

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

# Union Messenger

## "A Union of Professionals"

### October Calendar

10/1—Legislative Breakfast  
 10/3—HOR Mtg. (5:30 p.m.—Westmont)  
 10/15—Deadline for filing IRS forms for Councils that closed their books in May  
 10/21-23 —IFT Convention (St. Louis)

### Union Messenger

Kyle Stern, President  
 Dr. Jaqueline Payne, 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  
 Rachel Esposito, IFT Field Service Director  
 Renee Wagner, 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



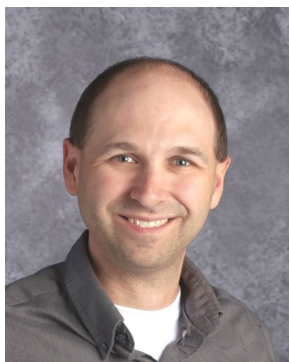
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### Help Wanted Needed

Dear Union Siblings,

Early in my career (I'm 22 years in) I often received messages from the IFT, AFT, or my Council President urging me to call, write a letter, or email regarding a certain piece of legislation or policy. I often thought that this was great and my fellow Union members would flood our legislators with emails, phone calls, and letters. I thought with so many Union members, there was not always a reason for me to contact my legislators, because I was just one individual and what difference would that make. I also thought my only way to have my voice heard was through voting. I was so incredibly wrong. Not only does contacting my legislators make a huge difference, it is also important to contact legislators not in my District.



As a young Union member, I always felt the Union was the cavalry, coming to save the day. What I didn't realize is that rank and file members like myself at the time, were the cavalry. You are the cavalry! We don't just want your help, we need your help. Yes, you reading this right now, we need you and all the skills and talents you bring to the table.

This September through November we have an important election cycle. Please make sure you are registered to vote and then vote. IFT endorsed candidates can be found at [ift-aft.org/candidates](http://ift-aft.org/candidates). The election for the two Illinois Supreme Court seats that will decide if our court is controlled by IFT endorsed judges or not, will be decided. We want our rights to remain protected. Additionally, we have competitive races in the U.S Congress, Illinois State, and House and need to maintain our power in every office from Governor and Senator to Secretary of State, Attorney General, Comptroller and Treasurer. We also need the Workers' Rights Amendment (WRA) to pass. As the IFT writes on its website:

The Workers' Rights Amendment—formally known as Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 11—would amend the Illinois Constitution to guarantee the fundamental rights of workers to union and collective bargain. Put simply, the WRA would guarantee the right of workers to bargain for safe working conditions, fair pay, and benefits.

Not only do you need to vote, we need people to help canvass, write letters, and phone bank for various candidates and the WRA. At the August House of Representatives meeting we agreed to pay those that phone bank or canvass \$15/hour. If you are interested please email me at [ks571@ift-aft.org](mailto:ks571@ift-aft.org) or sign up via google using this [link](#). **WE NEED YOU!!!**

In Unity,

Kyle Stern

**Legislative Report**  
**Graciela Drobny**  
 571 Legislative Director

**VOTE...VOTE...VOTE!**

November Elections are approaching!

If you have a relative turning 18 or has just turned 18, please encourage them to register to vote.

☐ **In Person:** Received 28 days before Election Day (If voters miss this deadline, they may also register during the registration grace period.)

☐ **By Mail:** Postmarked 28 days before Election Day.

☐ **Online:** Received 16 days before Election Day. (If voters miss this deadline, they may also register during the registration grace period.)

