



UNIVERSITY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
LOCAL 3837

UHP Newsline

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In DC for AFT'26

Twenty of our members are among the more than 3,000 delegates who attended the AFT's 89th biennial convention, July 15-19 in Washington, D.C.

Delegates debated and passed resolutions on a range of pressing issues, from reclaiming the promise of public education, to protecting immigrant communities, to rebuilding public health, to preparing for the age of artificial intelligence, to tackling the affordability and student debt crises.

Dozens of breakout meetings and receptions covered rural issues, faith and religion, international solidarity and more.



Jean Morningstar, our chief steward (pictured with AFT CT's Matt O'Connor), accepted the AFT's Gold Recognition Living the Legacy Award honoring 40 years of service and leadership.

Please use [the QR code](#) for more photos and a convention recap.



Our delegates for the 2026 AFT Convention, from left: Elizabeth Barrientos, Laura Didden, Robin Roark, Michelle Proper, Jean Morningstar, Tonika Rhodes, Jozii Ruiz, Shawn Brown, Liz Figueroa, Tasha Greenlaw, Summer Lambert, Christine Judd, Rich Vance, Connie Simons, Marsha Murray-Omega, Bill Garrity, Shannon Sprowles, Meg Bartos, Randi Schiavi, and Dawn Thomas.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Gratitude, and a Contract Update

It's been a month since the transition of office here at UHP and a word I'd like to focus on this month is **gratitude**. Our membership of nearly 3,500 members is a very talented, professional staff that we all should be very proud of. From our research, administrative, radiology, lab, IT and nursing staff, we have a well-rounded, diverse group of individuals who are keeping this ship afloat. Every day will have new challenges and obstacles, and I believe you've navigated that very well. There will always be concerns with staffing, time off, mandation and even interpersonal issues when working in an environment like a healthcare facility. But finding ways to work within the barriers placed before you ultimately makes you a stronger healthcare professional, equipped with the knowledge and skills to assist in career advancement opportunities as well as self-care tools to navigate in your home lives.

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Many of our delegates on the convention floor in their AFT national convention UHP tie-dyes

Stickies for SEBAC'27

We have our contract with UConn Health; now the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) is preparing for the next contract with the state for *all* state employee unions' retirement and health care. SEBAC is asking members across state agencies to stand together for a 2027 agreement. [Use the QR code](#) to learn more and get involved



ON THE CALENDAR

AFT CT Steward Training Webinar

Aug. 17, 5p, Zoom, bit.ly/2608aftctsteward

Steward Committee

Aug. 25, 5:30p, UHP office

CT AFL-CIO Labor Day Breakfast

Sept. 4, 8a, IBEW Local 35, Hartford

Labor Day, Sept. 7

Executive Committee

Sept. 8, 5:30p, UHP office

Union Rep Assembly

Sept. 10, 12p, Onyike

UHP calendar: bit.ly/uhpcl

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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Last month I, among the 20 delegates from our membership, attended the **AFT national convention** in Washington, D.C. It was an awesome opportunity to see and hear stories from union members across the country and the things that impacted them daily — issues like workplace violence, staffing shortages, and even union members fighting to be able to speak their native language at work — and meeting other people who encounter the same struggles but also realizing that we here at UHP are in a lot of ways far ahead of the class, so to speak, in contractual achievements. I find that you never know what the next person may be experiencing or how their lives may be impacted, so meet everyone at their level and leave yourself open to understanding. It was nice to see so many of our members being active and involved attending the convention and I look forward to even more of you becoming active in some way in the future.

I know everyone is anxious about **our contract**. We are working diligently to get physical copies in everyone's hands. We've got some final details to iron out, and they should be available sometime this fall. We anticipate having the contract available online by end of next month. Keep in mind some of the changes in the contract, such as, we now have five bereavement days for immediate family members. The use of caregiver FMLA now requires the use of your accruals like all the other FMLA usage. The workshop and conference benefit increased from \$450 to \$750. Let us not forget there is a step increase in January, and as a reminder for those of you on your top step (10), you will receive a lump sum of \$1200. All of that is dependent on six months of employment and a satisfactory evaluation.

As we near the end of summer, let's make the most of what we have left with the nice weather and make it count. Remember, the word of the month is GRATITUDE.

—In solidarity, **Shawn Brown**,
president@uhp3837.com