



# 1274 NEWSLINE



NORTH SUBURBAN TEACHERS UNION – LOCAL 1274, CFL, IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

## Illinois 2020 Primary Election Issue

The Illinois primary election is on March 17. We are facing serious threats to our schools and our communities, and your vote is more important now than ever. The IFT has endorsed a series of candidates who will support our schools and communities. In this issue, you will read about some primary candidates who are particularly important to the members of Local 1274. Use your vote to strengthen our public schools and ensure your rights as a bargaining member.

### AFT Presidential Endorsement Process

Heading into the March primary, you may be wondering where the AFT stands in the presidential primary. During the 2016 presidential election campaign, the AFT gave an early endorsement to Hillary Clinton, long before the first primary votes were cast. That decision, and the process leading to it, came under criticism from some of AFT's membership and led to the passage of a resolution at the 2018 AFT convention in support of a more thorough, deliberative, transparent, and inclusive process for 2020. As a result, the AFT has engaged its membership through a series of local and regional meetings and discussions, including a nationally televised town hall in December on the issue of education that featured most of the Democratic candidates. Through that process it became clear to AFT leadership that members had not yet settled on a consensus candidate.

That led the AFT to pass a resolution in late February, when there were still several viable candidates in the race, in support of the three candidates that best represent our values (Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Joe Biden). Since then the entire landscape has changed, and as we head into Illinois' March 17th election, the Democratic primary has been reduced to a head-to-head race between two of those recommended candidates: Sanders and Biden.

If the picture becomes clearer between now and

# VOTE

**GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION  
TUESDAY, MARCH 17**

**IFT endorsements:**

[ift-aft.org/vote/candidates](http://ift-aft.org/vote/candidates)

**Information on voting registration:**

[ift-aft.org/vote/voter-information](http://ift-aft.org/vote/voter-information)

the AFT's July convention, an AFT endorsement may be forthcoming. But in the end, one truth is certain: as the resolution states, "Donald Trump is an existential threat to the values and aspirations of our members." We will all need to pull together to ensure his defeat.

## *Union Election Notice*

The Local election will be held on Thursday, May 14 for:

- Local 1274 offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer
- Delegates to the convention of the American Federation of Teachers, July 27-30 in Houston, TX
- Council officers

If you wish to run for Local office, or to serve as a delegate AFT convention, you must present a completed petition, signed by no fewer than 15 members in good standing, to the Local 1274 office no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 14. You may also email it to Terri Eiseman at [teiseman@ift-aft.org](mailto:teiseman@ift-aft.org).

# From the President: Denyse Stoneback is the Clear Choice for Representative of Illinois State House District 16



The IFT, NSTU, and a long list of other organizations and individuals that share our values and interests have endorsed Denyse Wang Stoneback in the critical Democratic primary race for Representative of Illinois State House District 16. When it comes to our core issues - public education, worker rights, and a fair economy - Denyse is the clear choice.

Denyse has deep roots in our community, as a citizen, a parent, and an activist. Born and raised in Skokie, Denyse attended its schools, graduating from Nilis North, and chose to raise her own family there as well. Having taught abroad and worked in educational publishing, Denyse is a champion for public schools. She is committed to fully funding public education and supports an elected school board for Chicago.

Denyse has a proven record for standing up for her beliefs and getting things done. After the tragedy in Sandy Hook, Denyse founded *People for a Safer Society* and has helped pass some of the most effective gun safety legislation in the country. Her efforts also blocked the opening of a large gun shop and range just outside of Nilis West High School. She supports worker rights and her advocacy helped prevent the Village of Skokie from withdrawing from the Cook County pathway to a \$15 minimum wage.

Her opponent, on the other hand, has a troubling record on public education. Mark Kalish, an unelected incumbent appointed to the seat after Lou Lang's resignation, has a long history as an advocate for charter schools and tuition vouchers for private schools, both of which divert needed funding from public education. Those positions may resonate with Betsy DeVos, but they do not align with our values as public educators. Kalish's campaign receives significant funding from a national charter school super PAC.

Lou Lang, by the way, has since endorsed Denyse.

This is an important primary race, since the winner is likely to prevail in the November election and could serve in the state house for many years to come. If you live in IL HD16, please vote for Denyse Wang Stoneback on March 17th.

