



## UHP at AFT'24 in Houston

The 2024 AFT biennial convention may prove to be historic. While our delegates were flying to Houston

July 21, word came that President Biden was vacating his re-election bid. Four days later, VP Kamala Harris, fresh off announcing her intent to be the nominee, took to the convention stage. It's possible we were witness to one of the first campaign speeches by the first woman to become president of the United States.



**Kamala Harris addresses the AFT convention.**  
(Matt O'Connor, AFT CT)



**Our 25-member delegation to the 2024 AFT biennial convention, July 22-25 in Houston**  
(Photo by Matt O'Connor, AFT CT)

In a special order of business on Day 1, the AFT moved to endorse Harris for president, and in doing so, delivered her first union endorsement. On Day 2, AFT President Randi Weingarten announced Harris would be the keynote speaker on Day 4.

Several dozen resolutions would go before the body to help shape the agenda of  
*(more coverage on back)*

## Special Election VP Tier I: Oct. 21-Nov. 1

The **Election Committee** announces a special election for the vacant office of VP Tier I (salaried) Employees, with **absentee ballots Oct. 21-25** (by appointment) and **online voting Oct. 28-Nov. 1**. Watch your work email and our website for the call for nominations in late August.

## OFFICER'S CORNER

### A Reflection on Imperfection



Perfect is as perfect does.

The definition of perfection is "the condition, state, or quality of being free or as free as possible from all [flaws](#) or defects." I say that because as much as I've considered myself to be perfect in many areas, the reality is that it couldn't be further from the truth. There is always an opportunity for improvement and ways to be better than you were the day before.

If life has taught me anything it's that accountability and ownership are two of the greatest ways to aid in improving who you are as a person, and an employee.

Often when we are met with various forms of criticism, our initial reaction is to become defensive, accusatory or dig so deep into the trenches of denial, that our fantasy becomes reality. Taking a moment to step outside of a situation and evaluate it in its entirety can shine a light on the issue, see all sides of the situation and understand everyone's viewpoint.

It doesn't make you a bad person to take accountability, because everyone makes mistakes. Often, the actions we take that "harm" others are unintentional. We're human and humans aren't perfect.

Taking accountability for those actions can improve the relationships you have in your daily life, and more importantly, in the time you dedicate to your job and building stronger working relationships and a more "perfect" you.

The biggest lesson I've learned is while looking out the window, pointing fingers, I had to realize the window was a mirror.

**—In solidarity, Shawn Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> VP**

## UHP at AFT'24 *(continued from front)*

the AFT, which now has 1.8 million members, for the next two years. Delegates split into divisional groups and then committees to prioritize with resolutions to bring to the convention floor.



See our full convention recap at [bit.ly/24aft](https://bit.ly/24aft) or via the QR code to the left.



*From left: 1st VP Shawn Brown, Robyn Roark, VP Political Activities Dawn Thomas, Chief Steward Jean Morningstar, Treasurer Michelle Proper, and Laura Didden rock their custom-made shirts in support of health care for all children.*

### What some of our newer delegates had to say:

"The union is a community that embraces the courageous, and makes room for the new. Individuals and locals alike were quick to offer words of encouragement, bridge knowledge gaps and mentor as newcomers involved themselves and learned the process of elevating and advocating for the causes in our communities. The message was clear: here, you have a voice, use it, and we will listen." —**Randi Schiavi**

"I thought I knew what the union was about because of my involvement with UHP. Since being here, I have learned how much more AFT does for us, and others, on a national level."

#### —Meg Bartos

"I enjoyed the experience of listening to other people's point of views personally and politically. I'm engaged in making decisions for my future and the future of my children and their children! I had the opportunity to be part of history in the making!" —**Amy Moffo**

The AFT's next biennial convention will be in **July 2026**, in Washington, D.C. UHP members who are interested in attending will have the opportunity to run for a delegate position.



*VP Comms Chris DeFrancesco (left) and first-time delegate Randi Schiavi take to the convention floor to speak to high-priority resolutions they helped advance from their committees. (Click image or use QR code for video.)*



## ON THE SCHEDULE

### Lake Compounce Outing

Aug. 17, 11a-6p, Lake Compounce, Bristol  
[vpmembershipactivities@uh3837.com](mailto:vpmembershipactivities@uh3837.com)

### Elections Committee

Aug. 26, 5:30p, UHP office

### Steward Committee

Aug. 27, 5:30p, UHP office

### CT AFL-CIO Labor Day Breakfast

Aug. 30, 8a-10a, IAM Local Lodge 1746, E.Htfd.  
[ctafcio.org/events/labor-day-breakfast-1](https://ctafcio.org/events/labor-day-breakfast-1)

### Political Activities Committee

Sept. 5, 6:30p, Zoom; [dthomas@uhp3837.com](mailto:dthomas@uhp3837.com)

### Executive Committee

Sept. 9, 5:30p, UHP office

### Call for Nominations Closes

Sept. 10, 4 p.m.; election committee meets 5:30p

### Union Rep Assembly

Sept. 12, 12p, Onyuke Dining Room

### Communications Committee

Sept. 19, 5:30p, UHP office  
[cdefrancesco@uhp3837.com](mailto:cdefrancesco@uhp3837.com)

### Special Election VP Tier I

Oct. 21-25 absentee ballot by appointment  
Oct. 28-Nov.1 online voting

UHP calendar: [bit.ly/uhpcal](https://bit.ly/uhpcal)