



Matt - here is your February, 2017 e-newsletter (with updates since early-January):

### [Hands-On Healers Defend their Advocacy Role](#)

Union members at Windham Memorial Community Hospital (WMCH) in late January ratified new contracts after nine months of negotiations with Hartford HealthCare (HHC). [Click here for a report on the new agreements, which maintain their voice in decisions impacting patient care.](#)

### [Fighting for Excellence in Higher Ed](#)

Faculty, support personnel and students in late January gathered at the State Capitol for a day of action devoted to defending public higher education. [Click here for a photo of our state federation president demanding better choices than tuition hikes and more student debt.](#)

### [Teachers Pledge to be "All in" for the Challenges Ahead](#)

Teachers in Middletown in late January participated in a series of activities designed to mobilize a broad defense of their students and their colleagues. [Click here to watch union members share how they're engaging each other in the fight to reclaim public education.](#)

### [Demanding Better Choices for Hartford Students](#)

Reports in early January that another 200 teachers and support staff in the Capitol City were at risk of layoff left local union leaders blindsided. [Click here for a photo of paraeducators urging Hartford school board members resist more painful austerity budget cuts.](#)

## [Delivering the Message, "Don't Make America Sick Again"](#)

Union members in mid January joined patient advocates and elected leaders to amplify efforts across the country to defend Americans' access to affordable healthcare. [Click here for a report on the demonstration in Hartford that was one of 70 simultaneous events coordinated nationwide.](#)

## [Union Members in the Spotlight](#)

In honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday we highlighted legal and public education professionals carrying on and teaching the civil rights leader's legacy. [Click here to meet Public Employee and PreK-12 union members whose service demonstrates the value of "banding together" for change.](#)

## [Progress in Protecting Hospital Staff](#)

In response to union members' advocacy, the federal labor department in January took a major step toward reducing workplace violence faced by healthcare professionals. [Click here for a report-back on an Occupational Health and Safety Administration \(OSHA\) public meeting where Connecticut caregivers spoke out.](#)

## [Urging Congress to "Dump DeVos"](#)

Union members and advocates have for the past month lead a growing resistance to President Trump's nominee to lead the U.S. Department of Education. [Click here to learn more about this "ultra-wealthy heiress who uses her money to push a special-interest agenda."](#)

## **Upcoming Activities & Events**

- February 8: [Question Formulation Techniques Training for Teachers](#)
- February 25: [Legislative Issues Conference](#)
- March 1: [D.U.E. Justice Coalition Mass Mobilization at the Capitol](#)
- March 4: [PreK-12 Teachers' Pre-Retirement Seminar](#)
- March 14: [Local Leaders Communications Training - Websites](#)
- March 22: [Roles & Responsibilities for Paraeducators Workshop](#)
- May 13: [FIRST CALL - AFT Connecticut 70th Annual Business Convention](#)

## **Featured Benefit**

- AFT +: [AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program](#)