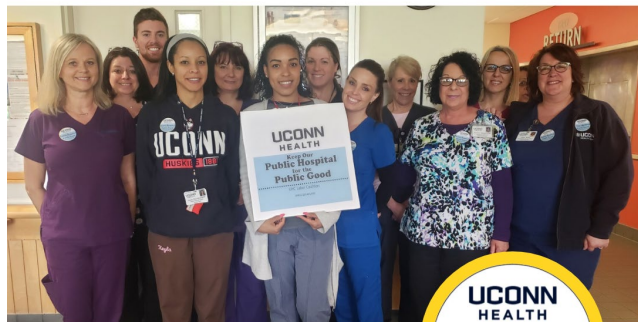




Keep Our Hospital Public for the Public Good!



UHC UNION MEMBERS TOWN HALL

Friday, March 1, 2024 at 12:30PM
KELLER AUDITORIUM



TO REGISTER
SCAN HERE:



#PublicHospitalPublicGood



Be there! Spread the word! It's our future!

Nominees Notified

Delegate Elections Possible

We have an encouraging amount of delegate nominees, particularly for our conventions! Notifications have gone out to the nominees, and we'll determine whether we'll need to hold elections once we hear back from everyone. We'll have that answer before the next newsletter, so keep an eye on our website and Facebook, or get the latest at our info tables or through your union rep.

Elections would take place in mid March.

Also, please watch our website for details on the proposed amendments to the UHP Constitution that were submitted for consideration at **our business convention, April 12.**



**Recording Secretary
Summer Lambert,
chair, Elections
Committee**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Another Legislative Session, Same (or Similar) Old Battles

Buckle up brothers and sisters, it's that time again. The short **legislative session** runs Feb. 7 to May 8, a three-month sprint to try to make improvements on current laws and push against proposals that would hurt us and the labor movement in general.

We are currently looking at a deficit in funding across all higher education, including UConn and UConn Health. We need to make sure higher education gets the funding it needs. The consequences are higher tuition rates for students and layoffs for state employees — with **everything we have done here at UConn Health**, with increasing inpatient and outpatient encounters, the revenue increases we have made possible over the last few years, THE WORK that we all do to keep this place growing at an astounding pace.

We continue to be the only public hospital in the state of Connecticut. The governor's office has tasked an outside entity to again look for a different option for us. So again, we are looking at **the privatization, public/private partnership fight.**

We've had this fight before — multiple times, in fact, for the newer members here; last time was in 2018.

We work with other unions forming coalitions to cover more ground. We know it takes bodies: *your* body, *your* stories of what you do here at UConn Health, how *you* impact the people of the state of Connecticut. Our patients. Our students. Our research.

Please come to Keller on March 1 (see top left). Be ready with your questions. Be ready to go to the Capitol when we'll need to rally. Also look for our AFT regional legislative meetings throughout the state. This gives us the chance to talk with legislators in our communities and not on their home turf (details on page 2). Your stories matter. Your voice matters. You matter.

Lastly, we're working both with SEBAC and at the local level on the **wage reopener** — more to come.

—In solidarity, Bill Garrity

Scholarship Season Underway

Attention all signed card members! Our 2024 scholarship application is now open: bit.ly/24UHPscholarships. Spread the word and encourage eligible candidates to apply. Don't



miss this valuable opportunity!
—Shaneé Reid,
VP Membership Activities

ON THE SCHEDULE

Steward Committee

Feb. 27, 5:30p, UHP office

Communications Tools Webinar

Feb. 28, 5p, Zoom

Scholarship Application Deadline

Feb. 29, 5 p.m., online, transcripts to office

Information Session: State's Plans for UConn Health

March 1, 12:30-2:30p, Keller Auditorium

Executive Committee

March 11, 5:30p, UHP office

Union Rep Assembly

March 14, 12p, Onyiuke Dining Rm

Greater Htfd Legislative Meeting

March 16, 11:30a, Margaritas, East Htfd

Eastern CT Legislative Meeting

March 16, 12p, Dimitri's, Coventry

Central CT Legislative Meeting

March 23, 11:30a, Gobi, Southington

Middletown/Meriden Leg. Meet

March 23, 11:30a, Red Fox, Middletown

UHP 2024 Business Convention

April 12, 6p, Aqua Turf, Plantsville

CT AFL-CIO Political Convention

June 27-28, Omni, New Haven

AFT Convention (National)

July 21-25, Houston

UHP calendar: bit.ly/uhpca

 Southeastern Lyme Tavern, Niantic MAR 9 • 8:30-10:30am	 Eastern Dimitri's, Coventry Mar 16 • 12-2 pm
 Grtr New Haven Eli's on the Hill, Branford MAR 9 • 11:30am-1:30pm	 Middletown/Meriden Red Fox Restaurant, Middletown Mar 23 • 11:30am-1:30pm
 Greater Hartford Margaritas, East Hartford MAR 16 • 11:30am-1:30pm	 Central Gobi Mongolian Grill, Southington Mar 23 • 11:30am-1:30pm

Making Our Voices Heard at the Capitol

Throughout March, AFT CT is holding regional legislative meetings; dates, times, and locations are above.

"Your legislators are coming to your neighborhood," says **Dawn Thomas**, UHP VP for political



VP Comms Chris DeFrancesco asks about the constitutional spending cap at the AFT CT Legislative Conference Jan. 20.

activities. "This is a great opportunity to meet them and discuss your concerns. There are so many issues that impact our union this legislative session. These meetings are invaluable for our members. Join us and let your voice be heard!"

Also watch what your lawmakers are doing. Many have events in their districts. It's good to establish a rapport with them, to let them know what's important to you as a taxpayer and as a voter. Our VP Comms **Chris DeFrancesco** recently attended a legislative town hall in his community, where his lawmakers discussed their legislative priorities and heard from their constituents.

"I brought up safe staffing legislation and told them that what we had last year was a good start, but there's more to do," Chris says. "That led to a discussion about protecting health care workers from workplace violence. Then Sen. Matt Lesser, before I had a chance to even bring it up, said, 'We've also got to get the UConn Health Center funded, that's a whole separate thing.' Point is, he and my state reps know where I'm coming from and what's important to me because we've had an ongoing dialogue. They are accessible and responsive to me, and that's important in a representative democracy."