

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

Union Messenger

"A Union of Professionals"

March Calendar

3/13—ExBd Mtg. (5:30 p.m.—Westmont)
 3/13—571 2023-24 budget presented to ExBd
 3/13—Deadline for 571 Officers Nominations

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
 Rachel Esposito, IFT Field Service Director
 Max Schoenberg, 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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Nobody Learns Without Getting It Wrong

Dear Union Siblings,

As a parent, I have seen my fair share of Disney movies. I do enjoy the music and story (the first time) and usually don't pay much attention the second, third, or the infinity and beyond times through. Zootopia is one such movie. However, one of my mentors, Kathy Stoch, highlighted the song "Try Everything" by Shakira to me, when she played the music with the lyrics. The song starts out, "I messed up tonight. I lost another fight. I still mess up, but I will just start again. I keep falling down. I keep hitting the ground, but I always get up now to see what's next." Shakira goes on to sing, "Nobody learns without getting it wrong." These lyrics really resonate with me, especially being the new President of Local 571.



Jane Russell was President of Local 571 for about 25 years. Rachel Esposito then was elected and served 11 months before she became a full time Field Service Director, which left you all with me, a work in progress. Jane knew all the ins and outs of this organization. She knew which politicians to contact and had her hand in so many labor and political groups. As a full-time math teacher, it is hard to live up to the job Jane did. I just do not have the time, but I am doing my best though and have a great team. However, if any of you ever feel you are not enough, I feel you.

What I am learning as Local 571 President is relationships matter. I always knew they mattered, but now they seem to be a high stakes level of mattering. I am doing my best to learn faces and names (I am awful at this so if I forget your name, I apologize). I carry business cards with me (when I remember, I'm still learning) and give them out to people I meet. As an introvert who suffers from not only anxiety, but social anxiety, my sister joked to me when I got this position, "Are you going to have to talk with people?" Well apparently, the answer is yes. Sometimes I say the right things, other times I put my foot in my mouth. I am learning to seek forgiveness and to forgive others quickly. I am learning that some people hold a grudge and there is nothing I can do about it except seek forgiveness. I am learning not to hold grudges myself. I am learning it is okay to not know something as a leader and to ask for help. I am learning I cannot do this alone. I'm learning that while I am still Kyle Stern, my title means sometimes people are afraid to tell me their opinion or tell me no. (I'm okay with no and varying opinions.) I'm learning to always make an ask of people to get additional help. I'm learning that apparently there is something called social media and people use it a lot. (Come follow me now on **Twitter @kstern571**). I'm learning as Shakira sings, "Nobody learns without getting it wrong." So, I forgive myself and try again. I hope you do the same in your life.

In Unity,
 Kyle Stern



West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 Scholarship Opportunities



- ◇ **Mary Wheeler Scholarship**—Six \$3,200 one-time awards will be given to high school seniors graduating in 2023 whose parents or guardians are members in good standing of the WSTU, Local 571. Applicants must plan to continue their education full time in the Fall of 2023. Applications will be available at www.wstu571.org, Local 571's Facebook page, or by calling 630-468-4098. *All application materials must be postmarked on or before February 15, 2023.*
- ◇ **Jo Ann Horowitz Scholarship**—Two \$1,600 one-time awards will be given in 2023 to current PSRPs who are members in good standing of the WSTU, Local 571 and pursuing a BA/BS or MA/MS in an education-related field. Applications will be available at www.wstu571.org, Local 571's Facebook page, or by calling 630-468-4098. *All application materials must be postmarked on or before February 15, 2023.*
- ◇ **Julienne Phillips Scholarship**—Two \$1,600 one-time awards will be given in 2023 to current licensed, practicing educators (teacher, social worker, counselor, psychologist, speech pathologist, librarian, nurse, or instructional coach) who are members in good standing of the WSTU, Local 571, and pursuing a masters degree in an education-related field. Applications will be available at www.wstu571.org, Local 571's Facebook page, or by calling 630-468-4098. *All application materials must be postmarked on or before February 15, 2023.*
- ◇ **Maryann Karlovsky Scholarship**—Two \$1,600 one-time awards will be given in 2023 to current licensed, practicing educators (teacher, social worker, counselor, psychologist, speech pathologist, librarian, nurse, or instructional coach) who are members in good standing of the WSTU, Local 571 and pursuing a certificate or endorsement in an education-related field. Applications will be available at www.wstu571.org, Local 571's Facebook page, or by calling 630-468-4098. *All application materials must be postmarked on or before February 15, 2023.*

