



1274 NEWSLINE



North Suburban Teachers Union – Local 1274, CFL, IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

NSTU Equity

Seeking equity and social justice in our communities is one of the prime directives of Local 1274. Here are some excellent upcoming opportunities coordinated by our hardworking Equity Chairs:

SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity)

[SEED application with the meeting time and dates](#)

For the second year, NSTU is hosting SEED equity training. SEED is a peer-facilitated seminar that allows individuals to engage in structured conversations on equity and diversity. These conversations will include the sharing of personal stories and outside resources. The goal is to illuminate ways to bring justice and equity to our organizations. You will explore, discuss, and share experiences with aspects of identity including race, gender, class, and sexual orientation.

[Applications](#) are open until Sept. 9th. Any NSTU member is welcome to sign up for this training which will bring together members from across Local 1274. Participants earn 30 hours of professional development credit towards certificate renewal..

SEED II

[SEED II application with the meeting time and dates](#)

Inspired by the SPROUT seminar created in Evanston/Skokie School District 65, SEED II provides participants with structured conversations on equity, while focusing on creating projects that put into action the skills learned in SEED. Participants must have completed a SEED seminar to be eligible to participate in SEED II.

[Applications](#) are open until Sept. 9th. Participants earn 30 hours of professional development credit towards certificate renewal.

Equity Committee

NSTU's Equity committee meets monthly on Zoom to discuss local equity events, training, and issues as they arise in our communities. [Fill out this form to join the email list.](#)

NSTU NORTH SUBURBAN
1274 TEACHERS UNION

SAVE THE DATE

New Member Social Night

What

- Connect with other new members from your school and others!
- Learn more about the local union & resources / opportunities available!
- Have fun eating, drinking, & mingling!

When

September 8th
5 - 8 PM

Where

Good to Go Restaurant
711 W Howard St.
Evanston, IL 60202

JOIN US -- RSVP HERE

MORE INFORMATION
1274LEAD@gmail.com

[Sign up here for New Member Social Night!](#)

Affinity Spaces

NSTU offers several affinity groups where members can find community and build relationships across the Local 1274 councils. Affinity spaces are for people wanting to engage with others who share common identities. White ally spaces are for people who identify as white to work together towards antiracist practices that dismantle white supremacy. If you are interested in joining an affinity group that aligns with one of your identities, [fill out this interest form.](#)

Member Spotlight

Please contact Sherry Baehr (sj.baehr@gmail.com) if you know someone who should be featured in Member Spotlight.

NTFTSS District 219: Olga Shafran

Olga Shafran is a math teacher at Niles West and a Skokie resident and parent. Olga and her colleagues created [Ukraine TrustChain](#), an organization dedicated to help those displaced by the war in Ukraine. The money goes directly to teams providing aid on the ground, who respond dynamically to the most urgent needs. Olga and Ukraine TrustChain have been nominated for an AFT Drum Major for Justice Award for their work on behalf of human rights.

Fairview South School District 72

In May, Fairview 7th/8th Grade Science teacher and FTA Member Jenny Che coordinated a fundraiser project as part of her Conservation unit. After introducing her students to the Saving Penguins initiative (savingpenguins.org), she worked with 7th grade students to create penguin-themed trinkets (keychains, necklaces, etc.) with 3D printers, and sold the items to raise money from the community. This involved planning student presentations to K-4 classrooms, and preparing materials to educate the community about the initiative. While Jenny initially projected that the effort would raise around \$100, the project ended up raising around \$2600!

As a capstone for the project, Jenny coordinated a Zoom call with the coordinator of the project, Kevin Graham (the lead researcher in [this film](#)), that was held in the auditorium with all 7th graders. In all, Fairview students raised enough money to build 77 penguin nests which would serve up to 1136 penguins over the life of nests. [This story was also covered by local radio station WBBM!](#)

Reduced NEIU Tuition for NSTU Members!

[NSTU-NEIU Information Flyer](#)

Local 1274 has an agreement with Northeastern Illinois University to provide our members with a 40% tuition discount for a Master of Arts in Community and Teacher Leaders or a Teacher Leader Endorsement.

The deadline for applying for spring semester is November 1.



Senator Villivalam Visits the NSTU Exec Board

Illinois 8th district senator Ram Villivalam visited the Local 1274 Executive Board meeting with an update from the legislative session that ended in April. Sen. Villivalam told us he has "a strong commitment to working families in my district and to fighting for them in Springfield." This is his second visit to the NSTU executive board. He has been incredibly supportive of school employees and their unions.

One of the biggest legislative session wins for our schools is the passage of [SB 3986](#), which strongly limits the standardized testing of students in pre-K through second grade. IFT has fought hard against the ISBE proposal to unnecessarily test our youngest students.

