



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

### **[Building Strength for Vital Classroom Support Staff](#)**

Education personnel in Norwalk Public Schools in late April announced that board certified behavior analysts (BCBAs) had voted to join their local union. [Click here for a photo of our newest members wearing "U & I in Union" stickers in their workplace.](#)

### **[Delivering the Message that "Work Shouldn't Hurt"](#)**

Union members on April 28 participated in Workers Memorial Day ceremonies to honor their sisters and brothers whose lives were lost while on the job. [Click here for photos from the Connecticut AFL-CIO's annual commemoration events, held in both Groton and Hartford.](#)

### **[Sharing How the "U and I in Union" Improves Working Conditions](#)**

A Hartford Public Schools paraeducator's personal experience demonstrates how collective bargaining rights are key to winning more than just better pay, healthcare and retirement security. [Click here to meet a PSRP union member who believes representation and support on the job are "priceless."](#)

### **[Taking Action to Protect Our "Constitutional Rights to Organize"](#)**

Legislation ensuring Connecticut workplaces are free from coercive "captive audience" tactics by mid April had advanced, thanks to the backing of the state's labor movement. [Click here for a report on the effort, which connected national advocacy for maintaining timely union representation elections.](#)

## [Joining Fellow Caregivers to Help Communities in Need](#)

Nurses at Backus Hospital in mid April traveled to the U.S. Virgin Islands to assist with vision and hearing screenings in the hurricane-ravaged territory. [Click here to watch union members share their experience as part of this AFT-led community engagement effort.](#)

## [Ending Divisive Terminology for State Employees](#)

Following months of advocacy by Connecticut's labor movement, the governor's office replaced the terms "essential" and "nonessential" in reference to the state workforce. [Click here for our report, featuring public employee union members who called for the long-overdue policy change.](#)

## [Leading the Fight for Fully Funding their Students' Dreams](#)

Teachers, paraprofessionals and support staff in Meriden Public Schools in early April mobilized the community for a public hearing on proposed education budget cuts. [Click here for a photo of union members who organized a defense of their students' opportunity to learn.](#)

## [Pressing Candidates to Take a Stand on the Important Issues](#)

Delegates to AFT-affiliated local unions in early April turned out for the first day of the Connecticut AFL-CIO's biennial political convention. [Click here for photos of leaders at the event holding candidates for statewide office accountable to working people.](#)

## **Upcoming Activities & Events**

- May 12: [AFT Connecticut 71st Annual Business Convention](#)
- May 14: [CT Poor People's Campaign "Day of Moral Action" - Hartford](#)
- May 21: [CT Poor People's Campaign "Day of Moral Action" - Hartford](#)
- May 22: [SEPS Annual Teacher Leader Institute](#)
- June 11: [CT Poor People's Campaign "Day of Moral Action" - Hartford](#)
- June 18: [CT Poor People's Campaign "Day of Moral Action" - Hartford](#)
- June 22: [Connecticut AFL-CIO Biennial Political Convention](#) (2 of 3)

## **Featured Benefit**

- AFT +: [AFT Home Financing Program](#)

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