



Annual Business Convention May 13, 2017

Aqua Turf Club
Plantsville, Connecticut

AWARDS



70th Annual Business Convention



Saturday, May 13, 2017

Aqua Turf Club - Plantsville, CT

Awards Program

AFT Connecticut Staff Recognition

Local Anniversary Citations

Testifiers/Submitted Testimony

Scholarship Awards

Unionist of the Year

Joseph H. Soifer Award

Phyllis H. Kornfeld Golden Achievement Award

President's Award



AFT Connecticut Staff Recognition

Kristine Metcalf, Office Professional15 years

Robert Cerritelli, Field Rep20 years





Local Anniversary Citations

Colchester Federation of Teachers.....	50 years
Newtown Federation of Teachers.....	50 years
Norwalk Federation of Teachers.....	50 years
Bozrah Federation of Teachers.....	45 years
Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals.....	45 years
West Haven Federation of Paraprofessionals.....	45 years
Newtown Federation of Education Personnel.....	40 years
Simsbury Federation of Education Personnel.....	40 years
University of Connecticut Prof. Employees Assn.....	40 years
EastConn Federation of Teachers.....	35 years
East Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals.....	35 years
Windham Federation of Education Personnel.....	25 years
Bristol Professionals & Supervisors Assoc.....	20 years
Lawrence & Memorial Healthcare Workers Union.....	15 years
Regional School District #18 Fed. of Non-Cert. Personnel.....	10 years
Westbrook Federation of Non-Cert. Personnel.....	10 years

Testifiers/Submitted Testimony

Name	Local	Testimony
Paul Angelucci	SVFT	5
Jackie Aviles	Hartford Paras	1
Amanda Baron	UCPEA	1
Mary Consoli	Danbury Nurses	1
Chris DeFrancesco	UHP	1
Patti Fusco	West Haven Teachers	3
Bill Garrity	UHP	2
David Hayes	Bristol Teachers	1
Andrea Johnson	Hartford Teachers	1
Nathan Karnes	A&R	1
Tom Kuroski	Newtown Teachers	1
Kim Lachut	UCPEA	1
Jamie Lamitie	SVFT	1
John Pascone	SVFT	1
Leslie Schleipman	SVFT	1
Ally Sexton	A&R	1
Tom Viola	SVFT	1
Nicole Waicunas	UCPEA	1





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

MICHAEL P. FURAY has been a member of the SVFT Local 4200A as an English instructor for the past sixteen years. Michael was voted the 2008 Prince Tech Teacher of The Year and the 2008 CTHSS Teacher of The Year runner-up. Michael will be using the scholarship to help offset his tuition with the Accelerated Alternate Route to Certification offered through CREC, which provides a path to Special Education endorsement to currently certified teachers who have already earned their Master's Degree.

Michael is very involved in community, volunteer, and union activities, including participating in the AFT CT Organizing Training Program for State Employees.

In his essay, Michael states how "involvement with the SVFT and the AFT changed the way my family and I view the democratic process on local, national, and world levels." He has volunteered on multiple campaigns door knocking, on which the latest he brought along his two daughters, ages 8 and 10. He said that they "discussed a union's purpose and how unions strengthen the worker, the workforce, and country." They heard how families just like theirs were concerned about job security, the right to collective bargaining, and the maintenance of rights and dignities we expect as a civilized society, and most importantly, they heard at every house that the most important action any person can take is to vote on election day.

AFT Connecticut Scholarship

SIGNE LEE is the daughter of Grace Jiang, an A&R Local 4200 member. Signe will be graduating from East Hampton High School in June, while also finishing her freshman year of college at the University of Southern California through their Resident Honors Program. Signe has been working very hard towards her goal at USC, which is to go on to law school after graduation. She was proudly chosen from a pool of 50 applicants for the USC Mock Trial team, which is the pride of the pre-law department at USC, and one of the top programs in the country. There she has learned so much about the legal profession, gotten to interact with real lawyers and judges, and has competed against top schools across the country. She also finds time to work as a mentor to high school juniors from low income families.

Signe has been involved in many extra curricular school and community activities including band, tennis, Model UN, and Big Brother Big Sister. She also was the founder and president of the Feminism Club back at EHHS, which is still thriving even as she's been in college. She's been the recipient of multiple awards and special recognitions, including the 2016 Governor's Scholars by The Connecticut Association of Schools. In her essay, Signe states that "I've never had to worry about our basic needs; I participated in sports, took piano lessons, went to summer camps and got braces like a normal kid." She goes on to say "I wouldn't have been able to have any of these things if my mother didn't have a job that provided security, decent pay, and benefits negotiated by her union. Through this and my history classes, I learned that the union is the backbone of the American working class."

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

Congratulations!

Unionist of the Year Award

Ally Sexton—A&R #4200

Ally Sexton has been a member of SVFT, Local 4200 since 2002. She has served as a local board member along with being on several committees that include; Star Team, LPAC, as well as, organizing teams for DOT workers and AAGs.

Ally has been an active participant in statewide political activities such as door knocking, caucusing and phone banking. An important contributor to organizing efforts for the labor movement in Connecticut, participating on committees as well as organizing training.

Joseph H. Soifer Award

Elizabeth Ryder—Danbury Nurses #5047

Elizabeth Ryder has been a member of the Danbury Nurses Union, Local 5047 for 39 years. She has been a Unit Representative for 25 years and Secretary for 10 years.

Elizabeth has been a participant on the Negotiation Committee for 3 contracts, and the Newsletter Committee for the past 37 years. She has been involved in group rallies for local candidates and has submitted testimony for Bills. She has also marched in the Newtown Labor Day Parade, volunteered with blood pressure screenings during the Taste of Danbury and helped with the Unit 47 May Basket Collections.



Congratulations!

Phyllis H. Kornfeld Golden Achievement Award

Mary Consoli—Danbury Nurses #5047 Retiree

Mary Consoli has been called by the incoming President of the Danbury Nurses, "Unit 47's beloved Mother." Mary has provided 41 years of dedicated service to her patients, her union, and her community, with 16 of those last years serving as the Local President. Her goal has always been to build a strong and resilient union for she is a true believer in the collective power of the union, and sees the union as the way to have a voice in our work environment. Mary believes the passion and desire of each RN is what gives them the ability to give the best care to their patients. She has been a political force and a spokesperson to deliver our message to the public for patient rights and human rights.

President's Award

Patti Fusco—West Haven Teachers #1547

Patti Fusco's union activism started in 1989 when she was personally facing budget layoffs. She has served as Legislative Chair, VP of Communications, Vice-President and President of the West Haven Federation of Teachers #1547, as well as AFT Connecticut's PreK-12 Divisional VP. As Divisional VP, she has raised attendance at monthly meetings, worked to establish high priority Professional Development opportunities for teachers, worked with Commissioner Wentzall to come to middle ground on difficult topics, served on a variety of statewide committees, and provided legislators a chance to take the SBAC exam. She has provided endless hours of testimony at the legislature, providing understanding and insight to the issues that affect teachers and their locals.

Patti had done all of this work to benefit education in the State of Connecticut, as well as being a caring and loving daughter to her mom who recently passed, a supportive wife to Tony, and a wonderful mom and grandmother. Her passion has always been about teaching and learning, as well as advocating for her members and their families to have the best opportunities. She has been a dedicated educator that believes in fighting for what is right both on the local and state level. Her commitment and dedication has been priceless.

Congratulations and best wishes
to our awards recipients!

