

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

# Union Messenger

## "A Union of Professionals"

### WSTU/ September Calendar

9/16—ExBd Mtg. (5:30 p.m.—Westmont)  
 9/16—Registration deadline for Legislative Breakfast  
 9/17—Retirees Council New Retirees Lunch/ Meeting (11 a.m.—Westmont)  
 9/20—Retirees Morton HS Strike Anniversary Event (4:30 p.m.—Westmont)  
 9/28—571 Legislative Breakfast

### Union Messenger

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### War of Words and Actions

The Morton Council Teachers Union of Local 571 went on strike on September 2, 1969. The strike ended on September 24, 1969. "At that time, boards of education were responsible for curriculum, hiring, firing, working



conditions including salary, class size, fringe benefits and funding on all levels. They were the judge and jury on all grievances."

A celebration commemorating the 50-year anniversary of the '69 MCTU strike, Union Activism Revisited, will be held on Friday, September 20, 2019 in Westmont. Look for further information on page 2 of this newsletter on how you can attend.

The 1969 negotiations between the Morton Council of Local 571 and Morton High School Board of Education played out not only at the bargaining table, but also in the local papers.

#### September 5, 1969 Headline: Morton Board Submits Final Teachers' Offer

"The Morton Board of Education has been negotiating with the teacher negotiating team since February 24. There has been a total of 18 negotiating sessions. The last meeting was held on August 29. Board members feel that this is an excellent salary plan and will be competitive with Chicago suburban schools as well as the entire nation."

**September 5, 1969 Headline: Teachers Not Getting All Facts, Chodl Says**  
 "The teachers are in the fourth day of a strike at both Morton East and West and Edward Chodl, president of the

Morton High School Board of education, reportedly has pleaded with union officials to tell the whole story to every teacher."

#### September 7, 1969 Headline: Morton Union Says Board Inaccurate

"The Morton Council, American Federation of Teachers Local 571, charging the Morton High Schools board of education with 'several inaccurate items' in the latter's statement in Friday's LIFE, announced Friday morning in its own statement that it is ready to negotiate 'a satisfactory settlement' and the union is awaiting the board's reply."

#### September 7, 1969 Headline: Strike Endangers Football Schedule

"Morton East and West will be without a football game Saturday as school is not in session tomorrow."

#### September 10, 1969 Headline: Seek Settlement—Ready, Willing: JSM

"We're moving from the authoritative direction in education toward a cooperative professional attitude, said John Capron, chief negotiator for Local 571, West Suburban Teachers Union, in defending the union's stand in the current Morton High School teachers' strike."

"For this reason, we resent an implication that we are not concerned about our students, the school or the community. On the contrary, we are proud of our schools but feel we should have a part in setting policy."

#### September 10, 1969 Headline: Morton Opens Off: Coaches Grim

"As coaches marched, the word had already arrived that for the first time in Morton annals, sports events were cancelled out because of a strike."

(continued on page 2)

**WAR OF WORDS AND ACTIONS** (cont. from page 1)**September 11, 1969 Headline:** *Morton Students Urge Board, Union to Let Them Go Back to School*

Like many of the signs carried by Morton High Schools students during their march, Wednesday,...expressed the sentiments of almost all of the 6,900 students waiting to go back to school”

**We the Students Want In!**

**September 12, 1969 Headline:** *Order Schools to Open*  
“Striking teachers at Morton East and West High Schools have been ordered to return to work today. The decision came yesterday at a hearing in the Cook County Circuit Court with Judge Daniel Covelli presiding.”

**September 12, 1969 Headline:** *Court Action Can Hold Up Classes*

“If we go to court, no agreement will be finalized until the court action is dropped, John Capron, chief negotiator for the Morton Teachers union, told the LIFE Wednesday.”

**September 14, 1969 Headline:** *They Were Outspoken On Picket Lines*

“And they marched back and forth. They may (or may not) return to school rooms under a restraining order. What happens from here on is anybody’s guess.”

**September 21, 1969 Headline:** *Teachers Strike Negotiations Off*

“If and when negotiations between the Morton High School board and the teacher’s union resume, the teachers will not return to their classrooms during the talks... sessions had been held last week and the talks broke off early Friday morning. No further negotiations have been scheduled.”

**September 21, 1969 Headline:** *Striking Teachers Issue Statement*

“The union released the following statement: The union negotiating team met with the school board of district 201 on Wednesday and Thursday nights from 7:30 to 1 a.m. Ed Chodl, president of the board, was absent at both meetings. On Wednesday night, the board stated that the school is in financial difficulty and cannot meet the demands of the union. On Thursday, the union presented a plan in which the school could receive many thousands of dollars in increased state aid through the school’s special education program. The board refused to see this plan as a means of settling the immediate difficulties in the teacher work stoppage.”

