

# Update

American Federation of Teachers Local 604, AFL-CIO

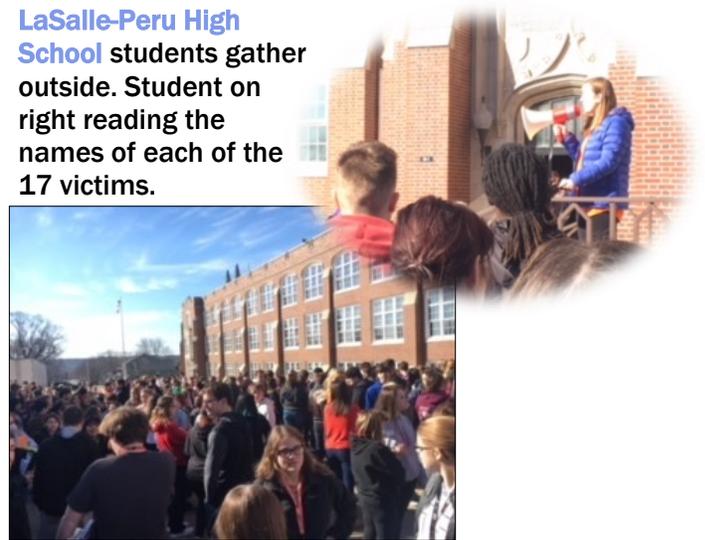
April/May 2018

## National Day of Action against gun violence in schools

Since the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14, courageous students in Parkland and across America led the call, “Enough is enough.”

One month later, on March 14, students across the country honored the 17 students and staff who lost their lives by participating in a “Walk Out” for 17 minutes—one minute for each victim of the massacre in Parkland. Whatever the students and/or administrators planned for the day—a rally outdoors, a walk-in before school, an event in their community, or a gathering in the gym or hallways—they all conveyed the same message. *NO MORE gun violence in our schools! We have the right to have a safe school environment.*

LaSalle-Peru High School students gather outside. Student on right reading the names of each of the 17 victims.



Students from Joliet High School stood arm in arm in the hallways of both campuses in a moment of silence on Day 1 of 17 days of positive actions.

Joliet students met with the administration to present their idea of doing something positive for 17 days. Their idea was that each student would be part of the ‘Change’ for a better environment in their schools. The students developed ideas for each day (shown above) that would try to bring students together by volunteering, being kind, making an effort to meet someone new and getting involved.



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# Kankakee does it right

from the president's pen

On March 14 at the Kankakee High School football field, I experienced an event that in my wildest imagination never crossed my mind when I first entered teaching in 1972. The skies were as blue as they could be, but it was cold, 32 degrees with snow-covered ground. As I walked from the building with KFT council president Beth Anderson to the football field, we had been talking about this day, the one-month anniversary of the mass shooting at Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.



We had had brief discussions of the protests of the 1960s. Mixed into the conversation was that this event was an exercise in the First Amendment and a teachable moment for students across the country if teachers and students could express what they were feeling.

We also talked about area high schools, like Bradley-Bourbonnais and St. Anne, that had to cancel their planned events. Then, I looked up and saw the stands packed with students and staff who braved the cold. Some, maybe more than I expected, had stayed back in the cafeteria because it was warm, but in both spots, orange was evident. They were taking a stand against gun violence, not necessarily against the Second Amendment.

Lining the track and facing the crowd of silent students was a row of shivering individuals holding white balloons, 17 of them, but I also notice three blue ones matching the sky. It never entered my

mind that these balloons represented Kankakee students lost to senseless gun violence, and those holding them were their family members, parents, siblings, aunts and uncles.

A nervous student might not have realized that the mic was on already as she questioned where her notes were. But when she started to address the crowd, it was clear that the message was strong and the students were invested. This gathering was not a political event; its intent was to stress that enough is enough; the violence must stop. They were wearing orange, although much was hidden by warm coats, because orange is supposed to be the color of safety.

One-by-one, she read the name of each of the 17 hunted down victims, paused 10 seconds, and signaled the release of one of the balloons. Then, the reality in Kankakee became even more real as she followed the pattern with the names of the three lost KHS students: Andrevion Jones, Mishawn Green and Kevin Wright.

