


social science), reading, special populations (including special education, gifted, English as a second language, or bilingual education), human development, educational psychology, methods of instruction, or technology as it relates to education. Coursework in any of your endorsement areas will also be accepted.

2. Educators whose license has lapsed may pay a \$500 penalty fee in place of completing nine semester hours of coursework. You may apply for reinstatement in ELIS. You will be able to select which of the two reinstatement options you wish to use.

#2 is a beauty! Undercuts the whole importance of the need for a teacher to engage in Professional Development for license renewal. That's \$100 a year folks. WHAT A BARGAIN! ( all sarcasm aside.....it seriously is a bargain....especially if you have no desire or no room to take college courses to move to the right on the salary schedule or just can't find the time to do enough PD activity or if you don't want to enter a bunch of data into ELIS.

Because of what may be an unfair further restricting of where teachers can do PD activities, and horrible implementation of rules that follow the requirements of the changes in law, the union may have to consider taking legal action to stop the rules from taking effect.

Also, some 201 teachers have found that all or some of the certificate renewal info. they had entered into the previous ISBE web site, ECS, did not transfer to, ELIS, the new certificate renewal web site. Be sure to check if that your previously entered info. is stored in the new system. If not, you will have to re-enter it.




## District 201 End of Year Bash

**TO: ALL FACULTY, STAFF & ADMINISTRATION**

**WHY: Come and Celebrate the End of the School Year**

**WHEN: FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014 - 4PM —??**

**WHERE:**



**Silver Creek**  
Saloon & Grill  
2520 Mascoutah Avenue, Belleville, IL

**Food available from 4pm-9pm**

**Drink Tickets available for District 201 Faculty, Staff, Administrators and Guest**

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**Provided by Local 434 Teacher's Union & Your Friendly Union Vice-President, Norm Dahm**

## Local 434 Executive Council Members

- President**—Cyndi Oberle\_Dahm
- Vice President**—Norm Dahm
- Past President**—Curt Caswell
- President-Elect**—Rich Hodson
- President of Paraprofessionals**—Mike Chase
- President of Secretaries**—Joy Mueller
- Secretary**—Tammie Hettenhausen
- Treasurer**—Brenda Kelley
- Parliamentarian**—Matt Casper—Bassler
- Comptroller**—Julie Siebers
- East Building Rep**—Pat Watkins
- West Building Rep**—Curt Caswell
- Calendar**—Lee Meyer
- Constitution**—Shieia Misselhom
- Cope**—Keith Padgett
- District Budget & Finance**—Brandon Hentze and Rusty Rayburn
- Grievance**—Jeff Boyles and LeAnne Kniepkamp
- Health and Safety**—Taree McGee and Cindy Thompson
- Insurance**—Shawn Coughlin and Rich Hodson
- Legislative/COPE**—Pat Watkins
- Membership**—Kristin Demond and Rebecca Schrader
- Nominating and Elections**—Molly Hep and Jen Stenger
- Professional Issues**—Becky McGarrity and Lisa Quandt
- Public Relations**—Lucas Spriggs
- SWAC**—Paul Fraser and Rusty Rayburn
- SWIQLC**—Paul Fraser and Rusyt Rayburn
- Technology (ad hoc)**—Christine Gooding and Christina Roedl



# The Union Messenger

## Local 434

ISSUE  
2

VOLUME  
7

May  
2014

BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

## Message from the President

by Cyndi Oberle-Dahm

Dear Union Brothers and Sisters,

As the year draws to a close, I want to thank you for your continued efforts and support. It has been my privilege and honor serving as your president.

If you remember from the November newsletter, I spoke of Local 434's path forward and focusing on three main goals:

- Forging Strategic Alliances
- Establishing a solid evaluation tool that empowers our members
- Engaging our members, especially younger members

We have powered forward and made significant progress toward these goals.

### Forging Strategic Alliances

We've been meeting on a monthly basis with the district administration, and this is an alliance we need to develop and maintain. Negotiations are easier with a strong relationship rather than an antagonistic one. We've also been strengthening our alliance with the IFT and the ISBE. Our field representative, Lana Turley, has been successful in gaining two of our members a position on the PARCC Steering Committee for the state. Matt Nimmons and Daniel Boyt attended workshops in Washington, DC and Denver, CO already this year where they have

engaged in item reviewing and item writing for the PARCC exam. Also, Lisa Quandt is serving as a member of the ISBE Special Education Committee, and there will be more opportunities to come. It is imperative that we remain active in events at the state level.

