


RECLAIMING

SOLIDARITY

Annual Business Convention
May 21, 2016

Aqua Turf Club
Plantsville, Connecticut

AWARDS



Sixty-Ninth Annual Business Convention

Saturday, May 21, 2016

Aqua Turf Club - Plantsville, CT



Awards Program

AFT Connecticut Staff Recognition

Local Anniversary Citations

Scholarship Awards

Unionist of the Year

Phyllis H. Kornfeld Golden Achievement Award

President's Award



AFT Connecticut Staff Recognition

Ole Hermanson, Organizer.....10 years

Mary Richardson, Field Representative10 years

Neal Thomassen, Technology Support.....15 years





Local Anniversary Citations

New Britain Federation of Teachers.....	70 years
New Haven Federation of Teachers	70 years
Ansonia Federation of Paraprofessionals	45 years
North Branford Federation of Paraprofessionals	45 years
Ansonia Federation of Education Personnel	40 years
Bloomfield Federation of Education Personnel.....	35 years
A&R Employees Union	35 years
American School for the Deaf Federation of Teachers	35 years
East Hartford School RN Association.....	35 years
Fairfield Public Health Nurses	35 years
Johnson Memorial Hospital RNs	35 years
Danbury Nurses Union	35 years
Professional Nurses Unit 13	35 years
L+M Memorial Hospital Professional RNs.....	35 years
L+M Memorial Hospital LPN & Technical Unit	35 years
Natchaug Hospital Federation of RNs	35 years
Manchester Memorial RNs.....	35 years
New Milford Federation of RNs.....	20 years
Manchester Memorial Service & Skilled Maintenance	15 years



Scholarship Awards

AFT Connecticut awards two (2) \$2500 scholarships, one of which is the George C. Springer Scholarship granted to a member. Candidates are selected based on academic promise and financial need, among other criteria. The member applicant, or the AFT Connecticut member upon whom the applicant bases her/his eligibility, must be a member of an AFT Connecticut local in good standing.

George C. Springer Scholarship

JANEL DAVIS has been a member of the Judicial Professional Employees Local 4200B for the past three years, and she works as the Domestic Violence Social Worker at the Public Defender New Haven. Currently, she is looking to further her education and pursue her goal of becoming a licensed therapist. In her essay, Janel states that "the possibility of the Supreme Court overturning the previous ruling which allows the union to charge all employees a fee is frightening." She goes on to say that "the power of an organized voice, which the union provides is essential to employee protection" and "the loss of a collective voice and the threat of silencing employees is disturbing and contrary to our First Amendments rights." Concluding with "the Supreme Court's overruling of the payment of fees by employees opens the door for the strategic dismantling of the union as we know it."

Janel has also been very active on the Alumni of Color Council at Wesleyan University, as well as chaired the Black Alumni Council for two years. She has also served on the Board of Hope Matters Inc., a non-profit organization targeted at serving at risk inner city youth. Ms. Davis is also an ordained minister and active in the affairs of her local church, among several other volunteer activities.

AFT Connecticut Scholarship

MARGARET KEITHLINE is the daughter of Beth Mazadoorran, a New Britain Federation of Teachers Local 871 member. Margaret will be graduating from New Britain High School this June. Margaret demonstrates a wide range of knowledge and a love of learning. Outside the classroom, she is very involved in the school band as this year's Drum Major, an accomplished flutist, as well as a singer and dancer. She is also a great leader holding positions as class Council President, Interact Club Co-President and a variety of other clubs and sports. Every summer she works as a camp counselor at the beach where she grew up going to.

In her essay, Margaret points out that "if the 1977 Supreme Court Fair Share decision was to be overturned, the finances of unions may not be able to survive..." later stating that "in the long run, this decision may actually lead to a shortage of teachers." Ending the essay with the point that "many of the people looking to end compulsory union dues are simplistic, not realizing the complex economic drawbacks of their decision."

*Congratulations, and best wishes to
both of our scholarship winners!*

Congratulations!

Unionist of the Year Award

Chuck Morrell—UCPEA #3695

Chuck Morrell has been a member of the University of Connecticut Professional Employees Association Local 3695 for the past 35 years serving as an Executive Board member. In 2013, he was voted UCPEA's Unionist of the Year. In 2015, he was asked to serve as their Interim Executive Director.

Chuck also serves as AFT Connecticut's Divisional Vice President for Public Employees. He has participated in a number of AFT National Mobilization blitzes: Wisconsin, three times in Kansas, Colorado and Maryland. This past fall he designed and led the first mobilization blitz held in Connecticut, which has become a model for AFT Public Employee Mobilizations. He truly believes in ORGANIZING as the future for all Unions.

A proud Navy Veteran, Chuck points out that today is Armed Forces Day and asks that we give a shout out to all those that have and currently serve.

Phyllis H. Kornfeld Golden Achievement Award

Mary Elia—West Haven Federation of Teachers #1547 Retiree

Mary Elia came to Connecticut after graduating from the University of Vermont and began teaching technology education in West Haven in 1970. She became involved within the union very early in her career. She served as President of West Haven Federation of Teachers for over 25 years, and as an AFT Connecticut Vice President for most of those years. Mary is very active in her retirement as well while working with the Alliance for Retired Americans.

President's Award

Mary Yordon—Norwalk Federation of Teachers #1723

Mary Yordon has been a Ponus Ridge Middle School French Teacher in Norwalk, a TEAM mentor, an active union steward, head of the World Language Department, an editor of the Ponus School Newsletter and Website, as well as served on the Ponus Safety Committee and the District Safety Committee.

This past fall, she was thrust into the role of President of the Norwalk Federation of Teachers Local 1723 and Vice President on the AFT Connecticut Executive Committee after the sudden passing of longtime President Bruce Mellion. Almost immediately, she was confronted with challenges none of us would wish to face. In addition to assuming the role of President, she is working with the Norwalk Federation of Educational Personnel Local 1723EP leadership as they begin a new chapter in their history as a sister local. She has done this all with grace, poise, and tenacity. Her contributions to Norwalk Teachers and AFT Connecticut this year have been remarkable.

***Congratulations and best wishes
to our awards recipients!***