After a poem by another student, all were asked to stand in continued silence to reflect on the meaning of the event and how these senseless killings, both locally and nationally, has affected and changed their lives. After a total of 17 minutes, all returned to a normal life...

Not really; this time I believe it is different. Forty-six years ago, when I entered what I believe to be the best profession, I could never have pictured this day. On April 20, we recognize the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbine, but how many other unexplainable shootings were sandwiched in-between? Too many to remember, too many to count.

Last fall, when I realized that I would be taking over for Dick Manley as presi-

dent, I started to think/worry about my first column. Leaving the KHS parking lot, I knew it had to reflect what I had just experienced. What these students—Fermanda Ramirez Rodriguez, Sharay Calderon, Caitlyn Martin and Vanessa Martinez—pulled together should be a lesson for our elected officials. They worked together and made an impact, and events, like this one, were happening all over the country for people to see on the evening news. This time, it was different.

We all know that mental illness has played a major role in many of these killings. And often at the center, a child or young adult has been bullied. Rather than address the issue head on, we have bills like one in Florida, #7055, that would take state money to send a child to a private school if he/she feels bullied, because we all know that does not happen in these protected buildings, right? Or closer to home, NBC reported that the GOP in Chicago was planning to sue CPS for allowing student to exercise their First Amendment rights. Their argument was that all students were being forced to participate, but again “fake news.” No one was forced to participate.

I wish I could be assured that I will never have to see a news bulletin with headlines about another shooting, but that is not reality. Reality is that our elected officials will do little to nothing, percentages will be reported on how Americans feel about sensible gun laws and families will be torn apart attending their loved-one's funerals.

This time it is different; Kankakee did it right, and shame on the schools, administrators, and communities who would not let their students be true Americans and have a learning experience living the First Amendment.



Bill Briggs

Bill

# Working people are here to fight back...



Members from Park Forest (l to r) Cheryl Summerville, Nichole Payne, Lisa Stanley, Paula Bardwell (back) and Pat Mosely.



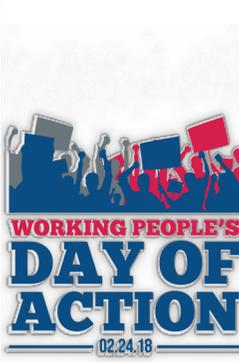
New Lenox member Dan Zadorozny (center) marching with fellow union members.



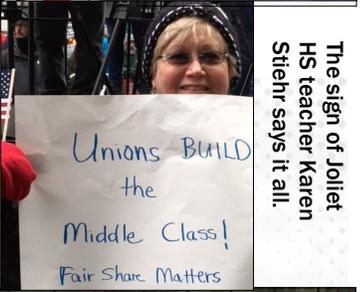
IFT FSD for Local 604 Adam Harding's support was loud and clear with his bullhorn.



Homer support staff Susan Kozar-ski supported by her husband.



IFT field service director for Local 604 Todd Stachowiak managing the crowd.



The sign of Joliet HS teacher Karen Stehr says it all.



Local 604 FSD Erik Jurgens supported by his daughter with Local 604 recording secretary Kathy Stenson and ASME employee (L).



The march around the governor's office

Those were the resounding words of president of the Illinois AFL-CIO Michael Carrigan as he addressed the crowd of thousands of working people in Chicago at Daley Plaza. Carrigan went on to say, "It's a rigged system. Rauner will be in Washington, DC, for the Supreme Court case. Governor, you may be in DC, but we are in Chicago, Illinois, across the street from your office to say to you and your CEO buddies that we will not stand idly by while you attack us. **Working people are here to fight back!**"

A shadowy network of billionaires and corporations have rigged the system to gain even more wealth and power at the expense of teachers, PSRPs, state employees and other workers. As part of his anti-union agenda, Governor Rauner brought the *Janus v. AFSCME* suit in 2015. That anti-union case was heard by the Supreme Court on February 26. *Janus* threatens to strip Americans of our freedom to come together in strong unions and build our power to have a voice in workplaces. This case will affect every worker.

