

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

April Calendar

All House and Executive Board Meetings will be held virtually until further notice.

4/12—Ex.Bd Mtg. (5:30 p.m.)
 4/12—HOR Mtg. (6:45 p.m.)
 4/12—571 proposed budget presented to HOR
 4/12—571 Officer ballots ready for pickup nominations
 4/13—Registration deadline for TRS Workshop
 4/15—TRS Workshop (virtual)
 4/24-25—IFT ULI (virtual)

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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Karen Lewis, My Friend

This is more personal. You have read about Karen Lewis' dynamic work and overwhelming commitment to the Union and its battles. Karen was also a good friend, a side many never got to see or experience.

I first met Karen at a picnic when the newly elected group of CTU Vice-Presidents joined the IFT Executive Board. Karen and I bonded immediately since we had both been seasoned high school chemistry teachers. Soon after the newspapers reported the election of the new CTU officers, several people approached me asking what I thought of Karen. They suggested that her tone was acerbic, even caustic as she raised her voice and fought for students, parents, educators, and Chicago's communities. I disagreed with those who thought her to be too loud, too strong in her convictions. She stood up to the mayor, the big corporations, all of the naysayers, even some in her organization. Indeed, she fought for all of us in education and our communities.

On one occasion, after her initial surgery for brain cancer, Karen removed her head scarf and showed off her scar on the right side of her head, which she explained looked remarkably like the scar Harry Potter possessed on his forehead. The scar indeed did have that lightning rod look. After that, I don't think I ever saw her again without a beautiful hat—she wore them all with pride—kind of like a badge of honor. Karen always sported her hats, beautifully manicured nails, red lipstick and lovely suits or CTU red gear—always looking the strong and confident woman.

We saw each other at meetings and had an opportunity to talk about our religious beliefs, the books we were reading, about contracts and organizing as well as her beloved husband John Lewis. I got to know John when he became a member of the IFT Retirees Committee, which I then chaired. John, like Karen, was a voice for all the IFT retirees. He would not set aside his principles or ideals at any time. John, too is a force to be reckoned with. I send my love and encouragement to John knowing that he will continue to be a voice for retirees in the IFT.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Karen Lewis, My Friend

When I was at the grand opening of the new CTU offices on Carroll Street in Chicago, not far from the United Center, Karen took great pride showing me around her office. It was large and held many pieces of memorabilia, recognition plaques and coffee mugs. One of her favorite pieces of memorabilia she pointed out with pride was from one of her teachers with whom Karen still corresponded. Even Karen had that one teacher who left that great impression on her.



My very favorite photograph of Karen was snapped in the huge theatre-like hall, standing with her back to the camera in front of a podium overlooking a sea of CTU members, all in red shirts. That photo, taken before the infamous 2012 CTU strike, depicted solidarity, strength, conviction and much love.

I learned a great deal from Karen as I am sure did others. Her legacy continues with the current CTU officers, IFT Vice-presidents and members who have been inspired to continue the fight which Karen began.

I will miss Karen, my good friend.

In unity,

Local 571 President

Loss of a Long Time Union Leader

It is with great sadness that we have lost one of WSTU's long time Council leaders. **Phyllis Meade** was an elementary teacher for 38 years in Indian Springs District 109 as well as its Council President for many years. Additionally, Phyllis served on the Local 571 Executive Board and the House of Representatives. She was also a member of the IFT Retirees Constituency Council.

Phyllis was the former President of the 571 Retirees Council along with Secretary-Treasurer, Dee Pospishil for the last several years. After becoming the Retiree Council chair, Phyllis and Dee worked with and supported through Council membership, the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans, an organization that works on behalf of retired union members and their families. In all the many years, Phyllis rarely missed a meeting and worked tirelessly on behalf of her Council members as well as supporting the work of Local 571.