One alliance we are developing and must continue to develop is our relationship with parents and the community. We want them to see education from our point of view. Are larger class sizes better for their children? Are underpaid, overstressed teachers better for their children? Are students who should be suspended out of school but remain in the classroom really what parents want for their children? The answer to all of these is a resounding NO. But this is an area in which we need improvement. We need to improve our communication with parents and the community so they see things from our perspective—what is truly better for their children rather than the biased media version they usually receive. It will be one of our main goals next year to develop ways we can engage the parents and educate them on relevant issues.

### Establishing a Solid Evaluation Tool

Our second endeavor this year was to establish a solid evaluation tool. We feel that this is also becoming a reality. There is a committee of six union members who have met numerous times this semester with the administration, and we have laid the groundwork for our new performance evaluation tool based on

the Danielson model. The six union members are myself, Norm Dahm, Rich Hodson, Jessica Templin, Lisa Quandt and Curt Caswell. We are still meeting through the end of the school year, and one goal over the summer is to develop an Evaluation Toolkit to better inform you regarding Danielson's four domains and performance indicators. We will definitely be focusing on professional development so you feel comfortable and ready in 2016 when we implement our new plan.

### Engaging Our Members

Our final mission was to engage our members, and one of the most effective means of accomplishing this is to increase our commu-

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# Certificate Renewal Changes

By Rich Hodson

The reason for this blurb is to bring to your attention that recently, several 201 teachers trying to interpret some of the details of these changes were told, after calling the ISBE, that PD's (formerly CPDU's) will be granted only for coursework taken AT IL universities and colleges listed on some web page at the ISBE website. The only info. that could be found currently at the ISBE's website related to "Licensure Renewal" described the current, pre-July 1, 2014, old certificate renewal scheme. No info. about the changes taking affect in less than 2 months could be found.

The loss of ability to do online PD activities from out of state provider could have significant negative impact on educators with young children at home, that spend a lot of time coaching or sponsoring student activities outside of the school day. Umbrage should be taken at further restrictions that make it more difficult for teachers to gain professional development when, at the same time, there is a push to get teachers more involved and invested time wise to improve the schools.

Found currently on the ISBE website at <http://www.isbe.net/licensure/html/license-renewal.htm>

"Proposed legislation may change the renewal requirements for the professional educator license beginning July 1, 2014, so please check back to this website regularly after January 1, 2014 for the latest information. If you are working on a professional educator license with a teaching endorsement, continue to engage in professional development activities for renewal during the 2013-2014 school year. Maintain evidence of completion for two years after your license renewal date in case you are."

There is no mention of what a teacher should do after the 2013-14 school year. Should teachers sit out PD activity during summer 2014 since it's not clear what will count? Summer is a golden opportunity for

teachers busy throughout the year to do PD activities. Is it fair for a teacher to lose 1 of the 5 summers available?

To add insult to injury, a teacher with a master's degree and a July 1, 2015 cycle ending date will have to gain an additional 40 PD hours if they don't complete the 80 CPDU's they were previously required to get. The goal post gets moved to 120 PD's since they didn't meet the requirements EARLIER THAN REQUIRED. That's a 50% increase with one year's notice. There is no proration for them. It's hard for some teachers to do PD activities, let alone 50% more.

**Reinstatement of a Lapsed License (directly from ISBE website)**  
My license has lapsed. What are my options for reinstatement?  
A lapsed license is invalid. One of the following two options must be completed to reinstate your license:

1. Educators whose license has lapsed may complete nine semester hours of coursework in one or more of the endorsement areas listed on their license. Coursework must be completed within the last five fiscal years.

Secondary Education or K-12 Special Endorsement: Coursework in any of the following areas: reading, special populations (including special education, gifted, English as a second language, or bilingual education), human development, educational psychology, methods of instruction, or technology as it relates to education. Coursework in any of your endorsement areas will also be accepted.

Special Education PK-21 Endorsement: Coursework in any of the following areas: core content courses (English language arts, math, science, or

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Message from the President

*(Continued from page 1)*

nication. We have been successful in creating a variety of platforms on which to reach you. We are active now on Face book, Twitter, and we have a working website. We will still continue to place notices in your mailbox and communicate via email, but please be sure to join our group on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. Our new website is [www.iflocal434.org](http://www.iflocal434.org).

