

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU/ November Calendar

11/4—ExBd Meeting Mtg. (5:30 p.m.—
Westmont)
11/9-11/10—IFT ULI (Westmont)

Union Messenger

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Questions about the Fair Tax

Many of you have had an opportunity to read or hear discussions about the Fair Tax amendment that will appear on the November 2020 ballot. In talking with members, there have been recurring questions about how the

Fair Tax as proposed will affect each of us/our families. We'll assume you have some knowledge about the proposed Fair Tax. If not, please go to the IFT website, <https://www.ift-aft.org/>, for additional information, or talk with your Council President.



What about property tax relief?

The Fair Tax includes an increase toward your state income tax of the property tax you pay from 5% to 6%. Many say this is still not enough. Governor

Pritzker and other law makers campaigned on property tax relief. By providing more funding for education through the state funding formula, schools would be given the resources they need and reduce the pressure to increase or maintain high property tax levels. It is known that if steps are not taken to raise funding for education, property taxes will not go down.

I now pay more in gas taxes as well as other taxes. Am I going to save any money with the Fair Tax?

Whether the Fair Tax passes or not, you will still pay those taxes. However, if the Fair Tax does not pass, those taxes will cost you even more. The Fair Tax is the fairest way to get the state back on the right track and take the pressure off the need to raise other taxes.

Will the rich people move out of Illinois?

Studies have shown the answer to be generally "no." The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, in its extensive review of studies on interstate migration, found the vast majority of the rich believe tax levels are a minor consideration of where they live or are completely irrelevant. For example, California with the highest tax rate on those whose income is over \$1 million/year have 2,000 more millionaires moving into their state each year. California also has the highest tax rate of 13.3% for those same millionaires.

Inside This Issue:

Strategies to Help Traumatized Students	2
Member Engagement	3
English Language Learners 101	4
Movie Tickets/Office Max Discounts	4
Retirees Corner	5
Drivers' License Real ID Cards	5
Veterans Day	6

Strategies to Help Traumatized Students Deal with Developmental Delays and Trigger Events

By Bonnie Saracco

Children and adolescents who have experienced significant trauma typically suffer from stunted brain development. They show social, emotional, and cognitive delays. They see the world as unpredictable and inordinately dangerous, and often react to everyday events by fighting, fleeing, or freezing. They cannot develop appropriate coping skills until they feel safe.

These children also suffer from low self-esteem. They desperately need to feel more successful and gain a normal sense of control. **They also lack the ability to read social cues. Their “strike first” and isolation behaviors hinder healthy relationships.**

How can we help them cope? AFT’s Trauma Toolkit offers some evidence-based strategies to make our classrooms as emotionally safe as possible. Consistent and predictable routines and rituals are crucial for these students, as is striving for a zero-tolerance policy toward bullying and teasing.

It is also very helpful for the child who has experienced significant trauma to identify and experience an area of personal competence. **The Trauma Toolkit suggests displaying a bulletin board that celebrates one self-reported positive accomplishment for each child.** Possibilities include speaking a second language, helping at home, reading, and athletic and artistic interests. These self-reported strengths can then be written and displayed on the bulletin board, either with student names or anonymously. This activity can also give the teacher insights that can lead to ideas for giving student more opportunities to demonstrate their strengths.

The traumatized student’s heightened sense of danger also results in the perception of life as filled with events that result in intense emotions to be managed. **The developmental delays caused by trauma have caused these students to have inadequate and harmful coping responses, both emotional and physical. Emotional shut-downs include daydreaming, isolation, and avoidance.** Behavioral and physical responses include running, aggression, and sexualized behaviors. External negative outlets include substance abuse, eating disorders, and self-harm.

There are several key strategies that we can use to help traumatized children cope with trigger events. It is important to help them identify and name their feelings, from which they are often disconnected. They need explicit help in reading social cues. **They also need help understanding the cause and effect relationships regarding their behavior.** And they need to practice specific skills to manage their emotions. Some possibilities for emotional self-management skills are breathing exercises, peaceful imagery, and using tactile tools such as clay or coloring.

The Trauma Toolkit suggests teaching “Take 5”, a simple breathing routine, as an action plan to help students cope with trigger events. The teacher counts aloud to three for younger students or to five for older students, while they gently inhale and exhale. This widely-used calming technique stimulates the parasympathetic nervous system and activates the body’s relaxation response. Daily practice of “Take 5” can give students a powerful tool to help them deal with trigger events in a more developmentally appropriate way.



October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month



Member Engagement

Members of Local 571 spoke to various legislators and labor leaders at the annual Labor & Politics Reception held on September 11.

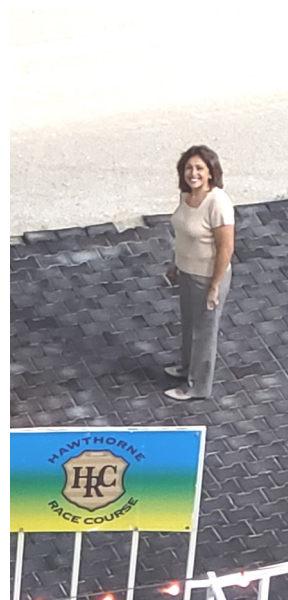


Back (l->r): Julie McShane (Lyons), Nicole Arguelles (Cicero), Nicole Gamez (Cicero) Alice Kautsky (IFT VP), Sandy Erickson (571 Treasurer)
Front (l->r): Jane Russell (571 President), Mary Ann Putyra (Cicero), Maria Rivera (Cicero), Olga Vazquez (Cicero)

Cicero Council members enjoyed a reception and a Night at the Races at Hawthorne Race Track, on September 19, hosted by Representative Lisa Hernandez.



