

# NEIUPI NEWS

A bi-weekly news briefing from the [NEIU Chapter of UPI Local 4100, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO](#)



June 14, 2022

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Welcome to “NEIUPI NEWS,” a bi-weekly informational briefing brought to you by YOUR union.

Please contact us at [neiupinews@gmail.com](mailto:neiupinews@gmail.com) if you have any comments or questions. Thanks for reading!

-Brandon Bisbey and Olivia Cronk, NEIUPI Communications Team

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## **1. NEIUPI Behind the Scenes: What’s happening?**

NEIUPI leadership will be working *all summer long* to help members! At the moment, they are...

pressuring Academic Affairs (AA) to get summer contracts completed & processed so that members can get paid!

pressuring Human Resources (HR) and AA to resolve the multiple timesheets issue.

serving as a liaison between members, AA, and HR.

investigating mistakes in dues deductions.

answering member questions about parental leave, FMLA, sabbaticals, etc.

If YOU have questions about any of the issues mentioned above, please contact Nancy Matthews ([gratefulmargin@gmail.com](mailto:gratefulmargin@gmail.com)) or Rachel Birmingham ([rsbirmin@gmail.com](mailto:rsbirmin@gmail.com)).

There is also MAJOR movement on these fronts:

NEIUPI is waiting for the final decision on a grievance from members in Teacher Education.

The Bargaining Team is wrapping up our Collective Bargaining Agreement Proposal; STAY TUNED for updates and calls for action!

## 2. Fast Fund Updates

The [NEIUPI Fast Fund](#) (our union's student emergency fund) is working! We are acting in solidarity and making our union work towards the greater good.

In 2022, the Fast Fund has helped students who have:

- lost work hours due to cancer treatments
- lost work hours due to COVID
- had phone service disconnected because of an employer's paycheck error
- had to pay a car insurance deductible after an accident
- had trouble paying a misunderstood tuition bill

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Fast Fund. If you have not, please consider doing so. As you can see, we can do a lot of good with it! You can donate [here](#).

### 3. NEIU Board of Trustees: President's Contract

At the June 9 meeting of the NEIU Board of Trustees, the BOT evaluated President Gloria Gibson, and, after a 2.5 hour closed session discussion, announced that her contract would be extended for two years, pending negotiations.

You can watch the meeting [here](#).

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### What Can I Do Now?

1. Join the NEIUPI Organizing Team AND spread the word to others who want to make a difference! [Email Alex Peimer](#). He's out on a research trip for a couple of weeks, so in the meantime, email Nancy Matthews!
2. [Donate to the Fast Fund!](#)
3. Come to the (new!!) [UPI: Summer Office Hours, Wednesdays 12-1:30](#). These are drop-in hours for questions and information-sharing, hosted by NEIUPI President Nancy Matthews. For the month of June, these will be offered in a hybrid-format (**in-person in the Cafeteria & over zoom**): <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94694938849?pwd=OC90UUY5cGNRRGFZMmgYnkrJR1U0Zz09>.
4. Vote in the Illinois Primary Elections on June 28. [Here](#) is the Illinois Federation of Teachers' (IFT) list of endorsements. Additional information about IFT's process and how candidates align with our shared concerns regarding collective bargaining and public education can be found [here](#).

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### Labor Notes

In May, [the Chicago Teachers Union held their election](#), and “incumbent leadership group known as Caucus of Rank and File Educators (CORE) will retain power over the Chicago Teachers Union for another three years.” Outgoing President Jesse Sharkey will be replaced by Stacy Davis Gates, who is currently serving as the CTU's Vice President.

Chicago Starbucks employees have joined the 250 locations around the U.S. that have filed to join a union (fifty of those have been successful) or are beginning the process. Recently, two Edgewater shops (Clark and Ridge, Bryn Mawr and Winthrop) filed, and now, close to campus, the North Park shop (Lincoln and Jersey) has begun unionization efforts. All Chicago-area Starbucks would be affiliated with SEIU. WTTW has been covering the efforts, and the most recent piece is [here](#). Consider wearing your NEIUPI gear to one of these shops to show your solidarity with these workers!

**NEIUPI is working for a fair contract and an inclusive university!**