AFT Local 943

Diverse, Dedicated, Determined

AFTerthoughts

A publication of the Southwest Suburban Federation of Teachers AFT-Local 943, IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

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Welcome Back to School

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Add to Your Calendar:

Sept 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month Begins
Oct 22-23 - IFT PSRP Conference

Local 943 Appreciates Council Member Volunteers

The following volunteers helped assemble our 21 Councils Member Packets as well as 400 New Member Packets. We are grateful for each volunteer. As the saying goes, **"Many hands make light work."** Each day the following volunteers helped assemble packets for four hours and the large task was completed by the end of day two.

7/26 Volunteers

Peggy Shanker (Retiree Council)
Mary Morf (Retiree Council)
Cheryl Eberle (Alsip District 126)
Leanne Jankowicz (Alsip District 126)
Laura Creighton (Retiree Council)
Peggy Kordas (Ridgeland 122)
Marilyn Nowak (Retiree Council)
Karen Kendall (Retiree Council)
Emily Jimenez (Posen Robbins 143 1/2)
Kathy Durkin (Retiree Council)

7/27 Volunteers

Donna Rehm (Retiree Council)
Marilyn Nowak (Retiree Council)
Kathy Spedale (Retiree Council)
Julie Stephan (Wentworth Wilson 155)
Anna Trynoha (Burbank District 111)
Emily Jimenez (Posen Robbins 143 1/2)
Kathy Durkin (Retiree Council)
Bob Goldsbury (Local 943 Vice President of Communications and Public Relations)

Volunteers Assembling our Retiree Mailing

Pictured from left-right: Judy Spirakes, Maureen Fournier, Sue Mirabella, Kathy Setlack

President's Message

By: Elaine Barlos, AFT Local 943 President

View the IFT latest issue of Union Link

It's been a "back to school" like none other!

Returning to school after a year and a half of hybrid, remote, and synchronous learning instruction has not been easy. Yet our union members continue to push on like the troopers they are. On top of the normal collective bargaining done, your union leaders and IFT Field Service Directors are also bargaining the impact of new situations that arise as the COVID19 crisis continues.

Regardless and sadly enough, there are many politically motivated groups out there who are trying to put a wedge between union members, some spending thousands of dollars on literature and mailings to attempt to bust unions. These groups claim to be on the side of "worker freedom," but their real goal is to take away workers' rights so they can grab more wealth and power for themselves. Unionism is how working people gain a voice at work and the power to shape their working lives. We shouldn't apologize for that and we shouldn't let divisive tactics of others interfere with our solidarity and how we treat one another. Let us all be reminded that ***"Decency is judged by our actions not by our words." (A. Musa).***

Elaine Barlos

Union Members from General George S. Patton School, a one school district, D133, with less than 1,000 students located in Riverdale, IL show their unity as they take action to bargain for a fair contract, while administrator salaries total near a half a million dollars!

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the contributions and importance of Hispanics and Latinos to the United States and those American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Here are 15 facts you should know in 2021 and 12 things to watch, read, eat, and do during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Check HERE for great resources and lessons.

Keeping Members Safe! IFT and IEA Welcome a Vaccination Mandate

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) President Dan Montgomery and Illinois Education Association (IEA) President Kathi Griffin issued the joint statement welcoming Governor Pritzker's vaccine mandate announcement for educators and school staff. "Since the beginning of the pandemic, our unions have worked hard to protect students, teachers, staff, and communities by calling for safe working conditions and health mitigations to help stop the spread of COVID."

DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION & RACIAL JUSTICE

www.ift-aft.org/oei - BLM, CRT

Teacher Shortage Resource

Golden Apple

goldenapple.org/scholars

SUPPORT for COVID 19

ift-aft.org/covidvaccine

Illinois State Board of Education

www.isbe.net for current ISBE updates

Enjoy this year's AFT Local 943 gift to celebrate 75 years of UNITY

Check out our newly designed Website! www.aft943.org

Local 943 TEACH Professional Development Calendar of Events

Courses are FREE to AFT Local 943 members!

