

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

WSTU/Jan-Feb Calendar

1/7—Workplace Well-Being Workshop—
(4:30—6:30 p.m.—Westmont)
1/7—ExBd Mtg. (6:30 pm.—Westmont)
2/4—Workers Compensation Issues Workshop—
(4:30—6:30 p.m.—Westmont)
2/4—HOR Mtg. (6:30 pm. —Westmont)
2/9-10—IFT-ULI—Westmont

Union Messenger

Jane Russell, President
Rachel Esposito, Vice President
Sandra Erickson, Treasurer
Cathleen Pope, Secretary
Jonathan Pazol, Financial Secretary
Brett Blair, Legal Defense Secretary
Julie McShane, COPE/PAC Chairperson
Tom Smith, IFT Field Service Director
Arnavaz Mistry-Mujthaba, IFT Field
Service Director
Judy Jennings, Office Manager
Julie Masterton, Office Secretary
Andrew Bendelow,
571 Web Administrator
Robin Hancock,
571 Union Messenger Editor



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What is Victory Really Like?

The dust is still settling from November 6, 2018—Election Day. The final day for counting mail-in and provisional ballots was November 20. A few Illinois races were yet to be decided. Overall, however, nearly all the candidates IFT endorsed were victorious. To see the results, go to <https://www.ift-aft.org/vote/candidates>. For the endorsed candidates who didn't win, we appreciate the sacrifices you made to run for public office.

These are some Illinois specific statistics from the JB for Governor campaign.

- We saw the highest voter turnout since 1990.
- This year was the first time Peoria County went blue in a gubernatorial election since 1968, Champaign County since 1936, DuPage County since 1932, and Kane County, since 1912!
- This was the lowest vote share for any incumbent Illinois governor in the last century.



IFT officers, directors and staff at a phone bank for the new Illinois Attorney General, Kwame Raoul.

Because we demanded an agenda prioritizing working family issues and not the current agenda where public schools were defunded and destabilized, healthcare and workers' rights were diminished and wealthy corporations were favored over those of workers, this election saw a transformation at the federal level as well. There will be a US House with 104+ new members meaning 25 percent of Congress will be new. More than 100 women were elected to the US House in 2018, the largest class of female lawmakers ever. Two US House elections in Illinois were significant because the new members of Congress overturned seats held for 10+ years in mostly Republican districts. We are happy to be able to work with two AFT/IFT endorsed candidates, Sean Casten, Congressional District 6 and Lauren Underwood, Congressional District 14. Both will be sworn into office on January 3, 2019.

cont'd on page 2

Congratulations!

End Of An Era

The Blackhawks and the Bears each have a new coach. The era of Coach Q as well as the era of John Fox are a thing of the past. As of January 1st, the front office of Local 571 will also enter a new era.

Judy Jennings is retiring after 41 years of managing the office for the West Suburban Teachers Union. Not only has she been the office manager, Judy has also been the heart and soul with her welcoming smile, pleasant way of greeting people and willingness to drop what she's doing to take on whatever she's asked to do.

In 1996, Judy was hired by the IFT where she was asked to assist in developing the AFT membership program. Although she was then on the IFT payroll, Judy was assigned to the Local 571 office where she prepared for conventions, organized elections, distributed scholarship information, developed a membership guide and trained on the new computer programs which came her way. Judy did all of this and more while handling ticket sales, managing the office and tending to the needs of the field staff and WSTU officers. For many years Judy was a one-woman show!

Judy will now join the ranks of the retirees, a group for which she once planned all sorts of activities. Judy will have time to enjoy more time with her husband, children, and grandchildren. And don't forget the pets.

The Judy Jennings era is coming to an end. Her last day is December 31. Only then will we truly realize how much Judy meant to us. We are grateful for the years she gave to WSTU, Local 571.

We wish Judy the happiness she deserves and many enjoyable years of retirement.

Sandy Erickson and Alice Kautsky



Judy Jennings, Office Manager, registering attendees at the 2017 Legislative Breakfast.

What Is Victory Really Like? Cont'd from pg. 1

November 2018 sure feels better than November 2016. In the past two years, we worked to harness energy and passion, working together as a fighting force for public policy change. For this, we should be proud.

