

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

September Calendar

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

9/13—Ex.Bd - 5:30 p.m.

9/13—Registration Deadline for Legisla-
tive Breakfast

9/21—Retirees Council New Retirees
Lunch/Meeting—(11 a.m.—Westmont)

Union Messenger

Rachel Esposito, President

Kyle Stern, Vice President

Sandra Erickson, Treasurer

Cathleen Pope, Secretary

Gene Poull, 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



Union Strong, Union Proud

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as President of West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571. I would like to take this time to tell you a little about myself and my vision for our Local. I was "born and raised" on Union money. Both of my parents belonged to Unions and instilled in me from a young age that worker's rights are one of the most important rights to protect. I was taught the Union fights for equal pay and benefits for workers, not employers. Because of these beliefs, I have been involved in my Union for almost 15 years.



I am currently a full-time teacher in Cicero where I have been for my entire career. I am beginning my nineteenth year in the fall. I am a newly elected Vice-President for the IFT. I have been the Vice-President of Local 571 for the past six years. In the Cicero Council, I have held positions as a Building Representative, a Professional Issues Representative, a Grievance Chairperson for seven years, and President of Cicero Council for eight years. I have served on five negotiating teams for my council and, I have to say, I really do love negotiating. I have learned the most after leading the safe return to school campaign in Cicero over the past year and a half. The leadership, knowledge, and support I received from the leaders and staff of this Local gave me the power to lead a successful campaign. In addition to all of this, and most importantly, I am a mom to two awesome kids, Anthony (14) and Gia (10), and have been married to my husband, Jason, for seventeen years.

We have a powerful Local because of the strength and dedication of our membership and leadership. I know we still have talents among our members that we have not yet tapped. I hope to have more of our members involved, in some capacity, as we continue along this journey. An involved membership is an imperative to having a strong Union. I am a proud Mexican-American, therefore social and racial equity is an essential part of my platform as a new president. It is my goal to have all councils establish equity committees within their councils as well as forming a partnership with our school districts to further this agenda. I believe our Union has the power to not only develop a better working environment, but also to create a better community for our children. The goals and priorities we secure will determine the future success of our schools and our communities. We have a lot of work to do. Together, I am confident that we can succeed in creating better schools and better communities.

Inside This Issue:

Reflecting On Never Forgetting	2
IFT/Antiracist Work	3
Scholarship Recipients	3
Retirees Council New Member Luncheon	3
Legislative Breakfast Invitation	4
Local 571 New Position Available	5
IFT Convention Delegates—Call for Nominees	5
AFT Convention Delegates—Call for Nominees	6
Local 571 Executive Board Area Trustees—Call for Nominees	6

Rachel Esposito

Local 571 President

Reflecting On Never Forgetting

By Jane Russell, 571 Retiree

Some events are so etched into our memories that we know exactly where we were when the event occurred. I was in high school freshmen study hall (actually physically distanced at tables in the cafeteria) when the principal came on the loudspeaker to announce that President John F. Kennedy had been shot and killed by a sniper. It was a sad and indelible moment in my mind.

Fast forward a few years, when I had just finished teaching my first hour physical science class and was heading down the back staircase to the science office. A physical education teacher came out of the gymnasium next door to my classroom and said, **“Did you hear one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City had been hit by an airplane?”** I did not believe him at first as this event seemed too implausible. I rushed down the stairs to the office to watch and hear that the tower was hit by a hijacked passenger jet. It was even more horrific when I watched the second tower hit by another hijacked airline flight. And not long thereafter, the WTC collapsed into a mountain of rubble, smoke and debris entombing the workers and first responders caught inside.

As I watched the events unfolding in New York, another hijacked airplane circled over downtown Washington, D.C., before crashing into the west side of the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense. Jet fuel from the Boeing 757 caused a devastating inferno that led to the structural collapse of a portion of the giant concrete building. I was especially anxious and immediately called a retired science teacher colleague whose daughter worked for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. Jody was there that day, was not hurt, but ended up having to walk miles to her Virginia home because the Washington D.C. transit system shut down following the attack.

It is now the 20th anniversary of 9/11. I was able to view an advanced showing of the documentary, September 11, 2001: The Day That Changed the World. **How do we explain 9/11 to students who have no memory of this event?** The free program on the anniversary of the event has a 2-fold theme of commemoration and what we learned as well as striving for social justice. The Islamic terror organization, Al-Qaeda, eventually claimed responsibility for the attacks. For me, to watch the documentary showing survivors that were there and sharing their stories, was very difficult. If you remember 9/11 and will show the documentary in your classes, bring some tissues. One of the speakers suggests we all will take something different away from the events of that day.

Another speaker went on to say that the nearly 3,000 death certificates of those who perished were labeled “homicide”, not an “accident.” Fittingly, a guide on how to talk to your students about terrorism is also available.

