

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

Union Messenger

“A Union of Professionals”

June/July Calendar

- 6/5—Registration deadline for Social Security Webinar
- 6/8—Social Security Webinar –VIRTUAL
- 6/12—ExBd Mtg (5:30 p.m.—Westmont)
- 7/1—Councils’ election reports due to 571
- 7/10—Registration deadline for Social Security Webinar
- 7/13—Social Security Webinar VIRTUAL
- 7/15—Councils’ year-end financial statement and audit forms due to 571
- 7/17—ExBd Mtg (5:00 p.m.—Westmont)

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
- 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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The Importance of Raising Reading and Math Levels

Dear Union Siblings,

Back in the day I enjoyed listening to American Top 40 with Casey Kasem. One of my favorite parts of his show were the long-distance dedications and/or the requests and dedications. Well after the last Union Messenger, we received a request from a retiree named Lou who wrote “How about



covering the importance of raising the percentage of our kids that do math or read at grade level.”
Lou, here is your request and dedication:

Raising the percentage of children who can read or do math at grade level is crucial for their academic and overall success. Here are a few reasons why:

Academic success: When children are proficient in math and reading, they are more likely to succeed academically. These skills form the foundation for all other subjects and are essential for higher education.

Improved job prospects: Math and reading skills are essential for many careers, from engineering and computer science to healthcare and law. Having these skills opens many more opportunities in the workforce.

Confidence and self-esteem: Children who struggle with math and reading may feel frustrated and discouraged, which can negatively impact their self-esteem. Improving their skills can boost their confidence and improve their overall well-being.

Increased critical thinking: Math and reading skills require critical thinking and problem-solving, which are essential skills in all aspects of life. Children who are proficient in these areas are better equipped to analyze information, make decisions, and solve problems.

In conclusion, raising the percentage of children who can read and do math at grade level is crucial for their academic success, job prospects, confidence, and critical thinking. I know these are all the things we are working on at our schools. Thank you all for your great work!

And now on with the countdown... to summer.

Have a great one everyone.

In Unity,

Kyle Stern

Retirees Corner

PLEASE READ IF...You're One Of Those Lucky People Retiring This Year!

Save the Date: Tuesday, May 23rd

Time: 4:00-7:00pm.

Where: Local 571 Offices in Westmont

Pizza and Refreshments

Local 571 Retiree Council Officers would like to meet and welcome you to that next chapter of your life.

Please send your name to Carolyn Wilson at cwilson@aft-ift.org so we can add you to our Retiree Chapter contact list. More information will be sent directly to you.

We look forward to seeing you.

Alice Kautsky, Retiree Council President

Franklin Park Teachers Council

Earlier this year, the Maryann Karlovsky Scholarship was offering two \$1,600 one-time awards to current licensed, practicing educators who are members in good standing of the WSTU, Local 571 and pursuing a certificate or endorsement in an education-related field.

With the cost of colleges, scholarships can make a big difference in education! We were fortunate to have not only one, but two of our teachers from the Franklin Park Council receive the Maryann Karlovsky Scholarship.

Lauren Bruggeman is a special education teacher at Pietrini Elementary School. She is obtaining her Director of Special Education endorsement through Northern Illinois University. She plans to use her endorsement to gain a better understanding of how to better support her students and their families as they navigate the special education program in D84. Lauren said, "I would love to utilize this endorsement in a leadership capacity within the district, supporting not only students and families, but my colleagues as well."

Agnes Jurczak is a special education case manager and early childhood education teacher at North Elementary School. She is using the scholarship for the ESL/Bilingual Ed Endorsement program at Dominican University. Agnes came to the USA as a young child from Poland not knowing any English. She was an ESL student herself and has a passion for working with ELLs and newcomers.

We Franklin Park teachers are excited for Lauren and Agnes to receive the Maryann Karlovsky Scholarships. We know the training that both ladies will receive will bring many benefits to all students they serve.

Submitted by: April Giannosa
Co-President Franklin Park Teachers Council

AFT Retirees Conference in Orlando Florida



Photo submitted by Kathy Stoch

Notice of Vacancy

You are hereby notified that there is a vacancy of the West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571 Officer, Vice President. The term of office for this vacancy will expire June 30, 2025.

If you are interested in the position of Local 571 Vice President to fill an unexpired term, please place your name in nomination by requesting and completing the nomination form. You must be a member in good standing.

Send an E-mail or Fax to:

Kyle Stern
President
E-mail: kstern571@ift-aft.org

Fax: 630-468-4088
West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571
500 Oakmont Lane
Westmont, IL 60559

To ensure consideration of the nomination, the nomination form must be received by email, mail, fax, or personal delivery to West Suburban Teachers Union in the Westmont Office no later than **3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2023.**

The Local 571 Executive Board will select a candidate to fill the interim vacancy at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on June 12, 2023.

