



Rich Vance and his son Aaron stand up for a moral state budget at a SEBAC rally at the Capitol May 17.

Pandemic Pay Lookup Tool Live

The online portal for us to review the state's records on hours worked for the purpose of calculating pandemic pay is now live. As of this writing, the information for our hourly members is there, but the state is still working on the records for our salaried members. The portal includes a link to a SEBAC form for those who wish to dispute the state's numbers. We ask that if you do that, you also email bgarrity@uhp3837.com so we can keep track at our local level as well.

Please use the QR code or visit bit.ly/2304PandemicPayPortal for the latest information.



OFFICER'S CORNER

Talk to Your State Rep: Why It Matters

I have an open line of communication with Gary Turco, my state rep. That is, he was my state rep, but then the districts were redrawn in advance of the 2022 election, moving me from the 27th to the 20th.

I started getting periodic newsletters from my new state rep, Kate Farrar. So I responded to one to initiate a conversation about what's important to me as one of her



VP Comms Chris DeFrancesco with State Rep. Kate Farrar

new constituents. Kate replied in a timely fashion and invited me to meet for coffee.

Kate was very cordial and generous with her time as I covered a number of topics, not only as a public employee and union activist, but also as a volunteer with the Newington Children's Theatre Company, which is the state's longest-running nonprofit youth theatre program.

The point is, I had the ear of my new state rep that day, and I have since that day. Kate knows who I am and is responsive to my emails. I have no expectation that she's always going to agree with me or vote the way I want her to all the time, and I told her that. My objective is to build a rapport with the people who represent me so it becomes more likely my voice is heard. That's how representative democracy is supposed to work.

Kate has demonstrated a history of supporting working families, public employees, UConn, and the right to collectively bargain. She knows where I stand on those and she's with us.

But here's the cool part:

Since I've met her she's also taken up an interest in the children's theatre. In April the

(continued on back)

Happy Retirement, Lorrie Tripp!



Congratulations to Lorrie Tripp, long-time UHP steward and former officer, who retired this spring after three decades of service to UConn Health.

Lorrie first joined UConn Health in 1992 in housekeeping. Following a layoff and a stint at another state agency, she rejoined us in 1996, this time as operations manager for the academic and research areas. She spent the last 22 years as facilities manager overseeing all the off-site locations.

“What I will miss most is the sense of community, whether it was as a UHP member or as an operations manager in facilities,” Lorrie says.

She will fondly remember steward meetings.

“Listening and learning from Jean Morningstar was an education at the meetings,” Lorrie says. “The lessons I learned from each steward presenting cases was super educational. And I can’t forget sitting across from Shawn Brown. It was hilarious; I tried every meeting to make him laugh.”

“We’ll remember Lorrie for a long time as one of the fiercest advocates for our members and our contract,” says Jean, who was UHP president from 1998 to 2013 and has been our chief steward since 2019. “She’s definitely the kind of steward you want beside you at a grievance. We were lucky to have her as a steward for so many years.”

And Lorrie offers some parting thoughts:

“Volunteer, whether it’s in your community, church, or UHP,” she says. “For those who say they can’t be a steward since they don’t know the contract or they don’t understand SEBAC, I say, contact the UHP office and ask to attend a meeting. New ‘pledges’ can take classes but the best education is listening to the stewards and their cases and their approach to a case. President Garrity will work with you. Jean Morningstar is a genius, she knows the gospel and everyone in the room will help.

“Do me a favor and attend a meeting. You will be glad you did.”

And what does retirement have in store?

“I don’t like the term ‘retirement’ since I will continue to work, as a good citizen, Christian, and sibling,” Lorrie says. “I plan on volunteering a lot at the food pantry, dog shelter, or Habitat for Humanity. I like helping people.”

ON THE SCHEDULE

Member Organizing Institute

June 27-30, UHP office

Steward Committee

June 27, 5:30p, UHP office

Executive Committee

July 10, 5:30p, UHP office

Union Rep Assembly

July 13, 12p, Onyiuke Dining Room

UHP calendar: bit.ly/uhpca

OFFICER’S CORNER

(continued from front)

theatre held a fundraising event for its milestone 60th birthday. Kate not only helped promote it in advance, she also showed up that night and presented, along with Gary, a legislative citation recognizing the theatre’s 60 years of service.

Why am I telling you this? Because it shows what just a little bit of effort to establish and nurture a relationship with elected officials can do. Once she became aware of something that is important to one of her constituents, she became a stakeholder in that something’s success. And it’s not because an endorsement from AFT-CT or the CT AFL-CIO was at stake; it’s because someone in her district initiated a dialogue.

You can be sure your elected officials are hearing from others; but when they hear from you, you control the message that reaches them.

Now, imagine if all of us cultivated relationships with our elected officials, if they knew (1) who we were, (2) we’re paying attention, and (3) we vote. What kind of influence do you think that would have on matters like funding for UConn Health, safe patient staffing, ratifying our next contract, and collective bargaining rights in general?

If you’re not sure how to reach your elected officials, please take a moment today and use this easy lookup tool: bit.ly/FindLawmakers.

—*In solidarity, Chris DeFrancesco*
VP for Communication