

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

June—July Calendar

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

6/14—ExBd Mtg. (5:00 p.m.)
 6/22—Registration deadline for Social Security Webinar (virtual)
 6/24—Social Security Webinar (virtual)
 7/1—Councils' election reports due to 571
 7/8-10—AFT TEACH 2021 (Washington DC)
 7/9—Registration deadline for Social Security Webinar (virtual)
 7/12—ExBd Mtg. (5:00 p.m.)
 7/13—Social Security Webinar (virtual)
 7/14—Councils' year-end financial audit

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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It Has Been 25 Years !

Those are words that I never dreamed I would be writing. I have served as West Suburban Teachers Union President for 25 years, having first been elected in 1995. It has been a truly humbling and meaningful experience for me to represent the now 5900+ members of our Local. Without your support and encouragement, I would not have been able to maintain this position for those many years. I am forever grateful to all



the Local 571 staff, both support staff and IFT Field Service, and the officers, past and present, who are not only my Union sisters and brothers, but also my friends. Council leaders continue to significantly influence the Local and I appreciate greatly their hard work and overwhelming commitment to the Union.

My Union role does not end on July 1, 2021 when the newly elected Local 571 officers begin their tenure. I will continue to represent all the IFT locals and their members around the state, including Local 571, as the IFT Secretary-Treasurer. In this elected office, I serve on several state and legislated committees, taskforces and ad hoc committees as well as representing educators and education workers in both county and state labor organizations. The Illinois Federation of Teachers is known as one of the most dynamic and progressive unions in the labor movement, and I am proud to continue to help forge those relationships with other AFL-CIO unions and other education organizations as we continue to work together for all workers.

The newly elected Local 571 officers will lead the local, assuring that social and racial justice are in the forefront for all the members. These new officers possess integrity, communicate well, are self-aware, learn easily, are influential, have empathy and courage, and respect for all.

I believe the Local 571 members will be well represented by these officers so that members continue to thrive in their work, always being cognizant that we want what is best for our students, their families, and the greater community for which we work. I ask that you support the new officers as you have supported me. And always continue to let your voices be heard.

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It Has Been 25 Years ! (cont'd from pg. 1)

At this special time for me, the end of my 25th year as Local 571 President, I was struck by the words of Maya Angelou, an American poet and racial activist who said:

*People will **forget what you said.***

*People will **forget what you did.***

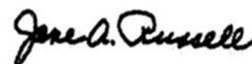
*People will **never forget how you made them feel.***

I hope you felt reassured and emboldened by my leadership as President of West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571.

The WSTU Local 571 officers and staff wish everyone the well deserved time off this summer, knowing sunnier days are coming. Please get vaccinated!

Congratulations to all of the retirees. May you enjoy this summer and many, many summers beyond.

In unity and solidarity always,



Local 571 President



WSTU Local 571 Officers

Congratulations to the WSTU Local 571 officers who begin their two-year term on July 1, 2021!

President—Rachel Esposito, Cicero Council

*Vice-president—Kyle Stern, Argo H.S. Teachers Council

Secretary—Cathy Pope, Rosemont Council

Treasurer—Sandra Erickson, Retirees Council

Financial Secretary—Gene Poull, Argo H.S. Teachers Council

Legal Defense Secretary—Brett Blair, Dist. 88 Teachers Council

The other four WSTU Local 571 officers, the Area Trustees will complete their terms on June 30, 2022.

Carlin Martinez, Cicero Council

Chris Schulz, Leyden H.S. Council

*Kyle Stern, Argo H.S. Teachers Council

Marcia Watson, Proviso PSRP Council

* Kyle Stern will move into the new VP officer position, so there is an open seat to complete his term as Area Trustee. Information about members who wish to be nominated for the open seat should refer to page 7 of this newsletter.



2021 WSTU Scholarship Winners

The West Suburban Teachers Union (WSTU) Local 571, proudly awarded **\$27,000** in scholarships to outstanding students, educators, and support staff in March. 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.

Six WSTU Mary Wheeler scholarships of \$3,000 each were awarded to:

Haley Brown of York Community High School. Her mother, Kristy Brown is support staff at York Community High School in Elmhurst, District 205.

Elian Casey of York Community High School. His step-parent, Edward O'Connor is a teacher at Sandburg Middle School in Elmhurst, District 205.