We welcome the opportunity to work with all the newly elected and current members of both the Illinois legislature and Congress. Victory is fleeting unless we remind all our elected officials that we support public education with sustained and equitable funding, quality healthcare and economic opportunity for all Americans, not just the wealthy.

From the Local 571 officers and staff, enjoy the holidays with family and friends. 2019 will be the year of change, hopefully positive, with your continued support.

In unity,

Local 571 President

Resources to Help Us Serve our Immigrant and Refugee Students

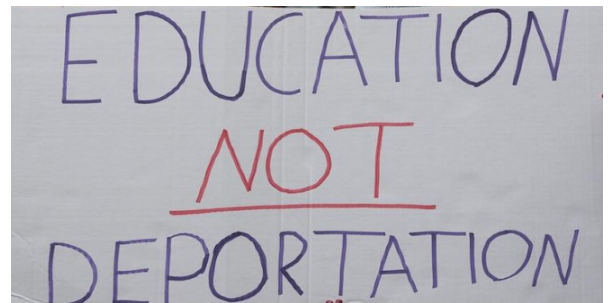
By Bonnie Saracco

Federal law requires equal access to elementary and secondary public education for all children and adolescents residing in the United States. Therefore we have many students in our classrooms who are struggling with their immigration status, and we need special supports to help them. Title I and Title II funding may be used for this purpose, and there are other resources available, including three very useful websites produced by AFT.

Share My Lesson at <https://sharemylesson.com/immigration>, has many lesson plans and resources designed to support the psychological and health needs of these students. Many of these resources teach all students about immigration and help to create inclusive school cultures.

Colorin Colorado is AFT's website with resources for teachers of English language learners from all language backgrounds. *Colorin Colorado* contains lessons that address the concerns of our students who are immigrants or children of immigrants. These specific resources can be found at <http://www.colorincolorado.org/>.

AFT also has materials designed to educate our students about human rights abuses throughout the globe. The platform www.teachhumanrights.com has lesson plans about contemporary human rights violations and their historical roots.



In addition to these AFT websites, the **Southern Poverty Law Center** founded *Teaching Tolerance*, a program aimed at reducing prejudice and fostering empathy for students in the United States and Canada. Its free educational materials can be found at www.tolerance.org.

For many immigrant students and their families, the most pressing need is for the services of an attorney. This is especially true for the families of the over 100,000 children who have recently fled the violence in Central America. These families and children are not supplied with attorneys, and more than 80% of them lack legal counsel. Only one in ten of those without legal counsel will win their cases. Having an attorney increases their chance of qualifying for continued residency in the United States by four times.

An attorney can argue in court for these immigrants to qualify for asylum, T visas, U visas, or Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. **Asylum** is a form of international protection for refugees in the United States who have been persecuted on the basis of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. **T visas** can be granted to people who have been victims of human trafficking. **U visas** are available to crime victims who have suffered significant abuse and who are cooperating with law enforcement in the prosecution of the crime. **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status** is humanitarian relief for noncitizen minors who have suffered abuse, neglect, or abandonment by one or both of their parents.

Schools can direct students to legal aid organizations for immigrants. The **U.S. Department of Justice** has a directory of free legal service providers by state at www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers-map. Other helpful legal aid organizations for our undocumented students are *Kids in Need of Defense*, *Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service*, *The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights*, and *The Catholic Legal Immigration Network*. AFT has an extensive list of helpful websites at <https://www.aft.org/immigration-ice-raids-resources-educators-and-advocates>.



Local 571 Professional Development Course Winter 2019

Reading Comprehension Instruction All eight sessions are on Wednesdays

Dates and Times-8 sessions: January 30;
February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20
Dinner: 4:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sessions: 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.



Workshop Credit: 30 Professional Development Units

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, January 14, 2019

Location: Robert M. Healey Conference Center
500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, IL 60559-5520

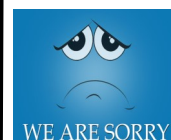
Cost: \$50 per course for members; \$100 for non-members (includes materials and a light supper)

The course description and registration form can be found on the Local 571 website (www.wstu571.org) or by calling the Local 571 office (630-468-4098).

