

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU/October Calendar

10/5—Deadline for filing IRS forms for Councils that closed their books in May

10/15—HOR Mtg. (6:30 p.m.—Westmont)

10/26-27—IFT PSRP/State Employees Conf.

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
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 571 Web Administrator
 Robin Hancock,
 571 Union Messenger Editor



We Care, Fight, Show Up and Vote

The biennial AFT Convention held July 13-16, 2018 in Pittsburgh, may have come and gone, but the inspirational work and messages of convention delegates and speakers still ring true in my ears. For several years the leadership of the four largest public-sector unions have worked together on issues that affected all our workers; case in point, Janus v. AFSCME Local 31. Among the 40+ Amicus briefs filed, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), National Education Association (NEA), American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) all explained in their briefs why Mark Janus' first amendment rights had not been violated by paying his union fair share fees for representation. All four public-sector national union presidents appeared together at the AFT Convention to pledge, "In it together."



Jane Russell and Mary Catherine Ricker, AFT Executive Vice-President

What we have fought for and attained together: labor rights, civil rights, voting rights, educational opportunities and even our democracy appear to be "up for grabs" at this time in our history. That's why we have to be in this together. The forces like Betsy DeVos and the Koch Brothers have spent, and will continue to spend, inordinate sums of money to take Unions out.

As Randy Weingarten reminded us in her 2018 Labor Day message,

"It's the Union movement, our movement that can and must be the catalyst for change, for fairness and for justice in this moment. We need to be all-in, together. And as teachers in Oklahoma chanted during their walk-out, we must "remember in November."



Inside This Issue:

The Facts About Immigration Raids	2
AFT/IFT News	3
Illinois National Board First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy	3
Important Dates for Members: Political Action Days, PSRP Conference, ULI, Local 571's 80th Anniversary	4
571 Member and Council Activism	5
WSTU Pre-Meeting Workshops	6

continued on page 6

The Facts About Immigration Raids

By Bonnie Saracco

Approximately two and a half million United States students are undocumented, and over four million more live in households with mixed immigration status. Many of these students live with the debilitating stress of feared immigration raids. Research has consistently shown that this fear takes a huge toll on these students' physical and psychological health, and it is important that we know the facts.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the enforcement arm of the Department of Homeland Security. Although ICE does not officially use the term "raid" to describe their tactics, the immigrant community and their advocates use it to denote the preplanned arrests of undocumented residents. Raids often target long-term, law-abiding residents who have committed minor offenses. They also target residents who have been issued final deportation notices without their knowledge.

Raids are designed to have an element of surprise, and they typically occur at homes or workplaces during very early morning hours. It is common for them to be conducted by large numbers of ICE agents who are visibly armed. **They do not require a warrant, and ICE agents are allowed to convey false information to gain access. They also target young people on their way to school or work.**



Due to ICE's 2011 *Sensitive Locations Memo*, there are places and events where raids are prohibited. **Raids cannot occur at schools, hospitals, churches, synagogues, mosques, weddings, funerals, public religious ceremonies, or political demonstrations.** However, these exceptions do not apply when prior approval has found that public safety is in danger.

There has been a marked increase in the incidence of raids since 2014 to deter illegal immigration by refugees fleeing violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. This increase has been especially large in several states targeted by the Trump administration as part of "Operation Border Guardian." These states are Arizona, California, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Schools have legal limits regarding sharing information that may lead to raids and deportations. **The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) forbids schools from providing information about a student's immigration status without parental permission.** This is true even if ICE agents produce a deportation order because a deportation order is not a judicial order. Some schools have also interpreted the Supreme Court 1982 decision in *Plyler v. Doe* as forbidding them from requiring social security numbers or birth certificates. A reliable source on the school's legal role is: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>.

Finally, AFT suggests steps that all undocumented and mixed-status immigrant families should take to prepare for raids and possible deportation. These include having contact information for a legal advisor or pro bono immigration attorney, identifying at least two willing and trusted caregivers for their children and considering giving them power of attorney, and saving money for legal fees and bonds. It is also important to never carry false documents and to keep all legal documents regarding immigration status organized with copies of them kept safely secured.

Whatever our personal politics and attitudes toward undocumented immigration, it is clear that this wrenching situation for many of our students makes being accurately informed about the topic another layer of our professional responsibility.

AFT/IFT News

AFT rushes in with clean water for Detroit kids

9/6/2018

Our members in Detroit have joined the response to the Detroit school water crisis. Precipitated by lead and copper water test results, the Detroit school system has shut off drinking water to all schools for the foreseeable future. AFT Detroit members are organizing to make sure that their students and colleagues have access to safe drinking water for the duration of the crisis.

AFT Detroit kicked off the process by delivering bottled water to supplement water coolers at Noble Elementary-Middle School in Detroit on Tuesday. AFT locals will continue their campaign over the coming week to augment district water resources and related supplies at all public schools. Across the city, AFT Detroit—which includes the Detroit Federation of Teachers, the Detroit Federation of Paraprofessionals and the Detroit Association of Educational Office Employees—rushed in with bottled water, hand sanitizer and wipes as union leaders began working with the district on a long-term plan.

