

WORKSHOP #1: Political Activism: Stepping Up in 2020

Five Stages of Political Activism

Awareness – Most basic. You are aware politics because of media, but you don't get involved.

Interest – You're an informed voter. You do some research before casting your ballot. You have a slight interest in issues.

Engagement – You're not just an informed voter. You volunteer. You may even donate on occasion.

Development – You develop a passion and sign up for union programs. Attend local activist meetings. You engage your friends and co-workers in politics.

Advocate – Active leader within your union, or local political party. You may have run for office.

1. Design an action plan for each stage of political activism
2. Help initiate and move legislation
3. Follow legislation
4. Assess elected officials – are they acting on behalf of public interest?
5. Help get the right candidates elected

Grassroots Political Activist (GPA) Program – 1 (*possibly more*) per Local

- Internal program to build support
- Member education
- Supportive locals
- Member action – legislative advocacy and campaign 2020

Purpose

- Cultivating member power and building local capacity
- Recruiting and organizing other members for political and legislative action

Internal

- Attend Local union meetings; provide legislative and political updates
- Develop/execute a plan to recruit and organize members for legislative and political action
- Build, update, and maintain a list of members interested in legislative action

Political

- Assist with member voter registration
- Attend IFT Regional PAC meetings when applicable
- Participate in voter contact activities on behalf of IFT and Local-endorsed candidates
- Recruit other members to participate in voter contact activities
- Solicit members for voluntary COPE contributions when applicable

Requirements

- Access to a car personal laptop, and cellphone
- IFT member in good standing who contributes to IFT COPE

- Completed modules 4 & 5 of the Worksite Leader Training, Build a Political Powerhouse, or a GPA Training conducted by the IFT Department of Political Activities (DPA)
- Positive attitude about political action and legislative advocacy
- Effective communication skills, organized, reliable, and detailed

Accountability

- Work directly with the IFT DPA and submit two updates per year
- Coordinate efforts with Local union leadership

Compensation:

- Annual stipend of \$1,000 to be paid in two installments of \$500
- Expenses up to \$500 per year; expenses must be pre-approved

Other Information:

- Local presidents and IFT staff may not serve as a GPA
- GPA applicants will be approved by the IFT DPA in collaboration with the Local President
- GPAs can serve a term of two years with a maximum of three terms (six years total)

IFT PAC Process – 3 Step Endorsement Process

Step 1 - Regional meetings

Step 2 - IFT statewide PAC meeting

Step 3 - IFT Executive Board

WORKSHOP #2: How TIFs Defund Our Schools and What To Do About It

- TIF - the property value of all the real estate within the boundaries at that time is designated as the “base value.”
- This is the amount that, for a set amount of years after the fact, generates revenue through the city’s property tax process.
- Everything over and above that, through an increase in value of existing real estate and new development in that time frame, goes into a separate fund, which is earmarked

TIFs (Value Capture)

Help slum and blight areas

- Get control over development process before TIF is implemented
- Get the community involved in the process
- Insert statements that will stop TIF if area is negatively impacted

How to Research Your Area – Tips on how to find info on TIFs

Comptroller’s Warehouse – Tax Increment Financial Reports

Susana Mendoza, Illinois

<https://illinoiscomptroller.gov/financial-data/local-government-division/local-government-data/>

1. Name of district and dates of origin and termination
2. Legal requirements

3. Information about TIF's yearly income and expenditures, and as cumulative totals
4. Itemized expenses for that year
5. List of vendors paid
6. Breakdown of fund at the end of year reporting period, including any surplus
7. Any property purchased with TIF funds
8. List of projects as well as the percentage of private and public funds used for each
9. Base EAV values compared to Reporting Year
10. Information about Job Creation
11. General Description of project areas
12. Attachments A-M (for descriptions see last page)

WORKSHOP #3: Build a Stronger Union and Increase Member Activism Through Union Professional Development

Student Debt Clinics (90-minute session)

AFT Student Debt Clinics cover the landscape of free and underused federal programs that help many student loan borrowers lower their monthly payments and, in some cases, even have their debt forgiven.

