



2019 BUSINESS CONVENTION HONOREES

Right: Summer Lambert accepts the Lois B. Diehm Memorial Union

Representative of the Year from VP Tier I Ray Bennettson and VP Tier II Doug Kingsbury. Below, left: Joyce Fritz accepts the President's Award from President Bill Garrity. Below, right: Lorrie Tripp accepts the Steward of the Year Award from Chief Steward Lucille Miller. See bit.ly/19UHPawards for more photos and the complete list of awards. Congratulations to this year's honorees, and to our VP for Membership Activities, Shawn Brown, for another fantastic business convention!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER: *It's Crunch Time*



Considering it's now May, both the governor and the Appropriations Committee have produced budgets, and UConn and UConn Health itself have not been targeted with draconian cuts, we should be able to breathe a sigh of relief.

NO WE CAN NOT. This is the time that we need to be the *most* vigilant.

We've asked everyone to call your individual legislators; we've been out at the information tables getting people the names if they didn't know whom to call. This has been our biggest push for the past two months. It continues this month. We have multiple lobby days, with a big push on May 20 and May 23 at the state Capitol.

May 20 is the rally for a moral budget, and May 23 is our large labor rally day, with multiple unions from UConn Health. (Find all the details on how **you can get involved** at our info tables or on our home page.)

We need you there. Check out our times and come with us. Talk to these legislators. Let them know that they need to fund the "unfunded liabilities" WE need to **keep UConn Health, our public hospital, for the public good.**

—In solidarity, Bill Garrity



Stop & Shop Strike: A Lesson in Solidarity

Megan McCreesh (left) is a member of both UHP and the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 919, pictured here with Recording Secretary Laura Didden, Treasurer Michelle Proper, Chief Steward-elect Jean



Morningstar, AFT CT Field Rep Shane Lancer, President Bill Garrity, and VP Communication Chris DeFrancesco on the picket line at the East Hartford Stop and Shop April 19. See Page 2 for Megan's perspective on the strike and how solidarity helped win the day.

Perspective From the Picket Line

Recognizing the Stop and Shop strike as an important moment in the labor movement, many of us became stakeholders and showed our solidarity. For one UHP member it was about even more than that.



Going on strike is a part of the labor movement that most of us as public employees can't relate to because it's not a legal option for us. But for **Megan McCreesh**, it was the only option.

In addition to her full-time job as a supply coordinator at UConn Health, Megan works part-time at the customer service desk at the Stop and Shop in Unionville. She is a proud member of both UHP *and* the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 919. Her parents both retired from Stop and Shop after a combined 93 years of service.

"Twelve years doing both jobs, and no union's ever done me wrong," she said.

During the strike Megan would work her full-time job, then during her scheduled part-time shifts she was on strike, walking the lines with her Stop and Shop coworkers.

"We're united," Megan said from the picket line on day nine of the strike. "We're doing this to prove the point to Stop and Shop: We're here, we're not going to back down, we're doing what we have to do. We made them who we are, we have the customers' support. There are other places they could shop, and they have been."

Key to Protecting Our Future? Look Beyond Our Bargaining Unit

I recently had the opportunity to attend AFT's Collective Bargaining Conference in Baltimore. The experience provided a better understanding of the fundamental concepts of what we as a union are trying to accomplish.

We have many shared values with the community we serve, and being visible and present in the community is a great way to forge alliances and build a positive narrative – that our work is important and the public benefits from it.

The time to cultivate and nurture strong relationships outside of the bargaining unit is today, not the day before we need allies to take up a common cause and stand with us. What impact do you think community support had on settling the Stop and Shop strike?



Chris DeFrancesco
VP Communication

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

May 18, 8a, Aqua Turf

AFT CT Convention

Delegates: bit.ly/19AFTCTdel

May 20, 4p, State Capitol

Moral Monday Budget Rally

aftct.org/May_19_Moral_Budget_Rally

May 23, times vary, State Capitol

Labor Coalition Lobby Day

Sign up: bit.ly/1905LobbyDay

May 28, 5p, UHP Office

Steward Committee

June 5, 11:59p

Legislative Session Ends

June 8, 8a, Bus leaves UHP office

Boston Bus Trip, bit.ly/19Boston

June 10, 5p, UHP Office

Executive Committee

June 20, noon, Onyiuke Dining Room

Union Rep Assembly ***New date***

July 20, 11a, Lake Compounce, Bristol

UHP Lake Compounce Outing

bit.ly/19compounce

Aug. 25, 1:05p, Dunkin' Donuts Park

Hartford Yard Goats UHP Day

bit.ly/19YardGoats

UHP online calendar: bit.ly/uhpcal

The benefits we enjoy as a result of the labor movement's history of hard-fought battles are a blessing, but it's easy to take them for granted and overlook the obligations that come with it. Those obligations include holding up our end of the contract and defending it, of course; they also include carrying on the legacy of collective bargaining and leading by example to support what's right for all working people – even those not covered by our contract.

Chris's full report is available at bit.ly/1905CNDcollective.