Spring Starts: Saturday, March 20 4:37 am CDT

Spring Ends: Sunday, June 20 10:32 pm CDT

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Irish-American Heritage Month is celebrated during March in the United States, Americans recognize the numerous contributions of Irish-Americans to the U.S. throughout the years. From the founding fathers to innovative transportation, arts and culture, Irish immigrants for generations left deep roots in the American landscape.

Criss-crossing the country, Irish-American Heritage holds rich traditions and an unmistakable can-do spirit. Their infectious character and

indomitable personalities have brought us 22 presidents including Ulysses S. Grant, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and Barack Obama to name a few.



According to the 2019 American Community Survey, 30.4 million U.S. residents claim Irish ancestry. The number of foreign-born residents who reported Ireland as their birthplace stands at 111,886. Cook County, in Illinois, is home to the largest population of people who claim Irish ancestry in the United States.

Black Lives Matter—Part 2

Dear Union Siblings,

In the *January/February Union Messenger*, I wrote about the four main goals and 13 principles of the Black Lives Matter at School Week. Those goals and principles are from the book *Black Lives Matter at School*, by Denisha Jones and Jesse Hagopian. After reading my article I do not believe I made it clear. I apologize.

In this month's Messenger, I want to write to you about Argo's racial justice/equity journey. Argo's student population is made up of about 52% Latinx, 32% White, and 11% Black students. We also have many first- or second-generation students and a large group of Muslim students as well. In 2017, we sent one of our Union Officers, **Federico Garcia**, to the AFT Civil, Human and Women's Rights Conference. After coming back from that conference, Federico spoke to both the Local and Argo's Union Officers about what he had learned. Since then we have worked with our Administration to make racial justice/equity a major issue at Argo. In 2019, with the help of our Administration, we brought the IFT's **Dr. Monique Redeaux-Smith** to Argo to provide around 35 teachers with a three day institute on Trauma Informed Instruction. We learned about implicit bias, microaggressions, the history of racial injustice in America, restorative justice circles, self-care, and what we can do as educators to provide a safe learning environment for our students. It was an intense three-day workshop. We also brought in Dr. Redeaux-Smith to help us look at our student policy handbook to see how we can make our discipline issues more restorative in nature.

There is still major work to do in this area. To create a trauma informed school, we needed to build strong, positive, healthy relationships with our students. We need to acknowledge how racial issues both inside and outside of school impact our students. Argo also brought in a speaker to talk about LGBTQ+ issues. We learned about how transgender students have been removed from our curriculum and school by making gender binary. We learned about identifying ourselves with our pronouns along with other issues.

Since the workshops, the Union created an equity committee. We committed to reading ***So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo**, and now meet on a regular basis. The Union has also signed an Memorandum of Agreement with the District that requires the District to do an Equity Audit. Since signing the MOA, the District has hired **Dr. Ivette Dubiel** to conduct the audit and help us form an Equity Action Plan. The audit will start next year. Our Council is also working on making the Black Student Association and the Latinx Concilio official paid clubs at Argo while adding an assistant sponsor for our Gay Straight Alliance club.



One of the first items on the journey to racial justice/equity is knowledge, so our Equity Committee came up with a list of books and movies, in no particular order, for our members to read and/or watch if interested. We hope you will consider reading one of these books or watching one of these movies. **The list is on the next page.**

In Unity,

Kyle Stern

Fiction (List title and author)

If Beale Street Could Talk - James Baldwin
 The Water Dancer - Ta-Nehisi Coates
 Behold the Dreamers - Imbolo Mbue
 Americanah - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
 Such a Fun Age - Kiley Reid
 All American Boys - Jason Reynolds, Brendan Kiely
 Dear Martin - Nic Stone
 The Hate U Give - Angie Thomas
 On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous - Ocean Vuong
 Sing, Unburied, Sing - Jesmyn Ward
 The Underground Railroad - Colson Whitehead
 The Nickel Boys - Colson Whitehead

Non Fiction (List title and author)

