Union Member - here is your March, 2020 e-newsletter (with updates since early February):

**Breaking Down Barriers to State Workforce Retention** *

Members of our affiliate representing managerial and exempt state employees in early March advocated for proposed legislation regarding a “retirement cliff” expected in 2022. Click here to share a photo of an activist urging lawmakers take action to address its underlying causes.

**Implementing Our Plan to Advance Better Choices** *

Members in late February gathered at the State Capitol in Hartford for our annual legislative conference and contribute to our grassroots public policy program. Click here for photos of elected officials and union leaders hearing from activists on the issues that matter.

**Assuring Members are "Prepared — Not Panicked" — for a Pandemic**

National and state union leaders in late February began circulating resources to members in the event of a COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) outbreak in Connecticut. Click here for our report that includes access to information and recommendations for educators, caregivers and public employees.

**Preparing for a "Complete Count" in Connecticut**

AFT Connecticut President Jan Hochadel and Council 4 AFSCME Executive Director Jody Barr co-hosted a podcast episode on the 2020 U.S. Census. Click here to listen to their interview with Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz on the stakes for union members.

**Defending Students’ Higher Education Opportunities** *

Members of the unions representing faculty and staff in Connecticut's community colleges and regional universities in late February descended on the State Capitol. Click here for photos of activists uniting behind proposals to increase accountability for the system's Board of Regents (BOR).
Gathering Educators' Opinions to "Help Bring About Change"

Our state federation earlier this year teamed up with the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) and WFSB-TV Channel 3 for a follow-up teachers survey. Click here for our joint public statement on the results with links to press coverage featuring union members.

Delivering Our "Public Hospital, Public Good" Message *

Caregivers at UConn Health in mid February expressed their concerns over proposals to privatize the state's only public acute care facility and academic research institution. Click here to share a union member's personal message reminding administrators and lawmakers that residents "love their university."

Speaking Out for Investing in Public Employees' Pensions *

When most of the press ignored a recent report on savings credited to state employee union members, a veteran union leader made his voice heard. Click here to share Ed Leavy's op-ed published in The Courant with fellow union members on Facebook.

Upcoming Activities & Events

- March 10-14: CPR, AED & First Aid Refresher & Full Courses
- March 14 - April 4: Regional Legislative Meetings (5 Locations - NEW DATES) *
- March 16: PreK-12/PSRP ADHD Professional Development Workshop
- March 23: Healthcare "Legal Issues" Training Workshop
- March 26: Teachers' Pre-Retirement Seminar
- March 24-26: Share My Lesson 2020 "Virtual Conference"
- March 31: PreK-12 & PSRP Autism Panel Workshop
- April 20: Retired Teachers Lobby Day *

Featured Benefit

- AFT Connecticut: Scholarships

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