

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

June/July Calendar

6/8—Ex.Bd Mtg. (5:00 p.m.—Westmont)
 6/15—Registration deadline for Social Security Webinar
 6/16—Social Security Webinar
 7/1—Councils' election reports due to 571
 7/7—Registration deadline for Social Security Webinar
 7/9—Social Security Webinar
 7/9—Councils' year-end financial statements and audit forms due to 571
 7/27-30—AFT Convention, Houston TX
 7/27-31—IL, AFL-CIO Convention

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
 Tom Smith, IFT Field Service Director
 Arnava Mistry-Mujthaba, IFT Field Service Director
 Julie Masterton, Membership Secretary
 Patty Clancy, Office Secretary
 Andrew Bendelow,
 571 Web Administrator
 Robin Hancock,
 571 Union Messenger Editor



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A Teaching Moment

I refuse to call what we are now experiencing, the “new normal.” Rather this time is the “new abnormal.” I think we are heading to the “new normal” where our daily lives, including working in schools, will be significantly different. Ideally, this is also a wonderful teaching moment that cannot be missed, especially for a science teacher.



New vocabulary—COVID-19, N95 masks, CDC, ventilators, social distancing, shelter-in-place, R0 value, bending the curve, IDPH, Governor's Executive Orders, CARES Act, PPE, contact tracing, and the list goes on.

History of discovery—June Almeida, a virologist, identified the first coronavirus in 1964 in her London laboratory in St. Thomas' Hospital. The first photographs of the coronavirus were published in the Journal of Virology two years after the virus was discovered. Other doctors with whom Dr. Almeida worked at St. Thomas' Hospital named this “coronavirus” because of the crown or halo surrounding the viral image. (Who remembers their elementary science lesson about the sun's corona?)

Safety measures: incessant hand washing—Coronavirus is an “enveloped virus,” with a protective outer layer of lipid or fatty molecules. Because this layer has a property of stickiness, it is effective at sticking to your hands. Soap molecules are strongly attracted to the fat molecules disrupting this outer protective layer and dissolve in the running water, killing the virus. So, while washing your hands may not eliminate the risk of infection, it is a safety measure, similar to wearing a car seatbelt.



Online Resources for the Pandemic

By Bonnie Saracco

Randi Weingarten recently wrote, “This has been a month like no other in American history.” Indeed, we are all struggling with our own unprecedented challenges. The following are online resources with targeted help.

If you need specific help for a wide variety of pandemic problems, go to American Federation of Teachers, www.aft.org/coronavirus, for topics from face mask use to feeding students, from converting lessons to remote learning to lobbying Congress for adequate pandemic response.



If you need ideas and help for remote learning, go to Share My Lesson, <https://sharemylesson.com/coronavirus/remote>. Here you will find free remote-learning lesson plans for all grade levels and content areas, including those designed for students with disabilities and for English language learners. Share My Lesson also has resources to deal with mental health issues during this crisis.

If you work in higher education, go the AFT Academics, aftacademics.org/covid-19. This website shows how to quickly convert instruction to high quality online lessons and contains up-to-date information for adjunct and contingent faculty and for those faculty teaching international students. It also provides discussion forums.

If you are struggling with student debt, go to Forgive My Student Debt, <http://www.forgivemystudentdebt.org/covid-19-student-borrower-resources/>. Here you will find current information from AFT about the new federal provisions affecting student loans. This website will also allow you to sign up with Summer, AFT’s trusted partner for student loan management.

If you need help teaching English language learners during the pandemic, go to Colorin’ Colorado, ColorinColorado.org/Coronavirus. This website is a partnership between AFT and PBS and serves teachers and families of English language learners in grades K-12.

If you are a healthcare worker struggling with the emotional effects of being on the frontline of serving patients with Covid-19, go to

Project Parachute, <https://www.eleos.health/parachute>. This will bring you to a network of licensed therapists who provide pro bono therapy to healthcare workers.

If you need help maintaining connections during this time, go to Turnaround for Children, turnaroundusa.org/Coronavirus. It has curated lists of resources for adults who have supportive relationships with children.

If you need up-to-date information about delivering psychological help during the pandemic, go to American Psychological Association, apa.org/topics/covid-19. This site has continually updated information about tele-health policies in all 50 states, and how to help people with various mental health issues, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder, during the pandemic.

If you are interested in a large, curated list of resources for staying safe and healthy, go to National PTA, pta.org/home/family-resources/coronavirus-information. It has resources to support teachers and families who are dealing with learning at home.

If you are interested in learning how to provide needy children with books, go to First Book, firstbook.org/coronavirus. First Book is a nonprofit that has already supplied 8 million books to children who do not have reliable internet access.

