



Diverse, Dedicated,
Determined

AFTerthoughts

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

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UNION PLUS

ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH DEEP LEARNING & MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT

FEB 12

VIRTUAL CONVENING

REGISTER AT: teachnottest.org/convening

SUPPORTERS

- ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
- CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION
- ILLINOIS FAMILIES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATION LEADERSHIP
- ILLINOIS RAISE YOUR HAND
- LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF IL

Call for Delegates to the AFT Convention!

All members interested in being a delegate need to email Karen O'Dea at the Local office NO LATER THAN TUESDAY MARCH 8th.

AFT Convention 2022

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022 - 9:00AM TO
SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2022 - 1:00PM

BOSTON CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTER - BOSTON, MA



IFT Convention

Save the Date!

October 21-23, 2022

All members interested in being a delegate need to email Karen O'Dea at the Local office.

We will be posting an official "Convention Call" in August which will include a deadline to apply to be a delegate.



Welcome Union members. Limited time offer!
SAVE 30% on all bouquets!

Mark Your Calendar:

2022

February

Black History Month

1-

Lunar New Year

12-

Virtual Convening

Re: Statewide Testing

14-

Valentine's Day

21-

Presidents' Day

March

Women's History Month

7-

Pulaski Day

**DIVERSITY
EQUITY
INCLUSION:
RACIAL JUSTICE**





[View the IFT
latest issue of
Union Link](#)

President's Message



By: Elaine Barlos, AFT Local 943 President



Those of us who work in the field of education, are automatically thrust into a leadership role. We have a key role to play in setting direction and creating a positive school climate and culture for our students, parents, and colleagues - no small task!

To me, being a good leader means "welcoming the diversity among peoples and their ideas, knowledges and beliefs and, in this way, providing a home for differences" (Simon, 2021) while dealing collaboratively with major complex problems. It requires appreciating the individual, while also understanding the effects on the whole. Someone once stated that good leaders work to "create a collage, not complete a jigsaw." Considering differences and validating opinions can make arriving at an acceptable solution a little messy. Diverse ideas, beliefs, and values intersect, overlap and leave open spaces - hopefully leaving room for give and take.

In this current and somewhat hostile environment we find ourselves in, it is more critical than ever to respect, value, and support each other in education. We must stand firmly and assertively against those who mock and ridicule and accept that we may not always agree on everything or get our way. We owe it to one another to do our best to create a welcoming environment and a better future that we all deserve.

HIGHLIGHTS

aft sharemy lesson

- [Black History Month](#)
- [Valentines Day](#)
- [Lunar New Year](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Presidents Day](#)
- [Women's History Month](#)
- [Stress Solutions for Educators](#)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR 2022 YEAR OF THE TIGER

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Student Debt Relief is Here

"Our goal is to make sure that everyone sees a zero balance in their student debt account," said AFT President Randi Weingarten. To read more click-->[HERE](#) To consolidate your student loans with Summer, click [here](#).



Legislative Update

By Andrew Weber

IFT is beginning to lay the groundwork for its push to pass the bipartisan-supported Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment - also known as the "Workers Rights Amendment." The amendment will be put to a vote on the November 2022 election ballot and will require 60 percent of those voting on the amendment or a simple majority of all voters to amend the Illinois Constitution.

In the latest edition of IFT's [Union Link](#), President Dan Montgomery explains that this amendment would prevent Illinois from ever passing a state law or local ordinance "that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety."

"Right to work" policies are designed to take away rights from working people and tilt the balance toward management to have the upper hand controlling wages, benefits, and working conditions. These laws make it harder for workers to organize and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions. Illinois is not a "Right to Work State," but the amendment would effectively ban any future "right-to-work" laws from being enacted in Illinois.

To learn more about the Workers' Rights Amendment and to find ways to take action, visit the [Workers' Rights Amendment Webpage](#).



Elections in Illinois



Please note that the Illinois 2022 Election Cycle will include the following races: Gubernatorial, United States House of Representatives, United States Senate, statewide constitutional officers, Illinois Senate, and Illinois House. The primary election normally held in March has been pushed back to Tuesday, June 28, 2022, and the general election is Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Local 943 will hold regional meetings with candidates in April 2022.



Full February Legislative Update
[Click Here](#)



Check out our website!
www.aft943.org



Local 943 TEACH

Professional Development Calendar of Events

Courses are FREE to AFT Local 943 members!

Wed, March 9, 4:30pm to 6:30pm - Nuhie Faheem
ESL: Language and Literacy Acquisition
(Remote) - 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)

APRIL 23-24, 2022 (In Person)

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.

