



## AFT CT President Holds Q&A



“SEBAC” = State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition

AFT Connecticut President Jan Hochadel and House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz held a Q&A with UHP members Jan. 20 in Keller Auditorium.

They discussed the state budget crisis and how it may affect state employees, the prospects of reopening the SEBAC contract (retirement and health benefits), the possibilities of layoffs, and threats to our ability to collectively bargain.

Members who weren't able to make the meeting are strongly encouraged to watch the video recap on UHP's Facebook page or at [bit.ly/1701JanQA](http://bit.ly/1701JanQA).

It is crucial for us all to stay informed, know what we're up against, and be prepared to take action to fight for our future!

## Let's Go! Important Day at the Capitol



An informed union is an engaged union, and an engaged union can be an influential union. We as state employees are likely to have a few battles ahead of us. Here's an opportunity for all of us to arm ourselves with knowledge—**Feb. 25, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Breakfast and lunch are provided. To learn more and RSVP, go to <http://aftct.org/event/2017-legislative-conference>.

## PAGE 2: President's Report

*We need to be in touch with our elected officials to let them know the importance of the work we do and remind them that we're holding them accountable. Not sure how to go about it? Flip this page over for the President's Report and read how Bill connected with his state rep. It's not as daunting as it may seem!*

## UHP Election Update:

### Chief Steward Only Contest

Only one UHP officer position will be contested this year.



Chief Steward **Lucille Miller** is seeking re-election, and former 1<sup>st</sup> VP **Chris Frechette** is challenging her.

Three other positions were up for election this year—VP Tier I Employees, VP Tier II Employees, and VP for Community Outreach—but each position only had one nominee as defined by the UHP Constitution. As such, the following are uncontested:

- VP Tier I, **Ray Bennettson**
- VP Tier II, **Doug Kingsbury**
- VP Community Outreach, **Trisha Faraday**

We won't need an election for delegates either. There were 18 nominees for AFT Connecticut Convention delegates and 16 nominees for the Connecticut AFL-CIO Convention delegates. The Executive Committee had determined that it would send 19 delegates to join President **Bill Garrity** at each convention. See the list of delegates at [bit.ly/17nominees](http://bit.ly/17nominees).

### Online Balloting March 27-31

UHP will use electronic voting again this year. Members in good standing will receive, mailed to their home, instructions and a pass code that enables them to **vote online from March 27 through March 31**.

**Absentee balloting** also will be available weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the UHP office **from March 20 through March 31**.

Additionally, a candidate meet-and-greet event will take place in early March. Look for more details about that and other election information on our website ([uhp3837.com](http://uhp3837.com)), on our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/UHPCT](https://Facebook.com/UHPCT)), at our information tables, in next month's newsletter, or from your union rep.

## President's Report: My Conversation With My State Rep, Bill Petit (R-22<sup>nd</sup>)

My original reach-out to Dr. Bill Petit was on Dec. 15 of last year before he even took office. I cold contacted on Facebook Messenger. I introduced myself as a nurse who lives in his district, has worked at UConn Health for more than 20 years, and was recently elected UHP union president. I asked if he would be having coffee meetings in the town to meet his constituents or if he would be willing to meet with me at a local pizza shop for lunch.



Dr. Petit got back to me the very next day and gave me a couple of dates to meet up, but we were not able to make it happen before the holidays. At that time I really did not have a specific agenda to discuss with him, but as I've asked to all UHP members when I get the chance, we need to start the dialog and introduce ourselves.



**State Rep. William Petit (R-22nd)**

Move forward three weeks, he is no longer just Dr. Bill Petit; he has been sworn in and he is now State Representative Bill Petit from the 22<sup>nd</sup> District. I have seen pre-filed bills and HB5001, "An Act Preventing Overtime Payments From Being Used to Calculate the Retirement Income of State

Employees," is his bill. This time I write to him and send it to his email address. Again I let him know I'm a state employee living in his district. I tell him that as a nurse, this bill could directly affect me and my family. I personally have **mandatory overtime forced on me**, not to mention differentials that I receive for working second- and third-shifts and weekends. The letter continued on talking about other areas of state service that are also forced to do jobs to keep the public healthy and safe. I again asked if we could meet for a lunch or coffee.

Two weeks ago I was at the Capitol for the pension appropriations hearings and Rep. Petit was there. When they called a break and we were all getting up I walked

right up to him and introduced myself, let him know I was the person that had contacted him via Facebook messenger and emailed him. He said he was happy to put a face to the name. We walked outside of the hearing room and talked for a good 20 minutes. The conversation was collegial, we talked about the email and he said he did not want to go after mandatory overtime or differentials. I told him that was not what the bill said. He then said right now

the bill is only two lines, and he was correct it is not fleshed out, but just the name of it is enough to get state employees nervous.

After that interaction I feel he is an approachable man new in his job. He will at least listen to people. If we do not reach out, if we don't at least try, our voices will never be heard.

I ask all UHP members to find out who your state reps. and state senators are. Go to [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov). Use the "Find My Legislator" link. Contact these legislators. Let them know we are here and we are watching.



HB5001 is only one bill proposed by one lawmaker. There are 120 bills directly attacking state workers, pensions, services and unions.

I am Bill Garrity, the UHP president. I am one person.

- The UHP Executive Committee is only made up of 11 people.
- UHP stewards include that number plus 12 more.
- Our union reps now number more than 60 people.

But...our UHP membership totals 2,703 people!

So far the Capitol has only heard a whisper from us.

We, as a group, need to be loud. We need to be on topic.

We need to be a presence!

—In Solidarity, Bill Garrity

### Member Helps Save Infant in Clinical Lab

UHP recognizes member **Latonya Robbs-Joseph** and 1199 member **Juan Carlos Restrepo** for their heroics in the clinical lab last month. See the full story at [bit.ly/labheroes](http://bit.ly/labheroes).



Photo by Janine Gelineau

 **Scholarship Deadline Feb. 24**  
 Download the UHP scholarship application from our website: [bit.ly/17scholarship](http://bit.ly/17scholarship). Email **Shawn Brown**, VP for Membership Activities, [sbrown@uhp3837.com](mailto:sbrown@uhp3837.com), for more information.