



Matt - here is your July, 2015 e-newsletter (with updates since late-May):

[Toward Equity in Our Public Schools](#)

With the U.S. Senate's vote to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the end is in sight to the "test-and-punish policies" of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). [Click here for a report on the bill that has the potential to reclaim the promise of the law's original mission.](#)

[Union Members in the Spotlight](#)

In honor of National Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week, we recognized Judicial Professional Employee (JPE) union members who provide vital juvenile and criminal justice services. [Click here to meet two state employees in the Court Support Services Division who are "agents of change."](#)

[New Rules for Charter Schools](#)

Working together, legislators and union members won long overdue checks and balances when Governor Malloy signed *An Act Concerning Charter Schools* into law. [Click here for our public comments on this "game changer for parents, students, educators, and taxpayers."](#)

[Patients Before Profits](#)

Union members who deliver quality care at Windham Hospital are joining area lawmakers to reject service and staff cuts threatened by the facility's parent non-profit operator. [Click here to watch and share highlights from a press conference where they delivered their message.](#)

[Every Child Deserves a School Nurse](#)

The vital role of school nurses was the focus of a recent Albert Shanker Institute forum co-sponsored by the American Public Health Association. [Click here for a report-back on the discussion that reinforced AFT Connecticut's advocacy for improved school health and safety.](#)

[Our New Leadership Team](#)

The president, executive vice president, first vice president, secretary/treasurer and 22 vice presidents elected at our AFT Connecticut 2015 convention took office July 1. [Click here for the press release announcing the new leadership chosen to serve our labor federation through 2017.](#)

["Right to Work:" Wrong for America](#)

The Supreme Court is taking up a case with far-reaching implications in which they will "revisit decisions that have made it possible for people to stick together." [Click here for more on why their decision to hear *Friedrichs v. CTA* threatens a voice not just for union members but for all workers.](#)

[SEBAC v. Rowland Settlement Update](#)

The law firm representing state employee union members impacted by the former governor's illegal layoffs have prepared a new website for posting updates and answering questions. [Click here for the latest and to complete the class action settlement eligibility questionnaire.](#)

[The Debt Divide](#)

The latest report from the progressive think-tank Demos exposes a higher education system "deeply biased along class and racial lines" and demands action by policymakers. [Click here to read the report and learn more about the fight for justice for the students AFT Connecticut union members educate.](#)

[Advocating for Patient and Caregiver Safety](#)

On his return from lobbying Congress, the recently retired Backus Federation of Nurses' president urged his colleagues to be willing to "do the groundwork" to make safe staffing a reality. [Click here for a report on the activities organized in the nation's capitol for National Nurses Week.](#)

Upcoming Activities & Events

- July 30: [CT Alliance for Retired Americans \(ARA\) Medicare & Social Security Anniversary Celebration](#)
- August 5 - 7: [Integrating LGBTQ History in the Curriculum Workshops](#)
- August 12 - 14: [Integrating LGBTQ History in the Curriculum Workshops](#)
- September 16: [Municipal Primary Election Day](#)
- October 29 - 30: [Connecticut AFL-CIO 2015 Constitutional Convention](#)

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