2022 Votes: Contract Overwhelmingly Ratified; Officer Races Go to Brown, Lambert, Bennettson

A new four-year contract retroactive to July 2021 passed a ratification vote by a nearly 99% to 1% margin. The agreement includes three years of wage increases and step increases plus a lumpsum payment of \$3,500 divided over two fiscal years, and protects most of our long-fought historic contract language. It doesn't take effect unless the state legislature approves it; therefore, your lawmakers need to hear from you why they should invest in public services by voting in favor of our contract.

Issue #69.1

Of the 2,537 eligible voting members, 1,377 took part (54% turnout), and all but 20 of them voted in favor.

Meantime, as a result of the 2022 officer elections, **Shawn Brown** is UHP's next First Vice President for Collective Bargaining, **Summer Lambert** is UHP's new Recording Secretary, and Ray Bennettson has won reelection as Vice President for Tier I (salaried) employees.

Turnout for the officer elections was nearly 42%. The official results:



First Vice President for Collective Bargaining

Shawn Brown: 600 votes Gloria Valentino: 456 votes Unexercised votes: 5



Recording Secretary

Summer Lambert: 604 votes Kimberly Ericson: 428 votes Unexercised votes: 29



Vice President for Tier I (salaried) Employees

Ray Bennettson: 607 votes Quamanic St. Pierre: 420 votes Unexercised votes: 34

Shawn succeeds First VP Ivonne Hamm, who is retiring June 30.

"I am so appreciative of the support I've received during this journey to become UHP's 1st Vice President," Shawn says. "It is definitely bittersweet, because as happy as I am to be elected to the position, it is extremely sad to see Ivonne go. I am optimistic about this new venture and ready to take on the responsibility our membership has bestowed upon me. Thank you again for your support and confidence as we continue to move UHP forward." (see reverse)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Keep Moving Forward, We're not Slowing Down

Let's hope we can find a good one.

Brothers and sisters, we are still at full speed in April. The search for a new **UConn president** is underway. As the president of the largest union at UConn Health, I was asked to serve on the search committee.

This year's **annual business convention** (April 8) is the first in-person convention in three years, followed the next morning by AFT-CT regional legislative **meetings** — Central Connecticut lawmakers followed by

legislators.



Then right after that, April 13, AFT-CT has scheduled a "Lobby Day" for health care, with other area unionized hospitals joining us at the Capitol to discuss a mandatory overtime bill. I would love to have a great turn out for this event. We are the largest health care local in AFT-CT. We need to show up. Wear your scrubs and be heard on a topic that has been a bane on health care for decades, with hospitals just using it as a staffing tool. (see reverse)

Fair Thee Well, Laura Didden, and Thank You!



Laura Didden

Reflecting on her nearly six years as Recording Secretary, **Laura Didden** says she'll miss the relationships with fellow officers and involved members the most.

"It has been an honor having been elected and serving our members," she says. "Participation is key. Members make a union strong. Get involved and stay united."

Officer Election Results (continued)

Look for information in the coming weeks about a special election for the officer position of VP for Membership Activities, which Shawn has held since 2016.

Summer succeeds Laura Didden, who stepped down as Recording Secretary effective March 31.

"What an awesome, heartwarming experience I went through," Summer says. "How humble I am from all of your support, and honored I am to be elected the new UHP Recording Secretary. As I pledged during my campaign, I am in it for the long haul and will support the members in every way I can."

Next year, First VP and Recording Secretary will be up for nomination for a full three-year term.

Ray's position was up for regular election this year, so he starts a full three-year term July 1.

"I thank all those who turned out to vote, and I appreciate the honor of continuing to serve the membership," Ray says.

Shawn, Summer, and Ray join the officer nominees who

were unopposed:

Jean Morningstar (Chief Steward), **Peter Zarabozo** (Vice President for Tier II (hourly) Employees), and Robin Washington Addison (Vice President for Community Outreach). The uncontested officers' terms start July 1.

ON THE SCHEDULE

UHP Business Convention

April 8, 5p, Aqua Turf

Central Connecticut Regional Legislative Meeting

April 9, 9:30a-11a., Zoom bit.ly/2104CentCtLegMtq

Greater Hartford Regional Legislative Meeting

April 9, 11a-12:30p., Zoom bit.ly/2103HtfdLegMtg

Executive Committee

April 11, 5:30p, UHP office

Safe Patient Limits Lobby Day

April 13, 2p-6p, State Capitol bit.ly/2104StaffingLobbyDay

Union Rep Assembly

April 21. 15, 5:30p, Zoom

Steward Committee

April 26, 5:30p, Zoom

Workers Memorial Day

April 28, 12p-1p, Bushnell Park bit.ly/2104WorkMemDay

UHP online calendar: bit.ly/uhpcal

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued)

Then we get into late of April and the legislature should be **voting on our fairly negotiated contract**. We've had a great deal of communications over the last several weeks, and I've seen some nice follow ups after our "contact your legislators" emails. If you haven't yet, **please urge your lawmakers to support our contract** (bit.ly/2204XGRcontracts).

I'd like to welcome **Summer Lambert**, our new Recording Secretary, to our Executive Committee. I hope everyone helps her along in her new job. Congratulations to all the elected officers.

Lastly, as a point of personal privilege, I want to thank **Laura Didden**, our Recording Secretary for the past six years. She has done a wonderful job over this time. I know she is not leaving UHP, but I will miss having her on our executive committee. Laura is a wonderful person who never wanted to be in the spotlight. If you do see her, say a quiet, subdued "thank you" to her. She did a great job. Bless you, Laura!

Now, let our fight continue.

-In solidarity, Bill Garrity