

Vocational Instructor

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



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

Volume MMXXII Issue 5

June 2022

On May 19th, 2022 SVFT celebrated the Teachers of the Year across the district.



Back Row: Paul Angelucci, Biagio Montanaro – Bullard, Ted Hinman – Prince, Liz Neubelt – Goodwin, Craig Behun – O’Brien, Emily DelPiano – Kaynor, Joseph Asermelly – Ellis, Victor Cooper – Platt, Ryan Fischer – Wilcox, Makenzi Hurtado

Front Row: Rebecca Reyer – Windham, Vera Richardson – Wolcott, Kristin Pfarr – Norwich, Ann Marie Ludwig – Abbott, Ed Puleo – Vinal, Lyle Montanye Jr. – Cheney, Joseph Santangelo – Bristol

Missing from photo: Rachel Smith – Grasso, Anne Gallant – Whitney, Karen Harris – Wright

End of the Road by Paul Angelucci

Just a few updates before we close out this year: We've received many inquiries regarding the 30-minute lunch. We met with the superintendent Friday who reported she is in a holding pattern. Schools with 4 or 5 lunch waves would add 40 or 50 minutes to the day or lose 4 plus weeks of instructional time. Neither can be done and she, as well as the other 139 school superintendents from across the state, is looking for guidance from the Commissioner.

The thing that always amazes me about our members is when there is a brother or sister in need of a PL donation due to a horrific event or illness, so many will step up and give someone they've never met a PL day valued at \$155.00. We can't begin to describe how appreciative we are for this. We asked last week again for help for Leslie Schleipman, a 20-year veteran social studies teacher who is battling cancer and exhausted both FMLA and sick bank this year. Makenzi, who has been working closely with Leslie and set up the GoFundMe page, reported we are halfway to our goal. If every member could give \$30 we could bridge the gap Leslie is facing. The flier will be included in this newsletter for those who missed it and thank you in advance, any amount you can spare truly is greatly appreciated.

I want to talk about substitutes in our district for a moment. I've personally heard from many of them how unhappy they were that the new contract had raises for all members except them. Prior to negotiations starting we asked all members for proposals they would like to see negotiated. The committee then reviewed them and I can tell you no proposals were put forward regarding substitute pay because, at that time, we were one of the highest paid substitutes in the state. We know that since Covid that is no longer the case. I can tell you I do appreciate the feedback. After talking to a number of substitutes the next time we negotiate there will be a proposal for a long-term building substitute rate and a rate increase.

Just a recap on salary adjustments:

- 6/17 the lump sum of \$2500.00 will be paid and your salary will be adjusted to the '21 – '22 rate (2.5% GWI and step movement)
- 7/15 the retroactive payments will be made

- 7/29, if you didn't retire the \$1000.00 lump sum payment will be made
- The two things I don't have an answer for and I'm waiting to hear from SEBAC's lawyer is the Advanced Degree Stipend retro payment and when the funds will hit for Tuition Reimbursement. The minute I hear I will let everyone know.

The new contract is available on our website. All new salary tables are available there. Since this year in the teaching profession can only be described as a four-alarm dumpster fire we hope your summer is the best to date!

Respectfully,
Paul Angelucci
President

Summer Work by Bob Riccitelli

A lot of teachers will be taking on summer work. We worked hard to get a stipulated agreement to protect income and payments. The positions covered are:

- Full Curriculum Creation per course
- Partial updates to curriculum per course
- DSA per exam
- Proficiency Scales per course
- Remediation Plans per course
- ECE, AP, CCP, and PreAP Training
- TEAM reviewers, TEAM Master Mentors, & TEAM Master reviewers

If you are approached by your Administration or Central office personnel to do a job outside the above-mentioned positions, they must pay you your per diem rate.

Also, we just signed a stipulated agreement to increase the 2022 summer school rates to \$37.40 per hour for Instructors and \$43.86 for Supervisors. I would like to bring to your attention that we have an agreement for all grievance timelines to be waived over the summer months. This means we can only file a grievance on unpaid positions until September 24th. If you have a summer pay issue, please let me know before that date.