AFT Professional Learning Program (more than 20 courses)

Union Train the Trainer – Staff Development

The AFT Professional Learning Program represents one of the union's major efforts to improve student achievement by making a difference in practitioners' performance and professional growth. To see the catalog of course offerings, go to

<http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/aftplprogram.pdf>.

Union Leadership Institute

Designed to meet the needs of both new and experienced local leaders and activists in all IFT constituency groups. ULI course descriptions and registration forms are available at www.ift-aft.org.

Participants can select and complete one of the ULI core courses over three weekend-long sessions. The core courses for the upcoming year are:

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

In addition, union and professional development training is offered and can be completed within a single ULI weekend session:

- The Union's Response to Student Trauma and Stress
- Worksite Leader Training

Leadership Education and Development Program (LEAD)

In partnership with the AFT and Cornell University, the LEAD program helps local union and council teams establish strong relationships with their members and the community. Throughout the year-long program, LEAD teams hold several collaborative meetings to assess their challenges, determine how to strategically overcome them, and develop an effective action plan.

View IFT Website, Union Link, and personal email for upcoming events.

Online Resources:

Share My Lesson – www.sharemylesson.com

Free award-winning lesson-sharing website

Colorin Colorado – colorincolorado.org

Premier national website serving educators and families of English language learners in grades pre-K – 12

First Book – www.firstbook.org

Have distributed more than 5 million books to classrooms and programs serving students and families in need and connected thousands of educators and staff to ongoing resources.

WORKSHOP #4: Doing Our Part: The Union Response to Student Stress and Trauma

Panelists shared stories about how Response to Student Stress and Trauma has been implemented in various schools.

GENERAL SESSION

Marisel Hernandez, Esq., Parliamentarian

Welcome – *Jane Russell, IFT Secretary-Treasurer*

Land Acknowledgement

Code of Conduct

State of the Union Keynote Address – *Daniel J. Montgomery, IFT President*

Committee Reports – Audit, Budget, Credentials, Constitution, Nominating, Election,

Special Order of Business: Honoring Karen GJ Lewis, NBCT

Dick Durbin, U.S. Senator

VIEW: <https://youtu.be/BdTkedcDfwE>

J.B. Pritzker, IL Governor

VIEW: https://youtu.be/_brHjUJFrrQ

Fair Tax: Opening up constitution allows legislators access to making changes in Pension Protection Clause.

Mary Edly-Allen, IL Representative

VIEW: https://youtu.be/jN_Zngb_J9M

Coalitions

IL Working Together – <https://www.illinoisworkingtogether.org/>

We Are One, IL – <https://www.weareoneillinois.org/>

Social Media isn't enough – we need face-to-face conversations via Community Building and Issue-Specific Campaigns

RESOLUTIONS – IFT Delegates from Local 1211 took the floor for the resolutions below (download IFT app for full list of Resolutions).

Trauma, Restorative Justice Safety, and Justice in the Classroom: *Jim Arey*, Local 1211 Member Engagement
VIEW: <https://youtu.be/pUSf3AkAwy0>

Dual Credit & Oppose Efforts to Privatize Public Services: *John Braglia* Local 1211 President
VIEW: <https://youtu.be/qPXUi7JvIPk>

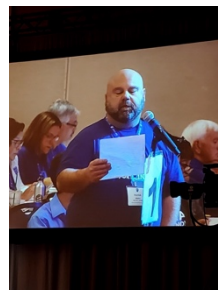


Preserving Exclusive Representation: *Kevin Palmer*, Local 1211 Legislative Director
VIEW: https://youtu.be/Nl4rO_V6FYI

Oppose Efforts to Privatize Public Services & Advocating for Reform of TIER II Pension System: *Gerri Songer*, Local 1211 Legislative Director



Education Teacher Performance Assessment: *Patrick Malloy*, Local 1211 Member



IFT Scholarships (<https://iftweb.ift-aft.org/943/members-only/scholarships/ift-scholarships>):
Robert G. Porter Scholarship
2020 Carl J. Megel Special Education Scholarship