To read more go to: <https://www.aft.org/news/aft-rushes-clean-water-detroit-kids>

IFT responds to Rauner's veto of bill to raise minimum teacher salary

8/26/2018

WESTMONT – In response to Governor Bruce Rauner's veto of Senate Bill 2892, the Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) released the following statement:

"Tonight's veto further demonstrates Bruce Rauner's disrespect for teachers, staff, and the work we do," said **IFT President Dan Montgomery**, a high school English teacher. "The IFT supported this effort to increase teacher pay, though it was just one piece of the puzzle to attract and retain the educators our students deserve. We must also fund programs to recruit, support, and diversify our workforce. In addition, we must show teachers more respect by reforming public policy, making retirement security attainable for new teachers, and providing supportive school environments with smaller class sizes, support personnel, and important courses like the arts and vocational training. A good leader would embrace these commonsense approaches to address the teacher shortage and strengthen our public schools, but Bruce Rauner failed once again."

Application for the Illinois National Board First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy

This is a great opportunity to achieve National Board Certification, establish yourself at the top of your profession, and earn an Illinois Master Teaching Certificate.

There is a National Board Candidate Cohort starting at:

**The Intermediate Service Center # 2 in Hillside
and
Hadley Junior High School in Glen Ellyn**

Go to this link for more information:

<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php>

Important Dates for Members

October 6: Local 571 Political Action Day

Local 571 Political Action Day October 6

Bring colleagues, family, and friends to canvass local neighborhoods and talk about important issues in the upcoming election. A limited number of phone banking opportunities are available for those who are unable to canvass.

Breakfast 9 to 9:30 a.m.

Training 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Neighborhood Walks 10 to 1 p.m.

Lunch 1 p.m.

RSVP to Audrey Dunn at 800.752.2175 or adunn@ift-aft.org.

October 26-27: IFT PSRP Conference

IFT PSRP Conference October 26-27

Local 571 PSRP Union members may attend the conference at the Double Tree by Hilton Chicago-Oak Brook Hotel. Local 571 will reimburse each member who attends for the registration fee. This conference is combined with the Public Employees. Some of the workshop topics include:

- Mental Health Awareness
- Student Stress and Trauma
- Workplace Bullying

Should you wish to attend, download the registration form at www.ift-aft.org. A tentative agenda is also on the website.

November 3-4: IFT Union Leadership Institute (ULI)

IFT ULI November 3-4

The IFT offers a wide variety of professional development programs designed to enhance your skills and provide strategies to help educators, including paraprofessionals, meet the requirements of their professions.

Most courses are presented over three weekend sessions: November 3-4, 2018, February 9-10, 2019, and April 27-28, 2019. Participants **must attend all three** weekend sessions to complete these courses. Special one-weekend sessions are also available.

Members who attend will be reimbursed up to the cost of registration and for mileage.

Go to the IFT website, www.ift-aft.org, to download a registration form and follow the directions.

November 9: Local 571's 80th Anniversary Celebration

Local 571's 80th Anniversary Celebration November 9

Plans are underway for the Local 571 80th Anniversary Celebration. Save the date!



571 Member and Council Activism

Kyle Stern, Argo H.S. Council President

After serving on the Argo Teachers Council Executive Board, including the past three years as president, I attended my first AFT convention this past July. It was a phenomenal experience. I enjoyed listening to politicians (including Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Hillary Clinton), teachers, nurses, support staff, and activists who support public education and Unions. I got to see how we as a collective pass new amendments and resolutions. I got to meet Union Brothers and Sisters across the nation and hear their stories of success and struggles. I also met Union members from our Local. This experience helped me see all the support we have and all the fight we have in all of us.



Kyle met Randy Bryce, an iron worker nicknamed the Iron Stache, running for Congress in the first district of Wisconsin, retiring Paul Ryan's district.

Robin Hancock, Proviso PSRP

This was my first AFT convention and I instantly felt a sense of unity with the other delegates from different states and with the international guests who were in attendance. The speeches on activism, gun control, wages and working conditions were thought-provoking. Mei Ling, a student from Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School gave a heart-wrenching account of her experience as a survivor of a school shooting. Nurses and other school personnel spoke regarding the need for aftercare for others affected by school violence. On a lighter note, Pittsburgh is a beautiful city, and my only regret is that I didn't get a chance to see the "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" exhibit at the Heinz museum.

CICERO COUNCIL: Cicero Council members' strong advocacy statement was handed out to parents and students who visited the Council booth at their Back to School Event.

We advocate for:

- ✓ **Equality** by fighting for lower class sizes and more school counselors, nurses, social workers and psychologists.
- ✓ **Student Rights** by speaking up for individual students, gifted students, bilingual students, and students with special needs while reaching out to parents to educate them on their rights.
- ✓ **Safety** by demanding safety plans for our schools, security personnel that is top-notch, and healthy air quality and environmental conditions.
- ✓ **Curriculum** by insisting all our students have access to quality materials and ensuring there is plenty for all.

Cicero Council

A Union of Professionals

"Our working conditions are your child's learning conditions."

Teachers * Para Educators

Computer Technicians * Clerks

Nurses * Secretaries



Local 571 President Jane Russell serves on Sean Casten's "Kitchen Cabinet," advising on education issues for his campaign. Sean is the Congressional candidate for the 6th District, a hotly contested race.

We Care, Fight, Show Up and Vote (continued from page 1)

The camera image could be seen on the big screen behind the podium in the Pittsburgh David L. Lawrence Convention Center. During one of the business sessions, the camera panned the sea of delegates. One delegate held a sign that summed up the message of the convention, "I am one snowflake but together we are an avalanche."

When we all care, fight, show up and vote, we can make a big difference for our Union, our students, their families and our communities. That's why we are "In it together."

In unity,



Local 571 President



**I am one snowflake but
together we are an
avalanche.**

Sign from the AFT Pittsburgh Convention

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>
10/15/2018	Making the Best Choice in 403 (b)s	10/10/2018
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

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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