



77th Annual Business Convention
June 1, 2024

The Fox Tower @ Foxwoods
Ledyard, Connecticut

AWARDS

2024 Awards Program

George C. Springer Scholarship

Sharon M. Palmer Scholarship

AFT Connecticut Staff Recognition

Local Anniversary Citations

Testifiers/Submitted Testimony

Unionist of the Year

Joseph H. Soifer Award

President's Award



Scholarship Awards

AFT Connecticut awards two different scholarships each year, one for our members (**George C. Springer Scholarship**), and one for spouses/domestic partners, and children of members (**Sharon M. Palmer Scholarship**). Candidates are selected based on academic promise and financial need, among other criteria. The member applicant, or the AFT Connecticut member upon whom the applicant bases their eligibility, must be a member of an AFT Connecticut local in good standing.

George C. Springer Scholarship

CRISTIAN CALLE has been a member of the Hartford Federation of Paraeducators #2221 for 7 years. Cristian is a volunteer mentor in his community working with The Bridge Family Center, and volunteers at a local West Hartford Church. He recently graduated from CCSU, where he made the dean's list. Cristian has applied to UCONN with a goal of getting his master's in social work. Cristian will be using the scholarship award to help fulfill his dream of becoming a social worker. Cristian stated in his essay "The comfort of knowing that you are not outnumbered and that there is someone that is on your side, is very powerful."

KELLY OSBORN INGRASSIA, RN BSN is a member of the New Britain Federation of Teachers #871. She has been a nurse for over 20 years and is currently teaching and overseeing the CNA Program at New Britain High School. Kelly will be using her scholarship award to pursue her master's to become a better teacher and nurse educator. In Kelly's essay, she states "I look forward to being a union member for the rest of my career and appreciate that my children will be eligible to apply for union scholarships in the future because I am a member."

Sharon M. Palmer Scholarship

AVA LIU is the daughter of Bernard Liu, a member of A&R Employees Union #4200. Ava is a volunteer in her community as a Chinese Tutor, camp counselor to students with disabilities, and also helps out with her church youth group. Ava is also an accomplished pianist and in a competitive volleyball league. Ava has plans to study Biostatistics and Computational Biology at one of the several colleges she has been accepted to. In Ava's essay she states "If it were not for the union, I might have never seen my father growing up. Last minute briefs or hearings make for chaos in planning family time. Having a negotiated work environment creates clear expectations for both the employer and the employee's family."

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ISABELLE SEVIGNY is the daughter of Adam Sevigny, a member of the A&R Employees Union #4200. Isabelle is an active member of many school and community clubs including the Interact club which involves planning activities for the community and has been a soccer referee since 2018 and has been a member of the high honor and honor roll since 2018. Isabelle plans on attending Western New England University to pursue a degree in Management and Leadership. In her essay, Isabelle states "I am glad my parents will always have union jobs, where they'll have stability no matter what is happening in the world. The AFT union has helped my family feel comfortable taking the next steps through life and I hope to have a future job that offers me the same recourses."

JULIETTE LINARES is the daughter of Ivette Garcia Linares, who is a member of the New Britain Federation of Teachers. #871 Juliette has been the recipient of many awards and honors over the years and a member of multiple clubs including the National Student Speech Language & Hearing Association in which she is a national member and co secretary. She has also made the Seton Hall Dean's List multiple times. Juliette is currently a student at Seton Hall University where she continues to work towards her M.S degree in Speech and Language Pathology. In her essay, Juliette states "Enhancement of workplace conditions and compensation can only be achieved when workers unite and make their voices heard as one. Unions cannot simply institute change, members must be aware, involved, and knowledgeable advocates for fairness. As an aspiring Speech and Language Pathologist, I hope to provide future generations with a clear voice and an expansive vocabulary to advocate for fairness, democracy, and economic opportunity in their profession."