We've also created a Young Members Focus Group to involve our younger members, and we were able to meet in March to answer questions and brainstorm ways to better serve them. I would like to thank Jeremy Witt, Ashley Dachsteiner, Julie Spriggs, Shawn Coughlin, Sara Coughin, Andy Gaa, and Meagan Hemmer, for graciously giving up their time to help us power forward. We are hoping to meet again next fall. This is also an alliance we need to nurture.

We want to power forward to continue to engage all our members, so we have purchased new Union t-shirts. The first day we are planning on wearing them is Friday, May 16, 2014. We will post reminders on Face book and in the faculty announcements, but please wear them. There is strength in numbers, and what a powerful message of solidarity we will make on that day. This is excellent timing as Saturday, May 17, 2014 is the IFT Day of Action. It is a day to Reclaim the Promise of Public Education. It is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Brown v. the Board of Education*, so by wearing our shirts, we can continue to promote what public education means to us. Is our educational system perfect? No, our system is far from it, but sticking together and fighting for what is right and just is only the beginning. We will continue to work together in forging a future in which all children have a safe, equal learning environment. This means we will need your help, dedication and continued support.

We also are planning on marching in the Labor Day Parade in downtown Belleville and enjoying the picnic held afterward at Hough Park. If you want to get involved, join us. If you used to walk and for some reason stopped, join us. If you have young children who want to walk in the parade, join us! Children LOVE parades, and what better way to enjoy it than to participate in it? We will wear our t-shirts and feel empowered. It will be another chance to show our solidarity. It will also be a great opportunity to show the community that we are active and involved in the city. It will be a great way to show that we care about the community. A lot of people come to watch the Labor Day parade, and they love seeing us involved. They need to see us involved?

## Don't Forget...

...to come back to work on Monday, June 2nd for a day of attendance for all faculty and staff. We'll be conducting an intruder drill and completing some mandatory online training activities, so join us between 8:30 and 1:30, unless you want an hour lunch, in which case you'll need to stay until 2:30.

Why is this important you ask? Well, we have been told time and time again that our economic situation is dire. We are negotiating next year for a new contract. Do we want the community to see us as active, caring teachers who want what is best for their children—smaller class sizes, out of school suspensions, etc, or do we want to only be seen as how the Belleville News Democrat portrays us—as overpaid, whiny teachers who only work 10 months a year? Believe me, visibility in the community is IMPERATIVE. When the Chicago Teachers' Union, with its 32,000 members, went on strike last year, the parents were on THEIR side. Please mark this day on your calendar and plan on being UNION STRONG!

I know sometimes it is difficult to manage a full class load, extracurricular activities, and a personal life, and that is why I want to thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to keep Local 434 powering forward. I also want to thank you for your

continued attention and awareness to the many curve balls this year has thrown us. It has been a tough year politically as the pension law was passed, and I know I have inundated your inbox with emails, but with it is only with our continued vigilance that we will stay abreast of the many issues that surface in Springfield.

There is an election coming up soon for several Executive Council positions, and I urge you to run or nominate someone to run. Serving on the council may seem daunting at first, but it is the best way to stay informed and become more active. Also, please consider running as a delegate to the AFT Convention. It will be in California, and believe me; the energy at a convention is electric! You truly feel a part of something bigger and stronger than yourself.

Once again, thank you for your vigilance, support, and dedication to this profession. I hope to see all of you at the Spring Party on May 30 at Silver Creek. It will be a time for fun, fellowship, and solidarity. We are, and will continue to be UNION STRONG. If I do not see you at Silver Creek, have a restful, enjoyable summer.

Yours in solidarity,

Cyndi Oberle-Dahm

President, Local 434

"We will continue to work together in forging a future in which all children have a safe, equal learning environment. This means we will need your help, dedication and continued support."

## Other Stuff

- We want pictures of you doing what you do. If you're interested in being part of our new "Faces of the Union" campaign and you're willing to have pictures of yourself posted on our new website at [iftlocal434.org](http://iftlocal434.org), please email us at [iftlocal434@gmail.com](mailto:iftlocal434@gmail.com).
- The website is beginning to grow with content. If there is an event (community/school/personal) that someone would like others to know about, email [iftlocal434@gmail.com](mailto:iftlocal434@gmail.com) and the event will be added to our website for everyone to see. We would also like links that are interesting or used frequently by our staff.
- Don't forget to find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and visit our website at [iftlocal434.org](http://iftlocal434.org).

