



# Union Messenger

May-June 2008

## 70th Anniversary Success

By all accounts, Local 571's 70th anniversary celebration proved to be a resounding success. The Healey Conference Center was filled to capacity but never felt crowded. Rain, although forecast, was not a problem.



Cathy Pope and Jane Russell check in members at the registration table. The event was the first visit to the Robert M. Healey Center for many members. Flowers in the background were sent by IFT President Ed Geppert on behalf of the IFT.

The tropical island-themed afternoon began with a traditional Hawaiian greeting and presentation of flower garlands, or leis.

Westmont's Uncle Bub's BBQ catered the luau, including two roast pigs. Many members admitted that this was their first pig roast. Curiosity drove some to check out the roasting trailer. Hawaiian chicken provided an alternative dinner for those preferring an other-than-pork meal.



571's late Louise Sundwall recommended the hula group. One of the dancers Claudia Parra, is a Local 571 member and teacher at the Woodbine School in Cicero.

Four areas of the Robert M. Healey Conference center allowed members a place to socialize with friends in comfort.

A local DJ provided themed music in one room. Later, a Chicago-based hula dance group provided entertainment in the same space. Other areas allowed for quieter socializing with friends and an escape from more enthusiastic activities.



A festive cake announced the celebration's purpose. By evening's end a few

70th Anniversary co-chairs Chris Schulz, Jon Pazol, and Cathy Pope maintained watch over every element of the celebration. Chris and John also performed as masters-of-ceremonies, awarding over 45 donated prizes. *(More 70th Anniversary on page 6)*

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### Keys for Cesar E. Chavez: "Si se puede"

Council presidents may be asking for old keys during May in support of the Hispanic American Labor Council. Keys donated by the end of the month will be sent to help build a statue of Mexican-American labor activist and United Farm Worker leader Cesar E. Chavez. Born in Yuma, Arizona, Chavez joined Dolores Huerta to co-found the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers.

In 1994 Chavez was awarded the Presi-

*(Keys continued on page 4)*

### Many Voices - One Union

AFT/PSRP Professional Issues Conference  
Cindy Rohlfling

We've all heard the statement, "What does the union offer to me?" After attending April's PSRP conference in Washington DC, the answer is "More than I ever thought!" Nearly 50 workshop sessions covered such things as communication skills, government issues, retirement, workplace stress, union issues and more. The variety of topics offered truly provided "something for everyone."

The conference demonstrates the re-

*(Many Voices continued on page 5)*

# Illinois Pensions Intertwined with Con Con

from your president

It is difficult to be a “Suzie Sunshine” when I feel more like a “Debbie Downer.” The only good news is, even though it appears difficult to get needed funding legislation passed during this session in Springfield, education workers can still be part of the process. Still feeling frustrated? Your opinion can and will be counted in the November 2008 election regarding the calling of a Constitutional Convention—if you vote.

First, let’s revisit the state of public pension systems in Illinois one more time.

Our newest members certainly have the most concerns about the ability of the system to keep its promise, that when it is time to retire there will be enough to fund *their* pensions.

Even those who are currently retired or about to retire and most familiar with the pension system are cautious because of years of legislative underfunding.

We pay into the system with every paycheck. We have, or are paying, our fair share. We also know that the system has been underfunded and needs to be fully funded to meet its obligation. **It is the state’s legal responsibility to carry the burden of funding the pension systems appropriately.**

The public pension system is now guaranteed by the Illinois Constitution. If voters say “yes” to a proposed Constitutional Convention, proponents have already stated that the Illinois public pension system, as currently provided for in the Illinois Constitution, could be on the proverbial “chopping block.” If we don’t fight for our pension system, no one else is going to do it.

The fight must be to continue the public pension system and have it fully funded.

The proposed “recall of elected officials” legislation failed, partly because of the apparent cost of over \$35 million to run an extraordinary election. Some would suggest, however, that the 35 million dollar price tag is worth it if only to remove this governor from office.



Are Illinois taxpayers willing to pay the \$100 million estimated for convening a Constitutional Convention, as such a November election decision would require?