In a statement after the event, IFT president Dan Montgomery remarked, "The massive nationwide event marked the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was killed in Memphis supporting striking sanitation workers as they demanded the right to join together in a strong union.

**"Make no mistake—the Janus case is the latest attempt by Governor Rauner, President Trump, the Koch Brothers, the DeVos family and others to silence our voices by taking away our freedom to have strong unions.**

"They want it so badly that they're fighting over who will deserve the credit for 'destroying unions' if the court decides in their favor later this year.

**"No court, no governor, no president, and no corporate bully can stop us when we unite for our freedoms, our health care, our communities and the future we all deserve!"**

There were many different signs, but the working men and women of Illinois showed their Solidarity on the Day of Action and must continue to show Solidarity to be union strong!



# 21st Century Technology for Education Workshops

Looking for some *free* professional development over the summer while earning PD hours? Local 604 has some options for you! You can sign up for one or more of the courses depending on your needs or availability. There will be a cap of 20 participants per course, but depending on interest, we will look at opening up more dates. Please bring your own device to the sessions.

Course Name	Intended Audience	What is needed for the course?
<b>Rocking Formative Assessments with Technology</b>	Anyone looking to increase their formative assessment tool belt. Topics that will be explored include but are not limited too: Socrative, Nearpod, Google Forms, EdPuzzle, Plickers, Quizizz, Kahoot, Quizlet Live, Flipgrid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A device</li> <li>• Google Account (not necessary but helpful)</li> </ul>
<b>Intro to Google Suite</b>	Anyone looking to increase their knowledge about Google Drive. Topics that will be explored include but are not limited too: My Drive, GMail, Google Calendar, Docs, Slide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A device</li> <li>• Google Account (not necessary but helpful)</li> </ul>
<b>Intermediate Google Suite</b>	Anyone with some experience using Google Suite tools but want to build on many of them. Topics will include: Forms, Sheets, Drawings, My Maps, Google Classroom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A device</li> <li>• Google Account (not necessary but helpful)</li> </ul>
<b>Advanced Google Suite</b>	Anyone looking to push their Google experience to a higher level. Topics will include: Google Sites, Add-ons available in Google, Hyperdocs, Wevideo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A device</li> <li>• Google Account (not necessary but helpful)</li> </ul>

## Courses, Dates & Times

**Course:** Rocking Assessments  
**Dates:** June 12 OR June 18  
**Time:** 8:30 am-11:30 am  
**Location:** AFT Local 604 office  
 1520 N Rock Run Dr #1, Crest Hill

**Course:** Intro to Google Suite  
**Dates:** June 12 OR June 18  
**Time:** 12:30 pm-2:30 pm  
**Location:** AFT Local 604 office  
 1520 N Rock Run Dr #1, Crest Hill

## Courses, Dates & Times

**Course:** Intermediate Google Suite  
**Dates:** June 13 OR June 19  
**Time:** 8:30 am-11:30 am  
**Location:** AFT Local 604 office  
 1520 N Rock Run Dr #1, Crest Hill

**Course:** Advanced Google Suite  
**Dates:** June 13 OR June 19  
**Time:** 12:30 pm-2:30 pm  
**Location:** AFT Local 604 office  
 1520 N Rock Run Dr #1, Crest Hill

**Interested? To register please CALL: 815-725-0402 or 630-896-8220**

You may attend as many sessions as you would like. When calling, please indicate the course or courses you would like to take; the date/s; morning or afternoon; your name; home address; home email and phone number.

All sessions are *free* and limited to 20 participants per session. You will earn 3 CPDUs for each session you complete.

**A device is needed for all sessions—laptop, iPad etc. Please make sure that they are fully charged.**

# Guns in schools?

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, President Donald Trump has a plan to help combat school shootings. In part, the Federal Government will help states pay “for firearms training for teachers and a call to improve the background check system.”

The date of the article was March 12, 2018, so like so many of Trump’s ideas, few become reality. At press time, we know that he has abandoned the idea of background checks even though he chastised elected officials of being afraid of the NRA, but he was not. He did cave to the pressure.

Outside of Florida, little has been done to address the situation. AFT Local 604 sent out a request to council presidents to ask our members how they felt about teachers having guns in school to help combat this growing crisis of school shootings.

