

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

# Union Messenger

## "A Union of Professionals"

### WSTU June and July Calendar

6/13—571 EB Mtg.—Westmont - 5:00 p.m.  
 6/17—Deadline for registration for the 6-22-16 Social Security Workshop  
 6/22—Social Security Workshop - 2:00 p.m.  
 7/1—Council election reports due to 571  
 7/11—571 EB Mtg. - Westmont - 5:00 p.m.  
 7/15—Councils' annual financial statements & audit reports due to 571  
 7/17-21—AFT Convention—Minneapolis  
 7-22—Deadline for registration for the 7-27-16 Social Security Workshop  
 7/27—Social Security Workshop - 10:00 a.m.

### Union Messenger

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 Katy Padberg, Vice President  
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 571 Union Messenger Editor



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## The Good, the Bad and the Ugly



Some of us may remember the 1966 western action film set in the Southwest during the Civil War. "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" links a mysterious stranger, Joe (Clint Eastwood), and a Mexican outlaw, Tuco (Eli Wallach), who form an uneasy partnership -- Joe turns in the bandit for the reward money, then rescues him just as he is being hanged. This film reminded me of what is happening in both education and in the state between the governor and the legislature.

### The Good (but not great)

- K-12 education was funded for the 2015-16 school year. However, the funding was not nearly enough, and with the state in financial distress, often school districts still have not collected their needed aid.
- The newly renamed federal law replacing No Child Left Behind, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), removes the federal government from teacher evaluation with the accountability returning to the states. This has some possibilities in Illinois if a few changes can be made in the Performance Evaluation Review Act, better known as PERA. The IFT hosted member focus groups this spring to garner input on possible changes.

### The Bad

- Most districts now include in the teacher's overall summative evaluation/rating the addition of student growth which is a 25%-30% portion of the evaluation. Since the PERA law passed in 2010, multiple studies and leading education experts have focused on the concern about the efficiency of current measures of student progress being directly tied to evaluation of teachers.
- Although K-12 education was funded, higher education was not. Within the last week, however, higher education received some state funding for the 2015-16 year. In many cases, this was too little too late and the damage may be irreparable. High school seniors and higher education students, especially those depending upon state MAP grants, are rightly concerned about furthering their education in an Illinois community college or university.

(continued on page 6)

## Wrong Turns on Reading

by Bonnie Saracco

Beginning reading instruction is the most widely-researched topic in all of psychology. Despite decades of misinformation and “reading wars,” **we do know what works.**

The story of reading instruction in our country begins in the 1600’s with the *New England Primer*, which used whole class drills on the memorization of rules. Students had to laboriously plow through these rules before they began to read. It wasn’t until the mid 1800’s that some relief from this drudgery came with the Horace Mann materials, graded readers in which comprehension, whole word learning, and controlled vocabulary were the focus.

Enter the mid-twentieth century with Dick and Jane. Designed by William Gray, who called phonics “heartless drudgery,” these books used “look-say” in which children memorized words through exposure. These stories of idyllic family life with father, mother, Dick, Jane, Sally, Spot, and Puff, were used in almost every school in our country and made a fortune for Scott Foresman. Many baby boomers did learn to read with Dick and Jane and remember them fondly. But these materials also left many students struggling.

*Why Johnny Can’t Read* by Rudolph Flesch was published in 1955 and became a sensation. Flesch maintained that whole word instruction is needlessly difficult, and he argued for a “return to the sensibility of phonics.” This message was supported in 1967 by *Learning to Read: The Great Debate* by Jean Chall, which is a scientific compilation of research calling for early and systematic phonics instruction with code-emphasis over meaning-emphasis.

Thus began the “reading wars.” Whole language and literature-based anthologies were widely-used, even though the evidence for pure whole language instruction was anecdotal at best. The topic became heated

and emotional, with many schools of education securely in the whole language camp.

