

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

October Calendar

10/2—571 Legislative Breakfast
10/4—HOR Mtg. (5:30 p.m. - Westmont)
10/15—Deadline for filing IRS forms for Councils that closed their books in May
10/22-23—IFT PSRP (Itasca, IL)

Union Messenger

Rachel Esposito, President
 Kyle Stern, Vice President
 Sandra Erickson, Treasurer
 Cathleen Pope, Secretary
 Eugene Poull, Financial Secretary
 Brett Blair, Legal Defense Secretary
 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



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The Governor's Executive Order...So, What Does This Mean For Us?

IFT together with the IEA, IASA, IPA, and IASB met with representatives from Governor Pritzker's office to discuss his latest Executive Order. Although we did not receive all the answers we needed, we have a clearer understanding of what we need to do as leaders in our councils.



Employees are expected to be fully vaccinated by October 4th. If people choose not to get vaccinated, employees must comply with weekly testing. It is not necessarily the responsibility of the district to provide testing, but there are many options available through the State for districts to offer on-site testing. It is the responsibility of the employer to verify negative results. The tests must meet the

Emergency Use Act requirements set forth by the FDA or a lab test developed by the US Centers for Medicaid and Medicare services, such as the Binax Now test. Allowing this testing option gives people the choice of whether to get vaccinated, but you must comply with one of the two options. Most importantly, the Union has the right to bargain how the testing process will be conducted and any discipline an employee may receive for noncompliance.

ISBE will also be issuing further guidance as it relates to remote and hybrid learning. ISBE will not go back to statewide remote learning, nor do they want simultaneous remote and in-person learning to occur, except for those who are medically fragile. If districts would like to offer vaccination clinics, the State can send mobile vaccination clinics anywhere in the State. So, what does this mean for us? We must negotiate to determine when it is best to pivot to remote and/or hybrid learning. We also must consider the use of sick days if someone must be quarantined. One council is currently allowing staff to work remotely if they are asked to quarantine and are well enough to work.

We must continue to fight for layered mitigations such as universal mask wearing, social distancing, upgraded HVAC systems, updates and accurate dashboards, and on-site testing for staff and students. Social distancing is a challenge at all schools and needs to be addressed. Remember, our administrators are not in the rooms all day with students.

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The Governor's Executive Order...So, What Does This Mean For Us?

Oftentimes, they have their own private office and may need to be reminded what it is like in a full classroom. Invite them to your workspace. We must be vigilant, and we must continue to power on for everyone's safety. The power of our Union lies in our engagement-engagement of our colleagues, our students, our parents, and our communities. You may feel like you are being pulled in different directions and you are. Trying to create a plan everyone is satisfied with is impossible. Council leaders have gone over and beyond what they thought Union work was. Making these plans requires input from all stakeholders. Make your concerns known and reach out to your Union leadership. Together is the only way we make it through these difficult times.

Rachel Esposito

Local 571 President

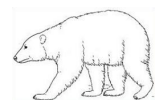
Meet Local 571's New Vice President

Hello Union Siblings, my name is Kyle Stern and I am the new Vice President of Local 571. I am looking forward to working with you over the next couple of years to help Local 571 continue to be a powerful Union force in Illinois. Previously, I had been an Area Trustee at Local 571 since 2018 and chaired the Nominations and Elections Committee. I am currently in my 21st year teaching Math at Argo High School. There I was an Argo Teachers Council Vice President for nine years and President for six years. I have attended numerous Union Leadership Institutes, participated in the IFT's Trauma Informed Instruction, attended IFT and AFT Conventions as well as the Great Lakes Presidents workshops.



In my personal life, I have been married to my wife Elizabeth for 16 years and we have two daughters. I am an avid reader and love going to baseball games, having visited 119 ballparks across the United States and Canada. I look forward to meeting you and working with you over the next two years as your Vice President.

