

Vocational Instructor

Local 4200A ~ AFT, AFTCT, & AFL-CIO

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"It Pays
To Be Taught
By a Vo-Tech
Teacher"

JUNE 2012

When Good Is Better Than Great

By Jan Hochadel

On Wednesday, May 16th, the SVFT honored the excellent teachers who were elected as Teacher of the Year for 2012-2013. I would like to share some of my thoughts that were conveyed that night. The same time last year, we were in the middle of SEBAC negotiations and I was not able to arrive at the event until after dinner. Thankfully, we are through that process and the legislative session this year. Let's face it: the last couple of years have not been easy on our teachers. We are being asked to do more and more, with less time to complete the tasks. The pressures of the job are leaving many teachers stressed and asking, "Why am I doing this?"

I would like to share a story with you that I hope helps to answer that question. May 7th to May 11th was Teacher Appreciation week. To me, it seems funny that people should need to be reminded to appreciate teachers, but unfortunately society - and certainly the Governor - does not always appreciate all the hard work that goes into the profession. Very rarely do the students return to tell us if we made an impression on their lives, and many of us are left questioning if our teaching makes a difference.

Below is an email that Ed Leavy received titled, "Hello from an old student"

Dear Mr. Leavy,

I hope this email finds you well! I'm going to hope that you remember, James B., Bullard-Havens class of 99. I'm that shy, geeky, white kid who laughed at your more obscure jokes and had Melissa as a sister (much to my constant regret back then). Since its teacher appreciation week I thought there no better a time to say hello and see how you are. I currently live in Philadelphia with my new wife and always swear I'll track you down when I visit CT, but never seem to fit it in among family and friend duties.

I've often thought of your class over the years, especially your lessons that revolved around the Trojan War. Specifically the day we discussed the difference between a good man in the form of Hector and a great one, in the form of Achilles. How a man can become great and yet fail to be a good man. It was one of the defining ideas of

the next few years of my life and I would often tell close friends how that was one of the most important lessons I learned in high school. I hope you are well and still teaching somewhere. I'd love to hear what you are up to these days.

Ed of course wrote back, and the same student responded: Glad to see you are doing well and enjoy your new direction, I'd love to know you went back to teaching after a while though; too few good teachers stick around and clichéd as it sounds, you guys make a difference.

The first thought that struck me when I heard this story was the idea of being a "great teacher" and a "good teacher." With the new education reform ideas and the new State evaluation system, everyone is focused on great or exceptional teachers. But just as Achilles was a great warrior, doing his job perfectly, he was not a good man.

It's possible for a teacher to write exceptional lesson plans, provide differentiated instruction, type their grades into PowerTeacher every day, and the other endless tasks required everyday - and still not be a good teacher. The way excellence in teaching is described, with objectives on the board and data walls completed, misses the essential connection between teachers and students, the sense that the teacher cares about each student as a person, not as a test score.

Too many people overlook that bond, because they cannot measure it. Our members understand there is an art to teaching - they understand that being a good teacher is more important than being a "great" teacher. They know instinctively what each student needs to be successful. They talk to students, they listen to students, they connect to students, and as a result they make a difference in their students' lives.

Thankfully, good teaching does not go unnoticed. Students know good teaching, and other teachers recognize good teaching. The letters from your students may have yet to be written, but please know you touch students' lives every day.

Thank you for all you do. Please have a safe and healthy summer.

The Year in Problems

By Ed Leavy, SVFT Executive Union Representative

It is traditional for the executive union rep to report the year's activities in the June newsletter. We have had 19 grievances for the year at this time, the same as we had the past two years combined. Of the nineteen, eight have been settled primarily in our favor, four were settled primarily against us, and five are pending either a hearing or a decision. The Grievance and Arbitration Committee has voted to move six cases so far to arbitration. Three of the cases were resolved through stipulated agreement rather than go to arbitration, and three were approved on a provisional basis (we are awaiting a decision on the grievance, but should the grievance be denied we will go forward to arbitration). We have also signed 27 stipulated agreements to date, approximately half as a method of resolving teacher discipline in a fair and equitable manner.