**September 21, 1969 Headline:** *Restraining Order is Reaffirmed*

“A circuit court judge Friday reaffirmed a court order directing striking teachers at Morton East and West high schools to remove picket lines and return to school.”

“Andrew Leahy, attorney for the teachers’ union, filed a motion to dismiss the suit, and a hearing on his motion has been set for Tuesday, October 7, before Judge Covelli.”

**Note:** On September 24, 1969, the school board agreed to return to the bargaining table to negotiate a mediated agreement. Striking teachers returned to their classrooms. An agreement was reached which was acceptable to both parties.

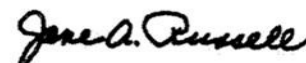
**October 8, 1969 Headline:** *Teachers’ Fate is Issue*

“Some 200 teachers at Morton East and West High Schools are expected to learn tomorrow what their fate may be for contempt of court for allegedly violating an injunction by Circuit Court Judge Daniel A. Covelli, during the recent teachers’ strike.”

**Final note:** On November 4, 1969, contempt of court hearings was held. 64 teachers were fined \$100 and sentenced to 10 days in Cook County jail. Norm Simone, MCTU President, was fined \$1,000 and sentenced to 20 days in jail. The union was separately fined \$5,000. Tom White, the Union Activism Revisited event chair, was inspired by Norm Simone, strike president, the late John Capron, union chief negotiator, Richard Treadway, Morton Executive Board member, and Jerry Johnson, strike negotiator, to write the following.

“Although the ’69 Morton strike was a unique cataclysmic experience for ALL of the Morton staff and community, it was representative of what was going on in our local, our state and our country. In a democratic society, it represented the natural evolution from an autocratic system to a responsibility shared with the professional educators. Even for strikes that ended well, the cost was great, friendships and professional relationships were irrevocably and permanently severed. It is something we should not take for granted! Eternal vigilance is the price of democracy. IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH!”

In unity,



Local 571 President

**UPCOMING EVENT**

**Union Activism Revisited**  
**All are invited to commemorate the**  
**1969 Morton H.S. Teachers’ Strike**

To be held  
Friday, September 20, 2019  
From  
4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the  
Robert M. Healey Center located at  
500 Oakmont Lane in Westmont, Illinois 60559

For registration information, visit the WSTU website at [www.wstu571.org](http://www.wstu571.org). For additional information, please contact Tom White @ [twhite0469@comcast.net](mailto:twhite0469@comcast.net) or 630-850-9346

## PORTABLE TENURE

A tenured teacher who is honorably dismissed or voluntarily leaves from a school district may secure **tenure after two years of excellent evaluations** in his/her new district IF:

- He/she begins teaching in the new district immediately after leaving the previous district; and
- If teacher's last two biennial evaluations in the previous district were at least proficient; and
- The teacher provides the new district official copies of his/her last two biennial evaluations from the previous district; and
- The teacher must provide the evaluations to the new district within **60 days** after the first day of his/her service.

The previous district is required to provide the teacher with copies of his/her evaluations within fourteen **(14) days** of the teacher's request.

Should the previous district fail to provide the teacher with official copies of his/her evaluations within 90 days the new school district must accept the teacher's copies of the evaluations.

Please be aware that the **burden of securing the information** from the previous district and providing it to the new district **falls on the teacher**. The **timelines** are being **strictly enforced**.

The aforementioned information is a summary. If you wish to review the details of the law they can be found in the **Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/24**.



## Did you know?

Sunday, September 8  
is Grandparents Day.

## REMINDER

**Retirees Council New Member Luncheon**  
**Tuesday 9/17/19**  
**11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

*To be held at:*  
*Robert M. Healey Conference Center*  
*500 Oakmont Lane*  
*Westmont, IL 60559*  
*Entrance D or E*

Reservation forms were sent out to current members and need to be returned by 9/11/2019. New members, please contact Patty Clancy to RSVP by phone at 630-468-4083 or by email at [pclancy@ift-aft.org](mailto:pclancy@ift-aft.org)

# **You are invited to attend the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 Fourteenth Annual Legislative Breakfast**



**DATE:** Saturday, September 28, 2019

**TIME:** 8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.—registration  
9:00 a.m.—Noon—program

**PLACE:** Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference  
Center in the Marquis Banquet Facility  
(3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook, Illinois)

**PROGRAM:**

- A plated breakfast will be served.
- Governor J. B. Pritzker, new Congress members, IL Senators and Representatives have been invited to speak and mingle with our members.
- We will conduct our annual gift card raffle (proceeds go to WSTU scholarships and COPE).

