



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

[**Sending a Union Brother to the State Capitol**](#)

Voters in late April overwhelmingly chose a local union leader and veteran educator in a special legislative election to represent Hartford's North End. [Click here for a photo of Joshua Hall and his family celebrating his against the odds win.](#)

[**Delivering 40,000 Free Books to their Students**](#)

Paraprofessionals and support staff in Norwalk schools in late April celebrated the culmination of a yearlong effort to boost literacy and unite their community. [Click here to watch how union members' partnership with First Book will help students "be ready for the world."](#)

[**Demanding Leadership, Not More Layoffs**](#)

The governor in late April announced contingency plans for possible additional workforce cuts, despite ongoing exploratory talks with state employee union leaders. [Click here for our report on the development and renewed call for a "fair share" state budget.](#)

[**Pushing Back on Unfair Education Cost-Shifting**](#)

Union leaders in mid April amplified calls to drop proposals for local communities to take on the state's retirement obligations to Connecticut's teachers. [Click here for photos of our state federation president denouncing the scheme at a press conference with stakeholders.](#)

[Lawmakers Hear Direct from their Constituents](#)

Educators, support staff, caregivers and state employees at regional meetings in early April challenged their elected representatives to resist failed austerity budget policies. [Click here for photos of Bridgeport area legislators listening to union members at our final event of the session.](#)

[Winning Better Educator Accountability Practices](#)

The State Board of Education in early April finally abandoned the misguided policy of linking students' mastery exam scores and teacher evaluations. [Click here for a report back on the meeting where union leaders urged officials "correct an inappropriate approach."](#)

[Union Members in the Spotlight](#)

In honor of national Paraprofessionals Appreciation Day, we highlighted a veteran educator who plays a vital role on her school's Special Education team. [Click here to meet a PSRP union member who provides an "important layer of support" for her students.](#)

[Doctors, Nurses and Aides Mobilize Allies](#)

Health professionals at Community Health Services are raising public awareness in their fight for fair contracts that raise wages and respect their work. [Click here to watch Hartford faith and elected leaders turn out to support their cause at recent rallies.](#)

Upcoming Activities & Events

- May 9: [Legal Issues Training for Teachers & Paras](#)
- May 13: [AFT Connecticut 70th Annual Business Convention](#)
- May 16: [AFT Connecticut Retirees Conference](#)
- May 18: ["Keep Your Promise" Rally for Public Education](#)
- June 6: [Financial Planning Workshop for All Members](#)
- June 15: [Local Leaders Communications Training - Websites](#)
- June 27: [AFT Connecticut Healthcare Conference](#)

Featured Benefit

- Union Plus: [Mortgage Program](#)

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