

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

Sometimes There Are No Words

WSTU September Calendar

9/14— ExBd Mtg. (5:30 p.m.—Westmont)
 9/22—Retirees Council New Retirees Lunch/
 Meeting (11 a.m.—Westmont)
 9/28—Registration Deadline for Legislative
 Breakfast

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
 Arnavaz 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



Several times this summer, in either viewing social media or watching the nightly news on TV, I felt like I could not respond with a coherent sentence to what I just saw or heard. Other times tears came to my eyes, frequently tears of sadness, disgust and frustration, and occasionally tears of joy which renewed my trust in humanity.



Randi Weingarten, at the AFT Convention in July 2020, spoke about the **three crises** that produced what we now must endure—the COVID-19 pandemic, an economic recession deepening the gap between the rich and the rest of the American people, and the once again highlighted structural and systemic racism in the nation. With the near total lack of federal leadership and preparation for a pandemic which has led to over 150,000 deaths by COVID 19 in the United States as of August 14, 2020, we look to the November 3 election to set straight the horrible inequities we have all witnessed in the last six months.

How do we set the nation on a better path so that everyone

- has an opportunity for a good job that can provide a family with security?
- can plan for a secure retirement?
- can enjoy an expanded high-quality healthcare system?
- can learn in an education system that has better funding for public schools and universities?
- can join a strong Union?

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The AFT Convention delegates adopted Resolution #34, *AFT Endorsement of Joe Biden for President*. The AFT process leading to this resolution was long and arduous, involving tens of thousands of AFT members. Town halls were held across the U.S. with all the presidential contenders where members could ask the difficult questions about our education system for which they sought real and workable answers. The VoteAFT.org website was open for members to answer surveys and learn about the platforms of the candidates. After all the member input, the final step was to endorse one candidate. We will be supporting the presumptive presidential candidate, Joe Biden and his chosen running mate, Kamala Harris, at the 2020 Democratic National Convention, August 17-20 and into the November 3, 2020 general election.

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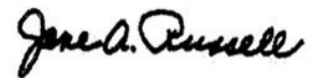
(cont'd from pg.1)

Sometimes There Are No Words

I have finally found the words to express my hope “that together we can work to overcome COVID-19, set the economy on a fairer and more equitable path, and strengthen our commitment to racial justice and rooting out systemic racism” if we can elect Joe Biden as President and Kamala Harris as Vice-president. I look forward to working together with my Union sisters and brothers, to bring back the soul of our country.

I wish you, your families and the students, good health and the stamina to help launch the back-to-school arrangement, whatever that looks like in your district. Please know that the Local 571 staff and officers are ready to help and advise in any way we can. I believe I can still offer you success for a very new and different 2020-21 school year.

In unity,



Local 571 President

You are invited to attend the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 Fifteenth Annual Legislative Breakfast



DATE: Saturday, October 3, 2020

TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: Virtual—A link will be provided upon registration

PROGRAM: BYOB—Bring your own breakfast! Meet local candidates and have an opportunity to ask questions of them.

**If you wish to attend,
notify Patty Clancy by
Monday 9/28/20
to register for the event
at pclancy@ift-aft.org
or call 630-468-4083**



“ I teach in a low-income district, and there are certainly many services that we'd like to offer our students that we don't always have money for. The Fair Tax would help by providing us with funding for additional resources and social services. **”**

RACHEL ESPOSITO
West Suburban Teachers Union,
Local 571

VOTE YES FOR fairness

VOTE EARLY 9.24.20

Now more than ever, we need a Fair Tax. Vote YES for fairness this election.

A Fair Tax would:

- Make millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share
- Ensure 97% of Illinoisans see their taxes cut or remain the same – only earners making \$250,000 or more per year would pay more
- Lift the burden off lower- and middle-income Illinoisans
- Generate additional revenue to fund our schools and state services

IFT Illinois Federation of Teachers
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ift-aft.org facebook.com/iftaft @iftaft

VISIT IFT-AFT.ORG/FAIRTAX FOR MORE INFORMATION.