This data gives some sense of the year, but, like all data used to describe human experiences, it leaves a very limited picture. It would be more accurate to describe the year by discussing what the year has taught me, or at least made me remember. The one theme to which I have had to return time after time all year is restoring the proper relationship between teachers and students. The system seems to have inverted the sense of who is supervising whom. At the first Labor/Management meeting, I asked what the discipline policy was for students who made demonstrably false claims against teachers. It was clear in the meeting that not only was there no policy, but there was no interest from Central Office in establishing one. To date, there is no discipline policy for students who make false claims – not exaggerated claims, not ambiguous claims, but claims that can be shown to be false – against teachers.

Not surprisingly, the lack of repercussions for students has exacerbated the problem. We now hear of students taunting teachers with, "I can get you suspended," or "I'm going to get you fired." These comments are then reported to the administration and in many cases little or nothing is done. Let's be clear: there are cases in which teachers out of frustration or impatience make inappropriate comments to students, and those teachers do and should have their behavior addressed, especially if they, however inadvertently, cause pain to the student. Those cases are not what we are discussing. But when students tell teachers, "I can get you fired," those students are threatening the teachers' ability to support themselves and their families. It is a threat, plain and simple. Throughout the country, there are an increasing number of cases in which teachers who feel they have been threatened or defamed by students are taking civil action against them. In Indiana, three teachers have filed defamation lawsuits against students who posted on a website that the teachers were devil worshippers who should be mocked by the student body. In another case in Indiana, a teacher sued a student who posted a video on the web that mocked him and portrayed him being killed by a teddy bear. In Georgia, a teacher sued a student for making fun of him on his web page. It is impossible to speak to the merits of the cases without knowing the details, but in each case the teachers felt they had no options to protect their reputations and their jobs other than legal action. It would be understandable that a teacher facing students who continually say, "I'm going to get you fired," and finding no policy to address the threat would be tempted to

take similar action. The SVFT continues to call for a clear discipline protocol for students who threaten to get teachers fired or suspended.

This year has also served as a reminder that we have reached the point in which we cannot ask teachers to do one more thing. The need to provide data to defend every single decision made every single day has stretched teachers beyond the breaking point, and people are in fact breaking down. We hear complaints about sub costs, but has anyone considered that teacher absences are related to the stress they feel? We as a union have never handed out more employee assistance cards, or dealt with more people facing emotional issues, or seen more illness than we have this year. Teaching teenagers is stressful no matter what else is going on. When the actual spending of times with students seems to have become almost ancillary to the job, and collecting data and developing tangible learning objectives and providing evidence of professional growth – that is, things that can be monitored from the main office or Central Office – becomes primary, the stress is going to show. And it is.

Finally, though, the year has reminded me what an honor it is to serve the educators in this system. People have rallied for each other again and again. When one of our members who is ineligible for the sick bank became seriously ill, we received enough PL donations to carry him through the year. There is no way to describe how that act of generosity helped him and his wife. When one of our teachers had to travel to Boston for cancer treatment, his colleagues in the school contributed over \$1000 to help defray the costs, and the Executive Council agreed to match that amount. In every school there were times that someone needed help, and our members were there. One of our favorite sayings in the office is, "A union means you are never alone." The people in the SVFT, all of us, have been through four funerals, dozens of illnesses, and countless other issues. No one has ever been left alone; people support each other. It has been a year of problems, but the sense of unity in our membership makes us hopeful about our future.

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Dues Lowered at General Membership Meeting

Another excellent crowd attended this spring's General Membership meeting at Wilcox Tech on May 17th. Thirteen of our nineteen schools (including members from both Hartford and Sikorsky's Aviation Tech programs) were represented, and enough members were in attendance for a quorum not only to conduct regular business but also to approve our 2012-2013 budget and, after many years of trying, to lower our union dues. Several schools also qualified for a bonus toward their end-of-the-year gatherings by having at least five members and a building representative in attendance.

The evening began with Vice-President, Greg Beyer, discussing the Income and Expense Report and recapping the year of our union's finances. Once again, the line has been held firm on spending, and our local is in strong financial condition. Our attorney, Barry Scheinberg, followed with a report on the pending litigation that is holding up negotiations on contract language for many state bargaining units. Hopefully a resolution will come soon and we can get our language change requests heard.