**COST:** Free for members of Local 571; however, \$45 will be charged for every member that signs up and does not attend. The cost for guests of Local 571 members is \$45.

**If you wish to attend, please contact your  
Council President by September 16.**

## AFT TEACH 2019 Presents the Trauma Toolkit

By Bonnie Saracco

**Common Core. RTI. Community Schools.** These were ubiquitous presentation topics in the breakout sessions of recent years of the biennial conference AFT TEACH in Washington, D.C. Sadly, but perhaps not surprisingly, last summer these topics were gone and had been replaced by the topics of student trauma and teacher stress.

**Trauma**, defined as a response to a stressful situation in which a person's ability to cope is dramatically undermined, is epidemic among United States students today. Reliable sources estimate that almost half of the children in the United States have experienced one or more types of trauma. Between 3.3 and 10 million children in the U.S. see violence in their homes each year, and many of our students deal with community violence, refugee experiences, terrorism, neglect, natural disasters, school violence, sexual abuse, and bullying.



**First Book**, with funding by the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA), has conducted a broad review of the most reliable research on this topic and has produced **The Trauma Toolkit**, which summarizes this information. The Trauma Toolkit, a great timesaver for teachers, is available at <https://www.fbmarketplace.org/>. It discusses the most common sources of childhood trauma and how they affect learning, and the best strategies to help students manage the debilitating effects of trauma. It tells us how to get more support for these students. And, very importantly, it suggests ways to deal with compassion fatigue.

It is clear that social and emotional learning (SEL) is a critical factor in learning, even as early as the preschool years. The evidence shows that SEL surpasses even cognitive skills and family background as a predictor of academic success. **One major traumatic symptom, anti-social behavior, is academically crippling because it results in both lack of acceptance by classmates and the inability to participate in classroom activities.**

The first obstacle to getting needed help to traumatized students is that less than 1% of them are formally identified and professionally helped. Despite the fact that maternal depression has a traumatic impact on young children, 80% of primary care physicians and 96% of pediatricians fail to screen for it. **Only 45% of family doctors and pediatricians use any standardized tool to screen two-year-olds for the developmental delays which are common symptoms of trauma.**

Even structured educational programs such as Head Start offer no mental health services to 80% of the families who need them. Among children aged 3 to 5 with identified behavioral health needs, between 80 and 97% receive no services. All of this neglect results in future problems with school conduct, delinquency, and serious mental health issues.

Traumatized children suffer from a variety of harmful experiences and have unique personalities, so there is no reliable intervention for all. But it is crucially important for schools to understand that these children share certain key needs. They have great needs for safety, positive relationships with caring adults, feelings of success, and the choices in their daily tasks that can help them develop a feeling of control over their lives. Future articles will share more information about the nature of childhood trauma and specific suggestions on how to help our students break the vicious cycle of traumatic response.

**Hispanic Heritage Month  
in the United States  
begins on  
Sunday, September 15  
and ends on  
Tuesday October 15.**



## Summer Around the Local

At the final May, 2019 Local 571 House of Representatives meeting, we honored scholarship winners and retirees. Members attended conferences and engaged in professional development classes. We spoke to Illinois legislators, either in their home or Washington, DC offices. Two Local 571 next generation members, both from Morton Council, attended summer workshops.

Johanna (JC) Stokes teaches English at Morton West and was a first-time attendee to the biennial AFT TEACH conference held in Washington, DC. Johanna writes:

*"AFT TEACH offered me the opportunity to connect with experienced educators to share incredible resources and techniques to bring into my classroom. I was able to learn about the impact a school with strong SEL strategies can have on kids' well-being as well as the ways that teachers are creating engaging, powerful lessons focused on making sure even the most vulnerable kids feel seen in our classrooms. As a young teacher, I am particularly grateful for this opportunity which connected me to new resources and a new network of support for my teaching practice."*

Mark Stoch, a Morton West career education instructor, attended the Labor Network 4 Sustainability conference in Chicago for the first time. Mark writes:

- *In education settings, specifically, many of the older facilities and schools were not developed to tolerate the extreme temperature variances the US is currently experiencing.*
- *Where teachers and students reside, plans are needed to address a changing climate.*
- *Responses to climate change issues should be customized to different educational settings; e.g. a rural high school might benefit from wind turbine energy, where an urban school might respond to climate issues with solar panels.*



Mark Stoch, bottom left, with CTU members and John Cusick, IFT staff, (top left) participating in the Labor Network 4 Sustainability conference.



Karyl DiPaolo retired as a long time Local 571 House of Representatives delegate, Franklin Park Council officer and teacher. Jane Russell presented the certificate.



Pam Sifuentes retired from District 88 as a support staff member, but continues as a Local 571 Area Trustee. The certificate was presented by President Russell.