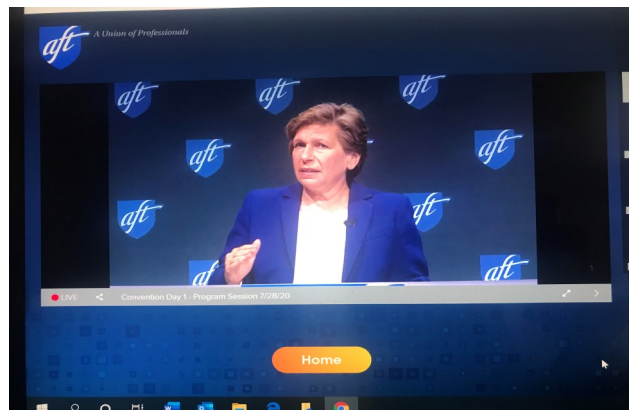
Summer Around the Local

Despite the very unusual and abrupt end to the 2019-20 school year as we knew it, Local 571 members, staff, and officers forged ahead into the “virtual” unknown. We have all adapted somewhat to the new ways of meeting, teaching, and learning.

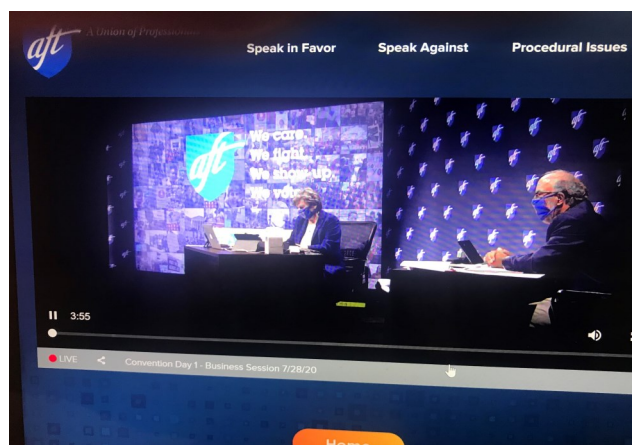
In the middle of March, the Westmont building closed except for “essential Union workers.” On any weekday, some staff are still in the building. The Local 571 staff and officers worked out a schedule to be in the office one day a week while working from home the rest of the days. We are fortunate we have our own offices/work areas and computers, the appropriate provided personal protective equipment (PPE) and guidance about adjusting our work-space which is mostly in the 571 office area. Please be sure to make an appointment with Patty Clancy @ pclancy@ift-aft.org before visiting the office.

Conventions

The AFT held its first virtual convention on July 28-30, 2020. Even though the number of days was reduced from the usual four to three, the work of the convention was still completed as if we were all in a big convention hall in Houston, Texas, with 3,000 delegates from all over the U.S. working together. Thirty-nine Local 571 elected delegates attended committee meetings to review resolutions, hear great speakers, amend the AFT Constitution and By-laws, and hear passionate discussion about and adopt 40

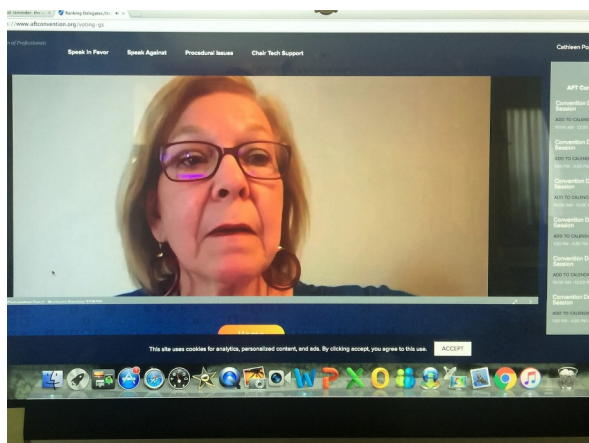


President Randi Weingarten from the studio set, gave an impassioned State of the AFT Union address, interviewed Lin-Manuel Miranda of Hamilton fame, much to the delight of the convention goers, as well as announcing the passage of Resolution #34, endorsing Joe Biden for President of the United States.



resolutions. The biggest difference is that there was no voting for AFT officers and executive board members during the convention. The election is taking place now in August via mail ballot with the delegates. The announcement of those newly elected will be September 1, 2020.