In 1985 the U.S. Department of Education sorted this all out in *Becoming a Nation of Readers: The Report of the Commission on Reading*. Its conclusions have later been corroborated in many other publications by prestigious organizations, including the National Research Council, the International Reading Association, the American Federation of Teachers, and the National Institute of Child Health and Development. These conclusions also form the basis for the beginning reading strand of the Common Core State Standards.



### So what is the research consensus?

The evidence is clear. Decoding instruction is essential in beginning reading instruction, and should occur at the same time as comprehension instruction. Skilled reading must include fluent and accurate decoding. Because children who struggle with beginning reading rarely become skilled readers, it is crucial for reading instruction to be done correctly from the start.

Phonemic awareness, the ability to blend, isolate, segment, and manipulate sounds, makes phonics instruction possible. It is lacking in a large segment of beginning readers, and must be developed for them. Fluency, reading aloud with speed, accuracy and expression, is very important and needs to be regularly practiced. Vocabulary should be taught both directly and indirectly, and comprehension should be explicitly developed.

The AFT professional development course, *Beginning Reading Instruction*, is among the valuable classes and workshops which will be offered this June at Local 571 in Westmont. It is appropriate for teachers at all career stages and is updated for Common Core and Danielson. Consider joining us to explore this important topic.

## Local Teachers Union Provides Scholarships to Area Students



The West Suburban Teachers Union (WSTU), Local 571, proudly awarded more than **\$22,000** in scholarships to outstanding students and teachers in April. Winning students are Local 571 members or the children/grandchildren of 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 \$2,500 each were awarded to:

**Isabella DiPaolo** of Lyons High School. Her mother, **Karyl DiPaolo**, is a teacher at Pietrini Elementary School in Franklin Park District 84.

**Marlena Roberto** of Riverside Brookfield High School. Her mother is **Linda Kuypers-Roberto**, a secretary at Central Elementary School in Riverside District 96.

**Noah Banholzer** of Oak Park River Forest High School. His mother is **Mary Banholzer**, a teacher at Hauser Junior High in Riverside.

**Nicolette Kelsay** of St. Francis College Prep High School. Her parents, **Bruce and Mary Kelsay**, are teachers at Addison Trail High School, District 88.

**Thomson (Mac) Catrambone** of Riverside Brookfield High School. His mother, **Nancy Catrambone**, is a secretary at Hollywood Elementary School in Riverside District 96.

**Caleb Vail** of William Fremd High School. His father, **Jeff Vail**, is a teacher at East Leyden High School in Franklin Park District 212.

The Union also awarded one \$2,500 Jo Ann Horowitz Scholarship to **Madison Serpico**, a student at the University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign. Her grandmother is **Barbara Serpico**, a retired support staff member from Lyons District 103. This scholarship is presented each year to a college student who is pursuing a major in education or women's studies.

WSTU awarded its newest scholarship in the name of Julie Phillips, the former president of the Franklin Park Council of Local 571. The \$2,500 award is presented to a current, licensed educator who is pursuing an additional degree through graduate work. This year there were two winners: **Kimberly Vitale**, a teacher at Pietrini Elementary School in Franklin Park District 84, and **Dana Lord**, a teacher at Wilkins Junior High School in Indian Springs District 109.

The West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, represents over 5,500 K-12 teachers and paraprofessional and school related personnel in Cook and DuPage counties.



(l->r) Jane Russell, Local 571 President, father Bruce Kelsay with Nicolette Kelsay and Chris Schulz, Scholarship Committee Chair.



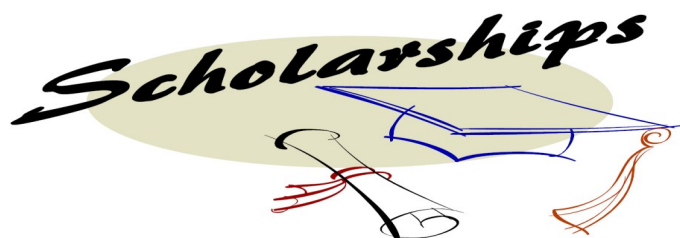
## Congratulations To Our Scholarship Winners And Their Families!!!



