



Staff the Front Lines

UHP's Jessie Carlson works our table at a post-Labor Day job fair at Dunkin' Park, extolling the virtues of our contract and state employment. It was part of a greater effort to fill openings in critical public service positions throughout Connecticut, led by our labor allies at AFSCME Council 4. UConn Health was among several state agencies and municipalities with representation at the job fair. (Photo by Matt O'Connor, AFT-CT)

Welcome, Emily Demicco!

Our new AFT-CT field rep is **Emily Demicco**. Field reps, among other things, assist with arbitration and labor board hearings and lead our contract negotiations.



Emily joined AFT-CT five months ago. She previously has served as a representative with AFSCME Council 4, and as a union steward and member of the negotiating committee at the Department of Labor. "I have a passion for labor and am excited to be working with the passionate membership of UHP," Emily says.

She succeeds **Logan Place**, who recently left AFT-CT for another opportunity. Please join us in thanking Logan for his service and wishing him well, and in welcoming Emily to our team!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Quelling the Rumor Mill

I wanted to go over a couple of things this month, talk about rumors, and ask that we do not believe everything we hear. We always do our very best to verify what information we are being given.



We are now in September, and this is the month most of us **request vacation time** for the next year. I'd ask that you look at all of Article 13 in our contract. There is a lot of information in there that we all need to know. This is the first rumor I'm hearing. I'm hearing people say you are only allowed to take two weeks off in a year or at a time. That is not true! While the contract does say you can only request two weeks off *during the initial vacation request period* (Sept. 1-15), you still can ask for more time off *after the vacation schedule is posted on Oct. 1*.

The next rumor we'd like to deal with is for our members who are new and still in their **working test period**. I've heard it is coming from both managers and some of our more seasoned members. The misinformation is that members on their working test period are not eligible to have union representation. That is false! You are a member the moment you sign a card. Article 18 in our contract (continued on back)

The Union Difference: Raising Standards for All Workers



Congratulations to our Teamsters Local 671 sisters and brothers, who recently prevailed in labor disputes with the school bus operators in Meriden and Coventry. Some of us walked the picket line in Meriden, joining activists from other unions who turned out to stand in solidarity with the striking bus drivers. UHP VP Tier II Peter Zarabozo (left photo, center) and VP Communication Chris DeFrancesco (to Peter's left) stand with three of the drivers who originally organized their coworkers, (from left) Will Silva, Alberto Rivera, and Pedro Valentin. By the afternoon of their strike's second day, they were voting to ratify a bridge agreement providing immediate raises. It took a few days longer in Coventry, but the drivers there held strong and won a new agreement. The voices of the drivers and the community that supported them were heard — real-life examples of what's possible when working people stand together!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *(continued)*

is all about probationary employees. If you hear something and you are not sure if it is correct, I ask you to call the office and/or ask one of the officers or your union rep.

If we need to keep up a rumor mill article in the newsletter, we can do that. Meantime, you can always refer to our contract on our website (bit.ly/UHPkeydocs or the QR code), and if you don't have your contract book yet, we have a printed copy for all signed members. Call the office, stop by an information table, or see your union rep to get yours.

Lastly, we are still working with HR on the **pandemic pay** issues. We have completed the union list and management lists and are now meeting at least twice a month on that piece alone. The retiree payments for those that were working during the pandemic is set, I've seen the list and the info has gone to the comptroller's office this week. Resolution is moving slowly, but it is moving.

—In solidarity, Bill Garrity



ON THE SCHEDULE

CT AFL-CIO Convention

Sept. 14-16, Foxwoods

Delegates: bit.ly/23ctaflcio

Outpatient Pav. Info Table

Sept. 21, 11:30-1:30, OP caf 5th flr

Steward Committee

Sept. 26, 5:30p, UHP office

Munson Road Info Table

Sept. 28, 11:30-1:30, Munson caf

Executive Committee

Oct. 10*, 5:30p, UHP office

*Rescheduled for holiday

Union Rep Assembly

Oct. 12, 12p, Onyuke Dining Rm

AFT Professional Issues Conference

Nov. 16-18, Baltimore

uhp3837.ct.aft.org/23pic

UHP calendar: bit.ly/uhpca