A second convention, the Illinois AFL-CIO biennial convention, was also held on the same days as the AFT Convention. Local 571 was represented by eight delegates who also reviewed and adopted resolutions, heard speakers, and elected Tim Drea (UFCW 881) President and Pat Devaney (Associated Firefighters of Illinois) Secretary-Treasurer. Dan Montgomery, IFT President, was re-elected to the Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board



Local 571 President Jane Russell made a plea to the convention assembled to pass the proposed amendment to the AFT By-laws which provided for no 2020 dues increase and a minimal increase in 2021. The motion was adopted by 99%.

Summer Around the Local

Political/Legislative Events

What's summer unless there is golf? Local 571 was represented by a golf 4-some of Cicero members at the annual Representative Lisa Hernandez (HD 24) summer golf tournament on July 28 at Gleneagles Golf Club in Lemont. The Local also purchased a hole-sponsorship to raise awareness of West Suburban Teachers Union. We thank Rick, Dan, Gregg, and Brian for representing Local 571.



Golfers from Cicero Council representing Local 571 at the Lisa Hernandez golf outing included (l_>r) Greg Lapp, Rick Kosenesky, Dan DeCarlo, and Brian Fries.

Several other virtual events by local legislators and candidates were attended by the Local 571 Legislative Directors, Max Schoenberg (Elmhurst Teachers) and Nicole Burr (Lyons), COPE Chair Julie McShane and President Jane Russell. Candidates for Illinois House, Maura Hirschauer (HD 49) and Martha Paschke (HD 65) held virtual family events. Four current Illinois Senators held a virtual fundraiser on August 18 celebrating women in politics.



All represent Local 571 members in their districts—Assistant Majority Leader Linda Holmes (SD 42), Deputy Majority Leader Laura Murphy (SD 28) and Senators Laura Fine (SD 9) and Ann Gillespie (SD 27).

Local 571 COPE also included a hole sponsor along with the golf 4-some.

Local 571 Meetings and Training

The Councils welcome their new members with informative materials highlighting the work of the AFT, IFT and WSTU.



The digital age equivalent of the Council leader notebooks and new member packets are now included in one USB drive for council presidents and treasurers.

The 700+ new members packets were assembled by Local 571 support staff, Patty Clancy. Patty worked the month of July and well into August to prepare the new member packets for 571 Councils.

On August 3 Council Presidents and Treasurers met virtually with 571 staff, field service directors and the Local president and treasurer to discuss and review their council responsibilities. Both Julie Masterton and Patty Clancy, Local 571 professional support staff, aided in assembling the materials and preparing the Council Treasurers in their Zoom meeting breakout.



The packets for new members include small gifts, membership and free insurance applications, voter registration QR code along with pertinent and helpful information to help new members become acquainted with their Union.

To be able to reach out to members quickly, nearly 20 council leaders and staff participated in *Hustle* training, a texting message system. With all that is happening currently with schools and the fall general election, it is important to reach Local 571 membership to keep them abreast of news and changes.

IFT Press Release - August 7, 2020

Enforcing Face Masks is Key to Return to In-Person Instruction

Westmont, IL-- Illinois Federation of Teachers President Dan Montgomery released the following statement after Governor JB Pritzker's face mask enforcement announcement.

"On behalf of the over 103,000 statewide members of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, I applaud Governor Pritzker's decision to seek additional authority to enforce the use of face coverings and social distancing policies. His continued and decisive leadership during this pandemic has ensured that our students, teachers, and communities are protected and safe.