Our 2022 ULI Courses will include:

- Boot Camp for Union Leader
- Effective Grievance Administration
- Building and Sustaining Union Power
- Introduction to Collective Bargaining

Initial Teachers Evaluation Training

IFT is offering this virtual course as part of our Union Leadership Institute program to support unions as they implement a locally bargained appeals process. Participants who successfully complete this two-day course are designated in ELIS as qualified evaluators of teachers. Check [HERE](#) for detailed information.

Training dates are available in February, June, & October.

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 brianjurinek@gmail.com

Be sure to include your IEIN or Certificate Number and the name of the class/classes you wish to take.



Registration is now open for the 43rd AFT Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel (PSRP) Conference, April 22-24, at the Marriott St. Louis Grand in St. Louis. The registration fee is \$100.

Register [HERE](#) & apply for Local 943 reimbursement [HERE](#)



AFT PSRP CONFERENCE 2022

PSRPs are Championing the Promise and Purpose of Public Education

HEAR US ROAR!



TEACHING FOR CHANGE
Building Social Justice Starting in the Classroom



Registration is opening March 1, 2022 through May 10, 2022 for the 2021-22 Illinois National Board Candidate Fee Subsidy for teachers and school counselors pursuing National Board Certification. More information can be found [here](#).



Attention Members with High School Seniors!

Remind them to start planning Scholarship Applications!



- **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 2022.

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 to check for updates](#)

Application deadline is March 4, 2022

- **Robert G. Porter Scholarship** - Honoring late AFT Secretary-Treasurer

The IFT shall provide annually two \$20,000 scholarship awards (\$5,000 each year for four years) to current high school seniors with no less than a cumulative "B" grade average.

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 to check for updates](#)

Application deadline is March 4, 2022

- **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 and/or fund their proposed ideas to strengthen and grow their union.

[Click HERE for updated info on --> 2022 APPLICATION](#)

Application window is Dec. 1 - March 31.

All scholarship winners will be notified by June 30

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 below:

1. official scores on the ACT/SAT entrance examinations
2. class rank, and GPA (1st semester of senior year)
3. record of extra-curricular activities and community service
4. two (2) references by members of the staff of the student's high school where he/she is currently enrolled
5. a 100-word essay which details future aspirations.

Deadline to apply for the 2021-2022 scholarship is March 24, 2022

[Click HERE for updated info on --> 2022 APPLICATION](#)

As always, links to all available Union scholarships are posted on AFT943.org.
"Members Only" page.

FANNIE MAY SPRING CANDY GIFT CARD SALE

25% DISCOUNT OFFERED TO YOU BY AFT LOCAL 943

Local 943's Spring Fannie May® Candy Gift Card Sale is here!

Members receive a savings of 25%.

The gift cards are available in the retail value of \$5, \$10, \$20, or \$50 and may be redeemed either at a

Fannie May retail or outlet store or on the web at www.fanniemay.com.

This allows you or your gift recipient to choose your/their own selection.

In order to receive the cards by Easter, order forms are due in the union office no later than

5 p.m. on Monday, March 21st.

Return your order form...with payment...to the Local 943 union office to the attention of: Judy Spirakes,

15521 S. 70th Court, Orland Park, IL 60462. (708-633-0943)
Make checks payable to Local 943.

We will notify you as soon as the cards arrive.

Gift cards must be picked up at the union office. We cannot mail gift cards!

Fannie May Order Form

Name (Please print)	School/Office/Retired		
(<u> </u>)			
Home/Cell Phone Number	Email address		
<u>Card Retail Value</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Your Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$ 5.00 (Five Dollars)		x \$ 3.75 = \$	
\$10.00 (Ten Dollars)		x \$ 7.50 = \$	
\$20.00 (Twenty Dollars)		x \$15.00 = \$	
\$50.00 (Fifty Dollars)		x \$37.50 = \$	
Number of cards ordered		GRAND TOTAL \$	



MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LOCAL 943
Attention: Judy Spirakes,
Local 943, 15521 S 70th Court, Orland Park, IL 60462
Orders due: Monday, March 21, 2022



ift-aft.org/covidvaccine



goldenapple.org/scholars



www.isbe.net
for current ISBE updates

RETIREE Upcoming Events Drury Lane Play and Luncheon Dates

February 23, 2022 - Evita

May 11, 2022 - The King and I

Email Judy Spirakes at
jspirakes@ift-aft.org for more information

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Official Publication of the Southwest Suburban Federation of Teachers AFT Local 943

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