Where the twin towers of the World Trade Center were located has been replaced by an exceptional museum and memorial, near Ground Zero, with a plaza, pools and exhibits honoring victims of the 1993 and the 2001 WTC terrorist attacks. The 20th anniversary event will honor the legacy of those who lost their lives and provide an opportunity for their stories to be told.

We must never forget.

Use the following links below and share the anniversary with your students. AFT Share My Lesson has first person accounts of the attacks. Be sure to sign-up for AFT Share My Lesson, <https://Sharemylesson.com>, a vast resource of teaching materials for all grades.

[9/11 memorial resources for the 20th anniversary from the Memorial Museum](#)

Register for our free annual on-demand '[Anniversary in the Schools](#)' program and learn more about the 6 dynamic speakers who will be sharing their stories from inside the museum. On Friday, September 10 and Saturday, September 11, education staff will be available to answer student questions in real time via a live chat as a part of the program.

Apply for the free, downloadable poster exhibition, [September 11, 2001: The Day That Changed the World](#) to bring the 9/11 Memorial Museum in to your classroom in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the attacks and the companion [educational resources](#).

Our [Students and Teachers](#) page also includes links to full digital lesson plans on a variety of 9/11-related topics.

Receive 25% off any from the [9/11 Memorial Museum Store](#) with the **code AFT25**. Apply the discount code on the checkout page.

Finally, if you are interested in bringing your students on an interactive virtual field trip to the museum, you can find out more about those offerings at our [Virtual School Programs](#) page.

We will be continually updating our [Share My Lesson partner page](#), so be sure to follow us for the latest news!

Why is the Illinois Federation of Teachers engaging in antiracist work?

THE SHORT ANSWER: WE MUST.

IT IS OUR DUTY AS A UNION. We cannot fight economic injustice without fighting racial injustice. It is a part of who we are as an organization. In Article II of our Constitution, one of our listed objectives is, "to expose and fight all forms of racism, discrimination, and promote policies, programs and trainings that enhance participation in the union by underrepresented minorities." In 2019, we passed a resolution to encourage our members to participate in learning opportunities on implicit bias, restorative justice, and equity, and to commit our organization to fighting for the measures that would mitigate the impacts of trauma on our students and communities. We passed a resolution committing our union to participate in the Black Lives Matter at School movement as well.

IT IS IMPERATIVE TO US WINNING. Race baiting has always been used as a strategy to divide workers and push anti-labor, corporate interests. Racial solidarity is our strategy to build power and dismantle oppressive systems that exploit working people.

IT IS THE MORAL THING TO DO. If we tolerate injustice anywhere, it undermines our credibility. When we commit to being antiracist, we are helping to create a world where we can all live fully in our humanity.

We live in a nation that was built on land and wage theft, broken treaties, slavery and Jim Crow, xenophobia, and the exploitation of the most marginalized. Inequity has been woven into the fabric of our institutions and systems. Whether you live on the South Side of Chicago or in Southern Illinois, these racist structures are present every day. We must come to terms with our history so that we understand how it is reinforced in the present, impacting our work, our communities, our students, and ourselves. We must reflect, learn, and then act so that we can build a better future.

IFT staff, board members, and locals across the state have already begun taking on this work. We hope this guide helps even more commit to antiracism as a part of our personal and work lives.

We must do this together to achieve the future we all deserve.

For more diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial justice resources, visit: <https://www.ift-aft.org/oci>



2021 AFT Robert G. Porter Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Alexis Jean Ream
(dependent of Vicki Jaloszynski-Ream,
a member of WSTU Local 571,
District 88 Teachers Council)
on receiving the 2021 scholarship

2021 Julianne Phillips Recipient Correction from May 2021 issue

A recipient's name was omitted from the Julianne Phillips article. The recipient is:

Tara Chatteraj, a teacher at J. Sterling Morton Alternative High School, District 201.



REMINDER

**Retirees Council New Member
Luncheon
Tuesday 9/21/21
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Reservation forms were sent out to current Retiree Council members and need to be returned to the Local 571 office by 9/14/2021.

To be held at:
Robert M. Healey
Conference Center
500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, IL 60559

New Retirees, please contact
Patty Clancy to RSVP
by phone at 630-468-4083
or by email at
pclancy@ift-aft.org

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



DATE: Saturday, October 2, 2021

TIME: 8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.—registration
9:00 a.m.—Noon—program

PLACE: Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference
Center in the Marquis Banquet Facility
(3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook, Illinois)

PROGRAM:

- A plated breakfast will be served.
- Congressman Jesús “Chuy” García , Illinois Legislators, and School Board members of Local 571 have been invited to speak to our members.
- We will conduct our annual gift card raffle (proceeds go to WSTU scholarships and COPE).