If you need a free collection of online learning experiences, go to Wide Open School, WideOpenSchool.org which provides learning schedules, programmed by “school day”, by grade band.

Fred Rogers said, “Always look for the helpers.” Similarly, Randi Weingarten reminds us, “In crises, there are always helpers and heroes. I am eternally grateful to my members—and so many others—who have been both. Their selfless acts and collective heroism leave us with a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.”



2020 WSTU SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The West Suburban Teachers Union (WSTU) Local 571, proudly awarded more than **\$26,000** in scholarships to outstanding students and teachers in April. Winning students are the dependents of Local 571 members.

College-bound high school seniors were judged based upon academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, and community service participation. Applications were reviewed and scored by members of the Union's Scholarship Committee and Chair Chris Schulz, a counselor at East Leyden High School in Franklin Park.

Seven WSTU Mary Wheeler scholarships of **\$2,950** each were awarded to:

Zachary Bergman of Downers Grove South High School. His mother, **Mary Bergman**, is a teacher at Argo Community High School, District 217.

Katie Cole of Batavia High School. Her father, **Shane Cole**, is a teacher at DuPage County High School District 88, Addison Trail High School.

Ronan Doyle of York Community High School. His mother is **Ann-Marie Doherty-Doyle**, a teacher aide at Field Elementary, Elmhurst Community District 205.

Ellie Pazol of Glenbrook North High School. Her father is **Jon Pazol**, a teacher at West Leyden High School, District 212.

Janellie Roach of Homewood-Flossmoor High School. Her father is **John Roach**, a teacher at Morton East High School, District 201.

John (Jack) Schiltz of York Community High School. His mother, **Dianne Schiltz**, is an educational assistant at Bryan Middle School, Elmhurst Community District 205.

Cylia Srmek of Oak Lawn Community High School. Her mother, **Darlene Srmek**, is a teacher at Brodnicki Elementary, Indian Springs District 109.

The union also awarded **one \$2,950 Jo Ann Horowitz/Mary Ann Karlovsky Scholarship** to **Margaret Klebenow**, a student at the University of St. Francis, Joliet. Her grandfather is **Allen Sheehan**, a retiree from Morton High School, District 201. This scholarship is presented each year to a college student who is pursuing a career in K-12 teaching or women's/gender studies.

The final 2020 awardees received the **Julienne Phillips Scholarship**. Each recipient is a current, licensed educator who is pursuing an additional degree through graduate work. The winners are:

Gordon Budimirovic, a teacher at West Leyden High School, District 212.

James McDunn, a teacher at Wilson Elementary, Cicero District 99.






Classes Start June 1



<https://www.unionplusfreecollege.org/>

Earn a degree from home with Free College

NEVER STOP
LEARNING,
BECAUSE LIFE
NEVER STOPS
TEACHING

A Teaching Moment *(continued from page 1)*

The science lessons will continue as we learn more about COVID-19 and how to reduce the spread with the development of a vaccine. Until then, if we plan well, we can all move safely into the “new normal.”

As the uncommon end of the 2019-20 school year draws near, one that will not easily be forgotten, the officers and staff of WSTU Local 571 wish you and your family good health, ability to leave our homes for activities other than shopping for food or medication, some time off for rejuvenation, and most of all the hope that we will be back with our students sometime this fall.

As union education workers, you deserve enormous praise and more thanks for your work, more than you will ever know.

To those members who are retiring, we wish you continued health, happiness and a comfortable life with a good pension.

Please be safe and stay well. We look forward to working with everyone again soon.

In unity,

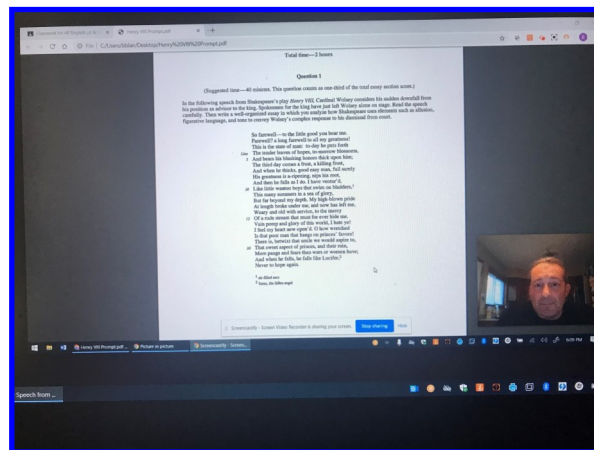
Jane A. Russell

Local 571 President

Members Engaged, No Matter The Circumstances



Aileen Sullivan, teacher at DuPage District 88, sits at her home computer and enjoys her patio while preparing remote learning lessons for her students.



