



Affiliated Union Member - here is your April, 2018 e-newsletter (with updates since early March):

### **[Sharing How the "U and I in Union" Makes Us Stronger](#)**

A state technical high school teacher's personal experience reminds us of the value of solidarity when past gains — like paid leave — face escalating threats. [Click here to meet a public employee union member whose colleagues "stepped up when I needed them to."](#)

### **[Engaging the Community to Support Contract Proposals](#)**

Paraeducators in late March teamed up with their local NAACP branch to host a forum on closing the diversity gap in Hartford Public Schools. [Click here for photos from the event, organized to boost parent and advocate support for current contract negotiations.](#)

### **[Demanding Sensible School Security Measures](#)**

PreK-12 teachers in late March joined the governor and state education commissioner in Hartford to discuss how best to protect students from gun violence. [Click here for a photo from before the event where union members rejected proposals to arm classroom educators.](#)

### **["Empowering Members Beyond the Bargaining Table"](#)**

Our national union over the past three years has organized training sessions across the country to help working people tackle out-of-control student debt. [Click here for a report on clinics in Connecticut that are benefitting both members and those they serve.](#)

## [Rewarding Service and Solidarity](#)

Members were in mid March reminded of the application deadlines for exclusive scholarships awarded annually to help with the high cost of higher education. [Click here to watch the announcement of last year's recipients of our state federation's individual and member grants.](#)

## [Lifting Up Student Voices to Combat Gun Violence](#)

Educators across Connecticut in mid March teamed up with administrators and officials to empower student-led demonstrations in response to recent school shootings. [Click here for photos from a youth-organized event in Meriden, one of hundreds of nationally-coordinated actions.](#)

## [Girding for Attacks on Fundamental Freedoms](#)

The legislature's Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth in early March released final recommendations that were "a gift to the state's ultra-wealthy." [Click here for our report on the panel's proposals to gut state employee union members' collective bargaining rights.](#)

## [Demonstrating Our Collective Strength to Legislators](#)

Union members throughout March turned out in force for the final regional meetings with lawmakers and those seeking office scheduled during the 2018 legislative session. [Click here for photos of electeds and candidates hearing from constituents at the "quiet corner" and southeastern area events.](#)

## **Upcoming Activities & Events**

- April 6: [Connecticut AFL-CIO Biennial Political Convention](#) (1 of 3)
- April 10: [PreK-12 "Infusing Visual Arts" Workshop](#)
- April 24: [PreK-12/PSRP "Para & Teacher Collaboration" Workshop](#)
- April 28: [Connecticut AFL-CIO Capitol Workers Memorial Day Ceremony](#)
- May 12: [AFT Connecticut 71st Annual Business Convention](#)
- May 22: [SEPS Annual Teacher Leader Institute](#)

## **Featured Benefit**

- Union Plus: [Free College Benefit](#)

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