

STATE OF THE UNION

CFT #1272 (AUG 2023)

Presidents Message

August 2023 President's Message

Union Brothers and Sisters:

I would like to warmly welcome you as we begin another school year. Together we do great work for our students and for our union. I want you to know how proud I am to count myself a member of this staff. In all three councils, I am surrounded by dedicated professionals. You are an amazing group, and together, we are strong.



Back to School Union Social and Luau

Erin Reeb is planning a Back to School Union Social and Luau for us. Plan to stop by Triple Lakes Tavern in Dupu, IL, Tuesday, August 29th. The CFT will provide beverages and appetizers from 3 until 7 p.m. for union members. I hope everyone is able to attend.

Labor Day Parade

The Cahokia Federation of Teachers will march in the Labor Day Parade again this year. I have asked our building reps to post flyers in mailrooms, but you can also help me spread the word about this family-friendly event. After the parade there is a picnic at Hough Park. The union will purchase \$10 in tickets for those who march with us. Members are encouraged to wear a union shirt. Please consider joining us!

New District Leadership

Over the summer, the CUSD 187 school board voted to change district leadership, including appointing a new superintendent. Some discussions with administration had to be paused for the transition, but I have met with the new superintendent several times. At the time of this newsletter, we are discussing several items that I will report on in my next correspondence. The union has expressed concerns about staffing shortages, specifically people being transferred to positions for

the good of the district when they own different jobs, and new job creations. Our ability to bid to open positions and owning our jobs are contractual rights.

Mentoring Program

Several years ago, the union lobbied for a teacher induction and mentoring program. Leslie Harder collaborated with our administration and the IFT, and she worked to establish this important program. Thank you to those who have formally agreed to serve as mentors. My role in the process is to help recruit mentors and I appreciate your willingness to support our new people. The district is finalizing placements and preparing to send out letters and guidance to mentors and mentees.

HR Training Modules - On the Clock Time Agreed Upon

For all staff, the union requested that the superintendent provide on the clock time for the HR training modules. At the time of this newsletter, the district is working to finalize times for this to happen. They had to reschedule PD to allow for this time, so we may not all get time on the same day. It appears that we will get time during an upcoming SIP day.

There will be opportunities for members to get more involved and have a bigger voice this year in the union. I look forward to working together , and I wish you a successful school year.

In solidarity,

Wendy

State and National Union News



AFT Teach Conference

CFT 1272's Vice President Erin Reeb and Secretary Christin Oleson traveled to Washington, DC from July 21-23 to attend AFT's TEACH 2023 Conference. They were able to attend workshops focusing on integrating professional issues into the core of the union's work by using a systems approach. This would broaden the union's role to rethink organizational structure, professional learning and most importantly elevating members' voices and advocacy. This approach would include having joint custody between the district, community, and union by developing collaborative partnerships and would engage stakeholders in public responsibility.

They also attended a workshop in which the focus was on literacy reform and the unprecedented wave of reading legislation across the states. This included a comprehensive look at all states and

presenters discussed the challenges that are occurring with the implementation of some of this legislation and how the AFT and local unions can be supportive. Feel free to reach out to Christin Oleson if you are interested in seeing this data.

They both found this conference informative, important, and plan to utilize what they learned to continue to strengthen and move CFT 1272 in the right direction.



The CFT is marching in the



LABOR DAY PARADE



Monday, September 4, 2023

Please Join Us!

The parade line up will start in the fourth block of South First Street, Belleville, IL, beginning at 9 am. The parade starts promptly at 10. Please feel free to bring your family. Sorry, no pets, motorcycles, go-karts, or bouncy balls.

Labor Day Picnic immediately following parade at Hough Park. Tickets for food/drinks provided! Wear your union shirt!



The Cahokia Federation of Teachers would like to invite
Union Members to a Welcome Back Luau

When: Tuesday, August 29th from 3-7 p.m.

Where: Triple Lakes Tavern (Back Room)
8055 Triple Lakes Rd, Dupou, IL 62239

Appetizers and drinks will be served.

Wear Your Union Shirt on Payday

Every payday is WEAR YOUR UNION SHIRT day. Send us pictures of you with your co-workers showing union pride to put in our newsletter. If you know a union member who doesn't get this newsletter, they need to give a personal email address to their union rep. Be sure to follow Cahokia Federation of Teachers 1272 on Facebook.

WEINGARTEN RIGHTS

Read this word-for-word to your supervisor:

“If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative, officer, or steward be present at this meeting. Until my representative arrives, I choose not to participate in this discussion.”



About Us

Cahokia Federation of Teachers Local #1272 represents: teachers, certified and non-certified staff, service workers, maintenance, custodial staff, secretarial, Technology Department staff, social workers, and nurses.

Email: lochmannwendy@gmail.com

Location: [Cahokia, IL, USA](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Cahokia-Federation-of-Teachers-1272-114385281983868/>