



Celebrating Our Nurses



For many, National Nurses Week had added significance this year. Make sure you take a minute to watch this video tribute to our nurses, shot and produced by UHP members Carolyn Pennington, Ethan Giorgetti and Frank Barton: bit.ly/2005uchNurses.

Where's Her Worker's Comp?

UHP nurse a case study of need for presumption



Diane Logan, one of our nurses in Dermatology, was among four front-line employees who shared their story in a CT AFL-CIO online news briefing May 7. Diane tested positive for COVID-19 in early April. She used all of her sick time to recover and fears a future illness.

"I'm a nurse, I know what this can do to you," she said. "No one knows the damage this does to your lungs or your blood... We want someone to take responsibility because, again, I am positive that I did get the COVID at work."

Thank you, Diane, for your care, and for coming forward to be a voice for the greater effort to establish a worker's comp presumption for front-liners who contract COVID-19 on the job!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

All Over the Place

First, I still want to say thank you to everyone for everything you do. I want to tell everyone if you can, stay home and stay safe.



The hospital is now talking about our reopening/ramp-up plans. Some of those who were moved from outpatient to inpatient during the crisis are slowly moving back to their home bases. Not all yet, we still have a full ICU as I write this. We get our best information from you. You need to tell us what is going on in your areas. Some management try very hard to just let things slip by. If there is an issue with ramp-up in your area, or the plan does not seem right, contact Jean, Ivonne or myself.

Administrative personnel have reached out to us asking "What about us?" in multiple avenues. From safety issues, to PPE, to re-opening, to telecommuting issues, we are trying to work on these as they come up.

A lot has been going on and a lot of rumors are spreading. We've tried to quell these rumors but we're going to need your help to get the word out.

Safety: First, we all have been working hard to keep everyone safe. We at UHP have not lost a member to COVID, but our other locals at AFT have not been as fortunate. There are at least two I know of right now. Other state unions have lost members as well. One of our sister unions has a nurse intubated in the ICU as I write this.

Evaluations: Because of social distancing guidelines, we came to an agreement with HR that if an evaluation was an unsat then it had to be done on time to allow us to fight through the process to try to overturn in time for raises in July. If you did not get an evaluation, you have a satisfactory evaluation for the year.

(Continued on reverse)



This year's AFT CT convention, May 9, was held virtually via Zoom. Business included a keynote address from AFT President Randi Weingarten and passage of the state federation's fiscal 2021 budget. We thank our 14 delegates for giving up a Saturday to make sure UHP was well represented!



Five of our members are recipients of 2020 Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing:

- **Kara Dazkevich**, CNII, Intensive Care Unit
- **Annette Wright**, CNIII, Cardiology Unit
- **Brian Bullard**, Nurse Anesthetist, Anesthesiology Operating Room
- **Jennifer (Zelek) Kozikowski**, CNII, Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Nanette Pink**, Assistant Nurse Manager, Orthopedics/Surgery Unit

Congratulations on this honor – we thank you and all our nurses for your heroic work every day!

REMINDER: For up-to-date resources on the evolving COVID-19 situation, visit bit.ly/2003UHPcovid.

Report symptoms or potential exposures to the UConn Health COVID-19 call center: 860-679-3199.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from front)

Republican **lawmakers are attacking** us again, with Sen. Len Fasano saying our raises due in July should be taken away. He sent his letter to the governor and made sure he made it public. Remember this is the same guy who says this every year. He says UConn Health Center should never have been built. My happiest day this past month was when I learned he and Themis Klarides were not running again. I'm sure I'll find someone else to fight with at the Capitol.

July raises: SEBAC leadership has met once with the Lamont administration on this subject. The request was laughable: "Delay your raise, for essentially nothing." We said no. That's it so far. That's the whole thing. They asked, we said no, not for what you are offering. More meetings will happen. But when there is news to tell everyone we will tell you.

Hazard pay: We've received dozens of emails and calls about why we're not getting it, who around us is getting it and how much. We have filed a grievance on this. UConn Health does not want to honor our contract. They believe it says something different. We are fighting them on this issue and will continue to fight for contract language.

End of legislative session: The Capitol closed down for end of session, no bad bills, but no gains either this year.

Public-private partnership: I've heard nothing on that subject for months. COVID-19 has shown how important it is to have a public health institution, and with our work and partnership with Jackson Labs, we only look better.

I feel like I've covered a lot in a lot of different places, but this is the new normal. We are running around putting out fires. I know you are as well.

Thank you for all you do.

—In solidarity, Bill Garrity