So You Want To Talk About Race - Ijeoma Oluo
 Mediocre - Ijeoma Olou
 How to Be An Antiracist - Ibram X. Kendi
 White Fragility - Robin Diangelo
 We Want to Do More than Survive - Bettina Love
 The Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice. - Davis, F.
 Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School - Pranis, K., Boyes - Watson, C.
 For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood - Christopher Emdin
 #HipHopEd: The Compilation on Hip-hop Education (Revolutionizing Urban Education) (Revolutionizing Urban Education: Hip-hop, Pedagogy, and Communities) - Christopher Emdin
 Between the World and the Urban Classroom (Transgressions: Cultural Studies and Education) - Christopher Emdin
 Breakbeat Pedagogy: Hip Hop and Spoken Word Beyond the Classroom Walls (Counterpoints) - Christopher Emdin
 Blink - Malcolm Gladwell
 Make or Break Year - Emily Krone Phillips

Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid - Jimmy Carter

The Land of Open Graves - Jason De Leon

Me and White Supremacy - Layla Saad

The New Jim Crow - Michelle Alexander

My First White Friend: Confessions on Race, Love and Forgiveness - Patricia Raybon

Race Matters - Cornel West

Between the World and Me - Ta-Nehisi Coates

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools - Monique Morris

The Trouble With Black Boys: ...And Other Reflections on Race, Equity, and the Future of Public Education - Pedro Noguera

Born Out of Struggle: Critical Race Theory, School Creation, and the Politics of Interruption - David Stovall

Subtractive Schooling: U.S.-Mexican Youth and the Politics of Caring - Angela Valenzuela

Transformative Ethnic Studies in Schools: Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Research - Christine Sleeter

Someone Like Me- How One Undocumented Girl Fought for Her American Dream - Julissa Arce

Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy - Gholdy Muhammad

Not Light, but Fire: How to Lead Meaningful Race Conversations in the Classroom - Matthew Kay

Stamped From the Beginning - Ibram Kendi

The New Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the age of color blindness - Michelle Alexander

Freedom is a Constant Struggle - Angela Davis

Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements - Charlene Carruthers

Boy Erased - Garrard Conley

Fairest - Meredith Talusan

The Deepest South of All - Richard Grant

Things That Make White People Un - comfortable - Michael Bennett

Caste - Isabel Wilkerson

Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria - Beverly Daniel Tatum

I'm Still Here-Black Dignity in a White World - Austin Channing Brown

Invisible Women - Caroline Criado-Perez

Memoirs/Biographies

This is What America Looks Like - Ilhan Omar

Frederick Douglass - David Blight

The Other Wes Moore - Wes Moore

My Beloved World - Sonia Sotomayor

Notorious RBG - Irin Carmon

Just Mercy - Bryan Stevenson

Separated - Jacob Soboroff

Lean In & Option B - Sheryl Sandberg

The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace - Jeff Hobbs

BlackKkklansman - Ron Stallworth

Movies

A Class Apart: The little-known story of the Mexican American lawyers who took Hernandez v. Texas to the Supreme Court, challenging Jim Crow-style discrimination.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/class/>

Chicano! History of the Mexican-American Civil Rights Movement.

Stolen Education - documents the untold story of Mexican-American school children who challenged discrimination in Texas schools in the 1950's and changed the face of education in the Southwest.

Do The Right Thing

13th

Hidden Figures

Just Mercy

I Am Not Your Negro

When They See Us

The American Experience - PBS Docuseries that approaches historical events through multi-cultural perspectives

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture, education and society, and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987.



Did you know? Frances Elizabeth Willard became the first female college president in 1871, heading the Evanston College for Ladies in Illinois, which later merged with Northwestern University.

In 1993, The University of Pennsylvania became the first Ivy League school to name a woman president, Judith Rodin. She is currently the president of The Rockefeller Foundation, a position she has held since March 2005.

To read about the top 35 women in Higher Education as recognized by *Diverse* news magazine go to: <https://diverseeducation.com/2020-Top-35-Women-in-Higher-Education/#/>

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION CANDIDATE FEE

**SUBSIDY NOW
AVAILABLE**

The National Board Resource Center (NBRC) at Illinois State University (ISU) is excited to announce that the Spring 2021 window for the Illinois NB First Time Candidate Fee Subsidy will be open from **March 1, 2021** until **May 10, 2021**.