Katy Padberg creating the sign which she carried to protest at the U.S. Customs & Border Patrol Headquarters in Washington DC. The demonstration organized for AFT TEACH participants protested Trump Administration policies, to close the inhumane child detention camps and reunify migrant families.



Bonnie Saracco (top right), instructor for one of the summer Local 571 professional development courses, Start the School Year Right, shown with other members of the class. Back row (l > r): Tiffany Shubalis, Nyriisa Pawa, Arien Fluga, Bonnie Saracco. Front row (l > r): Allison Nicolai, Julie Lukac, Julie Mc Shane, Alisha Bhimji.



IFT leaders and staff met with Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, CD14. Pictured with 571 President Jane Russell (center with the Congresswoman) are Bryen Johnson, IFT Political staff, John Braglia, IFT Local 1211 President, and far right, Duane Peiffer, IFT Local 1642 President.



The 2019 AFT TEACH conference final day luncheon was attended by participants Jane Russell and Cathy Pope (standing), Bonnie Saracco and JC Stokes (seated).



Mary Wheeler Scholarship Winner Amanda Kural with her mother Bethany Kural, teacher at PAEC.

## Summer Around the Local

# Scholarship

# Winners



Emma Uremovic shared the recognition for receiving a Mary Wheeler Scholarship with her mother, Marijana Uremovic, a West Leyden teacher.



Nicolette Kelsay won the Horowitz/Karlovsky Scholarship. Shown with her mother, Mary Kelsay a teacher at Addison Trail High School, District 88.



Maureen Lynch, Riverside teacher, received the Julienne Phillips Scholarship. Maureen is joined by President Jane Russell, left, and Chris Schulz, Scholarship Chair, on her right.

### 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 Houston, TX, on July 27-30, 2020. 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 \$1,212/delegate. Nominations must be printed or typed (name and Council) and received in the Local 571 office on or before February 3, 2020. 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.

### Local 571 Executive Board Area Trustees

Nominations are now being accepted for Local 571 Executive Board Area Trustees. The Executive Board of Local 571 shall consist of the Officers of Local 571 which include four (4) Area Trustees, at least one of whom is a PSRP member, and the Local 571 Council Presidents who serve as Trustees. All Local 571 members are eligible to be nominated as Local 571 Area Trustees. The term of office is two (2) years beginning July 1, 2020, and by virtue of their election, they shall be elected also as delegates to the AFT and IFT Conventions. Nominations must be printed or typed (name and Council) and received in the Local 571 office on or before March 9, 2020. 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. Interested individuals may request further information about the duties of the office by contacting Local 571. Retired members' ballots will be mailed via U.S. Postal Service to their homes.



## Student Debt Clinic

### (For Union Members Only)

*"Do you have student loan debt? You are not alone. More than 44 million people in the U.S. are carrying debt from student loans, and nearly 1 out of every 4 loan borrowers is in default or behind on a loan payment. Come to the clinic and learn about free and underused programs that can help you lower your monthly payments and get on the path toward eliminating your student debt."*

- WHEN:** Thursday, September 26, 2019
- TIME:** 4:30 p.m. — a light dinner will be served  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.— clinic
- WHERE:** Robert M. Healey Conference Center  
500 Oakmont Lane (Entrance D or E)  
Westmont, IL 60559
- COST:** Free to Union members
- R.S.V.P.:** If you wish to participate, contact Patty Clancy by phone at 630-468-4083 or e-mail at [pclancy@ift-aft.org](mailto:pclancy@ift-aft.org) by September 20th.

**IMPORTANT:** Anyone who signs up to attend the workshop but finds that they are unable to attend, must notify Patty Clancy by 4:30 p.m. on September 20th, or possibly be charged \$15 for the cost of the dinner.



**Monday,  
September 2 is  
Labor Day**

### BUY UNION PRODUCTS

This Labor Day, make sure to purchase union-made products. From Vienna Beef hot dogs made here in Chicago to Tyson Chicken, Frito Lay snacks, Budweiser Bud Light 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:

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

UNIONPLUS

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Members and their families can earn an Associate Degree online, with no out-of-pocket costs. A last-dollar scholarship covers the difference between any Federal grants and your tuition, fees and e-books at Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC).



### EASTERN GATEWAY CREDITS ARE TRANSFERABLE

Eastern Gateway Community College is a public, non-profit school in the University System of Ohio and is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Credits you earn can transfer to other schools, potentially saving you thousands of dollars.



EASTERN GATEWAY  
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**1-888-590-9009**  
[unionplusfreecollege.org](http://unionplusfreecollege.org)

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](mailto:571editor@gmail.com)

We Want To Hear  
From You



We're on the Web!!!  
[www.wstu571.org](http://www.wstu571.org)

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