Official Elections Notice—2023

Nominations are open to all Local 571 Union members



Local 571 Officers' Election

Nominations are now being accepted for the following Local 571 Officers: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Legal Defense Secretary, and a Financial Secretary. The term of office is two (2) years beginning July 1, 2023, and by virtue of their election, they shall be elected also as delegates to the AFT and IFT Conventions. Nominations (name and council) must be printed or typed and can be emailed to Patty Clancy @ pclancy@ift-aft.org. They must be received in the Local 571 office on or before March 13, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.

Nominees will receive a written or electronic acknowledgement of receipt. Voting will take place via secret ballot. Council leaders will notify members of the date that voting will take place. If an electronic secret ballot is used, members without an email on file with the Union will receive a ballot via U.S. Postal Service. Interested individuals may request further information about the duties of the office by contacting Local 571.

2023 STUDENT DEBT RELIEF CLINIC



Save the Date!

Monday, February 13, 5 pm via Zoom

Tuesday, March 14, 5 pm via Zoom

Monday, April 24, 5 pm via Zoom

Wednesday, May 24, 5pm via Zoom

Wednesday, June 7, 5 pm via Zoom

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 AFT Local 604 office at skapusta@ift-aft.org.

Please have available:

- *Your laptop computer*
- *Your latest loan servicer(s) statement and/or online account information*

Members Engaged

103rd Illinois House of Representatives Inauguration

I was recently honored to be invited to the inauguration of the 103rd Illinois House of Representatives by Speaker of the House Emmanuel "Chris" Welch. I had never been to an inauguration before so it was a new experience for me.

After the inauguration, representatives from both sides of the aisle gave speeches nominating a representative for Speaker of the House. Unlike in D.C., the Illinois process went a lot smoother as Speaker Welch was chosen in one vote. He was then sworn in by his wife who is a judge. She made clear though he was being inaugurated as Speaker of the Illinois House and not their household.

After the inauguration, I attended a private party hosted by the Speaker where I got to meet and speak with Comptroller Susana Mendoza, Justice Timothy Evans, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, and Speaker Welch. After the party, I was able to get a private tour of the Capitol building with Representative Fred Crespo and his family and staff. I also got to meet the two youngest members of the House of Representatives, Representative Nabeela Syed and Representative Brad Fritts, both of whom are 23 years old. ~ Kyle Stern



Kyle Stern and Speaker Chris Welch



Kyle Stern and Justice Tim Evans



Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton and Kyle Stern



Kyle Stern and Comptroller Susana Mendoza



Kyle Stern and State Rep. Fred Crespo



Kyle Stern and House Rep. Nabeela Syed



Kyle Stern and House Rep. Brad Fritts

New Kane County Board Member

Congratulations to 571 retiree and former Field Service Director, Mike Linder, on winning his election as a Kane County Board Member.

<https://www.countyofkane.org/Pages/CountyBoard/BoardMember.aspx?bmID=19>



Members Engaged

Democratic Women of DuPage County Breakfast

On Saturday, January 14, the Democratic Women of DuPage County (DWDC) held their annual breakfast. Kyle Stern, Jane Russell, Alice Kautsky, and Sandy Erickson attended the event which was held at Cantigny Park in Wheaton. Several state and regional officials were also in attendance.