The Illinois Constitution can be changed without a convention by voter ratification of proposed amendments. This method seems less costly and more prudent. The \$100

million could certainly be used for a better purpose.

Like it or not, Illinois public pensions and a Constitutional Convention are linked. Say “Yes” to keeping public pensions and “No” to the Constitutional Convention.

Enjoy your time off during the summer with family and friends. We at the West Suburban Teachers Union look forward to working with you again in the fall (or this summer if services are needed).

Just thinking about summer makes me feel a little more like “Suzie Sunshine!”

In unity,

Local 571 President

# Remembering After Reading

By Bonnie Saracco

The end of the school year is an especially important time to use effective strategies for helping students place what they have learned into long-term memory. Rarely do students need to simply comprehend expository texts. They also need to retain and integrate the information with their existing knowledge. The AFT has analyzed the research and included effective strategies for remembering in our ER&D classes.

K-W-L is probably the best known of these strategies. Before reading, students generate what they already know, and what they want to learn, about a topic. After reading, the teacher leads students in a discussion of what they have learned, directing the focus on the most important features of the information, and correcting students' misconceptions.

Another effective review strategy is the main idea summary frame. This is a template of words and phrases in which students must fill in the blanks with the main idea of the passage and with supporting examples, leading them to explicitly practice "road signs" that support learning.



"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"

Teachers can also assign written projects such as letters and journals that put the new information together with other sources, and share the results with the class. All of these tasks help students to process new ideas more deeply.

Research has concluded that teachers should require students to make connections, to summarize, to reflect, to defend different perspectives, and to apply what they have learned.

It takes between 15 and 25 practices to incorporate a skill or strategy into a person's learning repertoire. Remembering requires revisiting and rehearsal.

Review is among the wide variety of practical issues that will be covered in the ER&D class, *Instructional Strategies and Foundations of Effective Education*, which will be offered by Local 571 this August.

Consider joining us as we discuss the most valid educational research and share in the wealth of knowledge of our 571 ER&D participants.

## Announcing Summer ER&D Courses

### Instructional Strategies

August 4-8 +1 September Saturday TBA

### Foundations of Effective Teaching

August 11-15 + Saturday, September 13

Join your West Suburban colleagues

Taught by Local 571 Master Teachers

Conveniently at the Westmont  
Robert M. Healey Conference Center

CPDU and PTP awarded  
Credit Hours available for an additional fee  
From Governors State University

Additional information and registration forms are available on the [wstu571.org](http://wstu571.org) web site.

## National Trainer Academy Brings Together AFT Members from Across the Country

Seventy participants from 37 AFT Locals are gathering near Baltimore on May 1-4 for the AFT's ER&D National Trainer Academy. The academy brings together the local educational issues activists to help them prepare instructional plans for the upcoming year for the national ER&D (Educational Research and Dissemination) program.

More than half of this year's participants are new trainers. "This is not only a good indicator of the tremendous growth that ER&D has experienced over the last years, but also shows that ER&D is always reaching out to new members," says Rob Weil of the AFT's educational issues department, who coordinates the program. New trainers will perform presentations in front of their peers for critique and feedback. Their training also will include a clear understanding of the distinction between local and national training.

Also attending this year will be trainers for the AFT's Strategies for Student Success course. This course is an off-shoot of ER&D and includes a strong organizing component. "Strategies for Student Success is designed to provide Locals with efficient, high-quality professional learning that meets the needs of their members," says educational issues staffer Rosalind LaRoque, who helped develop the program. It consists of 90-minute modules and can be taught by members to existing and potential members.

AFT Leadernet Rob Weil, Rosalind LaRoque

## Lobby Day 2008 Report

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Even if they have four legs.



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Member Benefits

AFT has an expense reimbursement and/or endorsement arrangement for marketing this program. For more information, please contact AFT Financial Services at 800/238-1133, ext. 4493; send an e-mail to [disclosureinfo@aft.org](mailto:disclosureinfo@aft.org); or visit [www.aftplus.org/disclosure](http://www.aftplus.org/disclosure).

