



A Union of Professionals

# AFTerthoughts

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## Local 943 Officer Elections

Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Southwest Suburban Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 943, requires that an election for local officers and senators representing each council be held on the first Tuesday of February in odd-numbered years. Therefore, Local 943 will conduct this election on Tuesday, February 1, 2005 in accordance with the rules adopted by AFT Local 943.

The following are candidates for each of the six local offices:

Kathy Setlak	President
Nancy Havlin	
Ellen Bell	Vice president
Deneen Pajeau	Political Action
Bob Goldsbury	Vice president
	Public Relations and Communications
Mary Stockwell	Vice president
	Educational and Professional Issues
Dawn Stanovich	Secretary
Sue Mirabella	Treasurer

Ballot placement was determined by lottery.

Information about each of these candidates is provided in this edition of **AFTerthoughts** and online at AFT Local 943's website: [www.aft943.org](http://www.aft943.org)



## SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

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## Moving the union on—AFT PSRP Conference

The theme of the 28<sup>th</sup> annual AFT PSRP Conference to be held in Anaheim, CA on March 31-April 3, 2005 is **Raising Issues... Taking Action... Moving the Union on.** We strongly encourage a representative number of our support staff members to attend. The tentative agenda and registration forms are available on the AFT public Web site—[www.aft.org/psrp/](http://www.aft.org/psrp/)—or through our office. **You must complete a Local 943 application form and the registration form and return them to the Local 943 office by Tuesday, January 25, 2005.** Those approved for attendance will be notified by Thursday, January 27.

Reimbursement will be based on reasonable air and ground transportation costs, a daily meal allowance, and half of the double room rate at the Anaheim Hilton. Those who attend must save all receipts and submit them to the Local 943 treasurer following the conference.

Please Note: It is necessary that each person attending **MUST** present a valid credit card in order to register at the hotel.



# Local 943 Officer Candidates

The following statements were submitted by the candidates.

## For PRESIDENT

**Nancy Havlin** has been teaching in the Ridgeland School District for the past eleven (11) years. She has served her council in the capacity of Building Representative, Senator, Delegate, and Vice President. She also has been on the negotiation team. Nancy earned her B.A. in Political Science and Social Work from the College of Saint Francis. She completed her Masters Degree in Early Childhood through Governors State University.

Nancy is married to Jim Havlin who teaches junior high in the New Lenox School District. She is also the proud mom of two great kids, Maggie who is eight (8) and Jimmy who is six (6). The family resides in Orland Hills.

**Kathy Setlak:** Having been the vice-president of legislative and political action since the inception of Local 943 as a federated local, I feel that I would bring to the position of president a background of where the local has been, an understanding of the politics of the local, and my vision of the direction the local should take in the future.

As vice-president of the local, I lobbied our state legislators on important issues such as educational funding (an ongoing battle), pensions, vouchers, tuition tax credits, retirement and certification issues, received extensive training in conducting elections—both referenda and state legislature, worked on referenda campaigns and campaigns to elect legislators with favorable voting records on our issues, developed letter-writing and now e-mail campaigns on legislative issues—the latest being ERO (Early Retirement Option), played a large part in developing Local 943's website. [www.aft943.org](http://www.aft943.org) and have served and still serve on the IFT political action endorsement committee

In 2003 I retired from Oak Lawn-Hometown District 123 where my career as a union leader began as a building representative serving on most of the negotiating teams starting with 123's first contract. I was elected council treasurer and later president with the responsibility of being chief negotiator for both teacher and support staff contracts

The fact that I am retired from teaching allows me time to concentrate on and carry out union business. I know and understand the issues that face our members today.

## For VICE PRESIDENT - POLITICAL ACTION

My name is **Ellen Bell**. My teaching career began thirty-six years ago with thirty-six first graders. Since then, I have been a Reading Specialist, a third, fourth, fifth, and now a sixth grade teacher. Honestly, I have loved each grade and feel very blessed to have spent my life doing something I am so proud of and have learned so much from.

I joined the union my first year of teaching and have been an active member ever since. I have been a building representative and have attended a number of conventions,

both sponsored by the IFT and the AFT. Probably the most exciting was this past summer when I was privileged to shake Senator John Kerry's hand. What a thrill! I have been interested in politics my entire life, and have done some calling during elections from our local office to support candidates who want to help educators do what we do best.

I would like to be the Vice-President in charge of COPE, or Political Action. I am out-going, not afraid to speak my mind or ask tough questions. This is an area that I believe we need to become more active in, one in which I believe I can contribute, and would appreciate your support and your vote.

**Deneen Pajeau:** I have been teaching at the junior high level since 1993. I taught Spanish at Huth Middle School in Matteson for one year and have been employed by Orland 135 since. I have taught sixth through eighth grade gifted Language Arts, gifted Spanish and regular Spanish. Currently I teach Spanish at the sixth and seventh grade levels at Jerling Junior High.