"As teachers, we know that this will be an educational process to make sure that people are reducing the spread of COVID-19 by following the Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines. Our members know that the fastest way back to in-person instruction, and other activities and gatherings, is by wearing a mask and maintaining social distance. The only way back to 'normal' is by stopping the spread of this virus, and the only way to do that is by following public health guidelines."

To read the IFT STATEMENT ON RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION, go to: <https://www.ift-aft.org/covid>



A Union of Professionals

AFT PSRP

Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel

PSRPs are the infrastructure of the world

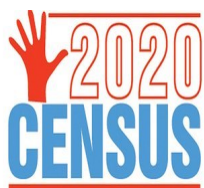
It has become very obvious during this pandemic who the essential workers are. "Let me be clear," writes AFT Secretary-Treasurer Loretta Johnson. "I am not criticizing mayors, university presidents

or school superintendents. But amid the COVID-19 contagion, we would be nowhere without custodians, paraprofessionals, food service workers, administrative assistants and school bus drivers. Tech support workers alone have kept networks connected and students engaged in their studies, and they will become ever more important as we reopen schools."

To read more PSRP news, go to: <https://www.aft.org/psrp>

Shape the future for your family and community

As required by law, every 10 years the census counts all adults and children living in the United States to ensure communities are adequately funded and represented for the next decade.



It is critical that you complete the census and count everyone in your household! This includes grandparents, infants and young children, foster children, and nonrelatives who are living with you. An accurate count is important because census results determine the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funding each year to support essential services, including: School meals, First Responders, Highway and road repairs, Medicare and Medicaid, Rural home rental assistance, Food assistance programs, Libraries and community centers.

Completing the census is safe. Your personal information is kept confidential and cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

The deadline to complete the census is **October 31, 2020**. Take a moment today to complete the questionnaire using one of the following methods:

Visit: <https://my2020census.gov/> to fill out the online questionnaire. It is available in English and 12 additional languages.

Call the toll free number at **1-844-330-2020** (English) or **1-844-468-2020** (Español) to speak with a live operator.

Mail in a completed paper copy of the 2020 Census.

For more information visit: <https://2020census.gov/en.html>

Retirees Corner

RETIREMENT--Never Looked So Good.

This may be a comment you are making and/or hearing more and more each day. Just remember, we retired from a job that made us strong, resilient, and full of hope.



The Local 571 Retiree Council is large and still growing larger. You should have all received a membership renewal form, options for paying dues, invitation for our Membership Luncheon and the calendar "you can't live without." If you have not received this information, please contact Julie Masterton, jmasterton@ift-aft.org.

If you have not heard, the Retiree Council has newly elected officers.

Alice Kautsky, President--Retired 1st/2nd Grade Teacher from Cicero

Marge Wunschel, Secretary/Treasurer--Retired Kindergarten Teacher from Cicero

Irene Keleminic, Delegate to the House of Representatives--Retired Computer Teacher from Cicero

Thanks, thanks, thanks and more thanks to our Council's former officers. **Phyllis Meade** served as President and **Dee Pospishil** served as Secretary/Treasurer. Both are long-time dedicated Union members and always ready to help. I am sure their dedication will continue as I have my pen ready to add their names to the volunteer list. Also, a big thank you to **Gary Tolman** who served as the House of Representatives delegate for many years and eagerly sold raffle tickets for the COPE split-the-pot raffles.

I am looking forward to someday meeting many of you in person.

Alice Kautsky, President

REMINDER

**Retirees Council New
Member Luncheon
Tuesday 9/22/2020 *
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 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 9/15/2020. New members, please contact Patty Clancy to RSVP by phone at 630-468-4083 or by email at pclancy@ift-aft.org

** Please note: All plans are fluid and subject to change. Reservation money will be refunded if we are unable to meet in person.*

Ways To Vote



There are three ways to cast a ballot in suburban Cook County for the 2020 Presidential Elections. Eligible voters can participate in Early Voting, Vote By Mail or on Election Day at their assigned polling place.

