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PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE

Annual Business Convention

May 16, 2015

Aqua Turf Club
Plantsville, Connecticut

AWARDS



PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE



AFT Connecticut
A Union of Professionals

Sixty-eighth Annual Business Convention

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Aqua Turf Club - Plantsville, CT

Awards Program

AFT Connecticut Staff Recognition

Local Anniversary Citations

Phyllis H. Kornfeld Golden Achievement Award

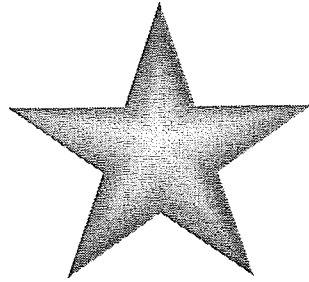
Scholarship Awards

Unionist of the Year

President's Award

COPE Raffle

Closing Remarks

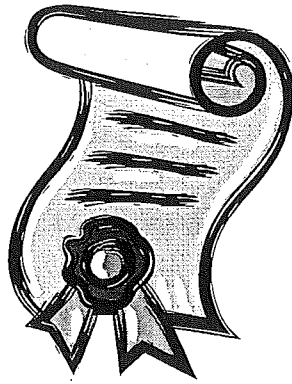


AFT Connecticut Staff Recognition

Teri Merisotis, Member Mobilization Coordinator.....20 years

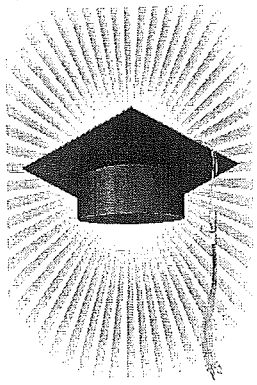
Greg Kotecki, Field Representative15 years

Ben Wenograd, Field Representative15 years



Local Anniversary Citations

Middletown Federation of Teachers	55 years
Wethersfield Federation of Teachers.....	55 years
Waterford Federation of Classroom Teachers	45 years
Federation of Windham Hospital RNs.....	35 years
Milford Federation of Paraprofessionals.....	30 years
Regional District #13 Support Staff Association	20 years
WCMH United Employees	20 years



Scholarship Awards

AFT Connecticut awards two (2) \$2500 scholarships, one of which is the George C. Springer Scholarship granted to a member. 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 her/his eligibility, must be a member of an AFT Connecticut local in good standing.

George C. Springer Scholarship

LISA UNDERWOOD has been a member of the New Britain Federation of Paraprofessionals Local 2407 for the past seven years, and she works as a Special Education Paraeducator in the PAVE program at Pulaski Middle School. Currently, she is looking to further her education, specializing in American Sign Language (ASL). In her essay, Lisa explains the most important issue facing paraeducators today "is the lack of or insufficient accredited opportunities" aimed at preparing paraprofessionals for working with special education students. "At times," she adds, "we also face a lack of modified work for our students." Students in the PAVE program are learning "at different levels and need work modified to their personal capability or assistive devices." Despite such frustrations, Lisa is a proactive educator, attending as many paraprofessional workshops offered at her school as she can, and she is a frequent attendee of those held by AFT Connecticut, including ConnTEACH, English Language Learners, Common Core: Math, and Managing Behavior. Lisa understands that especially when it comes to enriching the lives of special education students, it takes many dedicated voices and hands. She believes our labor union offers the perfect example for the kinds of successes that can be achieved when individuals speak and work together.

While her present interest "is learning ASL," Lisa isn't looking to end her own education there. "Down the line," she says, she would like to "take some other courses that can better prepare" her for the "new Common Core programs applied to students in [her] field of work." It is clear Lisa demonstrates the commitment and ambition necessary to effectively equip herself, fellow paraeducators, and most importantly, her students.

Lisa attended secondary school and college in Puerto Rico, and away from the classroom, she enjoys volunteering in Bible classes held at her church.

AFT Connecticut Scholarship

SAKINAH ABDULSALAM is the daughter of Abdulsalam Yusoff, a University Health Professionals Local 3837 member for the past eight years. Exemplifying what it means to be a well-rounded student, Sakinah will be graduating from Bristol Eastern High School in June. A scholar in advanced level Biology, Literature, History, and Latin courses (just to name a few), Sakinah clearly demonstrates a wide range of knowledge and a love for learning. Outside of the classroom, Sakinah is also an accomplished athlete. As a member of Bristol Eastern's Girl's Varsity Tennis team, Sakinah was named an All-Press Player for 2012, 2013, and 2014, an All-Conference Player for the 2013 and 2014 seasons, and was presented the "Grit Award" last spring. She is also a dedicated volunteer, giving of her time to the Imagination Center and the Muslim Youth Association of Connecticut.

In her essay, Sakinah illustrates that with the arrival of the American Industrial Revolution and the development of factories, new work positions were created, many of which were held by women. Because of "an enormous amount of hours" and "intolerable working conditions," Sakinah writes, "these women became some of the first workers to unionize." One such achievement for their efforts was the formation of the Lowell Female Labor Reform Association in 1846, which pushed for a ten-hour work day from employers. "These pioneering women used organized labor to incite the change they so desperately longed to create while inspiring society to become more just and inclusive," Sakinah states; and more recently, she adds, "unions have started to actively fight to receive equal pay for women." Despite such progress, Sakinah recognizes that even today "there are still barriers women must face" when entering the workplace. Going forward, she argues, "unions will be an effective tool" in achieving such "goals in equality," serving as the "vehicle through which these ideals will be reached."

Sakinah has been accepted to Drew University, Ithaca College, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Saint Joseph. She plans to study Biology.

Congratulations, and best wishes to both of our scholarship winners!



Joseph H. Soifer Award

Persons considered "eligible" for nomination for the award are those who contribute heavily to their local, the AFT Connecticut, the AFT, and the labor movement in general, *with the emphasis placed on service to the local*, however, people who work full time for the local or state federation are not eligible. This award is presented annually to an individual whose service reflects the "spirit" of Joe Soifer. In the words of AFT Connecticut Vice President John Malsbenden, *"Always willing to do small, nitty-gritty tasks that seemed so insignificant, but without which organizations don't run, Joe was always there to do tasks that others overlooked....He would enable others to see the long view; to see the progress that has been made and the great gains that have been achieved."*

Unionist of the Year Award

Persons considered "eligible" for nomination for the award are those who *contribute heavily to their local, the AFT Connecticut, the AFT, and the labor movement in general, with the emphasis placed on service to the AFT Connecticut.*

This award is presented annually to an individual whose service in the federation models the qualities and values we treasure most in the AFT Connecticut. The quality and quantity of their contributions sets them apart as exemplary.

Phyllis H. Kornfeld Golden Achievement Award

The AFT Connecticut *Golden Achievement Award* was established in 2010 to acknowledge the contributions of those members who have retired from their job, but not their unions. The first recipient of this award was Phyllis Kornfeld, who was recognized for her dedication and commitment to the work of the union.

Phyllis passed away unexpectedly on January 5, 2014. In her memory, and to honor the service she so freely gave in her golden years, we are pleased to announce that this award shall now be known as the Phyllis H. Kornfeld Golden Achievement Award.

The Joseph H. Soifer Award, Unionist of the Year, Phyllis H. Kornfeld Award and the recipients of the 2015 President's Award are...

A SURPRISE!!

Congratulations and best wishes to our awards recipients!