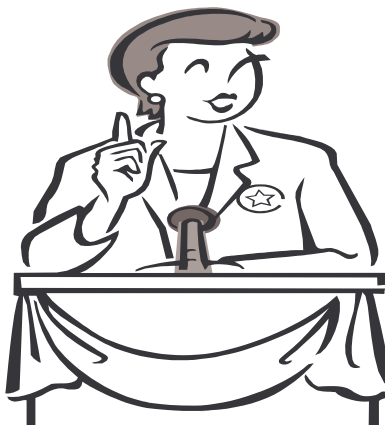
I have been actively involved in the union since 1996 then serving as a building representative. I have also held the positions of Council Recording Secretary and Vice President. Currently I am the Council President. Through these positions I have been on several negotiating teams and have served as the chief negotiator for Certified and Support Staff contracts. I have been a senator to Local 943 since 2000 and have also attended ULI courses. Most recently I attended the AFT Convention as a Local 943 delegate, and I have been nominated by the Local for a Vice President position on the IFT Executive Board.

I am seeking the position of Local 943 Vice President of Political Action to further my involvement with the union. I have had many experiences from serving as a building representative to serving as Council President for 775 members. My involvement at Local 943 over the past years has also broadened my knowledge of the IFT. I feel that my experiences in the variety of union roles will strengthen my ability to serve the members of Local 943 in the Vice President capacity.

## VICE PRESIDENT PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Bob Goldsbury** is running for vice president-communications and public relations. This position involves publication of the local 943 newspaper, coordination and assistance in preparing material for publication to the IFT/AFT, and contributions to the local 943 website. Bob has been in this position since 1985.

He is currently an intermediate learning disabilities resource teacher in Alsip District 126 since 1976. He has held the District union positions of treasurer, vice president, sick bank committee, LPDC committee, audit committee and contract negotiator. Bob is the present building representative. For local 943, Bob has been a delegate to the AFT and IFT conventions. He is an alternate on the IFT Constituency Committee, PreK to 12-Special Education, CSPD/SIG Committee, AFL-CIO Delegate, and a member of the AFTCA Communications Association



## VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

**Mary Stockwell:** This is my 14th year working in District 122 and my first year as treasurer for the Ridgeland Federation of Teachers. I am currently assigned to Simmons Middle School as a 7th grade Science and Math teacher. I have held the office of Vice President of Professional and Educational Issues for the last 2 years. While in office I have worked to improve and expand the ER&D program, promote mentoring programs in councils (Districts 122 and 111 have started up their programs in 2004), and help PSRP's work on certification requirements. If elected to this position for another term, I will continue to work on our ER&D coursework by further expanding our course offerings and teaching teams, pursue more mentoring programs in other local councils and keep our members up to date on current research regarding educational issues in both the Afterthoughts and on the 943 Website.

## SECRETARY

**Dawn Stanovich:** I have been an active member of the Union for the past 38 years. My Union activities began with serving as a Building Rep for my council, then I moved on to Vice-President and finally, for the past 16 years, I have been the President for the Ridgeland Council. I have also been active in Local 943 as the Secretary for the past 10 years.

My teaching career began as a fourth grade teacher and for the past 18 years, I have been the Media Center Director and the District Technology Coordinator. I have loved every minute of my career both as a teacher and as an active Union Member.

## TREASURER

**Sue Mirabella:** Sue began her union activities when she worked at the Southwest Cooperative as a speech pathologist. She was on the first negotiations team, was grievance chairperson, and was the district representative for Coop staff in District 135. In 1989, she became president of the Southwest Cooperative council, negotiating contracts for both certified and support staff. During this time, she was a delegate to both AFT and IFT conventions. Sue participated in the Union Leadership Institute offered by the IFT and presented Local 943 and IFT workshops on Special Education. She was appointed to the IFT Women's Rights committee, representing Local 943. In this position, Sue assisted in writing resolutions focusing on women's issues which were adopted by the IFT.

When the Coop began decentralizing in the early 1990's, Sue's position as a speech/language pathologist was transferred to Orland District 135. She had been working in Orland since 1971. Although she worked mainly with preschoolers and primary students, over the years, she also was assigned to intermediate and junior high schools. During her first year as a District 135 staff member, she served as vice president of the Orland Council of Educators. At this time, she also became treasurer of Local 943. An office she has held since 1995.

In 1996, Sue became president of the Orland council. Shortly afterwards, she was appointed to the IFT Special Education Task Force. As a member of the task force, she has helped write resolutions about the recertification process for special educators and special education caseload/class sizes.

Four years ago, Sue was chosen to become a member of the AFT Special Education Cadre. The cadre has received training on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at the national level. Since then, Sue has presented workshops on IDEA at the IFT Unions Leadership Institute, at the regional AFT Conference, in downstate Illinois and for Local 943 members.