Ed Leavy, our Executive Union Representative, reported on grievances and pending arbitration cases. It has been a busy year for Ed and his committee, and members have been extremely well-served when the need has arisen. Jan Hochadel, SVFT President, followed with her Executive Council Report, which is a summary of all our important union business from the past year. She focused on the recent legislative session and the implications of a new teacher

evaluation program that was part of the education reform bill passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. The coming year will be an interesting one for all school staff in making our way through the new process. She also discussed the revised ethics bill that will allow employees of the CTHSS to have more than \$100 worth of work done by the students in our schools.

The Committee Reports detailed the enormous amount of time our members volunteer to make sure our union gets its important work done. It was a particularly busy year for the Nomination and Elections Committee, with five state-wide officer elections (including two run-offs). Our newest, the Union Trade Advisory Committee, met several times to discuss the unique challenges and working conditions our trade and technology teachers encounter. They provided important input for the Labor/Management Committee to discuss with the superintendent and her team. A special thanks goes out to all our members who serve on our committees.

The highlight of the evening for many in attendance was the opportunity to vote on the dues reduction proposal. It enthusiastically passed unanimously, and applause and cheers could be heard from quite a distance. The officers thanked those in attendance for their commitment to the union and their colleagues. It was a night of union brother- and sisterhood at its very best.

Teachers of the Year



Shown from left to right sitting down are: Susan Schryver, O'Brien; Kim Morris, Vinal; Peter Carter, Bullard-Havens; Tamara Connors, Wolcott; Kristy Frye, Ellis; Felicia Williams, Wilcox; Maria Carpanzano, Abbott; Mary Vendetti, Goodwin; Rubi Hinds, Prince;
Shown from left to right standing: Cynthia Giancaspro, Whitney; Bob Motekaitis, Windham; Tony Baker, Grasso; Mary Ellen Lunt, Norwich; Laurie Rivers, Cheney; Steven Hanecak, Bristol; Eileen Barnes, Platt; Brian Griswold, Kaynor

Why We Bought an Office

One of the biggest responsibilities of SVFT officers is being prudent with the organization's finances. After all, members have their hard-earned money deducted from their paychecks for dues, and have the right to know that their money is not being wasted. The SVFT recently signed a contract to buy a building in Wallingford that will be renovated into our office. It is the largest single expenditure in the history of the SVFT. We made this purchase for several reasons:

The purchase makes financial sense: The SVFT currently rents its office, as it always has. For the past four years we have rented our office in Rocky Hill for \$2000 per month. We bought the property for \$100,000, nearly the same amount we have spent in rent for our time here. Clearly, the renovation of the building will create an added expense, perhaps \$75,000. Even so, the new building will begin saving us money compared to renting within a decade.

Additionally, the property will be a good investment. Our surplus is traditionally put in CDs which are currently yielding an interest of, well, next to nothing. We have made \$108 in interest this fiscal year. We are certain the property, once renovated, will be worth far in excess of what we have invested in it. Our accountant has been recommending we buy a property for these reasons for years.

The purchase supports our system and programs: We believe in our teachers and our programs, and we are willing to invest in them. We plan to have everything from the design to the heating to the plumbing to the carpentry to the cabinets to the drapes done by our students. Rather than the money going to the landlord, it will go back into the trades so that our teachers can have the money to teach their students.

The purchase will bring positive attention to our union and our system: The property is right on "Union Road," within a mile or so of the carpenters' union, the masons' union, the electricians' union, the manufacturer's union, and the plumbers' union. It is important that our students see the value of unions, not only for their own sake but for unionism in general; public sector unions cannot be strong if private-sector unions wither away. We are already seeing the effects of the shrinking private-sector unions on us; people look at our benefits and don't say, "I should have that too," but instead say, "My company would never agree to that, so why should they have it?" We don't just want our system to graduate expert tradespeople, but to graduate expert union tradespeople. We think having our office built by our students will help more students think about unions, and help the unions think about our students.