Nineteen Local 571, 504, 943, and 604 members and friends were up before dawn on an unseasonably cold April 30. It was Lobby Day for the IFT's K-12 affiliates. Prepared for appointments and encounters with Illinois lawmakers, individuals made their way to Springfield – many by bus. Participants were armed with IFT Legislative Fact Sheets on 8 vital issues as well as their own local concerns.

A briefing at the Howlett Building provided a welcome and focus for the day's activities as well as a site for the late BBQ lunch that concluded the day's activity. Participating from Local 571 were: Marcia Bryja, Nancy Calkins, Roseanne Caravetta, Ida Chester, Kathleen Greenawalt, Judy Jennings, Rebecca Johnson, Alice Kautsky, Phyllis Meade, Dolores Pospishil, Lee Stephens, Mary Kay Weir, Mike Linder, and Tom Smith.

### IMRF & Social Security Seminar Conducted

Local 571's IMRF & Social Security April 10 Seminar was designed for the concerns of support staff members. Participants were provided insights into the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund's (IMRF) organization and operation over a catered dinner.

Differences between defined benefit and defined contribution pension programs were explained, providing a context for understanding the changes taking place in public and private work environments. IMRF is a defined benefit program, based on member and employer contributions. The fund is described as "locally funded and financially sound."

Also addressed were specific issues such as how service credit is earned and unused/unpaid sick days applied. Participants were advised how to obtain an estimate of pension benefits, and the formula used to calculate a regular pension benefit was outlined.

Coordination of benefits with Social Security was of special concern for members, along with health benefits, Medicare eligibility, and many individual issues. The seminar's response makes it likely that it will be repeated at some point in the future.

*(Keys continued from page 1)*

dential Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian honor, posthumously.

Among other honors bestowed on Chavez, Mexico awarded him its "Aztec Eagle" (Aquila Azteca), the highest civilian honor awarded to people of Mexican heritage for major contributions outside Mexico.

Although non-Hispanics may only associate Chavez with grape and lettuce boycotts of the 60's and 70's, he is remembered today for his civil rights work as well as his labor leadership. His birthday is today a holiday in eight states.

Donated keys will literally become part of the statue, melted into a casting planned for Chicago's "Little Village" community. It's hoped that the campaign will involve students in Chicago as well as the surrounding suburbs. Keys mailed or otherwise delivered to Local 571 before June 9 will be sent on to the Hispanic American Labor Council.

"Si se puede" (it can be done) is reported to have been Chavez's motto, encapsulating his approach to life and the successes he and the UFW achieved during his tenure. Additional resources for teachers are available at [wstu571.org](http://wstu571.org).

## VOICES for Illinois Children 2008 Kids Count Report

VOICES for Illinois Children reports progress over two decades on 20 significant measures of development. Among the "Illinois Kids Count 2008" report's findings, we learn that

- ◆ Twelve times more children go to preschool today than a generation ago.
- ◆ Sixty-seven percent fewer children are in substitute care today than 10 years ago.
- ◆ Seventy percent more children are covered by public health insurance today than a decade ago, a result of programs for low-income children.

These improvements exist thanks to decades of hard work by advocates and state leaders who fought for policy changes.

*(Many Voices continued from page 1)*

source AFT can be for professional and personal development. I left with a better view of the impact our union can have on shaping the political agenda affecting our important work with children. Re-energized with new information to bring back to my workplace, I've developed a better focus on how much stronger we are when we share information on issues and work together to improve the educational setting.

The conference provided each participant acknowledgement and validation of the importance of our jobs and of our commitment to continued improvement. General session speakers, like Congressman Emanuel Cleaver III, combined humor with the message that while our work often goes along quietly and without recognition, our "many voices" make a difference.

The union provides a place to talk about the challenges ahead, to participate in the organization, and to support each other along the way. Next year, more PSRP members should think about attending a Professional Issues Conference. It's guaranteed to offer a surprising amount of information and fellowship with other union members.

