

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU October

TBA—Council Leaders Training (*Westmont*)
10/3 & 10/5—Instructional Strategies That Work Workshop - 4:30 pm.—*Westmont*
10/6—Registration deadline for 571 Legislative Breakfast
10/12—Registration deadline for AFT+ Membership Benefits Workshop
10/15—Deadline for filing IRS forms for Councils that closed their books in May
10/16—AFT+ Membership Benefits Workshop 4:30 pm. - 6:00 pm.—*Westmont*
10/16—HOR Meeting — 6:30 pm.—*Westmont*
10/20-21—IFT/PSRP State Employees Conference (*Springfield, IL*)
10/21—571 Legislative Breakfast

Union Messenger

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SB1 on Becoming SB 1947—School Funding at a High Price

For several years, lawmakers, especially Senator Andy Manar from downstate Bunker Hill, worked tirelessly on the new education funding reform bill now known as SB1. The IFT Department of Political Activities carefully watched the formation of the bill which is an evidence-



based model for school funding. During that time, the IFT assessed whether or not school districts would in fact gain the needed funds to educate their students. Through several iterations of the bill, the IFT was not in support because some of the school districts gained funding while others lost it. One of the main goals in writing the bill was to make sure that no school district would lose funding. This was not easy to accomplish.

Beginning on February 10, 2017, when SB1 was first filed in the Senate, it proceeded through the legislative process, passed by both houses and was sent to the governor who made an amendatory veto of the bill with considerable changes. The new bill was filed as SB1947. Although the Senate was able to override the veto of SB1, the House was not able to do so. The House then considered SB1947 which initially did not pass, but with an "agreement" by the four legislative leaders, the House reconsidered SB1947 and it passed on August 28, 2017. The Senate followed with passage the next day. The Governor signed SB1947 into law on August 31, 2017.

Although SB1, which was strongly supported by the IFT, remains largely intact as SB1947, there are at least two objectionable components of the bill. A voucher-style program was created to allow businesses and wealthy individuals to claim a tax credit for donations to private school scholarship funds. This program will cost over \$75 million over the next five years, robbing public schools of students and resources. The second component is mandate relief. Specifically, the 5-day PE requirement can be reduced to no fewer than three times per week and allows PE exemptions for students in grades 7—12. Currently these PE exemptions were limited to juniors and seniors in extracurricular activities. The process to change the number of days of PE offered in the district must first have a public hearing and then school board approval.

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Watching Our Backs

By Bonnie Saracco

Sadly, AFT found it necessary at last summer's 2017 TEACH conference in Washington, D.C. to warn attendees about **right-wing operatives** who were there to conduct a smear campaign. We were directed to be careful at all times. This included in general sessions, at presentations, and when socializing.

D.C., and federal law provide that individuals can tape others without their consent. Because Illinois law can



be confusing and murky on this subject, we all need to be aware of the precautions needed to protect ourselves when attending union conferences and other events. Also, our opponents have shown little respect for law, having been arrested for illegal tactics including breaking into the office of a U.S. Senator.

We were told to guard our credentials and never leave them unattended. Stolen badges will get these people where they want to go. We were warned not to become their targets by wearing our badges

outside the conference, to notify an AFT staff member if we suspected we were being taped, and to walk away from uncomfortable situations.

What are uncomfortable situations? Instincts should be trusted. **Our opponents use false identities and produce fake educational service organizations to gain entrance to union events.** They steer conversations into potentially-hazardous areas such as student discipline and relationships with parents. They want to talk to us about our students, classrooms, and our feelings about the union.

Also, knowing that teachers can be kind and empathetic, they try to trap us into agreeing with them. It is important for us to always say what we really believe, rather than agreeing to avoid confrontations. **Even if our statements are not recorded on tape, they can be quoted.**

One of their most aggressive moves is the **ambush interview**. If confronted in this way, we were to refer them to the AFT Press Office rather than saying "no comment," which can be twisted to sound incriminating.

While we never want to stifle our voices and become intimidated in the fight for what we believe, these deceivers have created a situation in which the safeguarding behaviors which might have seemed paranoid in the past have become mandatory today.

Who Will You Vote For Governor?