We plan to have the media production program work on a documentary of the process. AFT-CT and AFL-CIO have been enthusiastic supporters of the idea, and are looking to be involved. When people know about our system, they support our system. This project will help bring attention to the tremendous work our teachers and students do.

Though the SVFT Constitution gives the authority to make this decision to the President, we have asked for the Executive Council's approval for the decision. During the May meeting, the Council authorized us to offer \$115,000 for the property. Our offer of \$100,000 was accepted by the seller. We have discussed this idea at every school visit, and will be keeping everyone updated on the process. We never forget that it is your money we are spending. We are certain that this project is in the best interest of our union, both now and in the long-term.

Union Awards Scholarships

The SVFT Scholarship Committee met at the union office on Thursday, May 24th to review this year's scholarship and mini-grant applications. Committee members present were Ben Russell, Bristol; Linda DeSousa, Kaynor; Sue Ianniello, Wilcox; and Jeanann Buck, Kaynor. Nicole Conti, our office manager, did an exemplary job deleting all identifying information so that the identity of each applicant was obscured and the voting was completely objective. Scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded to nine of the fourteen high school applicants. The choice was very difficult, as each candidate had distinguished himself/herself in academics, community service and extracurricular activities listed on their resume, and the newly-required essay regarding unionism.

The Scholarship Committee also awarded two mini-grants to Tina Manus from Platt and Jane Stango from Kaynor. Congratulations to all of our worthy recipients.



Scholarship Committee Chair Ben Russell from Bristol Tech at the May 24th meeting

Scholarship Recipient	Parent	School
Alyssa Delaporta	Maggie Chmura	Grasso
Matthew DiStasio	Vincent DiStasio	Kaynor
Tarren Horvath	Albert Horvath	Vinal
Megan McGrath	Bryant Keith	Wilcox
Marcus Pugliese	Lewis Pugliese	Cheney
Alexandra Paccadolmi	Paula Paccadolmi	Kaynor
Eric Rinaldi	Terri Bambakidou	Wolcott
Ronald Vaughan	RoseAnn Vaughan	Vinal
Ryan Wodarski	Steve Wodarski	Wilcox

Health and Safety a Collaborative Effort



Ed Desousa (Bullard Havens) and Mike Lorusso (Oliver Wolcott) at the AFT/SVFT/CTHSS OSHA Health and Safety training.

The SVFT and the CTHSS have been taking a collaborative approach to health and safety in our schools. With the help of a grant from AFT-Washington, our union and system have embarked on a comprehensive training program designed to keep us, and everyone else in our buildings, healthy and safe. Starting earlier this school year, a select committee of representatives from each school's internal health and safety committee began meeting and planning a program designed to address concerns both system wide and in individual buildings.

A survey was developed and completed and the results have been instrumental in guiding the committee's work. It was used to develop the agenda for a full day of training in May that was included representatives from AFT, SVFT's officers, SVFT members, CTHSS central office personnel, and CONN-OSHA. Workplace health and safety in the areas of indoor air quality, reporting of incidents and accidents, and root cause analysis made up the bulk of the day's conversation. Mike Lohman and Amy Bahruth from AFT in Washington coordinated the training. One of the highlights was the presentation given by CONN-OSHA Director Ken Tucker, who has a long and distinguished career in occupational safety. John Woodmansee from Central Office provided many insights from the management side of things. Our own members, Brian Bisson from Windham Tech and Cory Rogers from Eli Whitney, gave an excellent and well-received session that will certainly help team members when they return to school and meet with their committees for future health and safety planning. This is a program that proves that working together for the common good is not only possible, but also highly productive.



Health & Safety *By Clare Rheiner*

The last Health and Safety visit of the year was completed May 21. The committee has noted many changes for the better within the area of Health and Safety. We asked each of the schools we visited if there was an in-house Health and Safety committee. They were also asked if the committee met on a regular basis; was made up of key staff that included security, the school nurse, a union representative, and the head building maintainer; and if minutes were posted for the staff to be made aware of any building issues. All of the schools visited stated they had a committee, and they were meeting and providing the staff with information. This is important, since in the event of a problem within the building this committee should be the first group contacted.