Hannah Marti of Minooka Community High School. Her mother is Margaret Marti, a teacher at J. Sterling Morton West High School, District 201.

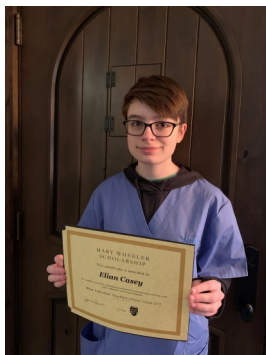
Kevin Murphy of Lyons Township High School. His father is Timothy Murphy, a teacher at West Leyden High School, District 212.

Jovanis Prodanich of Riverside Brookfield High School. His mother is Patricia Prodanich, a librarian at Ames School in Riverside, District 96.

Daniel Reiter of J. Sterling Morton West High School. His mother, Denise Reiter is a teacher at J. Sterling Morton West High School, District 201.



Haley Brown, who will graduate from York Community High School received a Mary Wheeler scholarship.



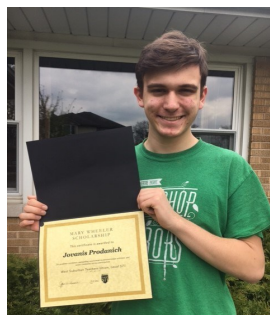
Elian Casey, who will graduate from York Community High School received a Mary Wheeler scholarship.



Hannah Marti, a Minooka Community High School student, received a Mary Wheeler scholarship.



Kevin Murphy a student at Lyons Township High School, received a Mary Wheeler scholarship.



Jovanis Prodanich, a graduate of Riverside-Brookfield High School, received a Mary Wheeler scholarship.



Daniel Reiter, a student at J. Sterling Morton West High School received a Mary Wheeler scholarship.

*And the
Winners
are...*

2021 WSTU Scholarship Winners

A newly revised scholarship, named for **Jo Ann Horowitz**, was given this year to current **Paraprofessionals** and **School Related Personnel** who are pursuing a BA/BS or MA/MS in education. Two **\$1,500 scholarships** were awarded to **Janet Marcos**, a teacher aide at Churchville Middle School in Elmhurst District 205 and **DeCora Hooper**, a clerk at Proviso West High School, District 209.

The union also awarded one **\$1,500 Maryann Karlovsky Scholarship** to **Frank Diebold**, a teacher at West Leyden High School, District 212, who is pursuing a further certificate or endorsement in education.

The final 2020 awardees received the **\$1,500 Julianne Phillips Scholarship**. Each recipient is a current, licensed educator who is pursuing an additional degree through graduate work.

The winners are:

Brooke Breit, a teacher at Wilkins Junior High School in Indian Springs, District 109.

Ricardo Camacho, a school psychologist at J. Sterling Morton East High School, District 201.



Janet Marcos, teacher aide at Churchville Middle School, received the newly revised Jo Ann Horowitz scholarship.



DeCora Hooper, a Proviso West High School clerk, received the newly revised Jo Ann Horowitz scholarship.



Frank Diebold, a teacher at West Leyden High School was awarded the Maryann Karlovsky scholarship.



Ricardo Camacho, a school psychologist at J. Sterling Morton East High School, was awarded the Julianne Phillips scholarship.



Tara Chattaraj, a teacher at J Sterling Morton Alternative High School, was awarded the Julianne Phillips scholarship.

Not pictured is Brooke Breit, who won a Julianne Phillips scholarship.

I.M.R.F. SEMINAR Retirement Information For Local 571 (PSRP) Support Staff Union Members



A speaker from the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) will present information and answer questions for **PSRP (support staff)** Union Members of the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571.

WHEN: Thursday, May 20, 2021

TIME: 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: A virtual presentation. A link will be provided.

R.S.V.P.: If you plan to attend, contact Patty Clancy via e-mail at pclancy@ift-aft.org or by phone at 630-468-4083 by Tuesday, May 18th.

Social Security Webinar for Local 571 Members



Sponsored by the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571

*Webinar will be virtual
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: Thursday,
June 24, 2021
10:00 a.m.—Noon

OR

Tuesday,
July 13, 2021
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

FOR: Local 571 members

WHERE: A virtual webinar

R.S.V.P.: If you plan to attend the **June 24** Webinar, contact Patty Clancy by June 22 at pclancy@ift-aft.org and you will be sent a link to register for the webinar.