PolarTREC Expedition - Jon Pazol



Dear Family, Friends, and Colleagues,



As some of you know, I am busy getting ready for my PolarTREC Expedition. PolarTREC pairs up teachers and polar researchers for scientific expeditions in the Arctic and Antarctic. After a 10-day COVID quarantine in Oslo (my Netflix and Kindle are stocked), I will be spending 6 weeks aboard a Russian icebreaker in the Siberian Arctic engaging in ocean current and climate change studies as part of the NABOS Project. Here is a link to a YouTube video of a previous expedition to give you an idea of what I'll be doing. [NABOS Expedition](#)

I have a PolarTREC Expedition page where I will be updating journals as often as I can throughout my trip - we will be above 80 N, so internet access will be very limited for long stretches. Feel free to share with students, colleagues, etc. [PolarTREC - NABOS Program - Jon Pazol](#)

Once aboard, I will also work to coordinate making satellite phone calls into my classes. Ideally, I will also do a few video conferences/PolarTREC Live sessions, but connection issues are questionable. My wife Ny, Melissa Pregler from the West Leyden Science Department and Jaime Ochoa (long term guest teacher, Leyden alum, and former student) will be my "point" people here to help with logistics and updates. Here's a sign-up if you'd like to be notified once journals are posted. [PolarTREC Expedition Updates - Jon Pazol](#)

Click on this link for the latest press release: <https://www.journal-topics.com/articles/leyden-educator-embarks-on-polar-research-experiences/>

REMINDER

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. Retirees registration form was emailed/mailed and can be found at www.wstu571.org

*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.

“Retiree Ramblings”

Thought the title might get your attention...sometimes Retirees do tend to Ramble...maybe it's that extra time we're supposed to have! I will try not to ramble in this first article!

A few important dates...

1. Retiree Luncheon...Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

We'll be Welcoming our 2020 and 2021 New Retirees. It'll be an enjoyable afternoon...meeting our Officers, saying “Hi” to friends, learning some important political info, you can pay your dues if you haven't yet, “Split the Pot” Raffle (so bring a little cash) and a Special Surprise.

2. Local 571 Legislative Breakfast, Saturday, October 2, 2021,

Registration...8:00a.m.
\$45.00 prepaid charge BUT you'll get your check back that morning!
Great Raffle Prizes...bring money

3. Drury Lane Play Dates...Mark those Social Calendars

October 6, 2021...Forever Plaid
December 15, 2021...Holiday Inn
February 23, 2022...Evita
May 11, 2022...King and I

Planning the rest of our activities and really need your input...Wine and Painting, Day Trips, Jewelry Making, Game afternoon, Luck on a Casino Trip, Stay in Shape, Travel Presentation, Speakers, etc.

Aren't you glad you're RETIRED!

Oops...I'm rambling...so I'll stop...until next time...

Alice Kautsky, Retiree President



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IMPORTANT
NOTICE
WSTU
Local 571
COPE/PAC Chair
Position Available

WSTU Local 571 COPE/PAC Chair is open as of September 1, 2021. 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 www.wstu571.org. To submit your name contact Local 571 President Rachel Esposito @ resposito571@ift-aft.org or call and leave a message at (630) 468-4043 by Friday October 1, 2021.

National Board Certification

The National Board Resource Center (NBRC) is a nonprofit organization that has been charged with overseeing the Illinois State Board of Education program that enables teachers and school counselors to become National Board certified. The NBRC provides payment for teacher-candidate fees and support through the process in the form of cohorts, certificate-alike webinars, and matching candidates with National Board Resource Center trained readers.

The National Board process has been updated in recent years, so educators may want to view and listen to the updated 15-minute presentation and brief video from National Board Certified Teachers. The Illinois National Board Candidate Fee Subsidy application window for teachers and school counselors pursuing National Board Certification beginning in the 2021-2022 school year opened September 1 at 10 a.m.

Click on the links below for additional information:

<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwLuTXbf9vw>



Legislative Director Report

September 2021

Nicole Burr

At the end of last school year we tried something new; we asked you, our membership, to weigh in and tell us your thoughts on current legislation. It was a way to hear what our members were thinking and feeling, so we could be better advocates for our union. After reflecting on it over the summer, I've decided to make it a staple in the legislative section. I want to hear what you have to say, so I can pass it along to our legislators. So, moving forward, if you feel inclined and would like to be heard, please use the Google Form [here](#).

You might also remember that there was a whole slew of legislation that we brought to your attention as the year was winding down. Well, a lot happened at the end of May and throughout the summer, so to catch you up...

Teacher Evaluation Initiative

[HB 18](#) improves the teacher evaluation process by extending the time between evaluations for tenured teachers with previous excellent and proficient ratings to once every three years.

'Sexting' Education

[House Bill 24](#) requires sex education course material for grades 6-12 to include an age-appropriate discussion on sexting, which shall include consequences of sexting, bullying and harassment, internet safety, and the identification of appropriate school personnel who may be contacted for help if a student is concerned about something occurring in this area. This passed both chambers.