Sue retired from Orland Park in June 2002, but continues to be committed to union causes. She has continued to attend American Federation of Teachers and Illinois Federation of Teachers conventions. She will be returning to Washington, D.C. in January 2005 for updating on the reauthorization of IDEA.

In February 2003 she returned to work part time as a speech/language pathologist in Lincoln-Way Cooperative. She is currently assigned to an early childhood classroom and with the shortage of speech/language pathologists, she sees herself working a few more years with her favorite age level.

Sue is seeking another term as treasurer of Local 943 to continue implementing the AFT/IFT changes toward increasing fiscal responsibility and accountability at the local level. She feels the experience and knowledge she has gained through her national, state and local union work will continue to benefit the members of Local 943.



## **Looking for Union-Made Stories**

In an effort to gather stories of working people, the University of Illinois, Chicago Labor Education Program is sponsoring an informal writing workshop for people who would like to tell their stories. Participants will read and analyze several pieces of literature to see how previous authors have written about their jobs; they will also have opportunities to write their own stories about what they do at work every day.

This workshop will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2005 at

UIC Rice Building, Suite 110  
815 West Van Buren Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60607

Those of us who work in schools have many wonderful stories. AFT Local 943 encourages anyone interested to attend this workshop so that we can share these stories through our union publications. Please call or e-mail Nancy Heskin if you are interested. Local 943 will pay the registration fee for members who would like to attend this solidarity-building event.

# IFT Convention Delegates

The following members will represent AFT Local 943 at the IFT Convention to be held at the Hyatt Regency, Union Station in St. Louis, Missouri on February 18-20, 2005:

- Julie Bazarek - S.D. 122
- Mary Kay Burton - S.D. 122
- Eddie Caffey - S.D. 143½
- Bob Goldsbury - S.D. 126/ VP Local 943
- Nancy Havlin - S.D. 122
- Nancy Heskin - President Local 943
- Gail James - S.D. 122
- Karen Kendall - S.D. 135
- Carol Kopacz - S.D. 122
- Dan Leib - S.D. 135
- Mary Ann Martin - S.D. 122
- Sue Mirabella - Treasurer Local 943
- Deneen Pajeau - S.D. 135
- Stacy Passarella - S.D. 111
- Kathy Setlak - VP Local 943
- Judy Spirakes - MSS/Webmaster Local 943
- Mary Stockwell - S.D. 122/ VP Local 943
- Jan Turek - S.D. 122
- Jennifer Weigus - S.D. 111

Since the number of members who submitted their names is less than the number of delegates allotted to Local 943, a delegate election was unnecessary.



# THANK YOU!

to those who represented their councils at the December Senate Meeting:

- Karen Smith--110
- Audrey Bukovsky\*\*, Sandy Krsak, Jennifer Weigus and Janet Lence--111
- Donna Flanigan, Joan Salvaggio, Jan Turek\*\* and Dawn Stanovich--122
- Nancy Tauchman--123
- Lana Madsen and Diane Solum--124
- Bob Goldsbury and Kathleen Luszczak--126
- Karen Kendall, Karen Ritter and Dan Lieb--135
- Eddie Caffey--143½
- Eileen Hawkins--152½
- Kristine Cochrane and Judy Gerenda--155
- Sue Benigni and Mary Ell Uribe--156
- Ruthann Jenkins and Janice Rooks--229
- Gretchen Boyd--SCCCASE
- Laura Creighton—Retired
- Nancy Heskin, Sue Mirabella
- Kathy Setlak and Tavey Wright, IFT Field Service Director



\*\* raffle winners



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# AFT Relief Fund to help tsunami victims

AFT members and affiliates are invited to support relief efforts for teachers and other education and public sector employees in countries around the Indian Ocean that were devastated by the recent tsunami disaster. As the union extended condolences to teacher and public employee unions in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, Malaysia and Burma, it also created a tsunami relief fund through the AFT Educational Foundation (AFTEF) to provide direct humanitarian assistance. The union is working through three organizations--Education International, Public Services International and the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center--to provide support for union colleagues and their families affected by the Dec. 26 natural disaster. Education International, which includes more than 345 organizations (including the AFT) representing 29 million education personnel worldwide, estimates that more than 10,000 teachers alone died or were gravely affected by the disaster. In letters to EI and PSI affiliates in the region, AFT president Edward J. McElroy expressed the union's "deepest condolences to and solidarity with you and your countrymen in the wake of the horrific natural disaster you are enduring." Also, AFT vice president Thomas Y. Hobart Jr. is scheduled to join an EI delegation in mid-January to visit Sri Lanka and the Banda Aceh province of Indonesia. Tax-deductible contributions should be made payable to the AFTEF and sent to the AFT Educational Foundation, 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20001. Please write "tsunami relief" on the memo portion of the check.

## AFTerthoughts

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