A list of candidates supported by IFT can be found at <https://www.ift-aft.org/candidates>

Workers' Right will be on the November Ballot for more information visit: <https://www.ift-aft.org/wra>

Please consider volunteering in Labor Walks 2022, for more information contact Marcus Shepherd at 773-580-9425 or [mshepherd@chicagolabor.org](mailto:mshepherd@chicagolabor.org)



## IFT VISION

Illinois Federation of Teachers | About ([ift-aft.org](http://ift-aft.org))

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

The future we all deserve is an Illinois where we win:

- Full and equitable funding for all levels of education and public services
- Economic and social justice in communities anchored by strong public schools
- Respect and voice for all workers



**NOTE: DEADLINE  
 HAS BEEN  
 EXTENDED TO  
 9/23/22**

***Important  
 Notice  
 Local 571  
 Open Position  
 Available***

WSTU Local 571 is hiring a Legislative Director for the 2022-23 school year. 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](http://www.wstu571.org) or contact Local 571 President Kyle Stern, [ksfern571@ift-aft.org](mailto:ksfern571@ift-aft.org) or call and leave a message at (630) 468-4098.

Application/resume is due no later than **September 23, 2022**, and should be requested from President Kyle Stern by either e-mail or phone.

## The New Union Plus Hardship Help Benefits

It's now quicker and easier to qualify for our signature Hardship Help benefits AND we've added MORE:



<https://www.unionplus.org/>

# IFT-ENDORSED CANDIDATES

## U.S. SENATE

TAMMY DUCKWORTH (D)

## U.S. HOUSE

1ST — JONATHAN JACKSON (D)  
2ND — ROBIN KELLY (D)  
3RD — DELIA RAMIREZ (D)  
4TH — CHUY GARCIA (D)

5TH — MIKE QUIGLEY (D)  
6TH — SEAN CASTEN (D)  
7TH — DANNY DAVIS (D)  
8TH — RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY (D)

9TH — JIAN SCHAKOWSKY (D)\*  
10TH — BRAD SCHNEIDER (D)  
11TH — BILL FOSTER (D)  
12TH — CHIP MARKEZ (D)

13TH — NIKKI BUDZINSKI (D)  
14TH — LAUREN UNDERWOOD (D)  
17TH — ERIN SORESENSEN (D)

## STATEWIDE

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR  
JULIANNA STRATTON, LT. GOVERNOR

KWAME RADUL, ATTORNEY GENERAL  
ALEXI GIANNIOULIAS, SECRETARY OF STATE

SUSANA MENDOZA, COMPTROLLER  
MICHAEL FRERICH, TREASURER

## ILLINOIS SENATE

1ST — JAVIER CERVANTES (D)  
2ND — OMAR AQUINO (D)  
3RD — MATTIE HUNTER (D)  
4TH — KIMBERLY LIGHTFORD (D)  
5TH — PATRICIA VAN PELT (D)  
6TH — SARA FEIGENHOLTZ (D)  
7TH — MIKE SIMMONS (D)  
8TH — RAM VILLIVALAM (D)  
9TH — LAURA FINE (D)  
10TH — ROBERT MARTWICK (D)  
11TH — MIKE PORFIRIO (D)  
12TH — CELINA VILLANUEVA (D)

13TH — ROBERT PETERS (D)  
14TH — EMIL JONES, III (D)  
17TH — ELGIE SIMS (D)  
18TH — BILL CUNNINGHAM (D)  
19TH — MICHAEL HASTINGS (D)  
20TH — CRISTINA PACIONE-ZAYAS (D)  
21ST — LAURA ELLMAN (D)  
22ND — CRISTINA CASTRO (D)  
23RD — SUZANNE GLOWIAK HILTON (D)  
25TH — KARINA VILLA (D)  
26TH — MARIA PETERSON (D)  
27TH — ANN GILLESPIE (D)

28TH — LAURA MURPHY (D)  
29TH — JULIE MORRISON (D)  
30TH — ADRIANE JOHNSON (D)  
31ST — MARY EDLY-ALLEN (D)\*  
34TH — STEVE STADELMAN (D)  
36TH — MICHAEL HALPIN (D)  
38TH — SUE REZIN (R)  
39TH — DON HARMON (D)  
40TH — PATRICK JOYCE (D)  
41ST — JOHN CURRAN (R)  
42ND — LINDA HOLMES (D)  
43RD — RACHEL VENTURA (D)

