

ConnectiCOSH

CT COUNCIL ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH

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March 24, 2026

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 15, 2026, at the [Casa Mia at the Hawthorne Inn, 2421 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, CT](#), 6 pm.

ConnectiCOSH will honor **John Adamson** with the **Ed Eagan-Jeff Janusonis Commemorative Award**. John has been involved with workplace health and safety since he began working at Electric Boat in 1982 in various capacities such as Union Steward, Chief Steward, Health and Safety Committee Member and Vice-President of the Metal Trades Council. He has worked on many health and safety projects and achieved numerous successes that benefited MTC members.

Attorney General William Tong will receive the **Irving J. Selikoff-Matthew Shafner Professional Excellence Award**. AG Tong has fought on many issues that affect working people. He is being recognized for his leadership in the bipartisan, multistate effort to hold the addiction industry accountable for their role in the opioid crisis. Opioid addictions often begin when workers are injured on the job, are prescribed opioids and become addicted, potentially leading to devastating results for them and their families.

We are honored to present **Amy Shepherd, former Director of the Connecticut River Valley Farmworker Health Program** with the **Marcia Trapé Memorial Award**. Amy is being recognized not only for her leadership as a director of the program during the pandemic but also for her hands on, tireless and multi-level efforts to ensure that migrant farm workers were safe and healthy during those difficult times.

Two individuals will be recognized for their many years of dedication to workplace health and safety with **Exemplary Career Awards** this year. They are **Paula Schenck, MPH, Environmental Health Specialist, Former Co-Director of the Center for Indoor Environments and Health, Adjunct Faculty at UCONN Health**, and **Mary Lou Polverari, Sr. Safety & Health Coordinator, Greater CT Area Local, American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, National APWU AFL-CIO Northeast Area Safety & Health Representative**.

For nearly 30 years **Paula Schenck** has supported the Occupational and Environmental Health Clinic team at UCONN Health. Through her training and research initiatives she has focused her career on reducing environmental contributors to illness for teachers, factory workers and office personnel, and on improving the indoor air quality of their work environments. Paula's outreach, educational initiatives and research have provided these communities with valuable insights on how to address indoor air quality concerns.

Throughout **Mary Lou Polverari's** early childhood, school years, and as a dedicated Safety & Health Representative for the APWU, she has demonstrated an ability to identify, research, collaborate on and ultimately develop a detailed plan to implement changes needed to improve working conditions. Her trained eye, collaborative nature and passion for worker safety and health have resulted in innumerable positive changes for postal workers all across CT.

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

Amalgamated Transit Union Locals 281, 425, 443, 1209, 1336 and 1622 for their dedication to addressing numerous workplace and safety issues that many of their members face including workplace violence, a lack of a uniform set of standards and a need for scheduling such basic necessities as bathroom breaks.

Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association for their dedication to addressing numerous workplace health and safety issues as well as the consequences of the exposures that its members face because of the valuable, yet highly dangerous work that they do. Unlike many workplaces, where the environment can be somewhat regulated, we know that firefighters often cannot control where and what they will experience during their workday.

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,
- 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 15, 2026 – 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 8 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!