



Matt - here is your April, 2016 e-newsletter (with updates since early-March):

[Union Members in the Spotlight](#)

In honor of national Paraprofessionals Appreciation Day, we highlighted union leaders who believe all public education staff "should be considered 'All In' and together" for their students. [Click here for a report-back from our national union's professional issues conference for paras and school-related personnel.](#)

[Urging Alternatives to Painful Layoffs](#)

Union leaders and members are resisting the governor's latest threats to slash additional public education, health and safety services and the workforce that provides them. [Click here for our state employee union coalition's response to closing budget gaps by cutting good middle class jobs.](#)

[Fighting to Retain Negotiating Rights in Hartford](#)

City officials joined with union leaders to urge Hartford's new mayor abandon a scheme to silence the voices of municipal public employees. [Click here to watch their joint press conference at city hall where they pledged to work together and be part of the solution.](#)

[Making the Case for Better Choices to Lawmakers](#)

State workers have consistently spoken out against criminal justice service and staff reductions that threaten Governor Malloy's "Second Chance Society" reform initiatives. [Click here for more on our efforts to demonstrate the impact of budget cuts on the public's safety and security.](#)

[Decoupling Tests from Evaluations](#)

Educators applauded lawmakers' support for a bill that will "place instructional emphasis on deep issue knowledge and analytical skills, rather than test preparation." [Click here for union members' reaction to the education committee's passage of legislation excluding student test data from teacher evaluations.](#)

[Advocating for Paras' Professional Development](#)

Union members testified in favor of legislation that would require local districts provide their paraprofessionals with much needed paid training. [Click here to learn more about a proposal empowering vital classroom aides to better "fulfill the needs of our students."](#)

[A Strong Contract for Technical Professionals](#)

With the support of their community, medical techs and therapists at Danbury and New Milford Hospitals won a first collective bargaining agreement. [Click here to learn more about how they successfully negotiated their contract by advocating to put patients before profits.](#)

[Speaking Out for Care the Community Can Count On](#)

Concerns are growing that the proposed take-over of Lawrence Memorial Hospital will mean less access and higher costs for New London area patients. [Click here for highlights of a community forum designed to address these issues organized by union members and advocates.](#)

Upcoming Activities & Events

- April 9: [Western Regional Legislative Meeting](#)
- April 13: [L M Hospital Take-Over Community Visiting Session](#)
- April 14: ["Fight for \\$15 and a Union" Hartford Area Actions](#)
- April 20: ["Lobby Day" at the State Capitol](#)
- April 26: [Presidential Primary Election Day](#)
- April 27: ["Lobby Day" at the State Capitol](#)
- April 28: [Workers Memorial Day Hartford Observance](#)
- May 3: [Autism Panel & Workshop](#)
- May 11: [D.U.E. Justice Coalition "Legislative Accountability" Action](#)
- May 21: [AFT Connecticut 2016 Convention](#)

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