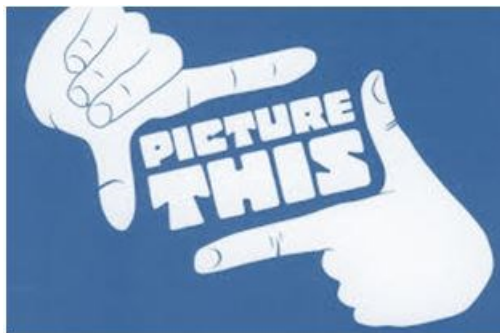


**Annual Business Convention**  
**May 17, 2014**

Aqua Turf Club  
Plantsville, Connecticut

# AWARDS



# **Sixty-seventh Annual Business Convention**

**Saturday, May 17, 2014**

Aqua Turf Club - Plantsville, CT



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## **Awards Program**

**Scholarship Awards**

**Local Anniversary Citations**

**AFT Connecticut Staff Recognition**

**Unionist of the Year**

**Phyllis H. Kornfeld Golden Achievement Award**

**President's Award**

**COPE Raffle**

**Closing Remarks**



# 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**

**KRISTA VERMEAL** has been a member of the Meriden Federation of Teachers Local 1478 for the past three years, and she is currently a First Grade teacher at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. Recently, Krista has enrolled at the University of Saint Joseph in pursuit of a Master's Degree in Reading Instruction. Krista mentions in her essay that while labor unions are playing an important role in protecting teachers with the onset of TEVAL and the Common Core State Standards, she believes a bigger issue facing today's educators is "the continued threat of privatization." With "the encroaching of programs such as Teach for America," Krista writes, union presence has never been greater. Krista recognizes that because many educators are unaware the privatization problem even exists, unions are needed to "educate teachers about this issue." Only then, she argues, can we "come together to resist the continued efforts of corporations, politicians, and Teach for America to completely turn education into a for-profit enterprise."

Krista serves as the Secretary for Wethersfield's Safe Grad Program, and she is a member of her local Community Outreach Committee and Nature/Butterfly Garden Committee. Admirably, Krista is helping to support one of her children through college, with her second child to enroll this fall. Despite how overwhelming these other commitments can often be, Krista is steadfastly dedicated to achieving her own goals, and she has already shown success, maintaining a current 4.0 Grade Point Average within her program.

## **AFT Connecticut Scholarship**

**BRYAN BLIEK** is the son of Xian Shen, a Manchester Federation of Paraprofessionals Local 3175 member for the past eight years. An incredibly driven and bright student, Bryan will be graduating from Rockville High School this spring. In addition to excelling in every one of his Honors and Advanced Placement courses, Bryan is involved in numerous activities both in his school and his community. As a junior, Bryan served as Treasurer for Rockville High School's Student Government and was elected Vice President his freshman, sophomore, and senior years. For two years Bryan was the editor of his school's Literary Magazine, and he has been a dedicated defender on the high school's Varsity soccer team. He has also spent time as a junior volunteer at Rockville General Hospital. Bryan was inducted into the National Honor Society in April 2013, and he has also received additional accolades, including the National Council of Teachers of English Certificate for Superior Writing, the Alliance Francaise USA 2013 Certificat de Recompense, and multiple Scholastic Writing Awards.

In his essay, Bryan illustrates that with the arrival of American industrial giants, such as Vanderbilt and Carnegie, "the gritty inner workings of the modernizing nation" were revealed, "the most notorious of which," Bryan writes, was "the conflict between laborer and employer." While this period in history brought forth the establishment of many workers' unions, Bryan argues the American Federation of Labor was "by far the most successful organized labor entity of the era." With Samuel Gompers at the helm, the AFL "adopted a realistic, pro-capitalism, yet progressive, stance as its medium of social reform." Among the federation's numerous positive changes was the establishment of Labor Day, a holiday we still humbly observe and value today.

Bryan has been accepted to Dartmouth College and the University of South Carolina- Columbia. He plans to study Government and Economics.

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



## Local Anniversary Citations

Federation of Technical College Teachers .....	45 years
Middletown Federation of Paraprofessionals .....	40 years
Manchester Paraprofessionals Association.....	40 years
Mitchell College Faculty Federation .....	40 years
Colchester Federation of Education Personnel .....	40 years
Newtown Federation of Custodians and Maintenance .....	35 years
West Hartford Federation of Dormitory Supervisors .....	35 years
Watertown Federation of Paraprofessionals.....	35 years
Portland Federation of Paraprofessionals .....	25 years
Bozrah Federation of Educational Personnel .....	15 years
Job Corps United.....	10 years



## **AFT Connecticut Staff Recognition**

Joe Bakanauskas, Researcher .....10 years

Jennifer Benevento, Organizer .....10 years

Nickimmy Hayes, Organizer .....10 years



## **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.

**Unionist of the Year, and the recipients of the  
Phyllis H. Kornfeld Award and 2014 President's Award are...**

**A SURPRISE!!**

***Congratulations and best wishes to our awards recipients!***

