



Diverse, Dedicated,  
Determined

# AFTerthoughts

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

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## COVID 19 Vaccine Rollout Update as of 1/7/21

The order of the rollouts are determined by the ACIP committee with the CDC, not the state. The next group of people to be vaccinated are in so-called Group 1B. Specifics of that group are listed in the chart below. There are no priorities set within this group, so all of 1B is eligible at the same time.

- The CDC is recommending that vaccinations are voluntary at this point, not required.
- The state IDPH is working with all 97 local health agencies in IL on the rollout.
- The CVS and Walgreens effort in nursing homes is a federal effort & separate from this.

These factors can change if the Biden administration invokes the Defense Production Act, for example.

[Click here for an update from Gov. Pritzker](#)  
[Click here if you would like to receive DPH vaccine updates](#)

There are about 4,000,000+ people in IL in Group 1B. They estimate that it would take 10-12 weeks to vaccinate everyone in this group if all goes well, but there was no word on when they can begin vaccinating those in Group 1B.



Introducing the IFT COVID Tracker! ([Click HERE](#))  
The new interactive website just launched this month and is designed to help track coronavirus-related health and safety concerns in real-time for schools and campuses across the state. The tracker provides us with another tool in our fight for healthy schools by raising awareness of safety issues and collecting data we can use to hold employers accountable and keep elected officials and the public informed.

**Demand Illinois lawmakers provide safe schools for all. Join our campaign to get legislators to pass COVID-19 safety measures for school re-openings. ACT NOW!**

## February is Black History Month Representation, Identity, and Diversity

**NEW to the IFT website - a page dedicated to specific resources, stories and ideas highlighting Black Lives Matter at School.**

[Click HERE to locate this page](#)

**During the month of February, we will recognize and celebrate Black Lives Matter at School by sending emails and social media posts to share. Are you participating? If so, please send photos and info to [info@ift-aft.org](mailto:info@ift-aft.org)**

**To view the IFT Winter 2021 issue of Union Link [Click HERE](#)**



**Welcome Sandra Quero!  
Our New  
Local 943 Staff Writer**

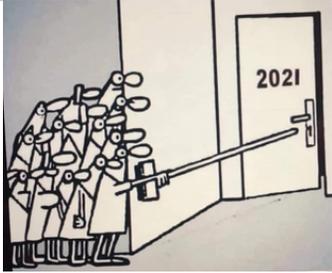


Sandy has been working in the Southside school system for 20 years. Her experience includes: Librarian, Para Educator, and Technology Support. She is currently in her 14th year working in Orland School District 135. We are excited to welcome Sandy to the Local 943 Team!



# President's Message

By: Elaine Barlos, AFT Local 943 President



**Holding Out Hope for Happy New Year!** As we say good riddance to 2020, we welcome 2021 with some trepidation and understandably so. The year kicked off with the continuation of a global pandemic, which took the lives of almost 400,000 people in the United States alone and a violent attack against our democracy, carried out by a mob of supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump in an attempt to overturn his defeat. However, I'm still holding out hope that 2021 can be a more positive and happier new year!

We are challenged by the uncomfortable nature of change. But change can bring opportunities for us to do better. As we encounter historic changes in our world, our country, and our state, we also face some changes at AFT Local 943. In addition to some staffing changes, this year's Local 943 Officer election for the Office of Vice President of Political Action will be held differently than we have ever done before. In order to protect the health and well-being of our members, we have hired a company, ELECTION RUNNER, to assist us with sending those members who have a personal email address on file with us, an electronic ballot. So please be on the look out for that email and carefully review the directions. Paper ballots were also mailed via USPS to members without a personal email on file. It is my wish that we face the "opportunities" that 2021 united together and that we do so by moving away from fearing one another and towards having more faith in each other.

*Elaine Barlos*

## Local 943 PD TEACH Remote Classes

### TEACHING BEGINNING READING SKILLS ONLINE/HYBRID - PD HOURS: 2

Wed., February 3, 2021, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Presenter: Pia Conte

This class will be presented on ZOOM and will focus on how to make teaching beginning reading skills fun online or in person; learn about the importance of phonemic awareness skills and early literacy; use Boom task cards to make phonics engaging; learn strategies to lay the foundation for future reading success; and learn about boom cards and google slides too make learning interactive for the students.