(This information is also posted on the WSTU Local 571 Website) <https://www.wstu571.org>

Members Engaged

AFT PSRP Conference

This year’s AFT PSRP conference theme was “This Is How We Do It,” indeed this is how the PSRPs at Cicero District 99 do it! We are the backbone of the classroom as a whole community from our bus drivers, food pre workers, maintenance staff and educators, we create a school environment that our children love to come to every day. Often as a PSRP we feel underappreciated, underpaid, and overlooked. However, attending the AFT PSRP conference renews our spirit, our sense of worth and reason we do this job. There were many great speakers that elevated our pride and our worth, by far it was the best allocates we have ever been given.

Coming together as united sister/brotherhood we felt comrades, we shared stories, struggles and wins. Maria Rivera, Leticia Ayala, Olga Vazquez, and I (Pilar Carmona) attended various workshops during the 3-day conference. We all agreed that the workshop that resonated to us the most was “Understanding and Supporting Students Experiencing Trauma” presented by Mark Warner. One key takeaway is to understand some of the ways children cope with trauma. It can be as simple as a familiar or comforting smell. It was an amazing experience and only wish more of our PSRP colleagues could experience it.

Thank you AFT, Local 571 and the Cicero Council for the opportunity to attend this year’s conference.

Sincerely,

Pilar Carmona



Mayor Brandon Johnson and Kyle Stern



Kyle Stern and Senate President Don Harmon



Kyle Stern and State Rep. Kam Buckner



Kyle Stern and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle



Kyle Stern and Congressman Jonathan Jackson



IFT VP Troy Swanson and Kyle Stern

Legislative Director Report by Jennie Crownson

The Bill Corner - Upcoming Legislation Impacting Education in Illinois

Hard to believe that we are in April and so close to finishing the 2022-2023 school year! However, before we pack up our rooms and say goodbye to our students and colleagues, I wanted to share with you some important

legislation that is happening in the Illinois general Assembly!

SB 1872/HB 2846 This bill amends the Employment of Teachers Article of the School Code. It would shorten the probationary period from four years to three years. If a non-tenure teacher receives an evaluation of at least proficient in their second or third year, new teachers can get tenured after three years instead of four. New teachers who receive a rating of

excellent in their first two years will be able to be tenured after two years.

HB 2392 This bill amends the Evaluation of Certified Employees Article of the School Code in accordance with the school’s evaluation plan. If a teacher has given notice of retiring, the teacher will not have to be part of their last evaluation cycle.

Both bills will be part of the spring session of the Illinois General Assembly.



2023 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.

The Mary Wheeler Scholarship is for college-bound high school seniors. They are judged based upon academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, and community service participation. Winning students are the dependents of Local 571 members. 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 scholarships of \$3,200 each were awarded to:

Jenna Boynton of Willowbrook High School. Her mother, **Marcia Boynton**, is a teacher at Mannheim Middle School in District 83.

Maggie Cochran of Naperville Central High School. Her parents are **Matthew Cochran**, a teacher at Willowbrook High School, and **Denise Cochran**, a teacher at Addison Trail High School in DuPage District 88.

Elena Garcia of Hinsdale South High School. Her mother is **Lorraine Garcia**, a teacher at East Leyden High School in District 212.

Sara Marston of Neuqua Valley High School. Her father is **Keith Marston**, a teacher at Addison Trail High School in DuPage District 88.

Mila Revell of Oak Lawn Community High School. Her mother is **Anna Revell**, a teacher at Lyle Elementary School in Indian Springs District 109.

Irena Urbain of Glenbard East High School. Her mother, **Sam Urbain**, is a retired teacher from Morton High School in District 201.

The union awarded a \$1,600 **Julienne Phillips Scholarship**. The award is given to a current licensed educator pursuing an additional degree through graduate work. The recipient is **Meagan Gibson**, a Learning Support Specialist Coordinator at Lyle Elementary in Indian Springs District 109.

Scholarships named for **Maryann Karlovsky**, given to current educators pursuing a certificate or endorsement, in the amount of \$1,600 were awarded to:

Lauren Bruggeman, a Primary Special Education Teacher at Pietrini Elementary School in Franklin Park District 84.

Agnes Jurczak, a Special Education Teacher at North Elementary School in Franklin Park District 84.

Luz Rangel Raymond, a teacher, and Bilingual Interventionist at Graves Elementary School in District 104.

The final 2023 awardee received a \$1,600 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 **Alexandra Parker**, a teacher's aide at Addison Trail High School in DuPage District 88.