46TH — DAVE KOEHLER (D)  
47TH — NEIL ANDERSON (R)  
48TH — DORIS TURNER (D)  
49TH — MEG LOUGHRAN CAPPEL (D)\*  
52ND — SCOTT BENNETT (D)  
56TH — KRIS THARP (D)  
57TH — CHRISTOPHER BELT (D)  
58TH — TERRI BRYANT (R)  
59TH — DALE FLOWER (R)

## ILLINOIS HOUSE

1ST — AARON ORTIZ (D)\*  
2ND — LISA HERNANDEZ (D)  
3RD — EVA DINA DELGADO (D)  
4TH — LILIAN JIMENEZ (D)  
5TH — LAMONT ROBINSON (D)  
6TH — SONYA HARPER (D)  
7TH — CHRIS WELCH (D)  
8TH — LA SHAWN FORD (D)  
9TH — LAKESIA COLLINS (D)\*  
10TH — OMAR WILLIAMS (D)\*  
11TH — ANN WILLIAMS (D)  
12TH — MARGARET CROKE (D)  
13TH — HOAN HUYNH  
14TH — KELLY CASSIDY (D)  
15TH — MICHAEL KELLY (D)  
16TH — KEVIN OLICKAL (D)  
17TH — JENNIFER GONG-GERSHOWITZ (D)  
18TH — ROBYN GABEL (D)  
19TH — LINDSEY LAPOINTE (D)  
21ST — ABDELMASSER RASHID (D)  
22ND — ANGIE GUERRERO-CUELLAR (D)  
23RD — EDGAR GONZALEZ, JR. (D)

24TH — THERESA MAH (D)  
26TH — KAM BUCKNER (D)  
27TH — JUSTIN SLAUGHTER (D)  
28TH — BOB RITA (D)  
30TH — WILL DAVIS (D)  
31ST — MARY FLOWERS (D)  
32ND — CYRIL NICHOLS (D)  
33RD — MARCUS EVANS (D)  
34TH — NICK SMITH (D)  
35TH — FRANCES HURLEY (D)  
36TH — KELLY BURKE (D)  
38TH — DEBBIE MEYERS-MARTIN (D)  
39TH — WILL GUZZARDI (D)  
40TH — JAIME ANDRADE (D)  
41ST — JANET YANG ROHR (D)  
42ND — TERRA COSTA HOWARD (D)  
43RD — ANNA MOELLER (D)  
44TH — FRED CRESPO (D)  
45TH — JENN LADISCH DOUGLASS (D)  
46TH — DIANE BLAIRE-SHERLOCK (D)  
49TH — MAURA HIRSCHAUER (D)  
50TH — BARBARA HERNANDEZ (D)

51ST — NABEELA SYED (D)  
52ND — MARY MORGAN (D)  
53RD — MARK WALKER (D)  
54TH — MARY BETH CANTY (D)  
55TH — MARTY MOYLAN (D)\*  
56TH — MICHELLE MUSSMAN (D)  
57TH — JONATHAN CARROLL (D)  
58TH — BOB MORGAN (D)  
59TH — DANIEL DIDECH (D)  
60TH — RITA MAYFIELD (D)  
61ST — JOYCE MASON (D)  
62ND — LAURA FAVER DIAS (D)  
63RD — BRIAN MEYERS (D)  
66TH — SUZANNE NESS (D)  
67TH — MAURICE WEST II (D)  
68TH — DAVE VELLA (D)  
70TH — JEFF KEICHER (R)  
72ND — GREGG JOHNSON (D)  
76TH — LANCE YEDNOCK (D)\*  
77TH — NORMA HERNANDEZ (D)\*  
78TH — CAMILLE LILLY (D)