This has been a very difficult and challenging year for all of us. I hope everyone gets the downtime they desire. See you all (except retirees) in late August!

You Earned It!
by Makenzi Hurtado

Becoming vice president this year was a great honor. I have really enjoyed meeting teachers throughout the district and fighting for you. I will continue to push administration to put their money where their mouth is when they say they believe in self-care. I hope to see more teacher managed time next year and more respect for us as the professionals we are.

It's that time of year where we hear "Aren't you lucky you have the whole summer off?". Most of us have a quick retort. I hope that this year you go with "I earned it.". I know that even saying that, most teachers don't even take the whole summer off to recover. Many teachers are supplementing their income, adding to their education, or trying to get ahead for next year.

I would like to remind you, if no one else does, that you have earned your summer break. It is a negotiated part of your contract that you worked for, and you deserve. I hope you take the time you need to decompress without guilt or anxiety for what is to come. It is your time to use as you please. It is okay if you do not have lesson plans for the start of next year. It is okay if you come back on August 25th with nothing more than a tan. This Brene Brown quote will be my mantra this summer. I hope you use it too. "No matter what gets done and how much is left undone, I am enough."

SUPPORT FOR LESLIE!



Leslie has been a beloved teacher in the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System and member of the State Vocational Federation of Teachers for 20 years. She has taught Social Studies at Eli Whitney, Vinal Tech, and Wright Tech.

Leslie was nominated for Teacher of the Year many times and won in 2021 for Wright Tech. Leslie was a Building Union Representative at Wright Tech.

Leslie is an avid cat lover and was an active volunteer at the cat shelter.

In March 2021, Leslie was diagnosed with lung cancer. She is now diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer and it has metastasized to her brain and spine. Leslie must file for disability retirement. This process can take at least six months. Leslie will go unpaid during this time and have to pay over \$1000 a month to keep her healthcare.

All funds will be used to pay Leslie's bills. We hope that by helping her in this way, she can focus completely on healing.

No teacher should be put in this position, but we will do what we can to help. Our union is 1200+ members strong. This is a time we can use our strength to support a very deserving sister. Please click on the link and donate to Leslie's GoFundMe page.



<https://gofund.me/5659e99f>

Who Do I Contact?

“I can’t get into my CoreCT account.” -- Contact your business manager. They can reset your password.

“I found a discrepancy in my pay.” – First, contact your business manager. If they cannot solve the problem, contact Alicia Palmer and cc your business manager.

Retirement questions – DAS.benefit-sandleavesPod5@ct.gov



Future Articles

We would like to have a “School Shout Out” article and a “Member Spotlight” article in each newsletter. Invite us to attend an event or share something from your school that makes you proud.

Please email Makenzi at mhurtado@svft.org if you have something great to share.

What else do you want to see in the Vocational Instructor? Please let us know!
Email Makenzi at mhurtado@svft.org.

Vocational Instructor

*is the monthly newsletter of the
State Vocational Federation of Teachers*

President.....Paul Angelucci
Vice President.....Makenzi Hurtado
Executive Union Rep.....Bob Riccitelli
Treasurer.....Emily Lozinak
Secretary.....Jamie Lamitie
**Newsletter Editor and
Office Manager.....Lindsay Hochadel**

439 Main Street
Wallingford, CT 06492
(203) 793-7996
Fax# 203-793-7943
<http://svft.ct.aft.org>



SVFT Mission Statement

The SVFT is an organization of professional educators that promotes excellence through the mutual adherence to policies, documents, and procedures negotiated with the CTEC. We work to guarantee that the contract is followed and positive working conditions are maintained. This organization shall be to provide a safe and positive teaching environment for all by:

1. Maintaining the integrity of the contract, the Vocational Technical High School System, and the solidarity of the union
2. Ensuring all members are protected by the contract and equipped with the tools and knowledge necessary to make them successful
3. Protecting the jobs of our members and strengthening our system
4. Providing members opportunities to further their education and receive quality professional development
5. Responding quickly to the emerging changes to the workplace and technological challenges
6. Handling all interactions with fairness and integrity
7. Striving for productive, open communication between the SVFT leadership and our membership
8. Building and improving relationships with our union affiliates and local labor councils