

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

# Union Messenger

## "A Union of Professionals"

### June/July Calendar

6/7—Registration deadline for Social Security Webinar  
 6/9—Social Security Webinar (virtual)  
 6/13—ExBd Mtg. (5:00 p.m.—Westmont)  
 7/1—Councils' election reports due to 571  
 7/8—Registration deadline for Social Security Webinar  
 7/18—ExBd Mtg (5:00 p.m.—Westmont)  
 7/12—Social Security Webinar (virtual)  
 7/14-17—AFT Convention (Boston)  
 7/15—Councils' year-end financial statement and audit forms due to 571  
 7/27-28—IL AFL/CIO Convention (Rosemont, 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  
 Shavonne Henry, COPE/PAC Chairperson  
 Tom Smith, IFT Field Service Director  
 Arnavaz Mistry-Mujthaba, IFT Field Service Director  
 Carolyn Wilson, Membership Support Staff  
 Patty Clancy, Office Support Staff  
 Andrew Bendelow,  
 571 Web Administrator  
 Robin Hancock,  
 571 Union Messenger Editor



### Inside This Issue:

2022 WSTU Scholarship Winners	2-3
In Case You Missed It: Joint Op-Ed with Jonah Edelman	3
Members Engaged (Argo)	4
New Area Trustees	4
IMRF and Social Security Seminar (s)	5
Legislative Breakfast	5
Legislative Report/Asian American History	6

### Stepping Down

As some of you may know, I will be stepping down as President of WSTU. I have been hired as a Field Service Director with the Illinois Federation of Teachers. I have many mixed feelings about leaving teaching and taking on this new role. I have been a



teacher for 19 years in the same school district. First and foremost, I will miss the students. I love teaching and I will always be a teacher at heart. Leaving the classroom was the toughest part of this decision for me. On the other hand, I am eager to work with my fellow union leaders to strengthen our councils. I am grateful to continue working with Local 571 in my new

role. I hope to use my experience as a teacher and a leader to mentor and guide other Council Presidents. I am very grateful to the IFT for giving me the opportunity to do this work.

I know Local 571 will continue to thrive under our new leadership. We are fortunate to have a strong Executive Vice President, Kyle Stern, who will take over the remainder of my term. Kyle and I have worked closely together to create a vision and goals for Local 571. I am confident that Kyle and our elected officers will accomplish these goals and beyond. Change can be intimidating, but it can also bring about growth. We are lucky to have dedicated members who have taken on new leadership roles in the Local and in their Councils. I know our leadership will continue to grow a stronger union and make our membership proud to be a member of Local 571. Lastly, I would like to thank our office staff, Patty Clancy, and Carolyn Wilson, for their support and diligence every day, but especially through this transition.

So, remember this is not a 'goodbye,' but a 'see you around.'

In Solidarity,

Rachel Esposito

## 2022 WSTU Scholarship Winners



The West Suburban Teachers Union (WSTU) Local 571, proudly awarded more than **\$27,000** in scholarships to outstanding students, educators, and support staff in March. Winning students are the dependents of Local 571 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 \$3,100 each were awarded to:

**Haley Allenspach** of Schaumburg High School. Her mother, **Leslie Allenspach**, is a teacher at Willowbrook High School in DuPage District 88.

**Kai Li-Caldwell** of Evanston Township High School. His parent, **Daniel Caldwell** is a teacher at Proviso Math and Science Academy in Proviso District 209.

**Brooke Chomko** of Lyons Township High School. Her mother is **Julie Chomko**, a teacher at Hauser Junior High in Riverside District 96.

**Lauren Cole** of Batavia High School. Her father is **Shane Cole**, a counselor at Addison Trail H.S. in DuPage District 88.

**Sean McNally** of Brother Rice High School. His mother is **Paulette McNally**, a teacher at Player Early Childhood in Indian Springs District 109.

**Emily Pruim** of John F. Kennedy High School. Her mother **Grace Pruim** is a teacher at Brodnicki Elementary in Indian Springs District 109.



Haley Allenspach, a student at Schaumburg High School won a Mary Wheeler scholarship.



Kai Li-Caldwell of Evanston Township High School received the Mary Wheeler scholarship.



Brooke Chomko, a student at Lyons Township High School received the Mary Wheeler scholarship.



Lauren Cole of Batavia High School was awarded the Mary Wheeler scholarship.



Sean McNally, a graduate of Brother Rice High School was awarded the Mary Wheeler scholarship.



Emily Pruim who attends John F. Kennedy High School, won a Mary Wheeler scholarship.

### 2022 WSTU Scholarship Winners

A scholarship named for Maryann Karlovsky in the amount of \$1,860 was awarded to **Mitchell Berman**, a library media specialist at Home Elementary School in Lyons District 103 who is pursuing a further certificate or endorsement in education.

