“What Have Your Dues Done for You Lately?”

Let's remember the tangible benefits that dues make possible:

- job security;
- regular pay raises;
- paid vacations;
- health insurance coverage;
- just cause protections &
- retirement security.

A single, union-negotiated raise of 50 cents an hour is worth more than $1,000.00 a year in additional income. Clearly the benefits gained by investing resources to build a strong union far outweigh the cost of dues.

Lea Hendon
Hartford Fed. of Paraeducators

“The most important benefit of being a union member is the power we have to advocate for ourselves and our communities. When we stick together and support each other, not only are we never alone; we have a better chance at achieving fairness and justice.”

Jean Castagno
University Health Professionals

Union Budgets:
Putting Your Dues to Work For You

We can affect positive change in our workplace because of our rights to work together as a collective. As individual members, we all have a role to play and a contribution to make. I'm proud to do my part toward keeping our union strong.”

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Transparency & Accountability in Budgeting

The democratic process for proposing and adopting the state federation's annual budget is proscribed in AFT Connecticut Constitution & Bylaws. Members are appointed by the Executive Committee to serve on a standing Finance & Budget Committee. They are responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to be taken up by delegates to the annual AFT Connecticut Convention. That assures decisions made regarding finances are made by elected representatives of our federation's more than 30,000 union members.

Holding the Line on Costs

Delegates to the AFT Connecticut Convention in 2016 voted to maintain current dues rates and did so again in 2017 and 2018. They were able to ensure consistency and stability in large part thanks to significant reductions in the state federation's operating costs — nearly $400,000.00 has been saved over the past three years.

Breaking Down the Numbers

This chart demonstrates how members' dues will be invested as part of AFT Connecticut’s current biennial budget. Bear in mind that "personnel" are the professional field reps, organizers and support staff who help carry out the duties of the state federation and assist affiliated local unions. Those range from negotiating contracts, to representing members in worksite matters, to organizing more working people into our movement.

Both the Constitution & Bylaws and the current annual budget are posted online at aftct.org. Affiliated local union members in good-standing are also welcome to make an appointment to review detailed financial records at the state federation headquarters in Rocky Hill. Send e-mail to ActNetReply@aftct.org to make arrangements.