(l->r): Scholarship winners Thomson Catrambone, Marlena Roberto, Caleb Vail, Isabella DiPaolo and Noah Banholzer.



(l->r): Gene, Stephanie and Tyler Phillips with Dana Lord and her mother, Janet.



(l->r): Gene, Stephanie and Tyler, the Phillips family, with Kimberly Vitale and boyfriend Jose.



(l->r): Parents Michael and Louise Serpico with Madison and grandmother, Barbara Serpico.

## AFT Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel and Higher Education Joint Conference—Las Vegas 2016—April 1-3

Local 571 sent ten members to the AFT Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel and Higher Education Joint Conference in Las Vegas. The members were: Angela Caravetta (Cicero), Ida Chester (Proviso), Robin Hancock (Proviso), Rose Janas (Leyden), Shirley Magee (Proviso), Patricia Ortiz (Franklin Park), Nyrrisa Pawa (District #88), Maria Rivera (Cicero), Olga Vazquez (Cicero) and Marcia Watson (Proviso). Robin Hancock shares her experience at the conference in the article below.

**Robin Hancock—Proviso PSRP**— The “All In” conference in Las Vegas was the first jointly held conference for PSRP Personnel and Higher Education employees. It was also the first conference I have attended outside of Illinois. The weather, scenery, energy of the city, and friendliness of the people made Las Vegas the perfect location. The workshops were very informative and it was quite interesting to learn that many of the issues and concerns we face as PSRPs in Illinois are universal across the country. Some of the workshops I attended were: *Bullying and Stress*, *PSRP Legislative Update*, *Working Effectively with Students*, *Computer Labs and Media Center/Libraries*, and *What Were You Thinking?*

As a technology employee at Proviso East High School, the Computer Labs and Media Center/Libraries workshop was of particular interest to me. Some of the issues discussed in the workshop were:

- ◆ Need for updated technology in schools
- ◆ Lack of funding for technology
- ◆ Lack of qualified staff
- ◆ Need for more computer labs and media centers
- ◆ Insufficient professional development for non-certified staff
- ◆ Outdated job descriptions
- ◆ Lack of respect for support staff
- ◆ Other duties assigned
- ◆ Substitution pay

A doable strategy discussed in the workshop is for school employees to reach out to outside special interest groups to help fund and/or negotiate funding for technology. Groups including parent organizations, alumni associations and other community organizations, are valuable resources. They can be powerful supporters in discussions with school administrators and school boards on the subject of technology funding.

In addition to the workshops and meetings, other events at the conference included a Welcome Reception, the All In Luncheon, Solidary Night and a heartfelt plenary session, featuring Sybrina Fulton and Lucia McBath, the mothers of teens, Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis. The mothers became “accidental activists” when their sons were killed by gun violence.

All in all, attending this conference, sharing stories with fellow PSRPs, and hearing AFT President Randi Weingarten speak on member engagement, activism and solidarity, was inspirational and powerful.

To read more about the conference go to: <http://www.aft.org/news/all-and-activated-higher-edpsrp-conference>.

### AFT President Randi Weingarten Speaks at the ‘All In’ Luncheon



Photo: Courtesy of the AFT Website

### Luncheon Attendees Respond with Enthusiasm to the Message of Solidarity



Photo: Courtesy of the AFT Website

### Local 571 PSRP Members Dine at Bellagio's



(l->r): Maria Rivera, Olga Vazquez, Patricia Ortiz, Ida Chester, Angela Caravetta, Marcia Watson, Shirley Magee, Rose Janas, and Nyrrisa Pawa.