Wed, October 6, 4:30pm to 6:30pm - Nuhie Faheem
ESL: Connecting Culture and Student Achievement
(In-Person) - PD Hours: 2
DEADLINE to register: Monday, October 4th

Wed, November 3, 4:30pm to 6:30pm - Brian Jurinek
Reclaiming Assessment
(In-Person) - PD Hours: 2
DEADLINE to register: Monday, November 1st

Wed, January 12, 4:30pm to 6:30pm - Michelle Gustafson & Elizabeth Keblusek
Foundations of Effective Teaching
(Remote) - PD Hours: 2
DEADLINE to register: Monday, January 10th

Wed, January 19, 4:30pm to 6:30pm - Nuhie Faheem
ESL: Increasing Family Engagement
(Remote) - PD Hours: 2
DEADLINE to register: Monday, January 17th

Wed, March 9, 4:30pm to 6:30pm - Nuhie Faheem
ESL: Language and Literacy Acquisition
(In-Person) - PD Hours: 2
DEADLINE to register: Monday, March 7th

Wed, April 6, 4:30pm to 6:30pm - Shannon Mural
Vocabulary Strategies for Informational and Narrative Texts (Remote) - PD Hours: 2
DEADLINE to register: Monday, April 4th

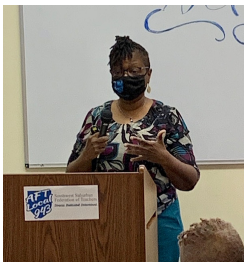
Union Leadership Institute (ULI)

NOVEMBER 6-7 • FEBRUARY 5-6, 2022 • APRIL 23-24, 2022

IFT's ULI program has been designed to meet the needs of both new and experienced local leaders and activists in all IFT constituency groups. ULI provides participants with hands-on learning of union skills, professional development opportunities, and a chance to network with other IFT members from throughout the state.

Please check the IFT Professional Development page regularly for updated course descriptions and registration information.

For more information and to register for classes email Brian Jurinek at brianrjurinek@gmail.com
Be sure to include your IEIN or Certificate Number and the name of class/classes you wish to take.



ATTN: LOCAL 943 PSRP MEMBERS

You are invited to attend the **IFT 2021 PSRP/Public Employees Conference** -- "IFT Strong: PSRP & Public Employees – We ARE Essential". This year's conference is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 22-23, 2021, at Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca, Illinois. The conference is designed to meet the unique needs of paraprofessional and school-related personnel and public employees.

If you are interested in attending the conference, please fill out the attached "Conference Application" form and return it to the Local 943 office to the attention of Karen O'Dea **before Monday, September 20, 2021**.

Please note, your registration fee and major expenses will be reimbursed by Local 943.

Election Happenings

Census and Redistricting

We are a little over a year away from the general election in Illinois, but election season seems to be in full swing. The pandemic-related delay in the delivery of census data used for legislative mapping has complicated the redistricting process. To deal with the delay, public hearings centered around the process of redrawing congressional and state legislative districts have been held since last spring and have resulted in some changes and updates to the Illinois Election Code.

Some of these changes include the following:

- November 8th (election day) becomes a state holiday
- The primary election is moved to June 28th 2022
- Petition circulation begins in January 2022
- Vote-by-mail starts March 30th 2022,
- Gender normalization of office titles (committeeperson instead of committeeman or committeewoman)
- Curbside voting becomes permanent

Because of a loss in population, Illinois will lose one congressional seat diminishing the 18 districts to 17 before the 2022 elections are held. The most recent processed census data resulted in amended or redrawn legislative maps being acted by the General Assembly that was called by the House Speaker and Senate President to convene for 7 sessions at the end of August. IFT has been monitoring these hearings.

General Election

The Illinois general elections ballot will have state representatives and judicial seats along with the executive offices of Governor and Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Comptroller and Treasurer. Registration applications to vote by mail need to be postmarked by May 31st, in-person deadline is by June 28th, and online no later than June 12th, 2022. You have most likely seen political ads on TV and social media and have received political mailings. The polarized political landscape opens the door for misinformation, so read up on the political issues both local and national, research your sources, and volunteer if you support a candidate. We will keep you informed on candidates that represent our union on the current issues and interests along with opportunities to get involved.

Always Reppin' D123 Ed. Foundation Golf Outing
Connor Carson, Elaine Bernal, Andrew Weber, Jennifer Reidl

Rep. Thaddeus Jones Crosstown Classic Fundraiser
Rep. Jones and the Weber Family

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IFT Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel (PSRP) Constituency Council
Timothy Dugan, Rebbie Kinsella,
Sandra Quero, and Valerie Wilhoite

IFT Next Generation Constituency Council
John Jensen and Eileen Kennedy

IFT Retirees Constituency Council
Judy Spirakes

Local 943 Defense Committee
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Elaine Barlos, Sue Benigni, Tina Thauer, and Renee Wagner

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