DEADLINE to register: Friday, January 29th

### IMPROVING COMPREHENSION OF NARRATIVE TEXT - PD HOURS: 3

Thur., February 25, 2021, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Presenter: Shannon Mural

This class will be presented on Google Meets and will guide teachers to use the structure of narrative texts to help us plan instruction to improve students' comprehension of narratives.

DEADLINE to register: Tuesday, February 23rd

### VOCABULARY STRATEGIES FOR INFORMATIONAL & NARRATIVE TEXT - PD HOURS:3

Wed., March 31, 2021, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Presenter: Shannon Mural

This class will be presented on Google Meets and will guide educators of all content areas and grade levels to become familiar with research and understand how individuals acquire and remember words.

DEADLINE to register: Monday, March 29th

**To register for classes:** email Judy at [jspirakes@ift-aft.org](mailto:jspirakes@ift-aft.org) with your IEIN or Certificate Number and name of Class/classes

**NO COST FOR**  
**Local 943 members,**  
**\$10 per PD hour for**  
**non-members**

Learn more about Joe Biden's choice for Secretary of Education, former AFT member

Miguel Cardona



Madigan suspends campaign for Illinois House speaker

Replacement Welch



# Union Scholarships



Each year the Southwest Suburban Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 943, awards two scholarships in the amount of two-thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) each.

The applicant must be the child of a currently employed, active member in good standing of Local 943; or the child of a member of Local 943's retiree chapter; or the child of a deceased member who was in good standing at the time of death.

The applicant must be a member of a public high school graduation class and enrolling in a public college or university (including community colleges).

Selection will be made on the basis of five criteria listed in the application guidelines

Click [HERE](#)--> [Local 943 Scholarship 2020-2021](#)

Deadline to apply for the 2020-2021 scholarship is 5 p.m. Thursday, March 25, 2021.

- **Carl J. Megel Special Education Scholarship** - Honoring AFT President Emeritus IFT educators have a unique opportunity to help special education students pursue higher education or career training by sponsoring them for this Special Education Scholarship.

The IFT will award one \$2,500 Megel scholarship to a deserving high school senior who is enrolled in a special education school, class, or program for students with disabilities. Applicants must be high school seniors who will graduate in 2021.

IFT members who work directly with (or previously worked with) an eligible student must provide a letter of sponsorship for the applicant. (Children of IFT members may also apply)

[Click HERE](#)--> [2021 APPLICATION](#)

Applications must be postmarked by March 5, 2021

- **Robert G. Porter Scholarship**- Honoring late AFT Secretary-Treasurer The IFT shall provide annually two \$10,000 scholarship awards (\$2,500 each year for four years) to current high school seniors with no less than a cumulative "B" grade average. See [application for full details](#).

An applicant must be the son or daughter of a currently employed, active member in good standing of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, of IFT retirees chapter, or of a deceased member in good standing with the Illinois Federation of Teachers at the time of death.

[Click HERE](#)-->[2021 APPLICATION](#)

Applications must be postmarked by March 5, 2021

- **AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program** - This AFT Program offers four 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members, as well as 10 one-time \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education. Application information should be updated by late Jan. 2021

[Check HERE](#) for updated Scholarship info on --> [2021 APPLICATION](#)

- **CFL William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship**  
The Chicago Federation of Labor will award 10 scholarships, valued at \$2,000 each, to 10 high school seniors. Students or their parents must belong to a union affiliated with the Chicago Federation of Labor.

[Click HERE](#)-->[2021 APPLICATION](#)

Deadline to apply is February 10, 2021

- **Union Plus Scholarship**  
Sponsored by the Union Plus Education Foundation, valued between \$500-\$4000. The program is open to members, spouses and dependent children of unions participating in any of the Union Plus programs.

[Click HERE](#)-->[2021 APPLICATION](#)

Deadline to apply is January 31, 2021

As always, links to all available Union scholarships are posted on [AFT943.org](#) "Members Only" page.

# AFT Local 943 Mask Order Form

We are a UNION of Professionals - wear your mask with PRIDE!



\_\_\_\_\_Quantity (@ \$5.00 each)

Total amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Personal checks made payable to: **AFT Local 943**

Please print clearly

Name: (first and last) \_\_\_\_\_

Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**"UNION STRONG" T-SHIRTS**  
are still available for purchase.  
If interested, please email  
[local943treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:local943treasurer@gmail.com)  
Sizes available: S-XXL  
\$13.00 each

***When the mask order is delivered to Local 943, we will distribute the orders to each Council President. The orders will be separated by worksite in every council.***

## AFTerthoughts

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