The union also awarded three \$1,860 Julianne Phillips Scholarships. Each recipient is a current, licensed educator who is pursuing an additional degree through graduate work. The winners are:

**Barbara Gutierrez**, a teacher at Bridgeview Elementary in Indian Springs District 109.

**Elizabeth Hardt**, a teacher at East Leyden High School in Leyden School District 212.

**Kylee Murray**, a teacher at Argo Community High School in District 217.

The final 2022 awardee received a \$1,860 scholarship named for Jo Ann Horowitz. This award is given to current Paraprofessionals and School Related Personnel who are pursuing a BA/BS or MA/MS in education. It was awarded to **Kimberly Jackson-Petrella**, a teacher's aide at Willowbrook High School in DuPage District 88.



Mitchell Berman, a library media specialist at Home Elementary School was awarded the Maryann Karlovsky



Barbara Gutierrez, a teacher at Bridgeview Elementary School, was a winner of the Julianne Phillips scholarship.



Elizabeth Hardt, a teacher at East Leyden High School, was awarded the Julianne Phillips scholarship.



Kylee Murray, a teacher at Argo Community High School, was a recipient of the Julianne Phillips scholarship.

Not pictured is Kimberly Jackson-Petrella, who was awarded the Jo Ann Horowitz scholarship.

### In Case You Missed It: Joint Op-Ed with Jonah Edelman

Today, Jonah Edelman and I had an op-ed published in TIME. Right now, it's urgent that parents and other people of conscience stand up against far-right extremists using lies, smears and distortions to undermine, voucherize and privatize the public schools we hold dear. As leaders deeply engaged in strengthening public education and making public schools the best they can be, we came together to call out the hate and sound the alarm for public education and our democracy. We hope you will read it and share.

The text of the op ed is available online at TIME magazine here: <https://time.com/6172216/public-schools-extremists/>

**Here are some sample tweets. Please share and encourage your members to share it on social media today:**

"The assaults on public schools in state after state are part of a nationally orchestrated and funded campaign. The goal is to destabilize public ed..." @rweingarten and @JonahEdelman <https://time.com/6172216/public-schools-extremists/>

If people of conscience stay on the sidelines, Rufo and other extremists could well succeed in their drive to weaken public education, undermining our democracy and further eroding America's middle class. - @rweingarten and @JonahEdelman <https://time.com/6172216/public-schools-extremists/>

We know from history, and we are seeing in real-time with Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, that unchecked disinformation and dehumanization cause untold damage and suffering. <https://time.com/6172216/public-schools-extremists/>

Thank you @rweingarten and @JonahEdelman for taking on the right-wing attacks on public ed. The misinformation is out of control. <https://time.com/6172216/public-schools-extremists/>

In Unity,

Randi



# Members Engaged

## Lauren Evoy's Self-Defense & Empower Class

by Allison Bean

**After several years of dedication, professional development, and relentless effort, Argo's Lauren Evoy's Self-Defense & Empower class is soaring to new heights and attracting more and more followers.**

During an April class, students participated in a self-defense simulation with the cooperation of several instructors from surrounding districts such as Lyons Township and Oak Park River Forest and it was AMAZING! At the close of the simulation, students reflected on the experience as well as the class in general, and talked about feeling empowered mentally and physically, stronger, and more assertive as young women. It was both moving and motivating to see how many students came into the class not knowing what to expect and left wishing that they could take it again. Overheard was several students even saying that they wished it were a required P.E. class! Lauren's students were beaming with gratitude over her initiation of this class, so thank you Lauren!!! Your students are very lucky to have you. If your school is interested in such a class for your school, you may contact Lauren at [levoy@argohs.net](mailto:levoy@argohs.net).



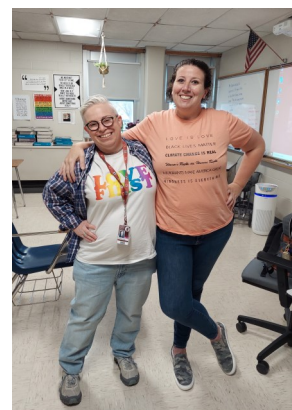
## Day of Silence

by Erin Walsh and STRIIVE Students

**On Friday, April 8th Argo High School teachers and the Students Teaching Respect Integrity Inclusivity Values and Equality (STRIIVE) club celebrated the Day of Silence.** This is a day in which students everywhere take a vow of silence in order to protest bullying and harassment against the LGBTQ+ community. This day started in 1996 at the University of Virginia and since has grown into an effort that spans the entire United States as well as other countries. This day is very important for the LGBTQ+ community because it highlights the harassment that many



LGBTQ+ students face on a daily basis through peaceful protest and gives them a platform to hopefully end the harassment and bullying. Argo Teachers joined in by wearing supporting t-shirts and buttons, teaching supporting lessons, and discussing these issues in class. At Argo, we want our students to know we are allies.



## Good News!

**Congratulations to the WSTU Local 571 Area Trustees who start their two-year term on July 1, 2022!**

The Area Trustees are  
 Ruth Jennings - Cicero (PSRP),  
 Christine Schulz - Leyden,  
 Max Schoenberg - Elmhurst Teachers and  
 Carlin Martinez - Cicero.



## I.M.R.F. SEMINAR Retirement Information For Local 571 (PSRP) Support Staff Union Members



\*\*\*\*\*

### REMINDER—REGISTER BEFORE DEADLINE

A speaker from the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) will present information and answer questions for **PSRP (support staff)** Union Members of the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571.

