

# Vocational Instructor

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



IT PAYS TO BE TAUGHT BY A  
VO-TECH TEACHER!

Volume MMXXIV Issue 7

December 2024

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

### Survey on Contract Proposals

On Friday, December 13, 2024, we will send out a survey to all members via ezVote.

The survey will remain open until Thursday, December 19, 2024.

If you do not receive the email, please reach out to Makenzi directly: [mhurtado@svft.org](mailto:mhurtado@svft.org).

### Holiday Season Stressors

*by Paul Angelucci, President*

I hope you all had a peaceful restful holiday weekend. As I write this on Monday morning the 2nd of the month, there are, as usual more questions than answers. The Governor appointed Dr. Alice Pritchard as the Interim Executive Director, I just reached out to her to set up a meeting. The Superintendent posting closed with 34 applicants. Makenzi and I traveled to TRUMPF Inc. last week in Farmington to meet with Dr. Christine Benz, our new Board Chair. We shared our concern that, with the last chair leaving, for the first time there are no former educators on the Board. We are looking for a way to change that. We also met with our lawyer and negotiating chair Bob Herdlein to lay out the schedule for negotiations.

Back to the title of this article, holidays for many reasons, for many people can be a very stressful time of year, and rightfully so. Here at the union office, we are seeing a huge uptick on member-on-member complaints. As a union we stand strongest when we stand together. It is and always will be us against them. We all deserve to be treated professionally with dignity, period! When these complaints are lodged our role as a union is to make sure that the process is done fairly, and all parties have proper representation. When we have issues between two members in the same building, we as full-time officers will step in to represent each member. There can be hard feelings depending on the outcome of the matter and building reps should remain neutral in that situation so they can continue to support all members at the building level. We will try to mediate ourselves before it rises to the level of HR involvement, but only if we're asked.



I hope the winter break turns out to be everything you need it to be and more. The new year will have new leadership, and new challenges and the only way we'll prosper as a union is if we stand together!

Building reps which is a two-year term, and full-time officers which is a three-year term are both up this year, if you're interested contact Makenzi for more info. We are planning an information session for members who may be interested in becoming a building rep.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or text me, have a great break! 203-627-0710

Are you considering retiring this year?

Join us for our

## SERS ONLY Retirement Information Session with SVFT

January 15, 2025 - 7PM

Link to Zoom will be sent in January, via Action Network.

AFTCT will host a TRB session in the spring.



### Strength in Solidarity

*by Makenzi Hurtado , Vice President*

Last contract negotiations, general membership received 24 proposals to rank. This year we will be sharing 52 proposals for members to rank. As I shared before, we received 60 proposals from membership. Not all proposals from members were negotiable. Even so, it was great to receive so many. It shows the investment that members have in sharing ideas to improve our working conditions.

Like last negotiations, proposals will be grouped for members to rank. We will use the information we receive from general membership to create our final list of proposals for negotiation and to prioritize those proposals throughout negotiations.

This is an important opportunity for members to share what is a priority to them. Please encourage all of your union siblings to participate.

Over the next few months we will also be fighting for changes at the legislative level. There will be many bills that affect us as teachers and as state employees and we will need to share our stories and raise our voices there, as well. If you are interested in testifying or contributing in another way, please reach out to me or Paul.

Through solidarity, we have the power to shape the future of our district and advocate for the respect and support we deserve. Your participation and enthusiasm are key to a successful outcome. Together, we can push for working conditions that allow us and our students to thrive. The time for change is now!

### Rounding Out the Year

*by Bob Riccitelli , Executive Union Representative*

2024 is going out with a bang!

This has been a very challenging year to say the least. Currently we have seven open arbitrations, five pending board charges, one active board charge, 16 unanswered FOIA requests, two grievances, ten complaints, and nine open investigations.

We have uncovered many issues with past leadership and complaints filed against administration. If we all work together, I am sure we will get positive results. I know this can happen based on the vote of no confidence.

It has been a pleasure to work with all of you on making our system and working conditions better and I look forward to resolving the many open issues in the near future.

Rest up 2025 is coming!



Free Teacher Saturday's  
October 2024 – December 2024

This Taqôk (Autumn) the Mashantucket Pequot Museum will be offering free admission to teachers from all across Turtle Island. Teacher must show school ID in person at the Museum front desk at the time of admission.