## PSRPs Boost Learning and Activism at Annual Issues Conference

"We're here, proud and loud," declared PSRP chair Lorretta Johnson, president of the paraprofessional chapter of the Baltimore Teachers Union and an AFT vice president, to launch the opening session of the annual PSRP professional issues conference, held April 25-27 in Washington, D.C.

The meeting featured workshops on topics including "green" building maintenance, school security, and helping young children master reading. Some of the most important lessons came in a talk about former AFT president Albert Shanker by his biographer, Richard Kahlenberg. His book, *Tough Liberal*, chronicles Shanker's push to bring school secretaries, paraprofessionals and other support staff into the United Federation of Teachers in New York City.

"The secretaries paved the way for the paraprofessionals, whose addition was absolutely critical to the growth and future of the UFT and the AFT," Kahlenberg said during the opening session. "To his credit, Al Shanker said that he would not want to be part of a union that did not include paraprofessionals."

During a general session, AFT president Edward J. McElroy acknowledged the work of the PSRPs and counseled them on how to deal with adversaries. He commended them for helping add members. "We're not declining, brothers and sisters," he said. "We're growing, and a lot of that is because of the work you do every day."

McElroy also reminded attendees that their challenge includes organizing people who already are members of the union. He suggested asking members if they're aware of something the union is doing that they can contribute to, such as political action, or asking for their opinions on important local issues. "You have to organize the organized," he said, "get them to do something on behalf of their co-workers, their families and the community." AFT Leadernet Annette Licitra



Local 571 PSRP members attending the AFT PSRP Professional Issues Conference included (left to right) Pam Sarvas, Cicero; Angela Caravetta-Strazgante, Cicero; Miriam Anleu, Cicero; Olga Vasquez, Cicero; Mary Ellen Nawara, Indian Springs; Lynette Garcia, Proviso; Rose Janas, Leyden; and Maria Rivera, Cicero.

## 70th Anniversary Celebration Gift Card Raffle Winners

|                     |  |                             |                     |  |                |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|----------------|
| Barbara Aguirre     | Elmhurst PSRP Council                            | Starbucks                   | Kathleen Lemka      | Cicero Council   | Shell Oil      |
| Eleanore Hruby      | Guest of Chris Rogers<br>Cicero Council          | Home Depot                  | Tricia Malovey      | Cicero Council   | Macy's         |
| Andrew Bendelow     | Elmhurst Teachers Council                        | Cheesecake<br>Factory       | Vickie McAlpine     | Argo HS PSRP Council                                   | Borders        |
| Lee Hruby           | Guest of Chris Rogers<br>Cicero Council          | Starbucks                   | Deidre Mutters      | Lyons Teachers Council                                 | AMC Theatres   |
| Barbara Buenik      | Retirees Council                                 | Home Depot                  | Tiffany Novack      | Indians Springs Teachers<br>Council                    | Chili's        |
| Janet Bushue        | Cicero Council                                   | Panera Bread                | Heidi O'Hanley      | Indians Springs Teachers                               | Shell Oil      |
| Nancy Caulkins      | Indian Springs Teachers<br>Council               | Bed Bath &<br>Beyond        | Ryan O'Hanley       | Guest of Tiffany O'Hanley                              | Chili's        |
| Ed Caulkins         | Nancy's husband                                  | Cheesecake<br>Factory       | Robert Paczkowski   | Leyden HS Council                                      | Shell Oil      |
| Cheryl Carlson      | PAEC Council                                     | Chili's                     | Maria Rivera        | Cicero Council   | Barnes & Noble |
| Debra Chapman       | Lyons Teachers Council                           | Jewel                       | Edna Rogers         | Proviso HS Teachers Council                            | Kohl's         |
| Carol Colby         | Cicero Council                                   | Kohl's                      | Julia Sadowski      | Lyons Teachers Council                                 | Panera Bread   |
| C Franie            | Proviso HS Teachers Coun-<br>cil                 | iTunes                      | Tony Saracco        | Bonnie Saracco's husband<br>Rosemont Council           | PetSmart       |
| Alan Frisoni        | Husband of Jean Frisoni<br>Elmhurst PSRP Council | Shell Oil                   | Jennifer Schultz    | Indian Springs Teachers<br>Council                     | Jewel          |
| Mary Gajewski       | Elmhurst PSRP Council                            | Borders                     | Barbara Schumacher  | Lyons Teachers Council                                 | Trader Joe's   |
| Tomika Gray         | PAEC Council                                     | Starbucks                   | Erin Scott          | Cicero Council   | iTunes         |
| Kathleen Greenawalt | Retirees Council                                 | Target                      | Pamela Sifuentes    | District 88 PSRP Council                               | Jewel          |
| Trisha Green        | Guest  | California Pizza<br>Kitchen | Jennifer Strzelczyk | Leyden HS Council                                      | Cabela's       |
| Zohra Haleem        | Argo HS PSRP Council                             | Red Lobster                 | Gary Strzelczyk     | District 88 Teachers Council<br>and Jennifer's husband | Friday's       |
| Karen Herbeck       | Indian Springs Teachers<br>Council               | Starbucks                   | Anne Swaine         | Cicero Council   | Olive Garden   |
| Scott Jobb          | West End Press                                   | Movie Card                  | Judy Szczpaniak     | Cicero Council   | Friday's       |
| Angela Kouvelis     | Lyons Teachers Council                           | Ditka's                     | Heidi Trost         | Lyons Teachers Council                                 | Borders        |
| Kamille Krupka      | Cicero Council                                   | Red Lobster                 | Phyllis Washington  | Proviso HS PSRP Council                                | Jewel          |
| Rita Lantvit        | Cicero Council                                   | Museum<br>Go-Pass           | Rupa Wilson         | Lyons Teachers Council                                 | Omaha Steaks   |
|                     |  |                             | Susan Winningham    | Cicero Council   | iTunes         |
|                     |  |                             | Thomas Zolecki      | Indian Springs Custodians<br>Council                   | Starbucks      |



