



UHP Business Convention April 26

Hold the date if you haven't yet! Our annual business convention will take place **Friday, April 26**, at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. Check your UConn email – invitations went out March 11.

This year we have seven proposed constitutional amendments to consider (details at bit.ly/19PropAmend) This meeting is open to all members in good standing.

2019 Regional Legislative Meetings

Meantime, throughout March and April AFT Connecticut is holding a series of regional legislative meetings. These are small-group meetings between union members and elected officials throughout Connecticut over breakfast, lunch, or coffee. It's a great way to get some face time with the people we've put into office to serve us. Here we can share what's important to us, ask and answer questions, and remind them that we pay attention and we vote. To emphasize that last point, it's always good for UHP to have a strong showing.



- **March 16**, Southington: aftct.org/19_Ctrl_Reg_Leg_Mtg
- **March 16**, East Hartford: aftct.org/19_Htfd_Reg_Leg_Mtg
- **March 23**, Branford: aftct.org/19_NHV_Reg_Leg_Mtg
- **April 6**, Willimantic: aftct.org/19_Wili_Reg_Leg_Mtg
- **April 6**, Niantic: aftct.org/19_SECT_Reg_Leg_Mtg
- **April 13**, Newtown: aftct.org/19_WCT_Reg_Leg_Mtg

Also, five special elections were held Feb. 26 to fill legislative vacancies. Please see bit.ly/1903SpecElex for a full recap.

—Robin Washington Addison
VP Political Activities



PRESIDENT'S CORNER: **A Voice for Our Public Hospital**

Over the last several weeks I've found myself in meetings and hearings explaining the reservations I have over the idea of UConn Health entering into a public-private partnership. My message: "Do not destroy the only public hospital in the state. We treat many underserved patients, and people with conditions that aren't profitable. We are growing. Do not let us get carved up and sold off."

As you likely are aware, UHP has joined with other unions representing UConn Health employees to form the UConn Health Labor Coalition, the idea being to leverage our collective power and voice to make sure UConn Health leadership hears us. Let there be no doubt, we have our doubts about the prospect and the process. (Pictured above is the group of activists representing the coalition at the March 4 as I testified to the UConn board of directors.)

This is not to say that it would be impossible for UConn Health to find an arrangement with a private entity that works for all parties involved. But we have a hard time picturing what that would look like, largely because whenever we ask where this type of thing has worked in the past, no one seems to be able to provide a model.

The track record here is less than stellar – the Farmington Surgery Center, the NICU. As I recently told the UConn Board of Directors

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Who's Your Nominee for Union Rep of the Year?

We are accepting nominations for union representative of the year, an award presented at our annual business convention. If you feel your union rep is worthy of this recognition, email your nomination (name and why he/she is deserving of this award) to VP Tier II Doug Kingsbury (dkingsbury@uhp3837.com) and VP Tier I Ray Bennettson (bennettson@comcast.net) by **March 22**.



Jean Castagno, 2018 Rep of the Year, with VP Tier I Ray Bennettson (left) and VP Tier II Doug Kingsbury

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *(Continued)*

about the NICU, Connecticut Children's rents our space, they rent our nurses, they manage, they set staffing levels, and at times, because of inadequate staffing, we need to turn away expectant mothers. In one case it was actually suggested to separate newborn twins – one baby with mom at UConn and the other at a different hospital.



When they say "public-private partnership" it's hard not to hear "privatization." It's why we – labor – need to be sure to have a seat at the table throughout this process. Dr. Andy repeatedly has said -- publicly -- that it will be a transparent process that involves all stakeholders, including labor, and labor intends to hold him to that.

Related to this is the fringe rate differential that continues to be an anchor in UConn Health's budget year after year. Simply put, this is the added burden of the expense of the benefits for our employees (all employees, not just union employees) that every year is compounded by the historic underfunding of the state employee pension fund. Both we and UConn Health leadership have been appealing to our lawmakers to move this burden from our books to the state comptroller's books, as is the case with almost every other state agency. But the concern is we may have different reasons for that... Would we be more appealing to a private entity without that fringe burden?

What can we do in the meantime? Sign the petition calling for labor to be part of the process. Keep wearing those stickers that show you support our public hospital. Talk to your elected officials about the value of the work we do, and remind them that it's not always going to be profitable. And of course, continue to do the great work you do so our actions do the talking.

—In solidarity, Bill Garrity

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Regional Legislative Meetings

March and April, details on Page 1

March 26, 5p, UHP Office

Steward Committee

April 8, 5p, UHP Office

Executive Committee

April 11, noon, Onyiuke Dining Room

Union Rep Assembly

April 26, 5p, Aqua Turf

UHP Annual Business Convention

May 18, 8a, Aqua Turf

AFT CT Convention

UHP online calendar: bit.ly/uhpcal

HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE



MARCH 30TH (SATURDAY) | 9am-3pm

@ AFT Connecticut

35 Marshall Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Register/learn more: http://aftct.org/19_Healthcare_PD_Conf