Many of the shops we visited had removed overhead items stored within the shops, but had not removed items stored overhead in store rooms and tool cribs. The Health and Safety committee is aware of the reason why this is a problem for shops: most shops having very little extra room for storage, both in the old and the newer buildings. Everyone is aware of the concerns over space, but making sure nothing falls down and causes an injury is a major concern.

The committee has noticed many positive changes to the buildings. The collaboration of this union committee with Central Office has led to many improvements in working conditions for the membership. It is also obvious to the committee that instructors take pride in their shops, as reflected by the many student accomplishments within the schools. Keep up the good work, and have a well-deserved safe and healthy summer.

SVFT Internship Wrap-Up

By Amy Beyer

The legislative session recently came to an end, and so did my internship with SVFT and AFT-Connecticut. In the final hours of the session, Senate Bill 340 passed. This bill allows State employees to take better advantage of the services offered by the students in the technical high schools. This was a positive end to the legislative session.

Interning this session was a great experience. With the legislative emphasis on education, it was the perfect time to intern for SVFT. I have previously interned with the Director of Government Affairs for Audubon Connecticut, where I did some behind the scenes work. Working with AFT-CT lobbyist, Jennifer Berigan, the SVFT internship provided me with an opportunity to see all the work that goes into getting a bill passed. I was lucky enough to work on a bill that passed the first session it was introduced. This allowed me to see every step in the process. From introduction to the public hearing to waiting until the last day for the House to pass the bill I was able to follow it every step of the way. This internship was a great experience, which allowed me to further my understanding of the political process. Thank you to SVFT and AFT-CT for providing me this opportunity.

Labor/Management Meeting Held

The fourth and final Labor/Management meeting of the 2011-2012 school year was held at the SVFT office on Tuesday, May 9. Central Office was represented by Superintendent Pat Ciccone; Assistant Superintendents Robert Lombardi and Dr. Nivea Torres; and Colleen Clancy, Rita Ferraiolo, and Karen Shaw from the Bureau of Human Resources. The AFSA was represented by Dr. Nickitoula Menounos; and the SVFT was represented by Jan Hochadel, Ed Leavy, Greg Beyer, Maggie Chmura, Henry McMillan, and Bob Riccitelli. A number of issues were discussed.

Special education teachers have expressed concerns about Family Engagement Center night events being presented as mandatory. The Superintendent explained that funds were IDEA funds and the program follows the national guideline. It is not mandatory for anyone to attend these events, but she highly suggests it as part of our professional responsibilities and to make the program successful. The SVFT also expressed concern about principals' sending e-mails requesting members explain why they cannot attend evening events. The Superintendent discussed her expectation that members do their best to attend events for the best interest of the schools. The SVFT reminded the committee that this is a contractual issue that it will be handled through the grievance process.

The SVFT inquired as to the number of on-line trainings that are required as some schools are being electronically notified to complete the programs for a second time. The Superintendent explained that the trainings are given in a manner by which employees can complete them at their leisure. She will verify with John Woodmansee as to the specific trainings. SVFT will notify Central Office if the problem persists.

To clarify the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in TEAM, the SVFT presented a draft TEAM contract. Concerns about the completion of the ED 163 form were discussed and modifications were made to the form; a draft will be sent to all members of the Labor Management committee for review.

Assistant Superintendant Lombardi indicated that the climate surveys are still open and the nearing their goals for student and teacher participation. The SVFT notified the committee they would be filing an FOI request for the results of the teacher surveys in each building.

The SVFT explained that we were in the process of purchasing a house that will be converted into a new union office. The SVFT leadership has been meeting with Ray Mencio and John Woodmansee to coordinate

a schedule for students and teachers to prepare timelines and estimates.

The committee discussed the Ethics Bill that lifted the \$100 limit for State employees, and how the bill will have to have language added that would outline the process and guidelines. The Superintendent expressed concerns about formulating the guidelines. Issues regarding certification changes in the Education Bill were also discussed. The certification appeal process to DCF remains a concern.