The keynote speaker was Lisa Hernandez, Chairwoman of the Illinois Democratic Party. Lisa stressed the importance of getting women elected to political offices. She also recognized those women who worked behind the scenes in getting Democrats elected. Ms. Hernandez emphasized the importance of keeping Illinois a blue state. During the membership meeting, Jane Russell was recognized for her 15 years in a leadership position within the DWDC. ~Sandy Erickson

Attendees were encouraged to join the DWDC by going to their website. <https://www.dupagedemwomen.com/>



Senator Laura Ellman, Representative Terra Costa Howard, Representative Janet Yang Rohr, Representative Anne Stava Murray, Kyle Stern, Senator Linda Holmes, Representative Stephanie Kifowit and Jane Russell



Jane Russell receiving a gift of appreciation for her 15 years of service to the DWDC as Union Liaison



Sandy Erickson, Jane Russell, Senator Lisa Hernandez, Alice Kautsky and Kyle Stern

Proviso United Campaign Kickoff

On Monday, December 12, Kyle Stern met with the candidates of Proviso United at a Campaign Kickoff. The candidates spoke very highly of the teachers and staff in the district and what needs to be accomplished to affect positive change in the district.



Sandra Hixon, Jennifer Barbahren, David Ocampo and Kyle Stern



Rally and Day of Action

In celebrating the life and legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Chicago's Teachers Union and mayoral candidate Brandon Johnson along with other progressive champions held a rally that was ELECTRIFYING, and truly ENERGIZING!

It served as a true reminder that we as Union members are stronger together. Mayoral candidate Brandon Johnson reminded us that serving people is an honor. In addition, he reminded us that Dr. King fought for true justice, peace, and equity for ALL people. He also emphasized that strong schools are built when social justice is recognized, safety in schools is addressed, and administrative promises are kept!

Jon Monique Manuel
571 Legislative Director
Elmhurst PSRP Council President

Chicago Mayoral and Aldermanic Candidates

Endorsed by CTU Local 1 and Local 1600 Cook County College Teachers Union

Brandon Johnson- Mayor (IFT Member)

*Daniel La Spata Alderman 1st Ward

Khari Humphries Alderman 4th Ward

Desmon Yancy Alderman 5th Ward

Will Hall Alderman 6th Ward

Oscar Sanchez Alderman 10th Ward

Vicko Alvarez Alderman 15th Ward

*Jeanette B. Taylor Alderman 20th Ward

Ronnie Mosley, 21st Ward

Ald. Byron Sigcho Lopez, 25th Ward

*Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez Alderman 33rd Ward

*Carlos Ramirez-Rosa Alderman 35th Ward

Lori Torres Whitt Alderman 36th Ward (IFT Member)

Denali Dasgupta Alderman 39th Ward

Angela Clay Alderman 46th Ward

Nick Ward Alderman 48th Ward

Mueze Bawany Alderman 50th Ward (IFT Member)

Additional aldermanic endorsements from Local 1600 CCCTU:

Cleopatra Draper Alderman 9th Ward

Julia Ramirez Alderman 12th Ward

Jessie Fuentes Alderman 26th Ward

Warren Williams Alderman 30th Ward

*Andre Vasquez Alderman 40th Ward

*Matt Martin Alderman 47th Ward

*Maria Hadden Alderman 49th Ward

*Incumbents



AFT PRESS RELEASE—
JANUARY 13, 2023

AFT President on Chicago Mayor's Unethical Request to Educators

"Mayor Lori Lightfoot's decision to solicit teachers for student volunteers for her mayoral campaign demonstrates a real lapse of judgement. It's not the civic engagement that was the problem or the reward of credits—it's that students should have the opportunity to volunteer on campaigns of their choosing and receive class credit regardless of who they are campaigning for.

"As to teachers, the irony is that the mayor has shown them only disdain. It's one of the reasons why members of the Chicago Teachers Union and the Cook County College Teachers Union are standing with Commissioner Brandon Johnson. Johnson would be a mayor for all Chicagoans. He values educators, not because they can help him win an election but because he values our contributions, and he knows how to move public schools forward."