“Months of planning and a week of intense shopping and preparation merits a *special thanks* to committee chairs Chris Schulz, Jon Pazol, and Cathy Pope. Also, thanks to committee members Pam Sifuentes, Marilyn Borowski, Marge Wunschel; IFT staff members Debbie Brazzale and Fred Kautsky; volunteer Tony Sifuentes; and Local 571 staff Judy Jennings and Julie Masterton, who each attended to so much of the grunt work!”

Jane Russell



# Summer Great Lakes ULI Courses Announced

Information about this summer's Great Lakes Union Leadership Institute is now available from Council presidents. Complete course descriptions are posted on the IFT web site. The summer ULI, to be held at Lake Lawn Resort in Delevan Wisconsin, is planned for July 27-31. Classes fill quickly, so early registration is encouraged. Local 571 will reimburse rooming OR commuting cost.

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Union Leadership Skills                         | Effective Grievance Administration |
| Introduction To Negotiations                    | Effective Union Communication      |
| Building a Political and Legislative Powerhouse |                                    |

Contact your Council president for additional information and to make your interest known. The final registration deadline is June 20.

## Retiree News & Events

Newly elected 2008-2009 Retirees Council president is Matt DuPree. Phyllis Meade was elected to the secretary/treasurer post. Roseanne Caravetta will be Council representative to the Local 571 House of Representatives. Maryann Karlovsky, who described her presidency as "since forever," does not intend to be less engaged in the Council's activities.

Summer Council events include a TRS/CMS presentation on TRS and TRIP on May 20, *The Buddy Holly Story*, a luncheon and musical at Drury Lane on June 5; *A Day at the Races* at Arlington Park on June 13; a seminar on Medicare and Social Security on July 24; and *The Boys From Syracuse* at Drury Lane, a luncheon and musical on August 28.

## AFT Members Only

Starting in September 2008, AFT member benefits will be available only to members who have created accounts. By creating an account with your membership ID number, members now have exclusive access to member benefits and resources.

