

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

# Union Messenger

*"A Union of Professionals"*

## WSTU/ October Calendar

10/7—HOR Mtg. (5:30 p.m.—Westmont)  
 10/15—Deadline for filing IRS forms for Councils that closed their books in May  
 10/18-20—IFT Convention (Rosemont)

## Union Messenger

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## It's a Fair Tax for Illinois

Senator Don Harmon, SD39, has worked nearly 10 years for a Fair Tax in Illinois. It all came to fruition as SJRCA 1 passed in late May 2019 with the question to move from a flat tax to a graduated tax on the ballot in November 2020. The Senator addressed the WSTU Local 571



House of Representatives on August 26, 2019, describing the work done by the legislature in order for voters to choose a fair income taxing system for Illinois. On the last day of May 2019, SB 687 was passed which sets the graduated rates for both single and married/joint filers.

The current tax rate, a flat tax, for all filers is 4.95%. It is fundamentally unfair because those who earn the least actually pay the most. The bottom 20% of earners pay almost twice the tax burden. Should voters approve the Fair Tax next November, the new graduated rates that will take effect are listed below. Note that the rates for the lowest income ranges are below the current rate.

Single	Filers	Married/Joint	Filers
Rate	Income Range	Rate	Income Range
4.75%	\$0 - \$10,000	Same as single filer	Same as single filer
4.90%	\$10,001 - \$100,000	Same as single filer	Same as single filer
4.95%	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Same as single filer	Same as single filer
7.75%	\$250,001 - \$350,000	7.75%	\$250,001 - \$500,000
7.85%	\$350,001 - \$750,000	7.85%	\$500,001-\$1,000,000
7.99%	Over \$750,000*	7.99%	Over \$1,000,000*

\*If over this income threshold, all income is taxed at 7.99%

97% of all filers will not see a tax increase. How will you/your family be affected by the Fair Tax?

Go to <http://illinois.gov/fairtaxcalculator>

## It's a Fair Tax for Illinois (cont'd)



Senator Don Harmon answered questions from 571 members describing the benefits of passage of a fair tax for Illinois

Illinois is still in deep financial trouble. Over a \$3 billion deficit needs to be filled. A Fair Tax would generate more money for schools and public services and help to alleviate that deficit.

Thanks to Governor Pritzker and Senator Don Harmon, the state is headed in a positive direction. Now it is up to us as voters to make it happen.

Have a very successful school year.

In unity,

Local 571 President

## Recognizing Traumatized Students and Breaking the Cycle of Traumatized Response

By Bonnie Saracco

Every good teacher has developed a myriad of classroom management skills to deal with the healthy energy and normal immaturity of students. But how do we deal with the extreme challenges presented by the current epidemic of traumatized students? Last summer's AFT TEACH conference in Washington, D.C., presented a lot of information on this topic.

### **The first necessary step is to recognize traumatized students, who typically present with four major symptoms.**

First, children and adolescents who have experienced trauma often have cognitive delays because their traumatic experiences have interfered with normal brain development. These are the children who cannot follow directions or concentrate. They are quickly and emotionally frustrated. They also have an abnormal amount of difficulty with planning and problem solving.

Also, these children have difficulty forming and maintaining relationships. They have impaired ability to read social cues and do not trust other people.

**Traumatized children also suffer from an inability to make inferences and predictions.** They do not see cause and effect relationships in a normal way because they have a basic disbelief in their ability to influence what happens to them. They are very bad at setting goals, delaying gratification, persisting, and being receptive to behavior management techniques. In other words, they are unable to use the behaviors that are critical to school success. Finally, these students are inordinately afraid of the future

because it feels out of control. Many of them are extremely passive about learning and lack curiosity and drive.

**These symptoms often set in motion a cycle of traumatized response which devastates school success.** The original traumatic experience is followed by a seemingly innocuous trigger event. The child with inadequate coping mechanisms then reacts with aggression or passivity. People around the child react negatively, reinforcing the child's problematic belief system, which is then carried into the next trigger event.



The ideal alternative scenario would be a trauma-informed cycle. In this cycle the trauma, trigger event, and inadequate coping mechanism would be followed by adult recognition of traumatic symptoms and the development and implementation of an adequate support plan. The student then uses new and adequate coping skills and receives positive feedback, leading to a new belief system.

This is very difficult work and exists amid all the other tasks of teaching. It is especially challenging when a school lacks adequate support from social workers, guidance counselors, and therapists. My next articles will present the researched responses to the top questions asked by teachers as they endeavor to support their traumatized students.

## FALL COURSE OFFERING

### English Language Learners 101

We encourage members to register for the Local 571 professional development class being offered this fall. The 5-session class is \$50 and for Union Members Only. Cost includes materials and a light dinner each day. **NOTE:** For an additional cost, participants can earn one GSU graduate credit hour. Signup and payment is due on the first day of class. The classes will be held at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center in Westmont, IL 60559.

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**October 15th, 17th, 22nd, 24th and 29th—4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
**15 PD hours—5 sessions—registration deadline is October 9th**

***ELL 101 Planning for Student Success—***

*How is teaching ELLs to read different than teaching for mainstream students?*

*What are effective instructional practices to make content comprehensible for English learners?*

For course description and additional information which includes a registration form, see the

Local 571 website @ [www.wstu571.org](http://www.wstu571.org). You may also contact Patty Clancy by phone at 630-468-4083 or at [pclancy@ift-aft.org](mailto:pclancy@ift-aft.org).

### 2019-2020 Union Leadership Institute

The 2019-2020 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.

The 2019-2020 ULI North training sessions will be held at the IFT Robert M. Healey Center in Westmont Illinois on the following dates:

- **Fall Session: November 9-10**
- **Winter Session: February 8-9**
- **Spring Session: April 25-26**

**Course information and registration forms will be available soon on the IFT website:**  
<https://www.ift-aft.org/professional-development/ULI>.

**In order to register, Local 571 members must have the signature of his/her Council President on the registration form.**



## 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.

## NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION CANDIDATE SUBSIDY FEE AVAILABLE NOW

ISBE is pleased to announce the \$1,900 [National Board Candidate Fee Subsidy Application](#) is available starting Sept. 5 for Illinois teachers and counselors wishing to pursue National Board Certification beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Applications are due by **Oct. 6**.

The National Board Resource Center (NBRC) provides free support for teachers and counselors throughout their journey to National Board Certification. Email Director Kristin Mason at [kamason5@ilstu.edu](mailto:kamason5@ilstu.edu) or call the NBRC at (309) 438-1833 for more information.

Many teachers have commented after completing the process that it was the best professional development experience of their career. For more information about the process, visit: <https://www.nbpts.org/>

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### Did You Know?

**September 26, 1960** - The first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Many who watched were inclined to say Kennedy 'won' the debate, while those who listened only to the radio thought Nixon did better. Nixon, who declined to use makeup, appeared somewhat haggard looking on TV in contrast to Kennedy.



### 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



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