79TH — ERIN SLOAN (D)  
80TH — ANTHONY DELUCA (D)  
81ST — ANNE STAVA-MURRAY (D)  
83RD — MATT HANSON (D)  
84TH — STEPHANIE KIFOWIT (D)  
85TH — DAGMARA "DEE" AVELAR (D)\*  
86TH — LARRY WALSH, JR. (D)\*  
89TH — TONY MCCOMBIE (R)  
92ND — JEHAN GORDON-BOOTH (D)  
94TH — NORINE HAMMOND (R)  
96TH — SUE SCHERER (D)  
97TH — HARRY BENTON (D)  
98TH — NATALIE MANLEY (D)  
103RD — CAROL AMMONS (D)  
104TH — MIKE MARRON (R)  
111TH — JOE SILKWOOD (D)  
112TH — KATIE STUART (D)  
113TH — JAY HOFFMAN (D)\*  
114TH — LATOYA GREENWOOD (D)  
116TH — DAVE SEVERIN (R)  
117TH — PATRICK WINDHORST (R)

## ILLINOIS JUDICIAL

2ND SUPREME — ELIZABETH ROCHFORD (D)  
3RD SUPREME — MARY K O'BRIEN (D)

1ST APPELLATE — DEBRA WALKER (D)  
1ST APPELLATE — RAYMOND MITCHELL (D)

2ND APPELLATE — CHRIS KENNEDY (D)  
3RD APPELLATE — SONNI CHOI WILLIAMS (D)



Illinois Federation of Teachers  
A Union of Professionals

ift-aft.org facebook.com/iftaft @iftaft

\*UNION MEMBER

VISIT [IFT-AFT-ORG/VOTE](https://ift-aft.org/vote) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## STUDENT DEBT RELIEF CLINIC

### Save the Date!

Upcoming Student Debt Clinics via Zoom:



Tuesday, September 20, 5-7 p.m.  
 Tuesday, September 27, 5-7 p.m.  
 Tuesday, October 18, 5-7 p.m.  
 Tuesday, November 15, 5-7 p.m.  
 Monday, December 12, 5-7 p.m.



Do you feel you are drowning in **Student Loan Debt**? Let our IFT field staff directors assist you to learn of a program to reduce the burden of your student loan(s). **This clinic is only for IFT card-signed members.** This will help all who attend to better understand the federal student loan reduction and public service loan forgiveness program and to realize this is available not only to teachers, but also to *ANY* educational employee. This **free** clinic is yet another benefit available to IFT members so please encourage your union peers to come with you.

Sign-up for this student debt clinic by emailing Stella Kapusta at [skapusta@ift-aft.org](mailto:skapusta@ift-aft.org).

*Please have available:*

- *your latest loan servicer(s) statement*
- *online account information*



### Retiree Notices...

Local #571 Retirees were sent via U.S. Mail, two mailings.

1. **Invite To Attend Our Annual Membership Luncheon**...ALL are invited and encouraged to attend. There is no cost this year.... but bring some cash for our "Split the Pot" Raffle. The proceeds will go towards our raffle donation for the Legislative Breakfast. A reservation form was provided for current retirees to RSVP. New retirees need to RSVP to Patty Clancy at [pclancy@ift-aft.org](mailto:pclancy@ift-aft.org) or 630-468-4083.

2. **The Second Mailing Contained Your Membership Renewal Form**....there has been a change for seeking the liability insurance. It also contained that much sought after Union Calendar"! I'm impressed that I'm not the only one that uses it. 😊

Thanks,

Alice Kautsky, Council President



# Members Engaged

## District 217 Argo Community High School & Girl Security (c) Empowers Young Women to Pursue Careers in National Security

From August 1-4, Argo Community High School partnered with national and cyber security experts from Girl Security for the second annual Girl Security & Argo Summer Program. Girl Security founder and CEO Lauren Buitta explains that the program is a non-partisan, non-profit training opportunity that combines employability skills with transferrable national security competences and key subject matter expertise designed to prepare participants for a rapidly changing workforce environment. Designed and led by national security practitioners and scaffolded for late adolescence (ages 16-20), Girl Security's training program builds participants' self-confidence and self-efficacy to advance across security pathways. The goal of the partnership with Argo is to build equitable pathways in national security for our girls, women, and gender minorities.



As part of an exercise in disinformation led by Georgetown University lecturer and former FBI intelligence analyst Jorhena Thomas, the Argo Community High School students had to decide if the United States really had secretly dosed some citizens with LSD.