## Following are opinions from some of our members.

As an educator, I firmly believe this is a bad idea. More guns do not kill less people. Period. I have enough to worry about regarding the safety of my students without adding the risk of bringing more firearms into a school building. The day the government requires me or my colleagues to be armed and ready, is the day I find a new career.

~Anissa Danley, Will County School District 92

On average, 96 people die from gun violence every day. Of those 96 people, 7 of them are children. I don’t see how adding more guns to the situation could possibly make the situation better. In a fire, do we add more fire to help put out the blaze?

~Nick Surman, Will County School District 92

I read a post online after the Florida shooting that I felt really summed up my feelings. I don’t agree with the responsibility it puts on us. Here is the quote. *“The thought of having to take a bullet for someone’s kid? Not a question. Done. The thought of having to shoot someone’s kid? This is not something I’m willing to contemplate. Nor is it something I signed up for.”*

~Regina Najewski, Manhattan District 114

I will quit. In all sincerity, I will retire. This isn’t hyperbole—I’ve already laid this out with my husband, and I mean what I say here, so listen up.

Do we ask bank tellers to arm themselves as a cost-saving measure? No, they have a job to do so banks hire people to specifically deal with safety and security. Do federal politicians carry guns to protect themselves? No, they are surrounded by secret service agents who, despite being highly qualified, are still unable to stop gun violence or assassination attempts. Expecting that teachers could perform the intensive work that we do each day AND multi-task as armed security is an offensive and inadequate solution.

~Michele Hallihan, Manhattan District 114

I think we would end up with additional tragedies, due to guns in schools.

~Laura Para, Manhattan District 114

I know we need to protect all of our kids and staff from harm, but there is NO WAY I could ever shoot anyone, but especially a student/former student. If carrying a weapon would be something I would be expected to do, I would have to quit. I would not be able to use it, and the fact that anyone thinks teachers can/should shoot anyone is beyond me.

~Lisa Reh, Manhattan District 114

I am horrified at the thought of having guns in a classroom under any circumstances. Asking teachers to carry weapons shows that lack of personal connection our President makes to educators in general, and the relationships we have with our students. They are ‘our kids.’ If a school shooting occurs and it is a student who is shooting, does the president expect us to shoot or kill a kid?

~Susan Kubik, Manhattan District 114

I am in favor of having access to firearms in schools to protect against armed intruders. We cannot rely on police response to keep schools safe. Selection of personnel given that access should be based on training, experience and established qualifying criteria such as: military and law enforcement experience, willingness, psychological testing, personal history, etc.

~Donald E. Malec, Wilco

I fully support arming qualified instructors and/or teachers. I think eliminating gun free zones is the number one deterrent to school shooting issues.

~Mike Patt, Wilco

As a trained and certified concealed carry individual, I believe teachers have the right to protect themselves and students from armed intruders. As I began my career years ago in education, I could not have imagined teachers walking the hallways with concealed handguns, but this is a different day and age. There are many other items that must be addressed in conjunction with arming those teachers that choose to defend the lives of themselves and their students with handguns within the confines of a school, including additional training every year to maintain the ability to carry a personal side-arm in a safe and responsible manner. Additionally, instead of a band-aid, funding MUST be made available for all schools to better manage social and psychological student behaviours. Programs for teachers to assess and identify students that show proclivities to violence or have demonstrated acts of violence in the classroom with immediate response and interventions is just an example of one such need.

I did not get into this profession to be a target, nor for a minute thought I would be writing this letter of support for the right to live, but we are here in the moment. I support our rights and freedoms defined in our Constitution to protect myself and my students. My undeniable and written answer to arming those teachers with demonstrated knowledge of firearms and willingness to carry within the classroom is a yes. With my full understanding that I am absolutely and clearly on an opposite side of the spectrum of those teachers that vehemently resist the President’s proposal, I take the stand for self-preservation and protection of oneself and the students.

