

Solidarity Rules at National Convention



UHP sent 23 delegates to Pittsburgh last month for the 2018 AFT Convention, where the message was clear: I'm sticking with my union! For a report and more photos, see bit.ly/18AFT, plus, watch a video recap at bit.ly/AFT18UHPvid.



Left: Christine Judd speaks on the floor of the 2018 AFT Convention about fighting opioid addiction, with AFT President Randi Weingarten at her side. **Right:** Trisha Faraday, Jean Castagno, Robin Addison, and Chris DeFrancesco at a rally for public school funding in Pittsburgh. (Photos by Matt O'Connor)

Don't Fall for It!

Some of our members report mail coming to their home urging them to drop their union membership, and in some cases, to even pay dues to a different "association" instead!

We need to ask ourselves who's sending this union-busting propaganda, and whose interests are they protecting?

Don't kid yourself. If you get an opt-out card in the mail, or an "organizer" calls or comes to your home, understand that it's part of a union-busting campaign looking to chip away at our collective power—not just our union, but the entire labor movement.

Our best weapon against this is the collective voice of working people. Unions harness this into a powerful force to fight for a fair, vibrant economy with good jobs and opportunity for all.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER: *The Bad/Good/Ugly*



Janus: By now you've heard about the *Janus vs. AFSCME* ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court. Good news is, we've been ready for this. When *Janus* came down, we had 97 percent signed card members, and more than 1,800 recommitment cards signed since we started last year. **Shawn Brown**, our VP for Membership Activities, has been really strong approaching the new employee orientation. And AFT CT has taken our contract language as a template for future contracts in affiliate local negotiations. Since the decision, fewer than 10 members have decided to drop membership and become freeloaders.

SAG Award: Remember, the one-time

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Robin Washington Addison, VP for Political Activities

**It's Election Season
Cast an Informed Vote**

Have you registered to vote yet? If you haven't, or you want to change your party affiliation, or if you've changed addresses since the last time you voted, go to the secretary of the state's website to make sure you're ready: bit.ly/CTSos18. Even if you miss the Aug. 14 primary, you can still register to vote in the general election Nov. 6.

Remember, your vote is your voice. It's important to be not only a registered voter but an informed voter. Learn who's running for what in your voting district and what they stand for. For example, you'll notice several candidates for governor talking about reopening state employee union contracts, and at least one is prepared to go to court to try to break our contracts. As public employees, the outcomes of local and statewide **elections can have a great impact on our livelihoods!**

We can do a lot to influence elections for the good of working people. Watch for opportunities in the coming weeks to support labor-friendly candidates with things like phone banks and labor walks. In the meantime, here's a list of candidates who've won endorsements from AFT CT: bit.ly/18AFTCTendorsed.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (from front)

window for eligible members to convert from the Alternate Retirement Plan (ARP) to the State Employee Retirement System (SERS) is approaching—**Sept. 14 through Dec. 14**. Be sure to check the calculators on the state comptroller's website: osc.ct.gov. Changes take effect in January.

Mid-term elections: If you've not registered to vote yet, we're running out of time before the **Aug. 14 primary**. Our VP for Political Activities, **Robin Addison**, has more on this (above).

President Herbst's successor: I am representing UHP on the search committee for UConn's next president.

**—In Solidarity,
Bill Garrity**



On the field before the Hartford Yard Goats game Aug. 5, Chris DeFrancesco, Ivonne Hamm, Doug Kingsbury (from left), and Molly Garrity, Trisha Faraday, and Bill Garrity (from right) represent UHP in presenting a check to the Rev. Josh Pawelek on behalf of the CT Poor People's Campaign.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

**Aug. 13, 5 p.m., UHP Office
Executive Committee**

**Aug. 14, statewide
Primary Election Day**

**Aug. 15, noon, Keller Auditorium
Dr. Andy Town Hall**

**Aug. 16, 5 p.m., UHP Office
Communications Committee**

**Aug. 18, High Meadow, North Granby
UHP Summer Outing**

bit.ly/1808HiMeadow

**Aug. 28, 5 p.m., UHP Office
Steward Committee**

**Aug. 31, 8 a.m., Hilton Hartford
CT AFL-CIO Labor Day Breakfast**

**Aug. 31, 10 a.m., Hilton Hartford
CT AFL-CIO Convention, Day 3**

**Sept. 10, 5 p.m., UHP Office
Executive Committee**

**Sept. 13, noon, Onyiuke Dining Room
Union Rep Assembly**