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 19, 2022

**TIME:** 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** A virtual presentation. A link will be provided.

**R.S.V.P.:** If you plan to attend, contact Patty Clancy via e-mail at [pclancy@ift-aft.org](mailto:pclancy@ift-aft.org) or by phone at 630-468-4083 by Tuesday, May 17th.

## Social Security Webinar for Local 571 Members



\*\*\*\*\*  
*Sponsored by the West Suburban Teachers  
Union, Local 571*

*Webinar will be virtual  
for both June and July*

**Identical** Social Security Webinars will be presented and questions will be answered by a representative of the Social Security Administration.

**WHEN:** Thursday,  
June 9, 2022  
10:00 a.m.—Noon  
**OR**  
Tuesday,  
July 12, 2022  
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

**FOR:** Local 571 members

**WHERE:** A virtual webinar

**R.S.V.P.:** If you plan to attend the June 9 Webinar, contact Patty Clancy by June 7 at [pclancy@ift-aft.org](mailto:pclancy@ift-aft.org) and you will be sent a link to register for the webinar.

If you plan to attend the July 12 Webinar, contact Patty Clancy by July 8 at [pclancy@ift-aft.org](mailto:pclancy@ift-aft.org) and you will be sent a link to register for the webinar.



*Stock your summer BBQ with union-made products*

<https://www.chicagolabor.org/union-resources/union-made-bbq>

## West Suburban Teachers Union



**Legislative Breakfast**  
Saturday 10/1/22

To be held at:  
**Hilton Chicago/Oakbrook Hills  
Resort & Conference Center**  
3500 Midwest Road  
Oak Brook, IL 60523



## Legislative Report May Union Messenger

The Illinois General Assembly was busy approving the F23 budget, a \$46 billion state budget that will increase public education funding at all levels and will provide additional tax relief to families.

### Some of the highlights are:

- Early childhood education programs at community colleges:
- Property tax relief: doubling the state property tax rebate which could return as much as \$300 to a household that pays property taxes.
- Social worker scholarship and loan repayment program (ISAC): \$6 million
- Back to School tax holiday on school supplies and clothing from Aug. 5 to Aug. 14 of 2022

For more details on the F23 budget visit:

<https://www.ift-aft.org/post/end-of-session-legislative-update>

### Legislation Impacting IFT Members

[SB 3663](#) provides that the number of professional development hours required is reduced by 20% for any renewal cycle that includes the 2021-2022 school year

[SB3120](#) provides that all employees shall be entitled to use a maximum of two weeks (10 workdays) of unpaid bereavement leave to be absent from work due to a miscarriage or other negative impacts involving pregnancy, fertility, or adoption.

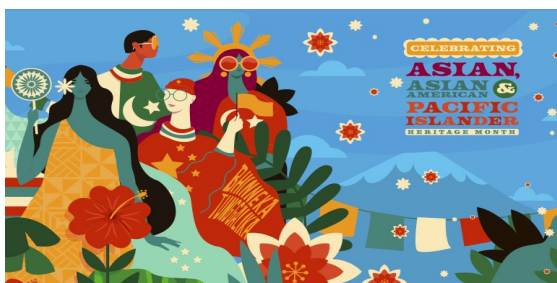
[SB 3986](#) prohibits ISBE from funding standardized tests for students in grades prek-2.

[HB 5472](#) extends the amount of time a retired educator can return to the classroom from 120 days to 140 days.

### A Look Ahead...

The Illinois primary election will be held on June 28, 2022. Have a great summer and register to vote.

## May is Asian American Pacific Islander Month



AAPI people have a long history in the United States, despite the stereotype that they are "perpetual foreigners," the idea that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are inherently foreign, other and not truly American. According to the Bering Land Bridge Theory, Asians first migrated to what is now known as North America over 15,000 years ago through a land bridge between Asia and North America. In the 16th century, Filipinos who were escaping forced labor and enslavement during the Spanish galleon trade immigrated to North America, eventually establishing a settlement in St. Malo, Louisiana in 1763. During the California Gold Rush of the 1850s, a wave of Asian immigrants came to the West Coast and provided labor for gold mines, factories and the transcontinental railroad. In 1882, Congress enacted the Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned Chinese immigration for 20 years.

Japanese and Koreans began immigrating to the United States by 1885 to replace Chinese labor in railroad construction, farming and fishing. However, in 1907, Japanese immigration was restricted by a "Gentlemen's Agreement" between the United States and Japan. The civil rights movement assisted the liberalization of immigration laws. The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act changed restrictive national origin quotas and allowed for the large numbers of Asians and Pacific Islanders to come to the United States with their families. In the mid-1970s, refugees from Southeast Asia like Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos came to the United States to flee war, violence, and hardship.

Today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing racial group in the United States. AAPI Heritage Month celebrates the unique journey of all AAPI immigrants and citizens in the United States and their unique life experiences, traditions and cultures.

To learn more about AAPI History visit: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/asian-american-pacific-islander-heritage-month>

### 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 Want To Hear From You



We're on the Web!!!  
[www.wstu571.org](http://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](mailto:resposito571@ift-aft.org)