~Sheila Bernard, Wilco

# Workers' Compensation and third-party actions

by James M. Ridge, attorney at law

The vast majority of employees in the State of Illinois are covered under Workers' Compensation, meaning when they are injured on the job they receive benefits in the form of wage continuation and the payment of medical bills. There are occasions when, in addition to a Workers' Compensation Claim, an injured employee may have a third-party claim resulting from the same occurrence as the on-the-job injury. Those third-party claims arise when the negligence of a party other than the injured party's employer caused the injury. The most common example of a third-party case involving an on-the-job injury is when an employee is operating his or her personal vehicle while in the scope of their employment, such as attending an assigned, off-site meeting and are involved in a motor vehicle accident, caused by the negligence of another driver. In such a situation, the injured employee may have a Workers' Compensation Claim against their employer, and a case against the third-party driver that caused the motor vehicle accident. There are other situations that could lead to a third-party case in addition to a Workers' Compensation claim, so it is always a good idea to discuss the facts of your Workers' Compensation Claim with an experienced attorney.

We, at Ridge & Downes, are uniquely qualified to help determine if a Workers' Compensation Claim may also give rise to a third-party claim, as we have attorneys specializing in both Workers' Compensation and third-party personal injury claims. The advantage of discussing your claim with attorneys experienced in both types of claims is that not

every third-party claim is financially worth pursuing. When a case against a third-party is successfully pursued, the Workers' Compensation carrier is entitled to be repaid for the benefits paid out from the proceeds of the third-party recovery. An experienced personal injury attorney can assist in deciding if the third-party claim is worth pursuing, and should it be pursued, can assist in negotiating the amount ultimately paid back to the Workers' Compensation provider. It is also important to speak with attorneys experienced in both types of claims as soon as possible, as the evidence required to prove each claim may not be the same and may be easiest to obtain close in time to the injury.

If you find yourself injured while in the scope of your employment, take a minute to analyze the reason for your injury. If you think there may be a responsible party other than, or in addition to your employer, talk to your Workers' Compensation attorney about the facts of your injury. We at Ridge & Downes are always available to help you decide if your case involves a third-party, and whether that third-party claim is worth pursuing.

**For more information on your rights contact us at:**



101 N. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 200  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60630  
312-372-8282 OR 1-800-572-1136  
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**Concentrating in workers' compensation claims FELA and personal injury cases.**

## Local 604 member honored with Golden Apple Award



Carrie Garret, a first-grade teacher at Joliet's Lynne Thigpen Elementary School, was one of only 10 Chicagoland teachers and the only one from Will County to receive the prestigious Golden Apple Award of Excellence in Teaching.

Carrie Garret's teaching starts with leading her students to find and understand their own identity through discussions about their family rules, rituals and traditions, and an examination of differing cultures and ethnicities. By introducing varying experiences, her students begin to understand cultural diversity. Garret believes that success today requires the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with people from many different backgrounds and experiences, so she fosters those critical skills through interactive activities that her students often direct. She believes all children are intelligent, creative

and unique and delights in helping them discover their special abilities. Getting to know her students inside and out of the classroom is essential to Garret, so she spends many afternoons and evenings attending her students' activities and sporting events. Because of her achievement in the classroom, she has also been recognized with the District Star Award.

The award recognizes and honors teachers for their role in building a stronger, better-educated society. More than 650 nominations, a record, were received and represented Pre-K through third-grade educators.

Northwestern University provides each Golden Apple recipient with a tuition-free, spring quarter sabbatical to study at Northwestern University. Carrie will also receive a \$5,000 cash award. She, along with the other nine, will be featured on a TV program on May 19 on WTTW, channel 11.

# Courses offered for professional development

Earn professional development credits or graduate credits and enhance your classroom instruction

Local 604 is offering summer classes at the Local 604 office to help teachers and paraprofessionals in the classroom. You also have the opportunity to earn 30 CPDUs or two graduate credits. The AFT TEACH program is based on proven practice, is created and delivered by classroom teachers and meets the NCLB criteria for high-quality professional development. These courses offer professional development opportunities and learning experiences that are very different from traditional in-service training programs. **Reading and Mathematics courses were redesigned to help teachers understand the content and practice standards of the Common Core Standards.**

**Reading Comprehension Instruction** Reading Comprehension Instruction focuses on the research and exemplary practices that help students acquire strong reading comprehension skills.