The SVFT has been supportive of the Walk-Through process and explaining that it is not an evaluative tool. The SVFT is concerned that some schools are now using the program evaluatively. Dr. Torres stated she made it very clear to principals that it was not to be evaluative; she will review it. The SVFT stated that an informative staff meeting explaining the process is an important first step to the program's success.

Bob Lombardi stated that the Asset Verification - inventory - process was extended two weeks, but that information was not conveyed in all schools. The SVFT expressed concerns that individual department heads are held accountable for equipment that is being moved by other personnel. Central Office acknowledged that this is a concern that has to be addressed.

The superintendent explained that the CTHSS will be extending after hour programs in two schools. These programs are the results of recent legislation and program development with DCF. Staffing and the use of equipment is a concern that will need to be addressed.

Human Resources alerted the committee that there will be important training over the summer on the Clarity Exceed Program for special education staff. Staff will receive per diem pay.



Labor History: The Air Traffic Controller's Strike

The history of labor is filled with examples of union leadership intelligently developing a strategy and then the membership courageously following that strategy to win benefits that improve their lives. These moments are instructive and inspiring for anyone who cares about the lives of working people today. There are also examples of union leadership misreading their abilities to gain significant change, failing to build the alliances necessary to win support, and seducing the membership into disaster. These cases are also instructive as warning tales of the need for responsible leadership. No issue better illustrates the dangers of mismanaging labor battles than the air traffic controller strike of 1981.

The Professional Air Traffic Controller Organization (PATCO) was founded in 1968. From the start, the primary concern of the union was the demands the job put on its members, both physically and psychologically. The controllers felt that the unique stresses of the job were being downplayed by management, a belief that was reinforced when Federal Aviation Authority Chairman Langhorne Bond stated that the job of air traffic controller was no more stressful than New York bus driver. Independent reports indicated that the demands of the job did indeed take a toll on the controllers, but the reports went largely ignored by management.

The members' sense that no one in management really understood their jobs made PATCO an unusually aggressive union. As Federal employees, PATCO did not have the legal right to strike, but used sick outs and work slowdowns to make their points. A twenty-day sick out caused the government to get an injunction from using similar actions. The PATCO executive board became frustrated, and replaced the moderate president for the past decade, John Leyden, with the far more radical Robert Poli. Poli immediately cleared out the staff and legal team and replaced them with people loyal to him. He then began discussing a strike.

Poli believed he was in good position with the Federal government because PATCO was the only union that had supported Ronald Reagan during the 1980 election. He met with Secretary of Transportation Andrew Lewis to discuss a new contract. Lewis offered a raise of \$4000 a year, technical workplace improvements, night shift raises, and time and a half after 36 hours. Given that Reagan had run on a promise to reduce government spending, the offer seemed remarkable. PATCO, which had adopted a radical position, was unimpressed. The agreement was rejected 13,495-616.

The air traffic controllers went on strike, demanding a reduction in the work week from 40 hours to 32 hours per week and a \$10,000 raise per employee. To the surprise of no one except the union leadership, public opinion was vehemently against the controllers; in a difficult economy, no one thought a 20% cut in working hours and a \$10,000 raise was a reasonable demand. Even the usually liberal New York Times supported the President's refusal to deal with the strikers, stating "President Reagan's tough threat to fire the workers is appropriate."

The union never adequately convinced the public that its primary concern was public safety. PATCO also was unable to build alliances with other related unions; the pilots, the machinists, and all of the other airline unions crossed the picket line. Unions in general were put in a difficult spot;

they feared the precedent breaking the union could create, they disliked and distrusted Reagan, but they didn't dare support contract demands that the public at large found outrageous. Additionally, the implied tactic of using innocent air travelers' lives as a strategy in a game of chicken was impossible to support.

Strikes by Federal employees were illegal, and Reagan acted. He fired 11,000 air traffic controllers and had the union decertified. He then rather maliciously made sure that all fired employees were denied unemployment benefits and any federal benefit programs. While Reagan's actions were in many ways unfair and simplistic, he had won the PR battle; more accurately, PATCO had ceded it to him. They assumed that everyone saw the issues the way they did, and did not build the relationships necessary to have their issues addressed. They chose not to move in measured, incremental steps, but rather demanded everything at once. In doing so, PATCO leadership did harm to unions that still reverberates today. More importantly, they left 11,000 of their members unable to support themselves or their families.