Social Studies and American History – Inclusion of the Asian American Experience

[House Bill 376](#) requires public schools to include in their curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Asian American history. The bill passed both chambers.

Driver Education – How to Interact with Police during a Traffic Stop

[House Bill 3097](#) requires school driver education course instruction to include procedures for interacting with law enforcement during traffic stops. It also requires that adult education courses include these procedures. The bill requires the Secretary of State and Illinois State Police to collaborate in updating the Illinois Rules of the Road to include appropriate law enforcement interaction during traffic stops. This passed both chambers.

Health Education on E-Cigarettes and Vaping

[House Bill 3202](#) adds e-cigarettes and other vapor devices as an education area under the Comprehensive Health Education Program. This passed both chambers.

Citizenship Education

[House Bill 3281](#) allows school districts to teach a unit of instruction on the process of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen. This passed both chambers.

Teaching the Contributions of Muslim Americans

[Senate Bill 564](#) requires the teaching of the contributions made by Muslims and Muslim Americans to society as part of U.S. History and adds the birthday of Muhammad Ali (January 17) to the list of commemorative holidays. The bill was amended to include several other religions. This passed both chambers.

Time to Play

[Senate Bill 654](#) requires all public schools to provide 30 minutes of supervised, unstructured, child-directed play each day for students K-5. Play time does not count as physical education and can be divided into periods of at least 15 consecutive minutes. The bill prohibits the withholding of play time as a disciplinary or punitive action unless a student's participation poses an immediate threat to his/her safety or the safety of other students. This passed both chambers.

Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act

[Senate Bill 818](#) requires the Illinois State Board of education to adopt new learning standards on personal health and safety standards for grades K-5. New sexual health standards would also be adopted for students in grades 6-12. The bill requires these standards to be medically accurate, culturally appropriate, inclusive, trauma-informed, and developmentally- and age-appropriate. The new standards go into effect in 2023. This passed both chambers.

Financial Literacy as Part of Social Studies

[Senate Bill 1830](#) allows coursework on financial literacy to be included in social studies classes and counted as fulfillment of social studies requirements for a high school diploma. This passed both chambers.

So, as you look through the new legislation, remember this is just what has passed. Remember, I haven't even gotten started on what is still on the table. But that will have to wait until the next Messenger...



The name "September" comes from an old Roman word, "septem," which actually means 7. That's right – September was the seventh month of the year on the Roman calendar – It did not become the ninth month until the advent of the Gregorian calendar.

Out of all 12 months of the year, September is spelled with the most letters. It contains nine letters, and it happens to be the ninth month of the year. No other months have the same amount of letters as their number in the calendar year.

There are more pop and classic songs with "September" in the title than any other month.



Illinois Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

Members fighting powerfully for a **strong union** and **the future we all deserve.**

2021 IFT PSRP/Public Employees Conference

The [IFT PSRP/Public Employees Conference](#) is right around the corner! We look forward to being together in-person* again for this popular event designed to meet the unique needs of paraprofessional and school-related personnel and public employees. [Register](#) your members today!

WHAT: 2021 IFT PSRP/Public Employees Conference -
"IFT Strong: PSRP & Public Employees – We ARE Essential"

WHEN: October 22-23, 2021

WHERE: [Eaglewood Resort and Spa](#), Itasca, Illinois

The two-day conference will include workshops on important and timely union and professional development topics, including member engagement, equity and inclusion, mental health, working with transgender students in the classroom, trauma training, and legislative action.

Participants will also have the chance to share ideas and experiences with fellow members. Learn more and register with these links:

- [PROGRAM OVERVIEW](#)
- [ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

Conference registration fees will include the Friday reception, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and all conference materials.

Be sure to register for this event by Friday, September 24th.

** Please note that CDC safety guidelines will be followed during this event; participants will be required to wear a face mask at all times (when not eating or drinking). If the IFT determines it is unsafe to conduct the event in-person, it will be held virtually. Leaders and registered participants will be notified of any such change in advance.*

Local 571 PSRP members: Please speak to your Council president or treasurer before registering to find out if your Council will make the payment for you. The West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571, budget will cover the registration fee and mileage (to and from) for each member who attends both the general session and the workshops. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please direct them to your Council president or treasurer.

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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