



Marilyn Stewart  
President

*Affiliations*  
American Federation of Teachers, Illinois Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations, Illinois Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations, and Chicago Federation of Labor, Industrial Union Council

Dear CTU Member:

A new school year is upon us. I hope this letter finds you rested and ready. Lots of things have happened over the past summer, and I want to bring you up-to-date as the new school year begins.

With this letter, you are receiving a report on several of the events and actions that have taken place. You no doubt have heard about some of them from items in the media. My report to you is intended to give clarification on some of those matters. Included in the report is information about the following.

- The Executive Board's decision to remove Vice President Ted Dallas from membership in the Union.
- Our national Union's endorsement of Barack Obama for president.
- Launching the *No on Con Con* campaign.
- Hiring a Director of Financial Operations to improve the CTU fiscal situation.
- CTU stance on State Sen. James Meeks' first-day-of-school boycott.

The September edition of the *Chicago Union Teacher* will include a full report on the AFT convention that was held in Chicago in July, and will give information about our new national Union leaders. In the meanwhile, you can gain some of that news by visiting our Union website at [www.ctunet.com](http://www.ctunet.com).

The Chicago Teachers Union is a powerful and vibrant organization because you help make it so. I want to be sure you have the facts you need. A fully informed membership is essential to the health and stability of our Union. If you have questions or concerns about any matter, please contact me at [leadership@ctulocal1.com](mailto:leadership@ctulocal1.com).

Thanks for all you do for this Union and for the students of the Chicago Public Schools.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marilyn Stewart  
President

# News and updates from your Union President...

## **The Executive Board's decision to remove Vice President Ted Dallas from membership**

As dictated by the Constitution and By-laws of the Union, the Executive Board met this summer to consider charges against Vice President Ted Dallas regarding alleged misuse of Union funds and other improprieties. The Constitution and By-laws clearly give the Executive Board the right and power to remove an individual from membership if he or she brings disrepute upon the Union. In the opinion of the Executive Board members, Mr. Dallas – as an officer who engaged in the various actions listed in the charges against him – did indeed bring disrepute on the CTU. The Executive Board – made up of persons who were elected by the membership – voted 34-2 to find Mr. Dallas guilty of the charges, and then voted 31-5 to strip him of his membership in the Union. The Constitution and By-Laws now afford him the opportunity to appeal the Executive Board's decision by presenting his case to an Appeal Board made up of the functional vice presidents of the CTU. We will keep you informed of this matter as it progresses through the appeal process.

## **Our national Union's endorsement of Barack Obama for president**

Delegates to the American Federation of Teachers convention overwhelmingly endorsed Barack Obama for president during the AFT convention in Chicago earlier this summer. I was proud to present the endorsement resolution to delegates, urging their support for a friend of education and organized labor. After receiving the endorsement, Senator Obama spoke to the crowd via satellite, saying "...if you stand up with me these next four months, we will win this election, we will change education in this country, and we will bring about a better future for our children." I urge you to support the candidacy of Senator Obama and to work diligently for his election. Not only is he Illinois' favorite son, he also is a friend of labor and a friend of educators. His election is vitally important to the future of our country.

## **Launching the No on Con Con campaign**

As you may be aware, some people are advocating a constitutional convention (Con Con) to rewrite the Illinois State Constitution. In addition to the great costs involved for such an event itself, the re-writing of the constitution could result in serious changes in some benefits teachers and other public employees currently enjoy. To defeat the call for a constitutional convention, CTU members

must talk to their colleagues, their friends, and to family members to urge a “No” vote on the question that will appear on the November 4 general election ballot. To provide Union members with the tools they need to make the case that Con Con is unneeded and unwise, a special section has been launched on the CTU website. Just click on the “No on Con Con” icon on the home page at [www.ctunet.com](http://www.ctunet.com). It will lead you to a special section prepared by the Illinois Federation of Teachers in which you’ll find “Frequently Asked Questions about Con Con,” video clips of Union members and leaders stating why they are urging a “No” vote, a way to send e-mails to friends and family, and more. Materials and information will be added from now through Election Day. Early in September, your school delegate will have postcards available for you to mail to friends and family asking them to support us in opposing the Con Con vote.

## **Hiring a Director of Financial Operations to improve the CTU fiscal situation**

Last spring, I reported to the membership that the Union was in poor fiscal condition. That circumstance developed for a number of reasons, but basically because expenditures were increasing more rapidly than was income. This pattern was present over a few administrations of the Union but only came to a head this past year. Working with the AFT and the IFT, I have put in place a program of fiscal restraint that already is working to improve our financial circumstances. The Union’s officers and administrative staff have taken reductions in their pension benefits and have not received salary increases for the current fiscal year. Other belt-tightening includes decreasing the number of editions of the *Chicago Union Teacher* that are published, handling our website by in-house staff rather than by an outside consultant, and controlling expenditures in a number of other areas. In addition, the AFT has given us three years of funding to hire a Director of Financial Operations who will oversee all the Union’s expenditures in the days ahead. He will be on staff with the beginning of the new school year. We look forward to the assistance he will offer in helping us put the Union on good, solid fiscal ground once again.

## **CTU stance on Sen. Meeks’ first-day of school boycott**

The Chicago Teachers Union has long supported Senator James Meeks’ efforts to change the way Illinois preK-12 public schools are funded by increasing the state income tax while reducing property taxes. Recently, the senator has announced a boycott the first day of class on Tuesday, September 2. Senator Meeks is organizing caravans of students to register at New Trier High School in the north shore suburb of Wilmette to highlight the funding disparities in Illinois school districts. We understand Senator Meeks’ frustration because we share it. However, Chicago students need to be in class on day-one with teachers and career service personnel. Yet, it is our fervent hope that the actions Senator Meeks has announced will be the impetus to awaken our state legislators and the governor to pass an education funding reform bill this school year.