In addition to the IFT, NSTU, and the Chicago Teachers Union, Denyse is endorsed by: Congresswoman Jan Schakowski, Former State Rep. Lou Lang, Former State Senator Daniel Biss, State Rep. Kelly Cassidy, Cook County College Teachers Union, Planned Parenthood, National Association of Social Workers, National Organization for Women (IL), Nilis Township Democrats, Personal PAC, IVI-IPO, Citizen Action.

In solidarity,



## PEGGY COUCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Local 1274 offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who has been accepted to a college or university and whose parent is a local member. Those scholarships are now renewable for a total of four years!

Applications for the 2020 Scholarship will be out in the spring.

## Other Notable Races

Here are some other contested races in districts where Local 1274 members reside:



### Nidia Carranza, IL HD 3

Carranza is a CPS teacher and community organizer running in a contested primary for District 3 on the Northwest Side, which was vacated by Luis Arroyo after he was indicted for bribery. A member of IFT and CTU Local 1, she will “fight to build a system that works for everyone - with quality health care for every family, housing our working families can afford, and fully funded public schools for every child.”



### Lindsey LaPointe, IL HD 19

Appointed in 2019 to fill the vacant seat after Robert Martwick left for the IL Senate, LaPointe is in a contested primary. The 19th District represents Northwest Chicago and Harwood Heights, home to 53 NSTU members. Her priorities include “making health care, including mental health care, more affordable and accessible; supporting teachers and first responders who strengthen the communities in her district, and ensuring Illinois’ tax system is fair to everyone—not just the very wealthy.”



### Michelle Darbro, IL HD 20

Darbro is in a contested primary for District 20, home to 140 NSTU members in Northwest Chicago, Norridge, Rosemont, Schiller Park. This is an opportunity to flip a Republican seat. Darbro is a member of the Firefighters union and her top priorities include women’s reproductive rights, property tax relief and more accessible health care.

## We Held our General Membership Meeting in February

On February 6th, around 85 members attended the Local 1274 NSTU general membership meeting. Led by President Steve Grossman, members voted yes on the proposed amendments to the Local 1274 Constitution and Bylaws. President Grossman’s presentation included information about our membership, councils, leaders, and expenditures. Denyse Wang Stoneback was also introduced. Denyse is running in an extremely important Democratic primary race (see article on page 1 of this issue) and needs the support of Local 1274 members. At least 250 Local 1274 members live in District 16.



Steve Grossman presenting at the Local 1274 General Membership meeting on February 6.

## Teach a Professional Development Course Offered Through Local 1274

In 2018, Local 1274 began offering AFT Professional Development courses taught by Local teachers and support staff. These top-notch courses have been very popular with our members and they fill up fast. We are looking for members who are interested in teaching one of these courses. Teachers will receive a \$65 hourly rate.

**In order to teach one of these courses, you must attend this summer's AFT Professional Development Summer Educator Academy at Linthicum Heights, Maryland on July 16 - 25.** All expenses are paid by Local 1274. Our members who have been through this comprehensive and intensive training have found it incredibly informative. If you are interested in attending the this summer's academy, contact Steve Grossman. (grossman.nstu@gmail.com)

**Don't delay! The deadline to apply for the Academy is March 20.**



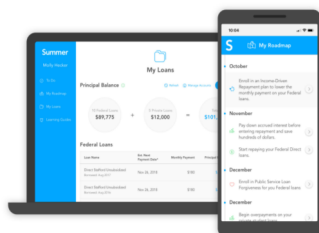
## Councils of Local 1274

- West Northfield Teachers Association, District 31
- Wilmette Support Staff Union, District 39
- Support Staff Council of District 64
- Golf Teachers Association, District 67
- District 69 PSRP Council
- Park View Council, District 70
- Niles Council of Teachers and Support Staff, District 71
- Fairview Teachers Association, District 72
- East Prairie Council, District 73
- Lincolnwood Support Staff Union, District 74
- Lincolnwood Teachers Association, District 74
- Niles Township Federation of Teachers and Support Staff, District 219
- Ridgewood Teachers Association, District 234
- Niles Township Federation of Special Education Educators and Paraprofessionals, District 807



## New AFT Benefit for Members Only!

If you have student loans, the AFT has a new benefit for members only that can help you! AFT has partnered with Summer to give you free access to an app that helps you track your loans and enrolls you in savings programs. Summer is a social enterprise founded in partnership with Yale University.



**Summer App**  
[aft.org/members-only](http://aft.org/members-only)

### 1274 Newsline

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