This course is for teachers and support staff. Participants earn 30 professional development units. For an additional cost of \$846.00 participants can earn two (2) Governors State University graduate credit hours or \$362.00 for two (2) Prairie State Community College undergraduate credit hours. Participants may enroll and pay for university or college credit hours at the first class session.

The IFT/PRSP and Public Employees Conference was held October 26-27 at the DoubleTree in Oak Brook. The two day event included workshops on, *Keeping Your Union Proactive, Workplace Bullying and Mental Health Awareness.*

Proviso PSRP member Suzan Smith proudly displays the Breast Cancer Awareness basket she won at the conference.



On page 4 of the October 2018 *Union Messenger*, we identified incorrectly the name of District 88's council; the correct name is **District 88 Clerical and Technical Staff Council.**

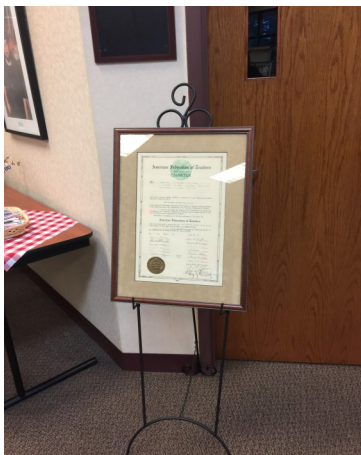
80th Anniversary

On Friday, November 9, 2018, just days after many exciting election victories, Local 571, West Suburban Teachers Union, celebrated its 80th Anniversary. President, Jane Russell hosted the event and welcomed members of all ages to an evening of memories and celebration.

Uncle Bub's catered the dinner and a LIVE musical performance was provided by James, Karl and Josh Scholl. Members took the opportunity to give tribute to Judy Jennings who will be retiring this December after a long and eventful career of service. At the end of the evening, a raffle was held and the Scholl family singers, led the guests in a crowd pleasing medley of union songs.

Thanks to the officers and 80th Anniversary Celebration Committee members for their work in planning and working at the event. Food, music, prizes, and socializing, were all the ingredients for a wonderful evening.

Happy 80th Anniversary Local 571 !



The original charter from the American Federation of Teachers hangs in the 571 library. West Suburban Teachers Union was chartered May 18, 1938.



James Scholl, a retiree from the Rosemont Council, and his sons garnered group participation in the union songs sing-along.



Judy Jennings says thanks and goodbye to the many friends and colleagues wishing her well in retirement.



80th Anniversary celebration co-chair Cathy Pope, enjoys fellowship with retiree Christa Leyendecker.



The crowd of current members and retirees enjoyed the company and renewed old friendships.

West Suburban Teachers Union Pre-Meeting Workshops

The following pre-meeting workshops were requested by our members and are open to all Local 571 members. Each one will begin at 4:30 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge, and a light dinner will be served. Some of the workshops award professional development units. **Members who register to attend a workshop, but do not attend and have not informed us of the absence at least 24 hours prior to the date of the workshop will be charged \$15 for the cost of the meal.**

Please contact Julie Masterton by phone at 630-468-4098 or e-mail at jmastetron@ift-aft.org by the deadline dates listed in the table.

<i>Date of Workshop</i>	<i>Workshop</i>	<i>Deadline for Reservations</i>
1/7/2019	Workplace Well-Being	1/2/2019
2/4/2019	Workers Compensation Issues	1/29/2019
3/11/2019	Loan Forgiveness and Student Debt	3/5/2019



Tips For Winterizing Your Home

CENTRAL HEATING

- Change or clean filters
- Lubricate blower motor
- Move combustible materials away from furnace
- Clear air vents of all obstructions
- Clean the humidifier if needed
- Check attic and basement

INSULATION

- Wrap basement pipes and hot water heaters

WINDOWS AND DOORS

- Weather strip windows and doors if needed
- Caulk around frames
- Cover windows in plastic to reduce drafts

OUTDOOR ITEMS

- Inspect and repair gutters and shingles
- Apply an extra coating of waterproofing to decks
- Prune shrubs
- Apply an extra layer of mulch to flower beds
- Turn off and drain faucets
- Take time to clean and store garden tools
- Apply a light film of oil to an exposed metal on tools to prevent rusting
- Blow out the sprinkler system



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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