[Here is a list of the legislative session highlights.](#)



Local 1274 leadership Jill Paisley, Pankaj Sharma, and Robyn Caplan with IL senator Ram Villivalam.

NSTU Leaders Attend AFT PSRP Conference in April

Council leaders attended the 44th annual AFT PSRP conference in St. Louis. AFT president Randi Weingarten was the keynote speaker and led the opening general session: *PSRP'S Are Championing the Promise and Purpose of Public Education*.

Our members attended sessions on union leadership training, paraprofessional job classification, and workshops on advancing social justice.



Conference attendees from left to right, row 1: NSTU Ryan Meyer (NTFTSS), John Bias (NTFTSS), and Cindy Fey (NTFTSS). Row 2: Marqus Ledoux (Kenilworth D38 PSRP Council), Laura Wise (Kenilworth D38 PSRP Council), and Billy Joyce (Wilmette Support Staff District 39).

NSTU Leaders Serve as Delegates to AFT Convention in July

Council leaders from across NSTU served as delegates at the 87th biannual American Federation of Teachers (AFT) convention in Boston. They heard from a wide range of inspirational speakers, including first lady Dr. Jill Biden, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III of Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ, Amazon Labor Union President Chris Smalls, and Ukraine teacher and union leader, [Olga Chabaniuk](#).

[Here are all the resolutions passed by delegates at the convention.](#) Highlights include:

- [School Meals for All](#)

- Adoption of the [AFT's Teacher and School Staff Shortage Task Force Report](#)
- [Living Wages for All AFT Members](#)
- [Solidarity with Ukraine](#)
- [Fulfilling the Promise of Education Opportunity and Equity](#)
- [Reproductive Rights and the Protection of Women](#)



Conference delegates from left to right, row 1: Laura Schero (NTFTSS) and Caitlen Sweeney (NTFTSS). Row 2: Nick Conner (Fairview Teachers Association), Ankur Joshi (NTFTSS), Travis DuPriest (Lincolnwood Teachers Association), Pankaj Sharma (NSTU President, NTFTSS).



Row 1: Laura Schero (NTFTSS), Dan Montgomery (IFT President, NTFTSS), Caitlen Sweeney (NTFTSS). Row 2: Nick Conner (Fairview Teachers Association), Aaron Melnick (Fairview Teachers Association), Travis DuPriest (Lincolnwood Teachers Association), Margaret Vigneri (D69 PSRP Council), Ankur Joshi (NTFTSS).

Retiree Spotlight

District 71 Niles Council of Teachers and Support Staff:

I've known Diana Buhler for 33 years, and she still brings all the same warmth, energy, knowledge, and enthusiasm to her P.E. classes as she did in 1989. Not only is she an incredible teacher for her students, but she is an incredible colleague as well; she is very supportive, and always has great ideas to share. The entire Culver community will miss her bright smile and energy in the gym, and I will miss my friend. We were all lucky to have worked with and learned from her for so many years! Thank you, Diana!

~Mary Ellen Mueller

District 72 Fairview Teachers Association:

Erin Cara has been a teacher at Fairview South for 35 years. During that time, she held many different leadership roles, including Union Vice President, Teacher Mentor, and School Team Leader. She has been a vital voice in many of Fairview's important decisions, and she is viewed as a leader by all of our FTA members. The FTA wishes Erin well in the next chapter of her life, and will miss her presence in the building!

Message From the President

As a new school year gets underway, it's exciting to see the progress and activism taking place within the North Suburban Teachers Union. Around the local, new council leaders are transitioning into their positions and are being mentored by those whose positions they are taking and by other local leaders. We are fortunate that our council leaders are strong union activists and work well together, sharing suggestions, experiences, and support as so many of our councils and districts face similar challenges.

Our two newest councils, D38 support staff and D28 Northbrook Federation of Teachers, are working to secure fair and just contracts for their members. Our dedicated field service directors, Lenny Nieves and Deb Takehara, continue to provide support and guidance to our many councils. Our equity committee is engaged and active, providing meaningful professional development equity courses and affinity groups for our members. Our treasurer, Robyn Caplan, and our vice president, Jill Paisley, work closely with our council leaders to help as they set budgets, agendas, and goals for the new school year. Members are also signing up for meaningful professional development taught by fellow NSTU members, like *Foundations of Effective Teaching*, taught by local member Ryan Murphy.

Our local is active, engaged, and strong because our councils and our members continue to fight for what is best for our students, our schools, and our members. The start of a new school year is an exciting time, and it is an exciting time to be a member of the NSTU.

Wishing you a wonderful start to the school year,
Pankaj Sharma

NSTU President



If passed by voters on Nov. 8, the Workers' Rights Amendment (WRA) would amend the Illinois Constitution to guarantee the fundamental rights of workers to unionize and collectively bargain.

1274 Newsline

Produced and published by the North Suburban Teachers Union Local 1274 – IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

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