Visit [www.aft.org/members](http://www.aft.org/members) today to take advantage of these exclusive benefits:

- ⇒ See what's new among the many products offered by AFT Member Benefits for members and their families;
- ⇒ Visit the "AFT Advantage," which offers discounts on more than 22,000 brand-name products, savings at a variety of retailers, restaurants and local merchants, and private shopping events;
- ⇒ Step into spring at the AFT Online Store. It's the place for AFT branded apparel and accessories; curriculum and resource materials; and a special price on Richard Kahlenberg's biography of Albert Shanker;
- ⇒ Check out AFT Voices, a forum for AFT members to speak out on the issues they face every day.
- ⇒ Review and update personal contact information.

## Union Messenger Reader Survey Now Open

Help us improve next year's *Union Messenger* to better fit your needs and interests. From May 12 to May 31, a short online survey will provide information important to future content and production decisions. The survey consists of 12 basic questions including the three questions on member demographics (Council, age, and gender). Four

optional questions allow for extended remarks. The Reader Survey can be completed in less than five minutes.

To access the Reader Survey enter the following URL into your web browser: <http://tinyurl.com/68w87j>

Thanks for your help with improving Local 571's newsletter!

## Elected Local 571 2008 AFT Convention Delegates

### Delegates

Jane Russell, Ranking Delegate  
 Alice Kautsky, Cicero  
 Louise Sundwall, Cicero  
 Steven Fox, Morton  
 Sandy Ericson, Retirees  
 Ed Hohman, Retirees  
 Kelly Walters, Cicero  
 Tom Smith, At Large  
 Mike Linder, At Large  
 Maryann Karlovsky, Retirees  
 Pamela Sifuentes, District 88 PSRP  
 Christine Schulz, Leyden  
 Marie Dwyer, Morton  
 Mona Johnson, Proviso Teachers  
 Cathleen Pope, Rosemont  
 Irene Keleminic, Cicero  
 Mary Ellen Nawara, Indian Springs PSRP  
 Jonathan Pazol, Leyden  
 Julie Phillips, Franklin Park Teachers  
 Mike Dale, Retirees  
 Margaret Wunschel, Cicero  
 Nancy Calkins, Indian Springs Teachers  
 Angela Caravetta-Strazzante, Cicero  
 Mark Novak, Lyons  
 Phyllis Meade, Retirees  
 Joseph Mular, PAEC  
 Rose Janas, Leyden  
 Toni Brandt, Lyons  
 Kamile Krupka, Cicero  
 Christine Rogers, Cicero  
 Cindy Rohlfling, Cicero  
 Ida Chester, Proviso PSRP  
 Bonnie Saracco, Rosemont  
 Roseanne Caravetta, Retirees  
 Michele Philipsborn, Cicero  
 Pamela Serwas, Cicero  
 Gary Tolman, Cicero  
 Lee Stephens, Proviso PSRP  
 Robert Fowler, Leyden  
 Mary Ann Baudler, Cicero  
 Fred Baumann, Cicero  
 Marycatherine Svehla, Cicero  
 Olga Vasquez, Cicero  
 Mary Kay Weir, Indian Springs Teachers  
 M. Pilar Carmona, Cicero  
 Diane Janisch, Indian Springs PSRP  
 Holly Testa, Leyden  
 Lynette Garcia, Proviso PSRP  
 Karen Walsh, Indian Springs Teachers

### Alternates

Edna Rogers, Proviso Teachers  
 Judy Kruse, Retirees  
 Robert Kozlowski, Retirees  
 Patricia Wegemann, PAEC  
 Marcia Bryja, Retirees  
 Ed Raddatz, Retirees  
 Robert Bartlett, Morton  
 Diane Sheridan, Indian Springs PSRP  
 Dolores Pospishil, Retirees  
 Joan Froncek, Lyons  
 Suzette Gacek, Proviso Teachers  
 Marlene Alcorn, Proviso Teachers  
 Kimberly Campagna, Argo-Summit  
 Gary Brigel, Proviso Teachers  
 Carlos Perez, Argo-Summit  
 Joyce Brown, Proviso PSRP  
 Robin Brooks-Hancock, Proviso PSRP  
 Faith Schwebke, PAEC  
 Charanne Marshall, PAEC

## Additional Scholarship Winner Announced

**K**yle Koslowski, son of Indian Springs PSRP Council member Kathleen Koslowski, has been awarded a Mary Wheeler scholarship. Six Mary Wheeler scholarships have been awarded by Local 571 this year.