If you plan to attend the **July 13** Webinar, contact Patty Clancy by July 9 at pclancy@ift-aft.org and you will be sent a link to register for the webinar.

**West Suburban
Teachers Union
Local 571**

Legislative Breakfast
Saturday 10/2/21
9:00 a.m.

To be held at:
Hilton Chicago/Oakbrook Hills
Resort & Conference Center
3500 Midwest Road
Oak Brook, IL 60523



Members Engaged



A virtual **AFT PSRP Conference** was held on April 23-24, 2021, offering tools PSRP members need to help strengthen their Union for the challenges we now face with COVID-19, reopening schools, and the ongoing fight for dignity, respect and living wages.

Marcia Watson, Proviso PSRP Council and Local 571 Area Trustee, participated in the two-day event and commented, “What I took most from the conference is to continue to let the support staff know that they matter. It is important to stress the impact that support staff plays in the motivation of our students. I plan to remain positive and informative to the membership.”

Five women from councils in Local 571 won their election on April 6, 2021, to the school board in their community.

Congratulations for stepping up and participating on behalf of students and education workers!

Jennifer Turn, an Argo High School teacher was elected to Cook County School District #130 Board of Education, a PK-8 district in Blue Island.

Betsy Keller, an Argo High school teacher, and first- time candidate, was elected to the Bourbonnais Elementary School District #53 Board of Education.

Luz Rangel Raymond is a teacher in Argo-Summit and was elected to the Argo Community High School, Dist. 217 Board of Education. Luz explains why she ran.

“I ran for the Argo Community High School Board for the same reason I became a teacher — to make a difference. I am an openminded, positive, and accessible individual. My vocation is one where keeping the students’ best interest in mind is a priority and advocating for all is my belief. I want to make sure all students have equal access to a high-quality education. My intentions are to be a team player and offer a unique perspective based on my personal experiences and skills, particularly when it comes to racial equity and social justice.”

Lori Parthimos from Leyden Council, a high school teacher, won a seat on the Bensenville Elementary School District #2 Board of Education. When asked, “How do you hope to make a difference?”, Lori replied, having had an interesting experience.

“I felt as if there was a lack of transparency and accountability, and I wasn't clear on the financial security of the district. I threw my hat in the ring for the 2019 election, and that resulted in a flat-out tie. Sadly, the outcome of the coin flip was a loss for me. While I lost that election, I gained a valuable lesson in why every vote really does count! Some of the questions I initially had, when I first moved to the community, still remained unanswered. With the support of my former opponent, and now friend, I decided to look past the pandemic and stay focused on financial stability and transparency. I think one of the most impactful supports was gaining the respect and support of our local Teacher's Union in Bensenville. Also, their efforts during my campaign cast a net over a wide audience that I don't think I could have done on my own under these restricted circumstances. I am thankful that I was able to gain their favor and support. I am looking forward to serving my community as a board member, and hope that I represent all of my associations in a way that makes them proud.”

Rachel Marroquin, an Argo-Summit K-4 STEAM teacher, was elected to the Evergreen Park District #124 Board of Education. The candidates were asked questions and posted on the board website. This is one of Rachel’s responses to the question posed.

What are your reasons for seeking a position on the Board?

“I want to be more involved in the decisions made for our children and teachers in Evergreen Park School District 124. I feel that working for an attorney, being a teacher, a mom, and a community member are all helpful to me being able to put my best foot forward in the job at hand. I have an open ear and a willingness to communicate my beliefs and feelings. I am hoping to be a positive addition to the team. I believe it takes a village to make things the best they can be. I am excited about becoming a part of that village and hoping that all parties at hand are able to learn from one another.”



Legislative Director Report Max Schoenberg and Nicole Burr

Local 571 Members - Make Your Voice Heard about Time to Play:

SB 654 would amend the School Code to require all public schools to provide at least sixty minutes per day of supervised, unstructured, child-directed play for all students in grades K-8. Play time would not count towards PE, and PE would not count as play time. Students with disabilities would be brought into play time in an inclusive manner. Withholding of play time as a disciplinary measure would generally be prohibited.