[Press Releases | American Federation of Teachers \(aft.org\)](https://aft.org/press-releases)



Tuesday, February 14



Monday, February 20





Labor Library Dedication

In December, the Local 571 House of Reps dedicated our Labor Library on behalf of Tom Smith. Tom served Local 571 as a Field Service Director since the 1990s and retired this past October. We are so honored to have worked with him. His tireless dedication to the labor movement and public education inspires us all to this day.

Thank you Tom!

Retirees Corner

Local 571 Retirees and IFT NIRAC Members celebrated the Christmas Holidays early. Our December outing was to Drury Lane to see their holiday performance of "Elf"!

We enjoyed a delicious lunch, great conversations with friends and smiled and laughed through the performance. Those attending were asked to bring "New" hats, gloves, mittens and/or scarves to help keep those in need a little warmer. Donations filled eight large garbage bags. Items were sorted, divided and delivered to the Peoples Resource Center in DuPage County and the Children's Center of Cicero/Berwyn. They were greatly appreciated.



Irene Keleminic, Dee Pospishil and Alice Kautsky (Retiree President)

We Need You

The Retiree Council is seeking a person interested in becoming a member of the "House of Representative" for Local 571's House Meetings. If interested, please send your name to Alice at akautsky@comcast.net.

The Retiree Council is also looking for someone who is willing to share their "Basic Knowledge" of the PC world. We have members who need to improve their basic skills. We have someone who can do the Mac world basic skills but we would like to have workshops for both.

If interested, please send your name to Alice at akautsky@comcast.net.

Thanks, Alice

The Illinois Teachers Retirement System (TRS) Seminar Sponsored by the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571

WHEN:	Thursday, April 20, 2023 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
FOR:	Local 571 members (<i>teachers</i>) close to retirement
WHAT:	A presentation by a representative of the Illinois Teachers Retirement System
WHERE:	Presentation will be virtual. Link will be provided via email
R.S.V.P.:	If you plan to attend, please contact Patty Clancy by April 17th at 630-468-4083 or pclancy@ift-aft.org
OTHER:	Once you have signed up, if you are unable to attend, please contact Patty Clancy via email at pclancy@ift-aft.org

Michele Clark

Michele Clark was the first black female news correspondent for CBS. While working at the station, Clark established herself as one of the best and brightest reporters on television during the 1970s.



Clark was a graduate of Roosevelt University in Chicago. After graduating, she worked various jobs before joining the CBS team at its Chicago affiliate, WBBM-TV station as a news writer. She later completed a program "Broadcast and Print Journalism for Minorities" at Columbia University before being assigned as a General Assignment Reporter. She was the only woman reporter at the station for one year.

Proving to be an excellent reporter, Clark was given assignments that were usually assigned to men. In 1972, she covered the presidential primaries and at the Democratic Convention, she was promoted to a correspondent. Later that year, Clark was reassigned to work in Washington, D.C., where she became a CBS News Washington correspondent.

Clark commuted between Washington and Chicago to visit family members. On her way home to spend a month for Christmas in Chicago with her family, she was one of the 44 people killed when a United Airlines plane crashed on December 8, 1972, near Chicago's Midway Airport. There are some who believe that the plane crash might not have been an accident.

In honor of Clark, the journalism program which she had completed at Columbia University, funded by CBS, NBC, and the Ford Foundation, was renamed the Michele Clark Fellowship Program for Minority Journalists.

Source: [Black Then Chicago-Based Journalist Michele Clark: First Black Female News Correspondent for CBS - Black Then](#)



Resources:

[Illinois' African-American History and Heritage \(enjoyillinois.com\)](http://enjoyillinois.com)

<https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/african-american-history>

<https://edsitement.neh.gov/teachers-guides/african-american-history-and-culture-united-states>

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/black-history-month.htm>

<https://blackhistorymonth.gov/about/>

[Black History Month 2023: Facts, Origins & More | HISTORY - HISTORY](#)



Want to save more in 2023? Start with your wireless bill!



Learn how union members like you can get monthly discounts on select wireless plans, a wide range of eligible wireless accessories such as ear buds, phone cases, and power banks, and more with the AT&T Signature Program!¹

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

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



www.wstu571.org

<https://www.facebook.com/WSTU571>

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