COST: Free for members of Local 571; **however**, \$45 will be charged for every member that signs up and does not attend. The cost for guests of Local 571 members is \$45.

**If you wish to attend, please contact your
Council President by September 13, 2021.**

*NOTE: All local and state guidelines will be followed. Masks will be recommended. The event is currently onsite but subject to change to virtual as guidelines are updated.



Important Notice Local 571 New Position

WSTU Local 571 is hiring a Legislative Director for the 2021-22 school year.

The position is open to WSTU Local 571 members.

If you are interested in reviewing the job description, qualifications, duties and responsibilities as well as stipend and reimbursement, go to the website, WSTU571.org or contact Local 571 President Rachel Esposito, resposito571@ift-aft.org or call and leave a message at (630) 468-4043.

Application/resume is due no later than September 6, 2021, and should be requested from President Rachel Esposito by either e-mail or phone.

OFFICIAL ELECTION NOTICE—2021 **Nominations are open to all Local 571 Union members.**

Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) Local 571 Convention Delegates Election

Nominations are now being accepted for delegates to the Illinois Federation of Teachers Convention that will convene in St. Louis, MO on October 21-23, 2022. All Local 571 members are eligible to be nominated as delegates to this convention. Including the ten (10) Officers and Area Trustees of Local 571 who became delegates by virtue of being elected to office, the number of delegates to be elected to this convention will be up to fifty-five (55). Ballots will be counted, and candidates will be ranked by the number of ballots received. Allowing for the ten (10) Officers and Area Trustees, the forty-five (45) candidates with the most votes will be declared delegates. The remaining candidates will be declared alternate delegates; and should any delegate(s) notify the Local of an inability to fulfill the duties of delegate, these alternate delegates will be selected in rank order of votes received to serve in place of the delegate who is unable to serve. Delegates who attend the convention will be reimbursed for expenses up to \$680/delegate. Nominations must be printed or typed (name and Council) and received in the Local 571 office on or before March 14, 2022. Nominees will receive a written or electronic acknowledgement of receipt. Voting will take place in May 2022 via secret ballot. Council leaders will notify members of the date(s) that voting will take place. Retirees' ballots will be mailed to 571 retiree members via U.S. Postal Service.

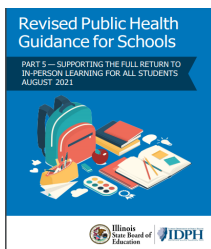
American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Convention Delegates

Nominations are now being accepted for delegates to the American Federation of Teachers Convention that will convene in Boston, MA, on July 14-17, 2022. All Local 571 members are eligible to be nominated as delegates to this convention. There can be up to forty-seven (47) delegates, including the ten (10) Officers which include Area Trustees, who became delegates by virtue of being elected to office. Ballots will be counted, and candidates will be ranked by the number of ballots received. Allowing for the ten (10) Officers, the thirty-seven (37) candidates with the most votes will be declared delegates. The remaining candidates will be declared alternate delegates; and should any delegate(s) notify the Local of an inability to fulfill the duties of delegate, these alternate delegates will be selected in rank order of votes received to serve in place of the delegate who is unable to serve. Delegates who attend the convention will be reimbursed for expenses up to \$1,442/delegate. Nominations must be printed or typed (name and Council) and received in the Local 571 office on or before February 7, 2022. Nominees will receive a written or electronic acknowledgement of receipt. Voting will take place in April 2022 via secret ballot. Council leaders will notify members of the date(s) that voting will take place. Retired members' ballots will be mailed via U.S. Postal Service to their homes.

Local 571 Executive Board Area Trustees

Nominations are now being accepted for Local 571 Executive Board Area Trustees. The Executive Board of Local 571 shall consist of the Officers of Local 571 which include four (4) Area Trustees, at least one of whom is a PSRP member, and the Local 571 Council Presidents who serve as Trustees. All Local 571 members are eligible to be nominated as Local 571 Area Trustees. The term of office is two (2) years beginning July 1, 2022, 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 14, 2022. Nominees will receive a written or electronic acknowledgement of receipt. Voting will take place in May 2022 via secret ballot. Council leaders will notify members of the date(s) that voting will take place. Interested individuals may request further information about the duties of the office by contacting Local 571. Retired members' ballots will be mailed via U.S. Postal Service to their homes.

REVISED PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS



ISBE is working in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to ensure we are providing the most current resources and guidance to support Illinois education communities regarding the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

Please click on the link below for the revised public health guidance for schools.


<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Updated-Public-Health-School-Guidance.pdf>

Monday—September 6

Buy Union -Made Products

For a list of union-made products, visit: <https://www.chicagolabor.org/union->





**aft COVID-19
Myth-Busting**

MYTH: I already have had COVID-19, so I don't need to get a vaccination.

Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that

reinfection is possible,

people are advised to

get a vaccination

even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before.

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: resposito571@ift-aft.org