



Shaneé Reid Takes Office as VP for Membership Activities

Shaneé Reid joins the UHP executive committee with a vision of unity.

Sworn in to start a three-year term starting July 1, 2023, as our vice president for membership activities, Shaneé says she's hoping to start by letting all members know that they matter.

"Let me know what's on your mind, let's see how we can make things better," she says. "My long-term vision is to keep us unified and with one accord. Through the last few years it has been tough on us all. Let's get back to what matters to us all: good, healthy togetherness. United we stand, divided we fall."

—Continued on reverse—



Shaneé Reid takes the oath of office to start her three-year term as VP for membership activities July 1.

Upping Our Organizing Game

A strategy to better harness our union's collective power is taking shape, starting with 10 members fresh out of AFT CT's Member Organizing Institute (MOI).

One of the objectives is to overcome the challenges of engagement that come with a membership of more than 3,000 and 150 job titles in multiple shifts and locations.

Presented by AFT CT organizing staffers Eric Borlaug and Jasmine Vendredi, the four-day workshop covered organizing tools and techniques, member assessments and how to have constructive conversations to encourage involvement, and home visits to members who haven't signed cards yet.

See what some of our participants took from the experience on page 2, or for a full recap, visit bit.ly/2307MOI or use the QR code.



Dawn Charles knocks on a door during a home visit.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Organizing, Pandemic Pay, and MoA

Happy July everyone. Going to be short this month, we have so much going on. I must start by saying "thank you" to those who joined us for our first **Member Organizing Institute (MOI)**. I'm very proud of these members who stepped up and out of their comfort zone.

We have been scrambling for the past two months to get all those eligible for **pandemic pay** the information they need. There are still some issues with the information getting to everyone. We know about people switching jobs causing an issue, and in the eyes of HR UConn Health is not a complete health care facility. High-risk and low-risk will need to be further challenged for some. This is not just a UHP problem, but other unions are facing the same thing here. We will stay on top of this and keep you all informed.

Both **MoA's** (memorandum of agreement) that were expiring in June and July, having to do with staffing and overtime, have been extended. They are up on the UHP website (bit.ly/2306MOArenew).

And our negotiated 2.5% raise lands on July 14. We will see it in our August paycheck.

—In solidarity, **Bill Garrity**





Chris DeFrancesco, Shawn Brown, and Connie Simons walk the picket line with workers at the Corbins Corner Starbucks in West Hartford, where newly unionized workers are still seeking their first contract.

Shaneé Reid Takes Office *(continued from front)*

Shaneé has been a UConn Health employee since 2004, spending 15 years in procurement. She’s also worked in what was at the time known as the Connecticut Convergence Institute and the Department of Public Health Sciences. For the last year she’s been an administrative program coordinator in the Department of Medicine.

In recent years Shaneé became a union rep and communications and scholarship committee member.

“What motivated me to run as an officer is the fact that I love people, and I wanted to be more involved because sometimes I feel like our voices go unheard and I want to do what I can so that our voices are heard,” she says.

“Why not step up to the plate? It’s better to be part of the solution than complain.”

In one of the closest races in UHP history, Shaneé lost a special election for membership activities VP to **Elizabeth Figueroa** by three votes last November, but six months later she won in a rematch for the full term, by a margin of 409 to 369, or 52.6% to 47.4%.

“My call to action is to get UHP back together by having more in-person meetings, bus trips, convening the social committee, and so much more,” Shaneé says, telling members, “I would love to have you come and join my committee.”

—Please see the UHP calendar page for upcoming meetings: bit.ly/uhpca—

Trainees on Member Organizing Institute



Rich Vance (second from left), 1st VP Shawn Brown, Gina Yacovone-Barrett, Jessie Carlson, Dawn Charles, Connie Simons, VP Membership Activities Shaneé Reid, Recording Secretary Summer Lambert, Christine Judd, and VP Communication Chris DeFrancesco make up the June 2023 Member Organizing Institute Class at UHP. Jasmine Vendredi (left) is an AFT CT organizer and one of the instructors. (Photo by Neal Thomasson)

Jessie Carlson, medical assistant: “I got involved because I felt like there was a need in my section, in the Neag Cancer Center, to inform the employees about what we provide... as far as better wages, we negotiate for better working conditions, and a lot of the people that I work with don’t know about those types of things. So it was important for me to educate them.”

Gina Yacovone-Barrett, sonography technologist in maternal-fetal medicine: “The communication techniques taught can be used personally and professionally as well. It made us step out of our comfort zone which made us grow a bit. It also made me realize we are much bigger and stronger than I had realized and how much power strength in numbers really means.”

Connie Simons, medical assistant in cardiology: “This effort builds union power by having a collective voice that will help each member become more active as well as more involved in our union.”