***Congratulations, and best wishes to
all of our scholarship winners!***



AFT Connecticut Staff Recognition

Jennifer Benevento, Professional Development Coord.....20 years

Nickimmy Hayes, Organizer20 years

Dan Durant, Field Rep.....15 years





Local Anniversary Citations

Colchester Federation of Educational Personnel	50 years
Manchester Federation of Paraprofessionals.....	50 years
Middletown Federation of Paraprofessionals	50 years
Mitchell College Faculty Federation	50 years
Newtown Federation of Custodians & Maintenance.....	45 years
Watertown Federation of Paraprofessionals.....	45 years
West Hartford Residential Counselors/Dormitory Supervisors	45 years
Portland Federation of Paraprofessionals	35 years
Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals Retirees	30 years
Hartford Federation of Teachers Retirees.....	30 years
Meriden Federation of Teachers Retirees.....	30 years
Bozrah Federation of Educational Personnel	25 years
Job Corps United.....	20 years
Natchaug Federation of Therapists United	15 years
Hartford Federation of Secretaries	10 years
Community Health Services United	10 years
Winchester Federation of Paraprofessionals.....	10 years
Avon Educational Support Personnel	5 years
CREC Health Professionals.....	5 years

2024 AFT CT Members: Testified or Submitted Testimony

AAUP UCONN, Local 6746

Alexander Russell
Adam McCready
Ion Moraru
Jeffrey Ogbar
Mary Beth Allen
Melanie Newport
Michael Bailey
Mitch Page
Sachin Pandya
Valerie Duffy



AAUP CSU, Local 6745

A. Fiona Pearson	Lyle Scruggs
Aimee Loiselle	MaryJo Archambault
Andree Ianni	Rotua Lumbantobing
Anna Malavisi	Sara Swetsoff
Audra King	Sarah Reilly
Carina Bandhauer	Shellye Stoehr McCarthy
Christina Barmon	Stephen Adair
Christopher Trombly	Stephen Monroe Tomczak
Joane Leon	Wynn Gadkar Wilcox
John O'Connor	Xander Tyler
Louise Williams	

Assoc. of CT Asst. Attorneys General, Local 6574

Joan Andrews

American School for the Deaf, Local 4230

Alexandra Daly

Backus Federation of Nurses Local 5149

Heather Brauth
Sherri Dayton

Fed. of Tech College Faculty, Local 1942

Diba Khan Bureau

Hartford Fed. of Paraeducators, Local 2221

Shellye Davis

Hartford Federation of Teachers, Local 1018

Carol Gale
Ryan Pula

Union of Judicial Professionals, Local 4200B

Charles Mastrianna

New Haven Fed. of Teachers, Local 933

Aden Gonzales	Jennifer Graves
Amanda Weires	Katie Yates
Ann Greene	Kim Rogers
CJ Burton	Leslie Blatteau
David Weinreb	Maria Threese Serana
Dr. Gregory Jackson Jr.	Marlee Greenlaw
Emilio Reales	Rebecca Mickelson
Erin Michaud	Rose Murphy
Francis DeCapua	Steve Staysniak
Isabelle Geller	Tim Shortt

Newtown Fed. of Teachers, Local 1727

Michael Wight
Trent Harrison

Norwalk Fed. of Teachers, Local 1723

Mary Yordon

State Vocational Fed. of Teachers, Local 4200A

Jamie Lamitie
Paul Angelucci

Univ. of CT Prof. Empl. Assoc., Local 3695

Kathy Fischer
Lisa Pane

University Health Professionals, Local 3837

Bill Garrity
Chris DeFrancesco
Peter Baranoski

West Haven Fed. of Teachers, Local 1547

Kristen Malloy Scanlon
Mary Elia—*Retiree Chapter*

Windham Federation of Nurses, Local 5041

Andrea Riley

Windham Fed. of Teachers, Local 1577

Rose Reyes

Windham Hosp. United Empl., Local 5099

Christopher Colanair
Heather Howlett

2024 MEMBER MOBILIZATION PARTICIPANTS

Summer Lambert
Chuck Morrell

Rosemary Picarelli
Ed Leavy



Unionist of the Year Award

Joseph H. Soifer Award

President's Award