Brian Rich/Sun-Times

Through a selective process, Argo students were chosen to participate in the four-day program which featured some of the nation's most distinguished experts on national and cyber security. Day one of the program was led by recently retired CIA counterterrorism specialist, Gina Bennett, who authored the earliest warning in the 1990s about the growing danger of the movement Osama bin Laden fomented. On day three, students heard from former FBI analyst, Rupal Kharod about her experience in working on terrorist attacks including the Boston Marathon bombings as well as the Pulse Nightclub attack. The program even included a session on self-defense by Argo P.E. teacher and certified R.A.D. instructor, Lauren Evoy. The collaboration between Argo Community High School and Girl Security was subsequently featured in the Chicago Sun-Times (see link). Each girl received a \$250 stipend at the close of the program and is now eligible for mentorship through high school, college and beyond.

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/2022/8/11/23291255/south-side-girls-national-security-cyber-summit-argo-high-school>

**VOTE** on November 8 for candidates who believe in labor unions.  
We in labor are all connected, whether public or private unions—we educate the children of labor members.



Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, CD 14, and U.S. Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh, held a town hall in Batavia on August 24 at IBEW 196.



Kyle Stern with Congressman Sean Casten at a meet and greet in Tinley Park.



Senator Cristina Castro, Kyle Stern and Senator Laura Murphy at a Schaumburg Boomers baseball game.



## Resources for implementing the Jett Hawkins Law in schools

Dear IFT member,

I want to personally invite you to read and understand the importance of the information and resources below. The IFT has made it an organizational priority to advance an antiracist and inclusive union that centers Black lives. That work includes standing up to right the wrongs that systemic racism has produced. The legislation referenced below – the Jett Hawkins Law – is one example of the progress we can make in our schools and communities when we work together to advocate for racial justice.

**Last year, a four-year-old student named Jett Hawkins was sent home from his school in Chicago because the braids in his hair violated the school's dress code.** After working with the school to change the discriminatory policy, Jett's mother, Ida Nelson, raised wider awareness of this important issue. Her advocacy brought about **Senate Bill 817**, sponsored by State Senator Mike Simmons, which prohibits discrimination against hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture.

The bill was signed in August 2021 and is now known as the **Jett Hawkins Law**. Along with banning hair discrimination, it requires the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to provide [resources](#) for schools and districts about the law, including materials explaining the historical and cultural significance of Black hairstyles and the effects that stigmatizing students' hairstyles can have on their educational development.

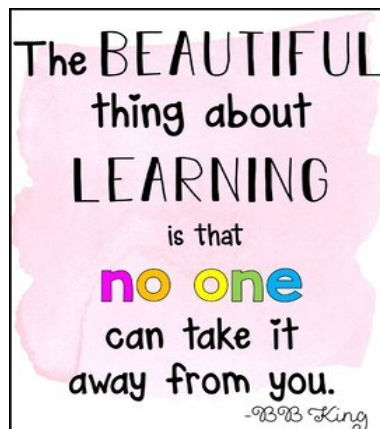
In partnership with ISBE and in support of this important issue, the [IFT is sharing these resources](#) with our members. Be sure to watch the videos and read the fact sheet and other resources to learn more and ensure your school is in compliance with the law. Schools that do not comply with this law risk losing recognition status from the Illinois State Board of Education.

It is the right thing to do, not just because it is the law, but because we care for and love our children in all of their wonderful diversity.

If you have any questions, please contact your IFT field service director.

In unity,

Dan Montgomery, IFT President



**National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15–Oct. 15)** is a time to celebrate and pay tribute to the many contributions that generations of Hispanic and Latino Americans have made to the United States. According to the U.S. Census Bureau Fact Finder, Illinois is one of eight states with a population of more than 1 million Hispanic residents. During Hispanic Heritage Month, teachers and caregivers can partner with families to help young children explore the many cultures represented by Hispanic Americans whose families migrated to the United States from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central, and South America.

[Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month | Illinois Early Learning Project](#)



### 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)

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