

ConnectiCOSH

CT COUNCIL ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH

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March 24, 2025

Sisters and Brothers,

Each year, ConnectiCOSH honors individuals and organizations who have worked to ensure that workers are safe by advocating for workers and fighting hard for safer workplaces and justice on the job. This year ConnectiCOSH's Annual Awards Night Dinner will be held on May 16, 2025, at the [Casa Mia at the Hawthorne Inn, 2421 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, CT](#), 6 pm.

ConnectiCOSH will honor occupational safety professional **Rick Kaletsky** with the **Ed Eagan-Jeff Janusonis Commemorative Award**. Rick has been devoted to workplace health and safety for over 50 years and has worked inside OSHA as a compliance officer and outside OSHA as a Safety Consultant. He has authored hundreds of articles, columns, and short Q&As that have been published in magazines and newsletters as well as the acclaimed *OSHA Inspections: Preparation and Response*, published by the National Safety Council. Rick has presented oral and written comments at various hearings meant to establish technical standards and his detailed comments have impacted the final versions of landmark standards. On another note, Rick has been a strong supporter of ConnectiCOSH for many years and has donated his time, expertise and published works at its annual health and safety convention.

Attorney Amity Arscott from Embry, Neusner and Arscott will receive the **Irving J. Selikoff-Matthew Shafner Professional Excellence Award**. Amity is a dedicated attorney whose specialties lie in occupational disease and toxic torts. She is fluent in Spanish and offers workshops in understanding Workers' Compensation to immigrant workers. In addition to her extensive experience in the areas of workers' compensation, she recently negotiated a \$12.5 million class action settlement in a dispute over living conditions in low-income housing in her hometown. This achievement underscores her commitment to advocating for better living standards for vulnerable communities. Amity has served on the Board of Noank Community Support Services after having represented children whose families were involved with DCF and her firm continues to support ConnectiCOSH's Injured Worker Project.

We are honored to present **Felicia Diaz, "POWER" Child Care teacher** with the **Marcia Trapé Memorial Award**. Felicia is being recognized for her more than 20 years of teaching in the City of Waterbury where she has been highly committed to the health

and safety of child care providers, and especially children. She helped start the first Dominican Club in Waterbury, where individuals provide help and support to others coming to this country and started a childcare center where parents were ensured that their children would receive good care and attention and be exposed to both the Spanish and English language in a multicultural manner.

Two individuals will be recognized for their many years of dedication to workplace health and safety with **Exemplary Career Awards** this year. They are **Pete Baker, President of the Metal Trade Council of New London, CT,** and **Steve Schrag, Retired CEUI-SEIU Local 511 Education and Safety Director and ConnectiCOSH Board Chair.** Pete has shown dedication to workplace health and safety in the years he was a rank-and-file firefighter and since becoming an officer of the Metal Trades Council in 1990. He has always been proactive in identifying workplace hazards whether they affected firefighters or other members of MTC. Pete has actively supported ConnectiCOSH's focus on worker health and safety training and education and has made sure that his members had access to such training.

Retired from his position as CEUI-SEIU Local 511's Education and Safety Director, Steve Schrag continues to advocate for worker safety and health by actively supporting various unions and organization's legislative efforts that benefit workers. As the ConnectiCOSH Board Chair, he still stays active by assisting in developing and delivering ConnectiCOSH workplace health and safety trainings. Steve is the epitome of a worker health and safety activist.

Three members of the New Haven Federation of Teachers Local 933 will be recognized with the **ConnectiCOSH Rank and File Activist for Safety & Health Award.** Local 933 members **Kendall Alderman, Kimberly Anderson and Barbara Sasso** were all instrumental in bringing awareness, press and mobilization to the health and safety issues at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven. Each, individually, took the initiative to stand up for what is right not only for workers but those they serve - their students. Their actions not only positively impacted their personal work environments but those of others in their school community across New Haven Public Schools and within the Wilbur Cross school inspiring others to continue the work they started, work that continues and goes on to this day.

ConnectiCOSH will also be recognizing the following unions with **Organizational Awards** for activities that demonstrate their dedication to the safety of their members in the recent past:

Backus Federation of Nurses for their active promotion and diligence in passing the safe staffing bill for healthcare workers in CT. They also continue to vigorously advocate for their members who experience workplace violence within their hospital as well as actively support their members who are experiencing other work-related issues such as wage and hour.

I.A.M.A.W. Local Lodge 1746 for their dedication to their members health and safety and their proactive approach to workplace health and safety. They prefer to identify a hazard and fix it before someone gets injured or made ill by it. This approach can be seen by their *Report It Don't Ignore It Hazard Recognition Program*.

SE Connecticut AFL-CIO for their political activism especially during local elections, strong support of the Southeastern United Way with funding and fundraisers that benefit the local community and their longstanding annual recognition of Worker Memorial Day annually attended by hundreds of workers.

Some of the projects ConnectiCOSH is working on this year include:

- Participated and presented in various Worker Memorial Day events as a member of the CT AFL-CIO Health and Safety Committee,
- Support and guide injured workers as part of the Injured Workers Project funded by Embry, Neusner & Arscott,
- Partner with Attorney Amity Arscott to present information about worker compensation in Spanish to members of the Naugatuck Valley Project,
- Partner with Comunidades Sin Fronteras, the Connecticut Worker Center and the Naugatuck Valley Project to educate immigrant workers about various hazards that they encounter in their workplaces,
- Help to educate employers, young workers, their families and mentors about young worker safety and employer requirements for employing young workers as part of the CT Young Worker Health & Safety Team,
- Safety trainings in partnership with the New England Consortium.

Many local unions and businesses get involved in sponsoring this important labor event by purchasing an ad in our ad book. This funding allows us to continue doing the work that is necessary to improve health, safety and environmental conditions in our workplaces and communities.

Although your ads support our work financially, we really look forward to seeing our members attend this annual event as we recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the awardees who have worked so hard to provide safer workplaces for all of us. Please join us!

In Solidarity,
Your friends at ConnectiCOSH

ConnectiCOSH Awards Night Banquet

May 16, 2025 – 6:00 pm

**Casa Mia at the Hawthorne Inn
2421 Berlin Turnpike
Berlin, CT**

**Tickets: \$60.00/person
\$500/table of 10**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Number attending _____

Sponsorship/Ad book:

\$1000*	\$500	\$250	\$100
Full page	½ page	¼ page	Bus. Card

*Purchase of a Full-page ad also includes 2 free event tickets

Please respond by May 9 for the ad book

Please make checks payable to ConnectiCOSH

**and mail them along with this form and ad copy to
683 North Mountain Road
Newington, CT 06111.**

Thank you!