakfast



Jesse White, Secretary of State, has served Illinois for many years and created several of the Secretary of State outstanding programs.



IFT Vice-presidents Steve Grossman, Local 1274 and John Braglia, Local 1211 continue to discuss the importance of having IFT endorsed candidates be elected.



Attorney General candidate Kwame Raoul spent time talking with IFT members including Brittany Berleman from Local 1211, Northwest Suburban Teachers Union.



IFT Vice Presidents John Braglia, Local 1211 (left) and Karen Kendall, Local 943, joined IFT Staff Cynthia Riseman and IFT Secretary Treasurer Jane Russell, for the September 29 event.



Argo H.S. attendees stood "tall" with Illinois State Treasurer Mike Frerichs (in the back row) and IFT President Dan Montgomery on the right.



571 members from the District 88 PSRP Council and newest Computer and Technical Assistance Council enjoyed the excitement of the event.



There were 50 winners of gift cards, gift baskets and an overnight at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills resort which were raffled.



One of the most popular of the gift card raffle included lottery tickets spelling out the theme of the breakfast, VOTE.



Another successfully planned breakfast put smiles on the Legislative Breakfast Chair, Rachel Esposito (on the left) and the rest of the committee.

Indian Summer

This past summer, I traveled to India with my husband, where we visited a tea estate in Assam. We drove through acres of tea plants, nestled on the rolling landscape, shaded by the thin trees that towered over them. When we reached the workers, we stopped to watch them busily plucking the tender leaves from the plants.

My stomach flip-flopped when I saw the women, their heads wrapped to bear the weight of the huge baskets slung on their backs, picking the tea. It was eerily similar to scenes of slaves picking cotton, and I was beginning to feel conspicuously white and privileged.

As we drove further into the estate, our Indian friend pointed out the homes for the workers, which my mind turned into “slave quarters” for the underpaid employees.

When we arrived at the processing plant, we met with the manager of the estate. Sitting in his office, drinking tea, I glanced at the plaque on the wall that listed the managers going back to the 19th century. The old wooden board filled with English and Scottish names served as a reminder of the expanse of the British Empire, and how it ruled the Indian people. I was glad to see that the names eventually switched to Indian names, but still wondered how well the workers were treated.

And then I heard these words: “**All of our workers are unionized.**” I set down my tea cup and looked up in surprise. Unionized! Everyone, whether picking tea or fixing machines or drying and processing the tea, is part of the union. As I heard more about their benefits, I began to see the estate through a new lens. Rather than the exploited workers that I thought I had been seeing, I learned that the workers have a voice through their union. They are paid fair daily wages and receive discounted prices on food staples, such as rice. In addition to housing, schools for their children and medical care are provided on the estate—they even earn pensions.

By the time we toured the plant (no photos allowed), I felt better about the whole experience. However, I was taken aback by seeing women in saris with bare feet working next to the machinery. I’m not sure that would have met OSHA standards, but I knew the union had their back. A couple of people showed us through the whole process of drying, cutting, sifting and bagging the tea.

One worker, Stial Hial, invited us into his brightly painted home, comfortable and roomy by local standards. Now nearing retirement, he was proud to have provided for his family over the years, working his way up on the tea estate. Some of his family members also work on the estate, but one son had gone away to college and now worked in the city.



Being in a part of the world where rice fields are plowed by water buffalo, factory workers are barefoot, and much farm work is done by hand as people struggle for their most basic needs, **it was heartening to meet a union brother, and know that halfway around the world an union is ensuring an equitable livelihood for their members.**

Visiting them gave me a better vision of the labor movement throughout the world, and made me proud to be an IFT member.

Emily Demuth Ishida
Elmhurst PSRP Council President



Union Members! Join us as we celebrate the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571's



WHEN: Friday, November 9, 2018

WHERE: 500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, IL 60559

COST: \$15 per person

THEME: All American Celebration

RSVP: Notify and pay your Council President or designee if you plan to attend by October 17, or complete the form printed below and return to Judy Jennings at P.O. Box 390, Westmont, IL 60559-0390, with your payment by October 22.

West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571's 80th Anniversary Celebration Reservation Form

Name _____ School District _____

Cell Phone _____ Home E-mail _____

tickets _____ (\$15 per person) Amount enclosed _____

If purchasing more than one (1) ticket, print names of members who will join you on the reverse side.
Mail to: Judy Jennings, P.O. Box 390, Westmont, IL 60559, by October 22.

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>
11/12/2018	Council Governance (Bylaws Review)	11/5/2018
1/7/2019	Workplace Well-Being	1/2/2019
2/4/2019	Workers Compensation Issues	1/29/2019
3/11/2019	Loan Forgiveness and Student Debt	3/5/2019

Sunday -November 11 —Veterans' Day Monday-November 12—Observance



Veterans Day is a day to honor those who've served our Nation. Consider the veterans you currently employ, broaden your perspective to include military spouses and families, and enlist your civilian employees in showing appreciation for the freedoms and liberties we enjoy because of the men and women who have bravely worn our country's uniform.



Native people have participated in every major US military encounter from the Revolutionary War to today's conflicts in the Middle East, serving at a higher rate in proportion to their population than any other ethnic group. Learn more at: <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>

Support Staff/
Paraprofessional and
School
Related
Personnel—
PSRP Day is
Wednesday
November 21.



ENTER TO WIN GET PROTECTED THIS OCTOBER

During the month of October AFT is giving away **TEN \$100 Visa Gift Cards** and **TEN Annual Memberships** to our Enhanced Identity Theft Protection service!

It's simple to enter! Go to aft.clcidprotect.net and sign up for the FREE Identity Theft Protection. That's it! Once you've enrolled you are automatically entered in the drawing for the TEN Annual Memberships to the Enhanced Identity Theft Protection service which includes credit and identity monitoring, unlimited recovery services and \$1,000,000 in ID theft insurance coverage.



Go to aft.clcidprotect.net to enter!

To be eligible for the TEN \$100 Visa Gift Cards you must upgrade your FREE membership to the Enhanced Protection. Simply click the UPGRADE NOW button from your online account and complete the purchase of the monthly or annual service for either you or your family.

Go to aft.clcidprotect.net to enter!

At the end of October TEN members will be chosen by random draw to receive a FREE year of the Enhanced Protection and for those who have already upgraded TEN members will receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card.

October 16—Boss's Day
October 20 —Sweetest Day



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



Halloween is October 31st
Support Union Workers By Purchasing
Candy Made In the USA



For a list of Made in the USA candies visit:

<https://www.usalovelist.com/candy-made-in-the-usa/>

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

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