Most of the information for this article is from There is Power in a Union by Philip Dray

New Beginnings

The SVFT would like to congratulate the following teachers who retired during the 2011-2012 school year, or will be retiring at the end of the year. It isn't often enough that our members are thanked for all they do. The SVFT extends our best wishes as they begin their "next career."

Name	School	Position
William Arpaia	Wilcox	Library Media
Diane Chaconis	Wilcox	Math
Diane Johnson	Prince	LPN
James Lomartra	Wilcox	Manufacturing
Donna McBrien	Prince	LPN
Alan Salicki	Wolcott	Automotive
Marcia Levitsky	Grasso	IST
Ramon Velez	Wilcox	Plumbing
Margery Weinbaum	Goodwin	Health
Barbara Davis	Prince	Reading
Edward DeSousa	Bullard	Masonry
Cheryl Duncan	Prince	English
Patricia Griffin	Abbott	English
Marie Lepito	Prince	English
Mary Lunt	Norwich	Math
Francis McCarthy	Vinal	Math
Norman Michaud	Abbott	PE/Health
Mary Quish	Prince	Tesol
Kathlen Roden	Wolcott	English
Lawrence Stub	Prince	Guidance
John Haskell	Ellis	Social Studies

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5/28 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day	5/29 Labor Management Meeting at SVFT 9:00am PEAC Meeting 9:00 am	5/30	5/31 Grievance & Arbitration Meeting SVFT 4:00pm PreK-12 Meeting AFT-CT 5:00pm	6/1 9:00am SVFT Executive Committee Meeting
6/4	6/5 PEAC Meeting 9:00am OSHA Health & Safety Meeting SVFT 4:00pm	6/6 CT State Board of Education Meeting 10:00am @ SDE SVFT Council Meeting @ 5:00 pm Baci Grill	6/7	6/8 SVFT Officers' Retreat
6/11 Officers at AFL-CIO @ UCONN	6/12 Officers at AFL-CIO @ UCONN	6/13 Officers at AFL-CIO @ UCONN	6/14 Officers at AFL-CIO @ UCONN 5:00pm AFT-CT Executive Committee Meeting	6/15 Officers at AFL-CIO @ UCONN
6/18	6/19	6/20 CT Committee Meeting 10:00am	6/21 District PD	6/22 Nicole's Last Day

SVFT an Important Part of "It Takes a Team"

The AFT-Connecticut 2012 Convention took place on Saturday, May 19th, and the most striking aspect was how AFT-CT's theme of "It Takes a Team" was shared by many AFT locals. President Sharon Palmer called on a variety union leaders to share their experiences from the past year. All who spoke told how it has been a challenging one for their members, but by coming together as AFT-CT affiliates, many were able to weather the hard times and, in some cases, experience some success. The newest AFT-Connecticut local, the nurses at Backus Hospital, fought for more than a year just for the right to organize and become a recognized union. Their leader thanked everyone for their help and support and pledged theirs to us in the future.

The 2012 election was a major theme of the day as well. Endorsed Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, Chris Murphy, addressed the gathering. He is thankful for the support of labor in the state and pledged his continued vigilance against those who would attempt to erode our collective bargaining rights and further damage the middle class in Connecticut. Chris Donovan, the current Speaker of the House and candidate for Congress in the 5th District, echoed a similar theme. They both hoped that members would become active in the fall campaign.

Perhaps the most exciting news for SVFT at the convention was the election of a new AFT-CT Treasurer. Our own Executive Union Representative, Ed Leavy, was elected to serve the final year of a two-year term. (Don't worry, Ed will still be here full-time. The AFT-CT Treasurer is a part-time post.) Ed's election means that SVFT has two members of the AFT-CT Executive Council, with our President, Jan Hochadel, serving as an AFT-CT Vice-President. The day was inspiring as we head towards the end of our school year and the beginnings of the fall election campaigns.

