



UNIVERSITY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
LOCAL 3837

UHP Newsline

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Stand up and Fight!

That was the message from Attorney General William Tong at a UConn Labor Coalition town hall Sept. 18 at the Low Learning Center. Use [the QR code](#) to watch the video and see why.



Congrats, Connie!

Congratulations to our member **Connie Simons** on her Best Catch of the Month award for August! Connie's sharp eye, great instincts, clinical insight and attention to detail truly made a difference in patient care, in this case leading to a rapid response team activation when a patient took a sudden turn.



Awesome work, Connie, you nailed it!

—**Tonika Rhodes, UHP Comms Committee**

Municipal Elections Nov. 4

Make sure your voice is heard not only by voting, but also by getting involved in this election. Reach out to your local town committee and see about volunteer opportunities.



Also come join the AFL-CIO labor walks. They will happen every weekend as we get closer to Election Day, which is **Tuesday, Nov. 4**. This is a great fun way to get out, meet and chat with voters who are also union members. No experience is necessary. Remember: #ElectionsMatter!

Click or scan **the QR code** for more information; we'll update it with the labor walk information as we get it, so be sure to check back!



—**In solidarity, Dawn Thomas, VP Political Activities**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mergers and Acquisitions

So... any news drop last month? The references and suggestions about potential partnerships with other hospitals to achieve "scale," as suggested in the Cain Brothers report, finally came to a head when we learned of plans for the state to put in a bid for the bankrupt Waterbury Hospital and also partner with Bristol Hospital and Day Kimball Hospital. As described to us, the plan is to form a health care network that UConn Health would oversee.



We (UHP leadership) probably have just as many questions as you do. Many are unanswerable at this point. We do know that since the announcement in mid September, the board of trustees, board of directors, and the UConn Health Center Finance Corporation have signed off on the plan.

We (UHP leadership) also want to assure all our members that we are watching this very closely and stand ready to hold our employer in check on all matters related to our contract.

It is also our position, and we've made this known, that it's critically important that another private equity group is not permitted to take over any more Connecticut hospitals.

(continued on back)



Treasurer Michelle Proper and VP Comms Chris DeFrancesco

walk the picket line at the Corbin's Corner Starbucks in West Hartford Oct. 4. UHP stands in solidarity with the baristas who have organized and are courageously taking on Starbucks in a fight for a fair contract. Use [the QR code](#) to learn how you can help — a win for one union is a win for all working people! (Photo by David Dal Zin, CT AFL-CIO)

ON THE CALENDAR

UHP Paint Party

Oct. 25, 2p, AFT CT, Rocky Hill
bit.ly/2510uhppaint

CT AFL-CIO Convention

Nov. 6-7, Foxwoods
bit.ly/2511ctaflcio

Executive Committee

Nov. 10, 5:30p, UHP office

Union Rep Assembly

Nov. 13, 12p, Keller Auditorium

Steward Committee

Nov. 25, 5:30p, UHP office

UHP calendar: bit.ly/uhpcal

How We Got Here

'UCHCPEA': What It Is, What It Means

Have you seen the acronym UCPEA or UHCPEA? If you have heard those terms and know what they mean, then you are a union member and probably have been one for a while.

UCPEA stands for the University of Connecticut Public Employees Association. That term is the name of the non-teaching professional employees union at the Storrs campus. They are considered the "sister" union to UHP and fall under the same umbrella of AFT CT and AFT.

When the employees at UConn formed a union, UCPEA was already a chartered local of the AFT. The employees at what was then known as the UConn Health Center decided their local union name should mirror their sister union. That is how UHCPEA was born. It stood for The University of Connecticut Health Center Professional Employees Association.

Members referred to it as "Uck-A-Huc-Pea." What a cumbersome and unwieldy name!

As the clinical enterprise grew and members became more and more diversified in terms of job function, it became clear that a name change was in order. Hence, the name UHP was born through a member contest. **University Health Professionals** was the clear winner and encompasses the functions and description of our members much better.

—In Solidarity, Jean Morningstar, Chief Steward

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *(continued)*

As we have said repeatedly, we are one of the premier medical academic centers in the U.S. and any hospital that affiliates with us will be stronger for it.

Regarding our contract, after several months away from the table, this past month we got back to negotiations. We are still very far apart on many things. We still have not received a wage proposal from UConn yet. We are hoping to see one at our next session or two. Some state labor unions are a little farther along in their negotiations, some are close to impasse and are talking about going to an arbitrator. We are not there yet. We have a lot of language we are trying to address.

It is not all bad news; we reached tentative agreement on some smaller things. We hope we will keep some of this momentum in our next session. SEBAC is also meeting regularly, already starting to look at some issues.

I know this is not a lot of concrete info, but as our information solidifies we will get it out to you.

—In solidarity, Bill Garrity