Eligible Illinois teachers and counselors will be awarded \$1,900 each by the State of Illinois through the NBRC at Illinois State University to be disbursed against the completion and submission of the four (4) components that make up the certification process.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was founded as a nonprofit dedicated to improving teaching and student learning.

The NBRC regularly lists and answers FAQs on our home page, and we are also available by e-mail and phone at (309) 438-1835 to answer any questions about the certification process. Please don't be shy! Your feedback helps us continuously improve our support of all candidates. We are excited to get to know you and to help you on your journey toward National Board Certification!

To read more information about the subsidy and the certification process, please visit the following sites:

<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php>

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

<https://www.nbpts.org/resources/>

<https://www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/>


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An Associate degree or 60 or more transferable college credits are required to enroll. Students who have not yet earned an Associate degree or are just getting started in higher education can begin with the Free College program at Eastern Gateway Community College and then transfer into the Bachelor's Degree Completion programs at CSU.

Central State University is regionally accredited

Union Plus has partnered with Central State University (CSU), a regionally accredited public, non-profit university near Dayton, OH. Credits you earn can transfer to other schools.

Zero out-of-pocket costs

Members and their families can earn a Bachelor's degree online with no out-of-pocket costs.

Students must apply for federal financial aid and use any grants to pay the tuition. Students must also use any employer-sponsored tuition assistance. The Student Success Grant covers the difference between any federal grants and employer assistance and your tuition, fees and e-books at CSU.

Bachelor's degrees offered

- Business Administration
- Teacher Education
Licensure and non-licensure (PreK-5th grade)
- Criminal Justice
- Interdisciplinary Studies - Humanities
- Additional degree programs coming soon!

Students may enroll part time, but continuous enrollment is required. Students must complete the FAFSA and any required verification.

*For additional degree programs, there may be required fees.

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LOCAL 571 HISTORY—CICERO CHAPTER—1944

decisions on all individuals and all institutions during and after the war is far-reaching and inescapable.

13. Responsible and democratic government depends for its guidance and direction upon organized groups of articulate citizens who make their convictions and desires known to the legislative and executive branches of their governments. Progress toward sound government financial policy is dependent upon the widespread and continuous expression of enlightened opinion.

Teachers' Union and Board of Education Sign Collective Bargaining Agreement

The West Suburban Local, 571, believes that one of the groups within that local, the Cicero Council, has achieved something of real significance to all AFT members. This Council recently obtained a signed collective bargaining agreement between the teachers' union and the board of education of the Cicero School District.

When a report concerning this agreement was made at the AFT convention by Mary Wheeler, president of Local 571, many delegates expressed a desire to know more about the details of the agreement. The convention voted, therefore, that the agreement should be published in the AMERICAN TEACHER.

MEMORANDUM OF MASTER AGREEMENT

This agreement made and entered into this 7th day of July, 1944, between the Board of Education, School District 99, Cook County, Illinois, to be hereinafter referred to as the Employer, and the Cicero Chapter of the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, A.F. of T., to be hereinafter referred to as the Union.

Witnesseth that, beginning with the date of this agreement, and continuing as hereinafter provided, the parties hereto mutually agree that they will report and observe the following conditions and agreements in the Educational System of School District 99.

Section 1. The Employer recognizes the Union as the collective bargaining agent for all certificated employees who are members of the Union, and that all other certificated employees be represented by the Union (with the exception that this agreement does not include bargaining for salary adjustments and work-

war and the peace. Rational and mature thinking in the difficult field of government finance is an obligation of teachers now and in the future.

15. Weak or misguided national policy in the field of taxation and price control will not only bring certain and grievous hardships to individual teachers, but will have disastrous consequences upon all people. It is a responsibility of the American Federation of Teachers to make its voice heard in the determination of national policy, not only for maintaining the security of teachers, but for maintaining the security of the society of which teachers are a part.