(l->r): Cicero Council Members: Maria Rivera, Olga Vazquez, Nicole Arguelles, Mary Ann Putyra, Nicole Gamez, and Dianna Ulmer.



Representative Lisa Hernandez being introduced next to the track.

Congratulations to 571 Members Jennifer C. Leban and Joe Ruffolo who were named 2020 Teacher of the Year Finalists.



Jennifer C. Leban teaches creative technology for grades 6-8 at **Sandburg Middle School** in Elmhurst (Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205). She is a member of the West Suburban Teachers Union. (Local 571).



Joe Ruffolo is a physics teacher at **West Leyden High School** in Northlake (Leyden High School District 212). He is a member of the West Suburban Teachers Union (Local 571).

<https://www.ift-aft.org/news/2019/09/09/ift-members-named-2020-teacher-of-the-year-finalists>

****REMINDER**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.

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 from 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. You may also contact Patty Clancy by phone at 630-468-4083 or at pclancy@ift-aft.org.

Member Benefit **Reminder**



Reduced Admission **Movie Tickets**

For Union Members Only.
Available for *AMC and Marcus*
Theaters

Theater locations and movie ticket
order forms available at
www.wstu571.org



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555-888 to get a store
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Retirees Corner

The annual Local 571 Retirees Council luncheon in Westmont on September 27, 2019, hosted over **70 attendees including 6 newly retired members**. The business meeting was chaired by President Phyllis Meade and Secretary Treasurer Dee Pospishil. There was an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones before the program which featured Local 571 President Jane Russell and IFT Field Service Director Tom Smith who guided attendees through the Fair Tax legislation and the Constitutional amendment on the November 2020 election ballot.

IARA Convention



The Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans held its 2019 constitutional convention at the UAW Pat Greathouse Center on the Illinois River in Ottawa, Illinois. Over 100 retirees from retiree union and community-based organizations from all over the state heard several speakers and elected IARA officers and Executive Board members for their 2-year terms. Local 571 President Jane Russell is an IARA Executive Board member and WSTU Local 571 Retiree Council is also an affiliate. WSTU was represented by Retiree Council members Phyllis Meade, Dee Pospishil, Marge Wunschel, Lee Stephens, and Alice Kautsky. The next 571 Retirees Council meeting will be held in Spring 2020, where council officer elections will be conducted.

DRIVERS' LICENSES



Secretary of State's Office begins issuing drivers' licenses in compliance with federal REAL ID Act. [The REAL ID cards](#) will maintain the ability of Illinois residents to use their State-issued ID card to enter the secure area of an airport, federal building, or military base. The cards, which will be issued to Illinois residents who apply for a license to drive or who request a non-drivers' identification card, will comply with federal laws and rules imposed in the wake of the events of 9/11.

Illinois residents who want to get the new document will be required to submit [additional documentation](#) to obtain it. The documents can be submitted at a Secretary of State driver services facility. After turning in verification documents, a typical driver will be issued a temporary, non-REAL-ID-compliant document conveying the right to drive. The verification documentation, name, and address of the applicant will be forwarded to a secure manufacturing facility for the production of a secure identification card. The card will be armed with a variety of secure features that resist counterfeiting, and will be mailed to the applicant in a blank, sealed envelope.

The federal Department of Homeland Security has granted Illinois residents a transition period to continue to use their current ID cards. Existing noncompliant Illinois ID cards will continue to be usable for purposes such as airport entry until October 1, 2020.

The transition from noncompliant to compliant [REAL ID cards](#) will not add a fee supplement to the existing \$30 charge for Illinois drivers' licenses. The new cards will cost the same as the old cards. However, they will take longer to get; drivers' licenses will no longer be handed out at Secretary of State driver services facilities.

For additional information go to: <https://realid.ilsos.gov/>

cont.d from pg. 1

Questions about the Fair Tax

My family or a relative owns a small business? Will they be hurt by passage of the Fair Tax?

In a recent report by a pro-business tax foundation, it was found that most Illinois businesses report an annual income of less than \$200,000/year, which will put the large majority in line for modest tax relief.

What has occurred in other nearby states that have enacted a Fair Tax?

Both Kansas and Minnesota are good examples, enacting a Fair Tax. Kansas cut the top personal income tax rate from 6% to 4.5% in 2012. In FY 2017, it was projected that needed revenue be reduced by \$920 million. In Minnesota income taxes were raised in 2013 and now there is a \$1.4 billion budget surplus for FY 2018-19. Tax rates for middle income earners were also reduced.

How will the Fair Tax affect me as a middle-class worker?

Nearly 97% of Illinoisans will see no income tax increase. Only those making more than \$250,000/year will see their taxes go up.

Go to the Fair Tax Calculator, <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/fairtax/Pages/default.aspx>.

In unity,



Local 571 President



<https://www.unionplus.org/benefits/insurance/homeowners-insurance>

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Veterans Day is Monday, November 11

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

That's when the armistice ending World War I began in 1918, and that is the origin of Veterans Day, a U.S. holiday often confused with Memorial Day.

Memorial Day honors America's war dead, while Veterans Day honors all American veterans, living and dead, and has a special emphasis on thanking living veterans for their service to the country.

**Thursday,
October 31**

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Sunday, November 3

[Daylight Saving Time Ends](#)

**Please remember to
turn your clock back
one hour.**

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 Want To Hear From You



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

West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571
500 Oakmont Lane
P.O. Box 390
Westmont, IL 60559-0390
Phone: 630-468-4098 Fax: 630-468-4088
E-mail: jrussell@ift-aft.org