



Shaping Our Future, at the Polls and at the Bargaining Table

Election 2020: Get Ready to Vote

Have you made your plan to vote yet? Things are a little different this year. **Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3**, and depending on when you read this, you may still have time to register to vote or arrange to vote via absentee ballot. We found a page on the Hartford Courant’s website that provides a lot of useful information in one place, including an interactive tool to help you find out who’s on the ballot in your voting district: bit.ly/CourantVoteGuide. Another helpful resource is the Secretary of the State’s elections and voting page: bit.ly/ctsotsvote.



If you’d like to know which candidates were endorsed by AFT Connecticut – those believed most likely to support the interests of working families – you can find a list at bit.ly/2010aftctendorse. Of course, your vote is your choice and your business.

Dramatic Save in Storrs

Since our last newsletter, we got word of a life-saving act by one of our members in the Storrs urgent care center. When a woman walked in screaming that her toddler son was choking, physician assistant Jennifer Bernardo-Bailey put her emergency medicine experience to work. She heard the screaming and ran out immediately, took the child, and was able to dislodge a lollipop that was caught in his throat. “Then he screamed and started to cry, which is the best sound in the world,” Jennifer says.



Bravo, Jennifer, and thank you for your heroic response!

Negotiating Team Convening

We are assembling our Contract Negotiations Team in preparation to start talks with management on our next collective bargaining agreement. On Saturday, Oct. 3, we sent a questionnaire to every member for whom we have a home email address. If you didn’t get it or can’t find it, send a note from your home email to cdefrancesco@uhp3837.com.

As of this writing we were getting close to settling on some dates to meet with management. In the meantime, **we’re looking to form our team by Oct. 16**, and include representation from as many of our job titles as possible. Send your negotiations questions to ihamm@uhp3837.com.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

On Voting, HIPAA, Masks, and Worker’s Comp

I do not care if you are tired of hearing it yet: Get out and vote. My ballot was placed in the drop box on Sunday, Oct. 4.



UConn Health soon will be starting a new software package, called “Fair Warning.” What we’ve heard of it so far is it will be easier for management to track your computer usage, what charts you’ve been in and where you’ve looked in those charts. HIPAA is real and we

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Community Outreach Update

Community outreach can be especially challenging within the limitations of a pandemic. But we have found something we can get behind and we'd love your help!

It's a project in which tabs from aluminum cans are collected as a fundraiser to benefit sick kids and their families. Here's how it works:

A Middletown man named Tim started collecting can tabs in 2013. Tim is a special needs adult with a passion for helping those in need. He was recognized for saving more than 20 pounds of these tabs (That's a lot of tabs, folks, so let's start saving!). The Lions Club of Meriden transports the tabs to the Shriner's, who recycles them and puts the money toward programs that directly benefit children, such as badly needed wheelchairs, or transportation to Shriner's hospitals for patients and their families.



What can you do? Save your tabs, seal them in a clear baggie, and drop them off or send them to my attention at the UHP office at The Exchange, 270 Farmington Avenue, Suite 109, Farmington, CT 06032. I'll get them to Tim, and he'll take it from there. Questions? Please email me at rwjj48@yahoo.com.

Also, we're holding a **Community Outreach Committee meeting Nov. 5**, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, same email to let me know if you can make it!

**—In Solidarity,
Robin Washington Addison
VP for Community Outreach**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *(continued)*

receive Saba training annually, but every year we have a few instances where people are looking at charts they do not have the right to be in. It does not matter if it's a family member, it does not matter if it is your own chart. You do not belong in it. People have lost their job for this. The name of the software should tell you all you need to know: Fair Warning.

Wear your mask and social distance when possible. I've voiced that sentiment more than a few times, but you know what? People are not getting it. There have been two separate instances recently in which members and coworkers have gone on break, taken off their masks to eat and celebrate an occasion, and both times it has resulted in a localized outbreak of COVID. We are the researchers, educators, office staff and health care workers. We need to be better. We need to set the example.

I do not want to be all doom and gloom today. I do have a piece of good news. Since the start of COVID, we have fought to protect all front-line providers. UHP members have gone in front of the governor to fight for the presumption that if you contracted COVID, and worked caring for COVID patients, it was presumed it was at work and covered under worker's comp. I was notified in late September that the first case at the Connecticut attorney general's office – our first member who was denied worker's comp originally – was ruled in our favor. This opens the door for others, even those not in unions. We represent everyone. We fight for everyone.

—In Solidarity, Bill Garrity

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