



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

### **[Showcasing an Innovative Approach to Education](#)**

Our national union president in late January heard from students and their teachers at New Haven's educator-led High School in the Community (HSC). [Click here for photos of the roundtable discussion with Randi Weingarten on the school's unique structure and mission.](#)

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

During National Blood Donor Month we highlighted a low-income tax assistance examiner who last fall helped deliver relief in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico. [Click here to meet a public employee union member whose professional and volunteer efforts are about giving back.](#)

### **[Urging School Officials Look Beyond Data Points](#)**

Union members in late January mobilized ahead of an outside consultant's presentation to the Vernon Board of Education on the district's paraeducator staffing levels. [Click here for a photo from the meeting where their visibility reinforced that "students are not widgets."](#)

### **[Planting the Seeds for a Stronger Movement](#)**

New caregivers at L+M Hospital in New London are now learning from day one of their health careers that, "you are the union." [Click here to watch highlights of the latest orientation session at the facility organized by local labor leaders.](#)

## **[Responding to "a Renewed Call to Action"](#)**

The Connecticut Supreme Court in mid January issued a decision punting the responsibility for reversing public education funding inequities back to the state legislature. [Click here for our federation president's remarks on the implications of the ruling in the 13-yearlong lawsuit.](#)

## **[Empowering Retirees to Navigate New Tax Requirements](#)**

Retired union members in mid January heard from Connecticut Department of Revenue experts on a recently passed law impacting pension payments beginning in 2018. [Click here for photos of the meeting at our state federation headquarters where new withholding requirements were explained.](#)

## **[Calling Out Another Unfair Cost Shift Targeting Teachers](#)**

State lawmakers in early January served up more of the same austerity policies that public education professionals have mobilized against for the past three years. [Click here for our report-back on a scheme to shift teacher pension contributions to fund unrelated services.](#)

## **["Building a Stronger Organization to Face an Uncertain Future"](#)**

Union leaders last fall began work developing a set of tools to help face looming threats to our labor movement — and working people everywhere. [Click here for a report-back on our executive committee meeting where the "Strategic Plan" was formally adopted.](#)

## **Upcoming Activities & Events**

- February 13: ["Intro to Excel" Training Workshop for Members](#) (Additional Session)
- February 20: ["Grievance" Training for Union Leaders](#)
- February 24 - March 24: [Regional Legislative Meetings](#) (7 Local Events)
- March 1: [Training for Educators on Undocumented Students](#)
- March 3: [2018 Legislative Issues Conference](#)
- March 10: [Teachers' Pre-Retirement Seminar](#)
- March 13 - 17: [CPR, AED & First Aid Refresher & Full Courses](#)
- March 21: [Teachers' "Google Docs" Training Workshop](#)
- March 26: [Healthcare "Sleep Health" Workshop](#)

## **Featured Benefit**

- AFT Connecticut: [2018 Scholarships](#)