



Affiliated Local Union Member,

As the president of AFT Connecticut, I'd like to welcome you to your union. I specifically refer to "your" union because we are a democratic, member-led organization and each and every one of us serves an important role.

You are now a member of an autonomous local affiliated with AFT Connecticut that represents you in all workplace-related matters with your employer. This autonomy ensures that your voice is heard on the issues that most affect you and your colleagues.

Over 30,000 sisters and brothers from a diverse range of public and private sector workplaces across Connecticut also now stand by your side. They include teachers, paraprofessionals and school support staff, higher education faculty, hospital and health clinic caregivers as well as state employees in both executive and judicial branch agencies.

Together, we are all affiliated with AFT, an international union representing over 1.6 million members across the U.S.We are also a part of the AFL-CIO, with over 12 million workers in 55 national unions.

You can now expect to begin receiving occasional e-mail updates from myself, as well as other AFT Connecticut leaders and staff, on relevant issues and topics. We also send infrequent alerts via text message for more urgent or time-sensitive matters.

In the meantime, you can check our website and follow-us on social media for breaking news, event announcements and policy-related actions. Staying informed and up-to-date on worksite and state-level developments is one of the first responsibilities of being a union member.

Visit our website, where you can also access our social media channels, online at **aftct.org/home**.

Going forward, I encourage you to raise your voice and become as active in your local union as your time and energy permits. Our advocacy is only as effective as the strength demonstrated by both the "U and I in union."

More to come, and in solidarity,

Jan Hochadel

President, AFT Connecticut

P.S. <u>Send e-mail from your home — not work — address to **ActNetReply@aftct.org** to receive regular updates; include your fi rst and last name, employer and local union.</u>

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