RCI is appropriate for all K-12 teachers and support staff who need to help increase their students' comprehension of text—whether that text is a literature selection or informational text. The course provides participants with a synthesis of the research base on reading comprehension instruction and vocabulary development. Participants examine, discuss and evaluate the appropriate application of a range of instructional strategies from explicit to implicit teaching of comprehension skills. Strategies are presented for increasing student comprehension of both narrative and expository texts. In addition, participants learn how to help students self-monitor comprehension and apply appropriate “fix-up” strategies when comprehension is not achieved.

Practice in using instructional strategies and examples of student work are embedded in the course.

**Dates:** June 25-29, 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
**Place:** Local 604 office  
1520 N. Rock Run Drive, #1, Crest Hill  
**Fee:** \$40 for the manual \*  
**Instructor:** Christina Grigsby

**Managing Anti-Social Behavior**—The anti-social actions of a small, but powerful percentage of students in school not only put their own academic success at risk, but also threaten the learning environment for everyone. This course presents research on students who have emotional and behavioral problems and who consistently act out. Participants will learn strategies to reduce and/or prevent the occurrence of disruptive behaviors.

**Dates:** June 4-8, 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
**Location:** Local 604 office  
1520 N. Rock Run Drive, #1, Crest Hill  
**Fee:** \$40 for the manual \*  
**Instructor:** Marjorie Kubacki

**Foundations I** This core course addresses the fundamental aspects of teaching and learning that are relevant for teachers and instructional paraprofessionals in all grade levels and subject areas. It aligns nicely with many of the indicators on state and district wide teacher evaluation rubrics, and is particularly useful for training evaluators and mentor teachers who are responsible for providing support through peer assistance and review as well as induction programs for new teachers. Content in this course is designed to give educators the knowledge and skills needed to prepare students for college and careers. The course examines research-based concepts such as creating a positive classroom environment, increasing student engagement, maximizing learning time, interactive instruction and scaffolding techniques, questioning and giving feedback and using homework to extend learning. Participants will reflect upon their own practices and set professional goals for improving their craft to meet students' needs. Foundations of Effective Teaching I is an essential part of any professional development program.

**Dates:** August 6-10, 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
**Location:** Local 604 office  
1520 N. Rock Run Drive, #1, Crest Hill  
**Fee:** \$40 for the manual \*  
**Instructors:** Marjorie Kubacki and Lisa Stanley

**Lunch will be provided.**

**You can earn 30 CPDUs for these classes.**

**\*Additional fee for two credit hours from Governor State or Prairie State**

**Participants must:**

- Attend all class sessions
- Read and participate in class discussions and activities



**\*Additional \$100 fee for non-members**

**See registration form on next page** →

**Interested? To register please complete the form below and mail it to:**

AFT Local 604  
1520 N. Rock Run Drive #1, Crest Hill, IL 60403;  
FAX: 815-729-2130; CALL: 815-725-0402 or  
630-896-8220

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School district: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level/subject: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to register for the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Managing Anti-Social Behavior

\_\_\_\_\_ Reading Comprehension Instruction

\_\_\_\_\_ Foundations I

**Managing Anti-Social Behavior—Return by  
May 14, 2018**

**Reading Comprehension—Return by  
June 8, 2018**

**Foundations I—Return by  
July 16, 2018**

**There is only the manual fee of \$40.00 due at  
the first class.**

**\*Additional fee for two credit hours from  
Governor State or Prairie State**

**Participants must:**

- Attend all class sessions
- Read and participate in class discussions and activities

**\*Additional \$100 fee for non-members**



# Important Information!

The IFT Union Professional Issues Department has learned of an issue impacting teachers and paraprofessionals' abilities to renew their licenses. When renewing your educator licenses using the state ELIS, **DO NOT USE the Google Chrome Browser**. The system will take your payment, but will not record it and, therefore, not renew your license.

If you have experienced this, you should print your receipt of payment and contact your Regional Office Education as soon as possible, who will help you get registered. You should be prepared that it could be a time-intensive process.

**Next Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, August 15, 5:00 pm  
Local office in Crest Hill**



IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

## Update

American Federation of Teachers Local 604  
www.aftlocal604.org

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