Mary Wheeler Scholarship



Jenna Boynton

Mary Wheeler Scholarship



Maggie Cochran and her parents Matthew and Denise Cochran

Mary Wheeler Scholarship



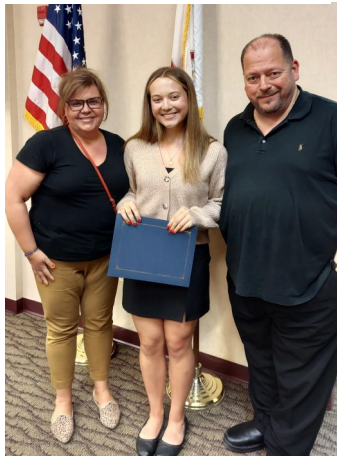
Elena Garcia and her mother Lori Garcia

Mary Wheeler Scholarship



Sara Marston and her parents Heidi and Keith Marston

Mary Wheeler Scholarship



Mila Revell and her parents Anna and William Revell

Mary Wheeler Scholarship



Irena Urbain and her parents Sam and Bob Urbain

Julienne Phillips Scholarship



Meagan Gibson, a teacher with Indian Springs Teachers Council

Maryann Karlovsky Scholarship



Lauren Bruggeman, a teacher with Franklin Park Teachers Council

Maryann Karlovsky Scholarship



Agnes Jurczak, a teacher with Franklin Park Teachers Council

Maryann Karlovsky Scholarship



Luz Rangel Raymond, a teacher with Argo-Summit Teachers Council

Jo Ann Horowitz Scholarship



Alexandra Parker, a teacher's aide with District 88 PSRP/TAs Council



Illinois Virtual Instructional Coach and Building Mentor Program



To support early career teachers, teaching specialists and clinicians through their first three years as educators, the Illinois Virtual Instructional Coach and Building Mentor Program offers every participating district's early career educators (1st, 2nd, and 3rd year) wraparound professional support including:

• **Trained virtual instructional coach**

- o Vetted and selected by IFT to work statewide in supporting early career educators;
- o Address and provide support in effective pedagogical practices, assessment practices, and classroom environment practices;
- o Dedicated time to provide support and address the needs of early career educators;
- o Required to complete 12 hours of professional learning with a paid stipend; and
- o Matched to early career educators in the same grade band or content/specialty area.

• **Paired with a trained building mentor (potential to integrate into an existing building mentor program)**

- o Assist in acclimating the early career educators to the district and community;
- o Make the educator feel welcomed, supported, and connected;
- o Introduce new teachers and clinicians to the district culture, organizational and operational norms;
- o Recognize and watch for early signs of educator stress and trauma and recommend supplemental help to educators facing potential burnout;
- o On average, dedicate 2 hours/week during the school year to meet with and support early career educators;
- o Required to complete three training modules with a \$300 stipend upon completion;
- o Up to an \$1800 mentoring stipend (dependent upon number of weeks mentoring and whether there is existing compensation for mentors through the district).

• **Early career educators – Defined as a beginning teacher, teaching specialist or clinician in their 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year in the profession**

- o Access to an online resource library (aligned to the Danielson Framework's Six Clusters) and coaching supports;
- o Matched to a trained virtual instructional coach in the same grade level and content/specialty area;
- o Support and feedback through one-on-one and small group virtual coaching and mentoring;
- o Great opportunity for job-embedded professional development for an early career educator;
- o Receive a \$500 stipend for their participation in the program and PD hours toward license renewal based on time spent one-on-one with their virtual coach; and
- o Specific coaching and mentoring supports are guided by the needs of and in collaboration with early career educators.

• **Participating District and Local Union expectations**

- o Collaboration is key among IFT, local union or council, and district;
- o Complete the [Interest Survey link](#)
- o Review MOU ensuring everyone understands the participant roles;
- o Monthly 30-minute Zoom meeting with IFT program coordinator to check in on the program, gather feedback, answer questions, and review participant information for accuracy;
- o Identify a district contact person to provide an early career educator and building mentor roster, including contact information;
- o Assist IFT with troubleshooting issues that arise;
- o This program comes at no cost to the district.

• **Virtual Coaching Platform**

- o Access to a robust platform with a comprehensive online library of instructional resources, including effective-practice videos and software tools that help teachers/clinicians analyze examples of each other's teaching/experiences and provide feedback and support to one another.

If the local/council union and district are interested in learning more, please complete this [interest survey](#). A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to include a district representative, local/council union representative, and IFT Field Service Director.

Questions about the program can be sent to IFTcoachingandmentoring@ift-aft.org.



QR Code for Local and District Interest Survey



In-Building Mentor Teacher -- Job Description

Seeking exemplary experienced teachers to mentor Illinois' newest educators!



IFT is coordinating the statewide Virtual Instructional Coach and Mentor Program in partnership with IEA and with the support of ISBE. In-Building Mentors will provide support to first-, second-, and third-year teachers, teaching specialists, and clinicians within your district. Early career educators will be supported both by a local in-building mentor and a virtual instructional coach from elsewhere in the state.