## The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (cont.)

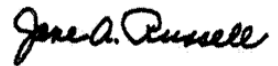
### The Ugly

- The Governor continues the war with the legislature about having a state budget. He continues to insist that his “turnaround agenda” be accepted as part of the budget plan in order to save money. While the budget stalemate continues, we have seen cuts in services to the neediest citizens including seniors and the disabled as well as education programs.
- The effect that the November election could have on Congress, the Supreme Court and we, the citizens, could be devastating unless candidates that believe in and work for better education—pre-K through college and career, unions, families and community, are elected this fall.

Now that the 2015-16 school year is at an end and we yearn to begin the summer break, it’s time to reflect and decide how to move forward with an effort to change “the bad and the ugly.” Your summer homework assignment is to make sure that you and your family members are registered to vote or update any address or name change by going to <https://ova.elections.il.gov>. **Remember, your vote counts.**

Enjoy your time with family and friends and be ready in the fall to help the best candidates to get elected/re-elected. Consider spending an hour or so calling union sisters and brothers, asking for their support of union endorsed candidates. Phone banking will begin at the IFT office in Westmont in August or September. Watch for additional information about the phone banks as well as other opportunities to be involved. From the West Suburban Teachers Union officers and staff, we wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer and look forward to continuing our work together to help our students become as successful as they can be.

In unity,



Local 571 President

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## AFL-CIO Endorses “Made In Mexico” Boycott of Mondelez Snack Foods



On Tuesday, the AFL-CIO officially endorsed the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union (BCTGM) boycott of snack foods of Mondelez (Mondelez/Nabisco) International that are made in Mexico.

Most recently, Mondelez plans to shift 600 jobs from Chicago’s south side to Mexico. The company cited cost savings, though at the same time, it doled out more than \$19 million in compensation to the CEO of Mondelez.

The BCTGM “check the label” campaign urges consumers to not buy Mondelez/Nabisco snack food products that are made in Mexico: <http://www.fightforamericanjobs.org/check-the-label/>.

BCTGM is only asking the public to avoid Mondelez/Nabisco products that are made in Mexico. This includes Oreos, Newtons, Chips Ahoy, Honey Grahams, Animal Crackers, Ritz Crackers, Premium, Belvita, Lorna Doone, Teddy Grahams, Honey Maid, and Wheat Thins.

Nabisco snacks are still produced at Nabisco bakeries in the United States. Check the label and make sure the products you are buying are not made in Mexico.

## A Social Security Seminar

*Sponsored by the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571*

**WHEN:** Wednesday,  
June 22, 2016  
2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

**OR**

Wednesday,  
July 27, 2016  
10:00 a.m.—Noon

**FOR:** Local 571 members

**WHAT:** Identical Social Security Seminars will be presented by a representative of the Social Security Administration

**WHERE:** Robert M. Healey Conference Center  
500 Oakmont Lane  
Westmont, IL 60559

**R.S.V.P.:** If you plan to attend the June 22 Seminar, contact Judy Jennings by June 17 at 630/468-4098 or [jjennings@ift-aft.org](mailto:jjennings@ift-aft.org).

If you plan to attend the July 27 Seminar, contact Judy Jennings by July 22 at 630-468-4098 or [jjennings@ift-aft.org](mailto:jjennings@ift-aft.org).

Light refreshments will be served.

## Need PD Hours?



If so, be sure to register for one of the Local 571 professional development classes and/or one or all of the single-day workshops being offered this summer. The week-long classes will cost \$50 each (\$100 for non-members), and the single-day workshops are free. Lunch will be served at all classes and workshops. In

addition to the PD hours, the week-long courses offer the option to receive either two graduate credits from Governors State University or two undergraduate credits from Prairie State College for an additional charge. All of the classes and workshops will be held at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center in Westmont, IL 60559.