Early Voting

For the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election, traditional Early Voting will take place October 19 – November 2. As a reminder, voters who participate in Early Voting must vote in person.

Vote By Mail

Mail Ballot applications for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election will be accepted starting June 18, 2020. Any registered suburban Cook County voter with a driver's license, state ID or social security number on file may request a mail ballot using an online or paper application. Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day (November 3) in order to be counted.

Election Day Voting

Registered suburban Cook County voters can only vote in their home precinct on Election Day.

Residents who are not registered to vote may register and cast a ballot on Election Day thanks to same-day registration and voting. Those who wish to register on Election Day must present two qualifying forms of ID.

Registered and unregistered Cook County residents can find their assigned polling place with the [Your Voter Information tool](#).

Casting Your Ballot in DuPage County

For the November 3, 2020, General Election (locations throughout DuPage County)

Early Voting

For the November 3, 2020, General Election (locations throughout DuPage County)

- First day - Monday, October 19, 2020 (15th day prior to an election)
- Last day - Saturday, October 31, 2020 for Temporary Sites (3 days prior to an election)
- Last day - Monday, November 2, 2020 for Permanent Sites (1 day prior to an election)

The Early Voting program allows any eligible DuPage County voter to vote before Election Day.

All locations are 100% compliant with the American with Disabilities Act.

Vote By Mail

Due to COVID-19, all 2020 General Election voters are encouraged to cast a ballot prior to Election Day, either by mail or during early voting. Voting by mail is an easy option for voters and you can request a vote by mail ballot through email, mail, or in person. An application is available from your local election authority or at <https://elections.il.gov/electionoperations/VotingByMail.aspx>.

Voter Registration

To register to vote or check your registration status, visit: <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>

Official Elections Notice—2021

Local 571 Officers' Election

Nominations are now being accepted for the following Local 571 Officers: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Legal Defense Secretary, and a Financial Secretary. The term of office is two (2) years beginning July 1, 2021, 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 8, 2021.

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. Retirees' ballots will be mailed to Local 571 retiree members by U.S. Postal Service. Interested individuals may request further information about the duties of the office by contacting Local 571.

Union-Made BBQ

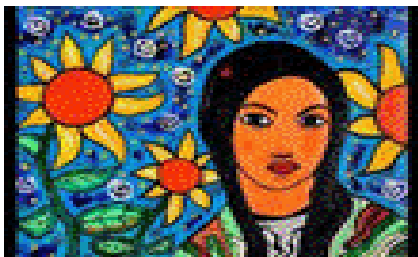
This **Labor Day**, Monday, September 7 make sure to stock your barbeque with union-made products. From Vienna Beef hot dogs made here in Chicago to Frito Lay snacks and Weber grills, show your support for union men and women by picking the right products to serve your friends and family. To find out more about union-made products go to:



Sunday
September 13

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

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean?



The celebration was created to recognize the positive impact that Hispanic Americans have left on the country.

"Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from

September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America," according to the official government website: <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/>

DELL COMPUTERS – 10% off — AFT Members Only —

AFT has a new and comprehensive benefit with substantial discounts that you, as an AFT member, may really enjoy. **You may even say, "Just in time!"**

AFT's new benefit, **Dell4AFT**, offers high quality computers, laptops and electronics—and fun tech accessories—from Dell. Our program gives you access to the computer industry's best personal computing products—with great discounts just for AFT members *along with* special guidance from a dedicated executive sales team, just for you.

The Dell4AFT discount program welcomes members whether you are buying for yourself, the rec room or to get the kids ready for the school year.

And if a product is not quite right? Returns are easy. Feel free to check out this unique program at www.aft.org/members-only, created just for you, an AFT member.

No worries if you don't have your membership card in hand. The AFT members-only website has been recently revised to allow you to look up your AFT ID number and to print a temporary membership card (<https://members.aft.org/members/register>).

Did You Know?

August is National Women's Suffrage Month

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was certified into the U.S. Constitution, forever protecting American women's right to vote.



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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