Who You Are

We are looking for exemplary teachers, teaching specialists, and clinicians from diverse backgrounds who have strong instructional practice and an ability to mentor adults. You firmly believe that relationships built on trust, exceptional teacher practice, and equitable student learning should be at the center of induction and mentoring and are passionate about the development of early career educators.

We expect in-building mentors to:

- Possess a track record of highly effective teaching or clinical practice
- Have previously demonstrated skills which suggest that they will be successful mentors of adults, and/or attended a substantive mentor training
- Be knowledgeable of school systems, policies, programs, and culture
- Be enthusiastic members of their schools and communities
- Be anti-racist and possess an understanding of the concepts of institutional and structural racism and bias and their impact on underserved and underrepresented students and communities, and take action to dismantle racism and bias
- Bring and foster a positive growth mindset
- Possess strong interpersonal skills
- Serve as champions of early career educators and the teaching profession

What You'll Do

The in-building mentor teacher is vital to the early career educator's success. The in-building mentor teacher has several specific responsibilities that will support the early career educator's development during their first and second years in the profession, including:

1. Guiding Professional Practice

- Provide just-in-time support and real-time guidance to early career educators
- Regularly meet with early career educators one-on-one and in small groups to discuss and address problems of practice, such as with local protocols

- In collaboration with the virtual instructional coach, identify high leverage classroom management, SEL and instructional strategies, and help early career educators implement successfully
- Connect early career educators to timely and appropriate professional development opportunities offered by the school or district
- Model professional behavior for early career educators, such as building the educators' critical consciousness and diversity, equity, and inclusion orientation
- Personally, reflect on and encourage early career educators to reflect on their own implicit biases, privilege, and power, actively work to minimize the negative impact of biases, and take action to dismantle racist systems

2. School and Parent Orientation

- Serve as a champion and resource for early career educators -- particularly educators of color -- in the school building, such as by familiarizing educators with the school building, mission, and culture, including operational and organizational norms
- Support early career educators in building relationships with students, school leaders, teachers, the teacher's union, and other school personnel
- Support early career educators as they prepare to teach in their new classrooms or instructional settings (e.g., classroom setup, sharing grading tools, etc.)
- Support early career educators in preparing for professional experiences, including staff meetings and other events (e.g., curriculum nights, report card writing and preparation for teacher evaluations)
- Share best practices for and support early career educators in parent engagement (e.g., parent-teacher conferences, open house, etc.), such as how to be mindful of identity when engaging with parents of different backgrounds

3. Community Orientation

- Foster passion for the community and appreciation of its diversity, e.g., among race, ethnicity, and other dimensions
- Orient early career educators to the community and the school's community engagement policies
- Support early career educators in building authentic relationships with community members, such as by attending school board meetings and other community events

- Support early career educators in identifying and accessing community resources, such as the library, museums, or community organizations

4. Social and Emotional Support

- Build and maintain mutual respect, trust, communication and confidentiality with early career educators, and a positive and safe professional environment for every educator
- Be a resource to help prevent and reduce educator isolation, time management, burnout and fatigue
- Encourage and inspire early career educators to grow their belief in their own efficacy
- Develop and sustain peer learning communities to support early career educators in the school building, especially for educators of color

5. Professional Learning and Administration

- Attend mentor professional learning sessions and events
- Work with your local union and school administrators to create and/or strengthen school hiring, induction, and collaboration systems to support recruitment and retention of a diverse educator workforce
- Collaborate regularly with school and district leaders and virtual instructional coaches -- coaches who may or may not be from the same school district who are focused on improving new teachers' instructional practice and use of instructional technologies and who meet with early career educators virtually -- to productively address educator challenges and effectively support early career educators
- Reports directly to IFT Building Mentor Lead

What We Offer

Mentors will be required to complete professional learning sessions and dedicate up to two (2) hours per week (on average) over a 36-week school year to supporting up to four (4) early career educators in their building. Mentors will be compensated at an annual stipend of up to \$1,800. Building Mentors will also be compensated \$300 for the required professional learning sessions and will be eligible for up to 12 professional development clock hours.

Questions about the program can be sent to:

IFTcoachandmentoring@ift-aft.org

2023 STUDENT DEBT RELIEF CLINIC



Save the Date!

Tuesday, May 9, 4:30 pm in person at AFT Local 604
 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. 000000000000This 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*

**West Suburban
 Teachers Union
 Local 571**



Legislative Breakfast
 Saturday 9/30/23
 9:00 a.m.

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

A 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 8, 2023
 10:00 a.m.—Noon

OR

Thursday, July 13, 2023
 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 8** Webinar, contact Patty Clancy by June 5th at pclancy@ift-aft.org and you will be sent a link to register for the webinar.

If you plan to attend the **July 13** Webinar, contact Patty Clancy by July 10th at pclancy@ift-aft.org and you will be sent a link to register for the webinar.

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



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