Meet four of the Democratic candidates for Illinois Governor at the **West Suburban Teachers Union Legislative Breakfast** on Saturday, October 21, 2017, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center in Westmont.

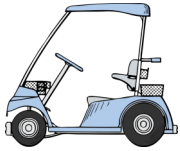
Hear from, learn about and have an opportunity to ask a question of candidates Senator Daniel Biss, Chris Kennedy, Alderman Ameya Pawar and JB Pritzker.

Send your question to ask the candidates with your name and Council to Jane Russell, jrussell@ift-aft.org.

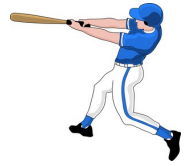
Join us on October 21. See your Council President for further information.

Summer Comes to an End

But what a wonderful close to the summer activities.



The 571 golf team continued this year by winning the award for “most strokes taken.” The golf 3-some of retirees, Alice Kautsky, Kamille Krupka and Simonette Urbain, played the difficult course at the annual DuPage Democrats Golf Outing, this year held at Prairie Landing Golf Course in West Chicago.



The Cubs took home a victory on August 31st with 571 members cheering them on at Attorney General Lisa Madigan’s Birthday Celebration at Cubs park.



Kamille Krupka and Alice Kautsky on the Prairie Landing Golf Course.



Simonette Urbain won the prize for the longest drive by a female golfer.



Pictured (l->r) are Alice Kautsky, (571’s IFT Vice-President), Marge Wunschel, (Retiree), Lisa Madigan, (Illinois Attorney General) and Sandy Erickson, (571’s Treasurer).

Illinois Teacher of the Year Finalists

Congratulations to two finalists from Local 571 for the 2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year! **Valerie Berger** teaches Family and Consumer Sciences at West Leyden High School. **James Connelly** is an Industrial Technology teacher at Morton West High School.



The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) names one individual as winner out of the 10 finalists chosen. The annual award will be given at the “Those Who Excel” banquet on Saturday, October 28, 2017, where the contributions and accomplishments of IL educators will be recognized. The Illinois Teacher of the Year will represent Illinois at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, and in the Council of Chief State School Officers’ National Teacher of the Year Program.

2017-18 Union Leadership Institute

The 2017-2018 Union Leadership Institute (ULI) program has been designed to meet the needs of both new and experienced local leaders and activists in all IFT constituency groups. ULI provides participants with hands-on learning of union skills, professional development opportunities and a chance to network with other IFT members from throughout the state.

ULI course descriptions and registration forms are available at the IFT website, www.ift-aft.org.

The core courses for the upcoming year are: **Boot Camp for Union Leaders**, **Effective Grievance Administration** and **Introduction to Collective Bargaining**. Workshops include: **Worksite Leader Training** and **Youth @ Work**. We are also offering two “Train the Trainer” workshops: **Evaluation Empowerment** and **SB100—From Punitive to Restorative: Transforming School Discipline**.

The Fall Session is November 4-5, 2017. The registration and payment deadline is October 6, 2017.

For additional information, contact Benita Twillie at btwillie@ift-aft.org.

SB1 on Becoming SB 1947—School Funding at a High Price

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Additionally, school districts will be permitted to hire outside parties to provide drivers' education services without seeking a waiver from the Illinois State Board of Education.


Other organizations joined with the IFT to oppose SB1947 including the Illinois Education Association, School Management Alliance, League of Women Voters and the American Civil Liberties Union. The IFT strongly urged legislators to override the Governor's veto of SB1 or pass a compromise bill that did not contain tax credits and mandate relief.

Dan Montgomery, IFT President, in his August 30, 2017 statement about SB1947 passage said, "The agreement comes at a high price. But for the first time since 1997, Illinois will begin to move away from its

archaic, inequitable school funding system and towards one that ensures every district in the state will receive appropriate support." Montgomery sums up saying, "But it's clearer than ever that this Governor does not prioritize public schools, and we must fight for one who does in 2018."

As we continue to fight for our students and the public schools where we work, I wish you and your students a positive and successful 2017-18 school year.

In unity,



Local 571 President

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>
10/16/2017	AFT Plus Benefits for You and Your Members	10/12/2017
11/13/2017	Wisely Using Social Media In and Out of the Classroom	11/9/2017
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

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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