What do you think of this legislation? Pros or cons? What variables should lawmakers consider? What impact might this legislation have on your students and your schools? Please share your thoughts with us so we can report back to the IFT Legislative Directors to help them advocate for our members with an on-the-ground perspective. If you have comments, please send them with your name and Council to elmhurstteachers@gmail.com by May 21, 2021.

Legislative Highlights

As we get ready to wrap things up for the 2020-2021 school year, there are many pieces of legislation that we want to make sure you are aware of and keep on top of...

April 23 was the deadline for bills to cross from the House to the Senate and vice versa. Legislative efforts will now shift to readying bills for final passage and crafting the FY22 State Budget. As of now, the General Assembly continues to be on track to adjourn by the May 31 deadline.

Teacher Evaluation Initiative

HB 18 (Scherer, D-Decatur/Morrison, D-Highwood) Crossed Chambers

Bill Addressing 'Sexting'

HB 24 (West, D-Rockford) Passed the House

School Menstrual Hygiene Product Placement

HB 156-HFA 2 (Barbara Hernandez, D-Aurora) Passed Committee, Now Pending a Vote by the House

Uses of Seclusion and Restraints in School Settings

Passed the House Unanimously
HB 219 (Carroll, D-Northbrook) Passed the House Unanimously

Social Studies and American History – Must be Inclusive of the Asian American Experience

HB 376 (Gong-Gershowitz, D-Glenview) Passed the House 98 – 13

Update to Youth Suicide Prevention Policies

HB 577 (LaPointe, D-Chicago) Passed the House with 114 votes

Sex Abuse Prevention

HB 1975 (Mussman, D-Schaumburg) Passed the House, 115 – 0

Special Education Services for Students – 22nd Birthday

HB 2748 (Ness, D-Carpentersville) Passed the House 115 – 0

School Board Oath of Office

HB 2814-HFA 1 (Halbrook, R-Shelbyville) Passed the House Unanimously

Driver Education Update – How to Interact with Police During a Traffic Stop

HB 3097 (Harper, D-Chicago) Passed the House, 113-0

Changes to District Policies around Sex Abuse Training and Prevention

HB 3461 (Crespo, D-Streamwood) Passed the House, 116 – 0

Lower Lapsed Educator License Fee

HB 2828 (Caulkins, R-Decatur) Passed the House with 105 votes

Electronic Signatures for Union Elections, No Strike Retaliation

HB2521 (Gonzalez, D-Chicago) Passed the House by a vote of 67-43

Thrive Act

And finally, we would like to stand with Randi Weingarten, AFT President, in her call to bring awareness to the Thrive Act. Please Find out more about this important piece of legislation here at <https://www.thriveagenda.com/> and if you feel compelled, please tell your representative to co-sponsor the [THRIVE](#) Act.

VACANCY

Local 571 Officer Area Trustee

You are hereby notified that there is a vacancy of the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571 Officer, Area Trustee. The term of office for this vacancy will expire June 30, 2022.

If you are interested in the position of Local 571 Area Trustee to fill an unexpired term, please place your name in nomination by requesting and completing the nomination form. You must be a member in good standing.

Send an e-mail or Fax to:

Jane Russell
President
E-mail: jrussell@ift-aft.org
Fax: 630-468-4088
West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571
500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, IL 60559

To ensure consideration of the nomination, the nomination form must be received by mail, fax, or personal delivery to West Suburban Teachers Union in the Westmont Office no later than **3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.**

The Local 571 Executive Board will select a candidate to fill the interim vacancy at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on June 14, 2021.

(This information is also posted on the WSTU Local 571 Website)

May Is Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, when we celebrate the culture, traditions, and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. We also remember and pay tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific islanders whose incredible contributions have enriched America's culture and history and paved the way for our future legacy.

Asian Americans are the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the U.S, according to the Pew Research Center. The total population grew from roughly 10.5 million to 18.9 million between the years 2000 and 2019, an increase of 81 percent. Visit the IFT-AFT website for resources on Asian-Pacific Heritage month at: <https://www.ift-aft.org/post/may-is-asian-american-pacific-islander-heritage-month>



Union-Made BBQ

Stock your summer BBQ with these union-made products

This summer, make sure to stock your barbecue 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. For more union-made products, go to: <https://www.chicagolabor.org/union-resources/union-made-bbq>



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ACTIVITIES

DIGITAL LEARNING

BOOK BANK

<https://firstbook.org/>



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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