In her report to the convention Miss Wheeler emphasized that the last section, which provides for revising and renewing the agreement, is one of the most important parts of the entire document.

In considering the sections dealing with the salary schedule it is important to note that the Cicero School District includes only elementary schools.

In its efforts to secure the agreement the union was aided by citizens of the community. One man, Mr. Stroop, a member of an AFL union, was especially helpful.

ing conditions for the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of School District 99) in all matters pertaining to salaries, wages, hours, and working conditions.

Section 2. The Union agrees that it will not refuse membership if applicants are certificated employees of School District 99—excluding, however, the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent—and if they comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the A.F. of T.

Section 3. The use of the regular bulletin boards will be allowed in each school building for the posting of Union notices.

Section 4. The Employer gives the Union the privilege of using all communication services; i.e. the non-toll telephone service, and regular delivery service

THE AMERICAN TEACHER

of contagious disease resulting from contact at school shall receive payment for all time lost through such unavoidable cause. Time lost because of illness from such contacts, however, shall be deductible, according to the provisions in Section 11, paragraphs (a) and (b).

(e) Any certificated employee shall be allowed 5 days' absence for death in the immediate family (wife, child, father, mother, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, husband). At the discretion of the Superintendent, exception may be made for other relatives or for close friends. An absence under this provision is not to be subtracted from the total absences allowed under Section 11 (a).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Section 12
A leave of absence for not more than one year at a time shall be granted without pay for the purpose of needed rest, or because of prolonged illness. All leaves of absence shall be granted only with the approval of the Superintendent and the Board of Education. Salary increments for experience will not be granted for time spent on leave of absence.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Section 13
(a) A sabbatical leave of one year for the purpose of advanced work or for travel shall be granted to any certificated employee at his request after seven or more consecutive years of service in School District 99, subject to the provision of Section 13, paragraphs (b) and (c) following:
(b) The number of sabbatical leaves granted in the district shall not exceed four in number in one year, and shall be divided as follows: three in the teaching staff, and one in the principals or the supervisory staff.
(c) If more than four requests for sabbatical leaves in one year are received, selection shall be made on the basis of seniority, unless all applicants have an equal term of service, in which case the selection shall be made by the evaluating committee on the basis of benefits to the school system. All requests should reach the evaluating committee before the 40th week of the school term.
(d) Salary paid to the certificated employee on a

sabbatical leave shall be the regular salary less \$7 per day.

(e) The salary shall be paid to the certificated employee in the same manner and at the same time the regular salaries are paid.

(f) The time of such leave shall be counted as regular service and the pension deduction of 4% of the paid salary required by the State shall be made.

(g) The salary to be paid the certificated employee when he returns from the sabbatical leave, shall be that to which he would have been entitled on the schedule of Section 6 had he been in the system.

(h) Applications for sabbatical leave, setting forth reasons therefor, shall be made to the Superintendent in writing before the 40th week of the school term of any year.

(i) All sabbatical leaves must be approved or disapproved by the Superintendent and the Board of Education by the first day of August next following date of application and the certificated employee so notified.

(j) Section 13 of the agreement shall not be operative during any period of emergency declared by the Board by a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Board.

LEAVE FOR MILITARY SERVICE DURING THE PRESENT WAR

Section 14

Teachers of the Cicero Grade School System—male and female—who have entered the military or naval services, either as conscripts or as volunteers, shall for a period of one school year from date of induction be compensated in the same manner as provided for sabbatical leaves in Section 13 above.

Upon honorable discharge from said services, any veteran, if qualified, and if he or she makes application for reemployment within 45 days after release from service shall be reinstated to his or her former position or to a position of like seniority and status and at the same place on the salary schedule as though he or she had had continued uninterrupted service in District 99.

