



## Building Our Ground Game



**Above:** Carol Underwood and Chris DeFrancesco walk an informational picket line at Community Health Services in Hartford Dec. 21. **Below:** (From left) Chris DeFrancesco, Bill Garrity, Carol Underwood, Ivonne Hamm, and Ben Wenograd.

Even before the elections in November and Gov. Malloy's state-of-the-state address this month, it was apparent organized labor would be in for a fight this year. In this kind of economic and political environment, it's as important as ever for unions to leverage their strength, and one way to do that is to mobilize together to be seen and heard.

"We need to stand up for ourselves as public employees, and we need to stand up for each other as workers," says UHP President Bill Garrity.

One of the more recent opportunities to do this was at Community Health Services in Hartford, where representatives from UHP and other AFT locals turned out in support of the health care workers who are seeking a contract and a minimum wage of \$15 an hour.

Events like this enable workers from different unions to come together for causes common to all of us—a fair wage, a contract, defending benefits, or preserving jobs.

"The more we can make our presence felt, the better chance we have to influence employers, policymakers, and the public," Bill says. "Nothing is assured, but we're guaranteed to make no progress if we make no effort."

More here from AFT CT: [bit.ly/1701sotsreac](http://bit.ly/1701sotsreac)



## President's Corner

I hope everyone had a great holiday. Welcome 2017, may this year be better than the last!

I've gotten a lot of questions about our contract and SEBAC. While there's still not a whole lot to report on either, both are important and worth paying attention to.

We are still working under our old contract, which has been extended through June 30, 2017, or until we agree to a new contract. In the meantime we



have a labor-management subcommittee trying to work on what have been identified as top priorities. Once we make some progress there, the plan is to bring our negotiations team back to the table.

There is talk of reopening the SEBAC agreement—the contract that covers all unionized state employees' health care and retirement benefits through 2022—but as of this writing there still has been no formal discussion with the Malloy administration about concessions. While I do not have all the answers, I am very happy to announce AFT-CT President Jan Hochadel is coming to UConn Health in the near future to address our members and take our questions. Please stay tuned for date and times, and plan to come out and meet Jan. We will have an exchange of ideas and deal in facts rather than rumors.

Lastly I'd like to thank those who joined me on a chilly December morning on an informational picket line in Hartford's North End (see story to the left on this page). It was great seeing a group of UHP members standing up for others in the labor movement. This inspires me to put together a team of UHP members who would be interested in participating in labor actions, walking a picket line for a couple of hours, to be seen standing together, all of us, as one large labor movement. Together we are stronger than if we stand alone. If you have any interest in joining what I'll call "UHP's Labor Strike Force," please contact the union office or your union rep, and we will get your name on the list and get information out to you.

—In Solidarity, **Bill Garrity**

To read [more from Bill on these subjects](#), and for additional news, information updates and events, visit [uhp3837.com](http://uhp3837.com).

## Trung Le Steps Down as VP Tier II



Trung Le has resigned from UConn Health to take a nursing position with Hartford Healthcare, effective Jan. 5. As such he also had to resign as UHP's VP for Tier II Employees.

"After careful consideration, I have decided to leave UConn Health," Trung says. "I would like to thank all the members and my fellow officers for all your support during the past year."

The Tier II VP position already was among the positions up for election this year. We wish Trung well in his new job!

## Save the Date! Feb. 25, State Capitol



AFT Connecticut's annual legislative conference features planning and discussion of key public policy issues that our federation and its affiliated unions will pursue this legislative session. It runs **Saturday, Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the State Capitol's Legislative Office Building. Registration opens at 8:30. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Learn more and RSVP at [aftct.org/event/2017-legislative-conference](http://aftct.org/event/2017-legislative-conference).

The more people we can have at this, the better!



## Legislative 101 Workshop Jan. 19

AFT Connecticut also is holding a workshop **Thursday, Jan. 19, 5 to 7 p.m.**, on how to work with elected officials and influence them to support the issues that matter most to us. Location is the AFT CT office, 35 Marshall Road, Rocky Hill.

Light dinner will be served. Learn more and RSVP at [aftct.org/event/legislative-101-workshop](http://aftct.org/event/legislative-101-workshop).

## FY'18 Budget Taking Shape

The Finance Committee has reconvened to work on our budget for fiscal year 2018. The budget this group comes up with will be presented to the Executive Committee for ratification.

## Be a Part of UHP's 1st Lip Sync Battle Feb. 16!

It's something new from the Social Committee! We're holding a Lip Sync Battle **Thursday, Feb. 16**, in Keller Auditorium. Songs will be reviewed two weeks prior to the show by the UHP Lip Sync Battle Committee, so be sure to sign up today! Get the details at [bit.ly/17lipsync](http://bit.ly/17lipsync).



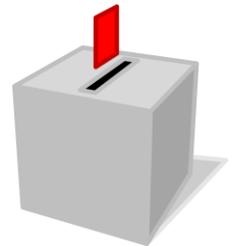
## Elections Committee Update Laura Didden, Recording Secretary

It's election time again! Members will shortly receive the Call for Nominations. This is an opportunity for members in good standing to be nominated for positions that will be open July 1, 2017. This year we are electing the following:

- Vice President Tier I (must be a Tier I employee)
- Vice President Tier II (must be a Tier II employee)
- Vice President for Community Outreach
- Chief Steward (must be a steward with super seniority)

There will also be a handful of opportunities for more union involvement by members who might be interested in becoming a delegate to various conventions and councils. Delegate nominations this year will be for:

- AFT-CT Convention
- CT State AFL-CIO Convention
- AFT Executive Council
- Eastern CT Area Labor Federation
- Greater Bristol Labor Council
- Greater Hartford Labor Council



Nominations for both officers and delegates must be turned in to the UHP office by the close of the first business day in February, which will be **4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1.**

Watch the UHP website ([uhp3837.com](http://uhp3837.com)), Facebook page ([Facebook.com/UHPCT](https://Facebook.com/UHPCT)), rep meetings, information tables, and the newsletter for additional information about this year's elections.

If you have any questions regarding the election and the positions open for nomination or you have an interest on being on the Elections Committee, please contact Laura Didden at [ldidden@uhp3837.com](mailto:ldidden@uhp3837.com).

## Scholarship Applications Thru Feb. 24

Download the UHP scholarship application from our website: [bit.ly/17scholarship](http://bit.ly/17scholarship). Also, the Scholarship Committee welcomes volunteers to help read the applications. For more information, email Shawn Brown, VP for Membership Activities, [sbrown@uhp3837.com](mailto:sbrown@uhp3837.com).



Additionally, scholarships are available through AFT CT and AFT National. Learn more at [aftct.org/scholarships](http://aftct.org/scholarships).