### The week-long classes will be:

- ✓ ***Beginning Reading Instruction*** - 30 PD hours - 5 sessions - June 13 thru 17 - registration deadline: May 27
- ✓ ***Thinking Mathematics K-2: Common Core Edition*** - 30 PD hours - 5 sessions - June 13 thru 17 - registration deadline: May 27
- ✓ ***Thinking Mathematics 3-5: Common Core Edition*** - 30 PD hours - 5 sessions - June 23 thru June 17 - registration deadline: May 27

### The single-day workshops will be:

- ✓ ***Start the School Year Right*** - 6 PD hours - Monday, June 27 (8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.) - registration deadline: June 17
- ✓ ***Instructional Strategies for Common Core English/Language Arts*** - 3 PD hours - Wednesday, June 29 (8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.) - registration deadline: June 17
- ✓ ***Supporting Grieving Students*** - 3 PD hours - Wednesday, June 29 (Noon—3:00 p.m.) - registration deadline: June 17

For more information, please visit the Local 571 website at [www.wstu571.org](http://www.wstu571.org). There you will find complete information for each class and the registration form. You may also contact Judy Jennings by phone at 630-468-4098 or by e-mail at [jjennings@ift-aft.org](mailto:jjennings@ift-aft.org).

## Discounts to Six Flags Great America for Union Members!

To take advantage of the discounted prices, simply go to [www.sixflags.com/partnerlogin?m=13046](http://www.sixflags.com/partnerlogin?m=13046) and enter **wstuGM** for your user name and **SixFlags6** for your password. (The user name and password are case sensitive.) You can then purchase season passes and one-day tickets at greatly reduced prices, print them on your computer, and have them in hand when you arrive at the park. You will not have to wait in the line to purchase tickets. *A service fee will be added to each order.*

Season passes include entry to Hurricane Harbor. One-day tickets purchased anywhere require an upcharge per ticket to enter the water park.

Here are more facts about the season passes:

- ✓ They have to be processed at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL. Once they are processed in Gurnee, they can be used at all Six Flags Parks.

- ✓ They are valid through the Fright Fest Season.
- ✓ Season passes include FREE entry to Hurricane Harbor.
- ✓ Each season pass comes with a coupon book with in-park savings.

**New in 2016 at Six Flags  
Great America!**



## Memorial Day—Monday, May 30



Thank you to all  
the troops and  
their families  
whose sacrifices  
keep us free and  
safe.

*IFT Union Leadership  
Institute Presents*

### WORKSITE LEADER TRAINING

New for 2015-16, this course has been designed for Worksite Leaders. Consisting of five (5) modules, this training will provide participants with the tools needed to be effective worksite leaders. The intent of the program is that a Union member will take five modules. Once all five modules have been completed, the Union member will be considered a “graduate” of the IFT Worksite Leader Training Program. This training is designed for Council leaders, worksite leaders, and potential worksite leaders from all IFT constituency groups. The training sessions will be held at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center, 500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, IL 60559. The training starts at 10:00 a.m. and will end anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

#### **Training days:**

Monday, June 20, 2016—Modules 1 and 2—Union 101 & Communications and Information

Tuesday, June 21, 2016—Module 3—Worksite Advocacy

Wednesday, June 22, 2016—Modules 4 and 5—Mobilization and Engagement & Political, Legislative, and Community Engagement

Upon completion of all five training modules, participants will receive a graduation certificate. The registration deadline is Friday, June 10. For registration and other information, please contact Judy Jennings at [jjennings@ift-aft.org](mailto:jjennings@ift-aft.org) or contact your Council President.

**The First Day of Summer  
(Summer Solstice) 2016 is Monday, June 20.**



## Make Great Memories

Save on family travel and entertainment, including theme parks, car rentals and movie tickets with AFT+.

**AFT families have more fun** and get big savings on travel and entertainment.

That includes up to **25% off on rental cars**, plus major savings on movie tickets and theme park packages – including Disney and Six Flags destinations.

**Who knew your union membership could be so... entertaining?**



A Union of Professionals  
**AFT+**  
Member Benefits

**Learn more at [UnionPlus.org/AFTTravel](http://UnionPlus.org/AFTTravel)**

AFT-TR-04-15-16

### 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](mailto:571editor@gmail.com)

**We're on the Web!!!**  
[www.wstu571.org](http://www.wstu571.org)

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