## Retiring Local 571 Representatives

**R**etiring after years of service to their respective students, schools, Councils, and Local 571 House of Representatives are: Lyons Council's **Joan Froncek**, Riverside Council's **Nora Waliczek**, District 88 Teachers Council's **Thomas Gervais**, and Elmhurst Teachers Council's **Carol Kuyper**.

All Executive Board and House of Representatives retirees will be honored at the June House of Representatives meeting. Congratulations on jobs well done!

## Why Join the IFT Retiree Group?

**A**s a long career draws to a close and new opportunities present themselves, one might ask why continue membership in professional organizations that no longer seem as relevant. Although AFT membership and benefits are essentially "for life," IFT and Local 571 Retirees Council membership is a matter of choice—and nominal annual dues. Several reasons make the IFT's \$20 yearly dues a compelling retirement investment.

- A vibrant IFT Retirees Chapter assures that retirees' pension and other political interests are provided a high priority with other educational interests most retirees continue to believe to be important. Other retirees' organizations do not have the same focus on Illinois, or issues dear to former public school employees. Assure that your interests are well represented.
- The IFT Retiree Chapter annually plans educational and social events that keep retired members connected with each other, providing opportunities to make new friendships. Seminars, workshops, dinner theatre, and book reading groups have been among recent activities. Local 571 Retirees Council members actively take part in the IFT Retirees Chapter's events.
- For Local 571 retirees planning on returning to a school for a less than full time position, Retirees Council membership provides the option of professional liability insurance. The cost of 2008-2009 coverage is \$6.00, a bargain in litigation prone times.
- Other benefits of membership are extended to retiree members, including scholarship eligibility as described for individual IFT and Local 571 scholarship programs. Retiring members with college bound dependants may want to maintain membership to keep these scholarship opportunities open to family members.

Information packets for each prospective retiree are mailed each May with membership forms and dues payment information included. Members who do not receive this mailing or who have questions may contact Judy Jennings at [jjennings@ift-aft.org](mailto:jjennings@ift-aft.org) or 630-468-4098.

## WSTU Calendar

### May

5/12—571 EB Mtg. - Westmont - 5:30 p.m.  
5/12—571 HOR Mtg.-Westmont - 6:30 p.m.

### June

6/9—571 EB Mtg. - Westmont - 5:30 p.m.  
(Vote on 571 proposed budget)  
6/9—571 HOR Mtg.-Westmont - 6:45 p.m.

### July

7/10-14—AFT Convention - Chicago  
7/21—571 EB Mtg. - Westmont - 5:30 p.m.

### August

8/18—571 EB Mtg. - Westmont - 5:00 p.m.  
8/18—President & Treasurer Workshop -  
Westmont -

### September

9/8—571 EB Mtg. - Westmont - 5:30 p.m.  
9/8—571 HOR Mtg.-Westmont - 6:45 p.m.

### Reminders

#### AFT Convention

Room reservation forms due May 16

**IFT Retiree's TRS/CMS Presentation**  
Tuesday, May 20

**IFT Retirees Chapter**  
**White Sox v Texas Rangers**  
Sunday, July 23 Patio Party

### Union Messenger

Jane Russell, President  
Alice Kautsky, Vice President  
Sandra Erickson, Treasurer  
Cathleen Pope, Secretary  
Jonathan Pazol, Financial Secretary  
Ed Hohman, Legal Defense Secretary & COPE  
Chairperson  
Tom Smith, IFT Field Service Director  
Mike Linder, IFT Field Service Director  
Judy Jennings, Office Manager  
Julie Masterton, Office Secretary  
Mike Dale, *Union Messenger* Editor  
Andrew Bendelow, 571 Webmaster



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