# SVFT Elections 2025

This school year is an election year for our SVFT Officers and Building Representatives. It is also a year to volunteer for committees. Officers serve three year terms and Building Reps and Committee members serve two year terms. More information will be shared in the spring for reps and committees.

Per our constitution, the deadline to provide written notice to the Nominations & Election Chair, Andy Taddei, is 30 days prior to the May election. (April 7, 2025). Notice of intent to run can be sent to Andrew via email at [ataddei04@comcast.net](mailto:ataddei04@comcast.net).

Elections will take place on May 7, 2025, before and after school.

During the November Membership meeting, announcements were made for different positions. The following members will be running. Please note, at General Membership Kara Papa announced she would be running for president, but she will be running for Vice President.

<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Executive Union Rep</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Makenzi Hurtado	Paul Angelucci Kara Papa	Bob Riccitelli	Emily DelPiano	Jamie Lamitie

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## Paul Angelucci for Vice President

**Dear SVFT Members,**

As your sitting President I'll be running for Vice President for the next term. My decision to do so is strictly for the good of the order. My main goal when I joined this union, first as a building rep in 09' and then, as Vice President in 16', was to leave it better than I found it.

I'm currently the longest standing person in the rep room, with 15 years straight, and succession of the officers is very important to me. Eight years ago, I attended a meeting of Prince staff off site, they were upset, and one person was kind of yelling at me. It was Makenzi Hurtado who at the time wasn't a building rep but so on point, articulate, and calm. I thought at that moment she would make a great rep and a great officer. I asked to speak with her outside and told her so while also apologizing.

During my time I've signed up 800 new members that have joined us with a 99.97% success rate, been on the negotiating team for the last 3 books and put in place the bi-monthly meetings with leadership. I've successfully put together a coalition that brought the change in leadership that our district so badly needed. At some point during the next term I'm going to retire and don't want the union to have burden of lost time during negotiations and another special election. I'm asking for you vote as Vice-President. Thank you!

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## Kara Papa for Vice President

**Dear CTECS Colleagues,**

I am proud to announce my candidacy for Vice President, challenging Paul Angelucci for this role. With over 21 years of teaching experience, over a decade as a dedicated union member, and recent leadership as a Related Department Head, I bring the passion and perspective needed to revitalize our Union.

Our system is a family, but under Mr. Angelucci's tenure, this family has suffered. The climate among colleagues has grown unsafe, trust has eroded, and our students' futures have been jeopardized by inadequate funding and leadership failures. It's time for change.

As your Vice President, I will restore transparency, trust, and bold leadership to our Union. I will collaborate with the president to lead with integrity, ask the hard questions, and seek innovative solutions. I will amplify your voices in critical spaces—whether at the negotiation table, with legislators, or on boards and commissions. Together, we'll rebuild strong networks for our trades and ensure our students have access to the state's best opportunities.

I bring proven expertise in community organizing and communication. I do not shy away from challenges; I embrace them. A vote for me is a vote for the way forward.

Please share this message widely and reach out with questions. Watch my show Community Lens on @TotoketTv on youtube to learn more. Let's build the future together!

# Calendar

- 12/10 UTAC Meeting
- 12/11 Executive Council
- 12/12 Abbott Health & Safety
- 12/18 MTC Meeting
- 12/20 Early Dismissal
- 12/23 - 1/1 Winter Break
- 12/26 Advanced Degree Stipend is Paid
- 1/8 Executive Council Meeting
- 1/9 Cheney Health & Safety
- 1/15 SERS Retirement Info Session with SVFT
- 1/20 Martin Luther King Jr Day



## Advanced Degree Stipend

**Share Amount: \$542.90**

**Paycheck Date: 12/26/2024**

**See Appendix F of the Contract for Details  
Contact Makenzi with any questions.**

### [svft.ct.aft.org](http://svft.ct.aft.org)

Any information you need is on our website!  
Do you have suggestions for additions to our website?

Email our Secretary, Jamie Lamitie:  
[jlamitie@svft.org](mailto:jlamitie@svft.org)

### 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.

What else do you want to see in the Vocational Instructor? Please let us know!

Email Jamie at [jlamitie@svft.org](mailto:jlamitie@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 DelPiano**  
**Secretary ..... Jamie Lamitie**

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### 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.