EVALUATING COMMITTEE

Section 15
(a) The purpose of this committee shall be to evaluate

PREPARING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Cicero Citizens' Committee



Collective Bargaining Committee of the Cicero Council



SOME OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE WORK OF Cicero Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Union Advisory Committee of Local 571



Cicero Council was part of Local 571 in the early years. The July, 1944 announcement tells of the Cicero Council signed collective bargaining agreement by then Local 571 President, Mary Wheeler. As the first local president, one of the scholarships given each year is named after Mary Wheeler who was a physical education teacher at Proviso.



TRS Employment Limitation Update

Max Schoenberg,
Legislative Director

Local 571 members who are retired (or soon to be retired) should take note that the TRS 120 days/600 hours work limitation is due to reset back to 100 days/500 hours on June 30, 2021, unless new legislative action occurs.

Starting July 1, 2021, retirees will be able to work up to 100 days or 500 hours each school year in a TRS-covered position without affecting their pensions. If a retiree works full days only (with a full day defined as at least five hours), the

limitation will be 100 days per year. If a retiree works a combination of full days and partial days, the total number of hours will be recorded and limited to 500 hours per year. (When full days and partial days are combined, full days are treated as five hours even if the full day actually lasted more than five hours.)

The 100 days/500 hours limitation applies to all work that requires teacher licensure, such as substitute teaching or summer school. The limitations do not apply to extra duties that do not require teacher licensure.

Further updates will be included as there will be legislative discussion in this spring session.

April 6, 2021 Election Information

I am sure many of you are happy to have the November 2020 Election in the past and are now ready to see how the next four years will unfold. However, many people seem to have forgotten that we have another election coming up on April 6th. This is a crucial voting time for many of our local elections and school boards, and we cannot afford to shirk our civic duty.

Also, many people incorrectly believe that when they signed up for a mail-in ballot in the fall, that it would carry over to future elections. Currently, this is not the case. So, now is the time to make a plan for how you would like to vote. Do you plan to ask for a mail-in ballot, or would you rather vote early? And don't forget, you can still always choose to vote in person on April 6th. Which choice will you make?

To help you in your decision making, I have included some links to simplify your information gathering so you can make an informed voting plan. The following links will provide you with the information you need on all of the candidates and referenda, as well as your voting options with corresponding deadlines. I hope you find the information you need in order to make this another successful voter turn-out.

If you reside in Cook County, everything you need to know for the April 6th Consolidated Elections can be found at: <https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/agency/2021-elections>

If you reside in DuPage County, everything you need to know for the April 6th Consolidated General Election can be found at: <https://www.dupageco.org/election/>

I am also including the website for the Illinois State Board of Elections which is full of voter information links: <https://www.elections.il.gov>

I will see you at the polls,

Nicole Burr

Your Legislative Director for Cook County

**The Illinois Teachers
Retirement System
(TRS) Seminar
Sponsored by the
West Suburban Teachers Union
Local 571**

- WHEN:** Thursday, April 15, 2021
5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
- FOR:** Local 571 members (*teachers*)
close to retirement
- WHAT:** A presentation by a
representative of the Illinois
Teachers Retirement System
- WHERE:** Presentation will be virtual.
Link will be provided via email
- R.S.V.P.:** If you plan to attend, please
contact Patty Clancy by April
13th at 630-468-4083 or
pclancy@ift-aft.org
- OTHER:** Once signed up, if you are
unable to attend, please contact
Patty Clancy via email at
pclancy@ift-aft.org



Members fighting powerfully for a strong union and the future we all deserve.

The IFT COVID Tracker:

New tool will help our union keep members, students and
Illinoisans safe



The [tracker](https://www.covidtracker.ift-aft.org) will help gather data by crowdsourcing reports of health and safety violations and concerns identified by staff members, parents, and community members. The IFT tracker can be found at www.covidtracker.ift-aft.org.

The [site](https://www.covidtracker.ift-aft.org) includes a mapping tool that shows district-by-district information to help easily identify issues in each area. The data will help our union draw comparisons between various areas and identify any potential “hot spots.”

This information can and should be used by unions, communities, allies, and elected officials in their continued efforts to ensure safe learning and working conditions.

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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