DuPage District #88 Teachers Council President, Brett Blair, simultaneously shares and discusses a poem with his students.



Members of DuPage District 88 Councils prepare to distribute hundreds of meals from Addison Trail H.S. to students in the community.

Members Engaged, No Matter The Circumstances



Rosemont Kindergarten teacher and Rosemont Council President, Cathy Pope, participated in a car caravan along Scott Street with other teachers and staff, celebrating their students who they miss seeing at school every day.



Julie Masterton, Local 571 Office Secretary and designer extraordinaire, has sewn nearly 200 masks for IFT staff, downstate factory workers who were required to work, but given no PPE and nursing home staff.



A Social Security Webinar for Local 571 Members

Sponsored by the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571

UPDATE: Webinar will be done remotely for both June and July

Identical Social Security Webinars will be presented and questions will be answered by a representative of the Social Security Administration.

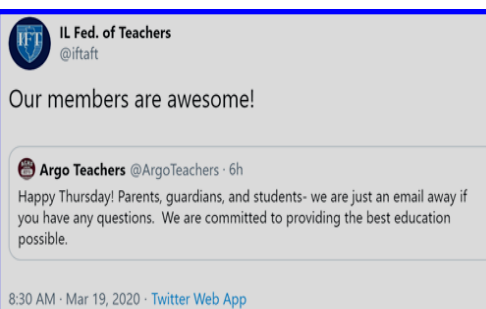
WHEN: Tuesday,
June 16, 2020
10:00 a.m.—Noon
OR
Thursday,
July 9, 2020
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

FOR: Local 571 members

WHERE: Update: This will be done remotely.

R.S.V.P.: If you plan to attend the June 16 Webinar, contact Patty Clancy by June 15 at pclancy@ift-aft.org and you will be sent a link to register for the webinar.

If you plan to attend the July 9 Webinar, contact Patty Clancy by July 7 at pclancy@ift-aft.org and you will be sent a link to register for the webinar.



Argo H.S. Teachers Council members used social media to support and inspire students and families. The Tweet was recognized in the new *IFT Special Edition, Coronavirus News*.

CANCELLED

The **I.M.R.F** Seminar which was scheduled for Tuesday 5/19/2020 at the Westmont office has been cancelled. No further information is available at this time.

Please watch for future postings on the website www.wstu571.org or the *Union Messenger* as to when the seminar will be rescheduled.

GREAT LAKES ULI

After carefully considering all information that is currently available about the spread of the Coronavirus, AFT and IFT have made the decision to cancel this year's Great Lakes Union Leadership Institute that was scheduled for June 22 through June 26.

CANCELLED

Our team is currently working to secure dates for the 2021 Great Lakes Union Leadership Institute. Please check our website for updates.

Stay healthy and safe!

<https://www.ift-aft.org/professional-development/ULI/great-lakes>

Be **STRONG** ♥
Think **POSITIVE** &
Stay **SAFE**

**Memorial Day is
Monday–May 25**



Celebrate the Holidays with Union-Made Products

This summer, make sure to stock your barbeque with union-made products. From Vienna Beef hot dogs made here in Chicago to Frito Lay snacks and Weber grills, show your support for union men and women by picking the right products to serve your friends and family. Here's a brief list of some more popular items available near you:

Vienna Beef	Farmer John	Planters
Hormel Hot	Meats	Wheat Thins
Dogs & Brats	Sara Lee Deli	Nabisco
Ball Park Hot	Meats	Slim Jim
Dogs	Tyson Chicken	Ritz
Oscar Meyer Hot	Chiappetti	Entenmann's
Dogs	Lay's	Cakes
Johnsonville	Doritos	Sara Lee
Brats	Tostitos	Betty Crocker
Boar's Head Deli	Fritos	Cake Mix
Meats & Hot	Sun Chips	Tootsie Rolls
Dogs	Ruffles	Hershey
Hillshire Farm	Wise Chips	Chocolate
Farmland Hot	Bugles	Kit Kat
Dogs	Cheese Nips	Cadbury
Hofmann Hot	Chips Ahoy!	Carmello
Dogs	Oreos	



For more union-made products go to: <https://www.chicagolabor.org/union-resources/union-made-bbg>

Save the Date!

Local 571 Legislative Breakfast
Saturday 10/3/20
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To be held at:

**Hilton Chicago/Oakbrook Hills
Resort & Conference Center**
3500 Midwest Road
Oak Brook, IL 60523

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Westmont office of the West Suburban Teachers Union is closed to visitors until the end of May. Most of us are currently working from home. Once the stay-at-home orders are lifted, we will let you know how to safely visit the office. Until then, please feel free to contact staff by e-mail or phone or call 630-468-4098.

We still want to be of service to you.

Enjoy your summer.



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

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