

# Vocational Instructor

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



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

Volume MMXXV Issue 1

January 2025

## Happenings in Hartford and More Updates

*by Paul Angelucci, President*

And by Hartford, I mean the Legislative Office Building and 39 Woodland Street. The legislative session opened this Wednesday, January 8th. Labor faces real challenges fighting the governor's stance on maintaining the fiscal guard rails which puts Connecticut's budget at a deficit. When the reality is there is a \$1.4 billion surplus. The timing couldn't be worse with us having new management, who admittedly are experiencing a learning curve.

Along with that we have an investigation going on regarding our admission policy, our special education policy, and a financial investigation, all that will take some time to complete.

We're also waiting for negotiations to start. Thank you to those who took the time to fill out our survey regarding the proposals. There will be a survey from SEBAC sometime this year regarding the 2027 SEBAC Health & Pension Deal. The Governor's people will start informal talks next week with SEBAC leaders on a path forward.

The Governor will deliver his budget in early February and that most likely won't have any of the additional funds for our district that are sorely needed. The reason being the advocating for those funds missed the last timeline date of October 1<sup>st</sup> when we were under old leadership who failed to do so leading to her removal.

Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup> there is a Legislative Breakfast which is held every year, it's a good time to meet your legislators and get a better understanding of the session ahead. There is a flyer on page three of this newsletter with a link to register.

During this session there will be a number of Bills around funding, education, and special education. If you're interested in giving testimony, please let me know. It's a long day but I'll walk you through it.

I want to leave you with this thought, the strength of our union is you! My Mom had a saying, "You don't like something you see or is going on? Roll your sleeves up and have at it!". Which was genius on her part, I'm number eight of nine kids. It really cut the complaining down. It's why and how I got involved to become a building representative and an officer as well. This spring you do have the opportunity to run for building rep or to sign up for union committees. Please be on the look out for information as we get closer. I also want to thank the teachers who signed up for the rep training being giving by AFT. It's a great place to start!

Have a great month and any questions please feel free to call me 203-627-0710.

### Fun Fact

Did you know that you can apply for your Professional Certification after 30 months under your Provisional Certification and after you have completed course requirements.

Don't wait! When you get your Professional Certification, you move to VS02 and increase your pay!

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.



### **YOU are the Union**

*by Makenzi Hurtado , Vice President*

It is a common misconception that “the union” is the building reps and the officers. We represent union members and we speak for the union, but you, the members, are the union. Every SVFT member working is the union. It is the responsibility of the officers and building reps to represent the union members and it is the responsibility of the members to share their opinions, concerns, and ideas so that we can represent them accurately.

Last Spring and this Fall we asked for contract proposals from our members and received 60. In December we asked our members to rank the proposals. We had a little over 51% of members participate. This is a great improvement from the past and I want to thank every member who took the survey. While I am happy with growth, I am never satisfied and am hoping for higher participation in the future!

Next week, we will be sending out another survey on the district’s schedule. Scheduling is not a contractual issue, but we do want to share the opinions and experiences of our members with management.

When the survey comes out, please take the few minutes to complete it and please reach out to your colleagues to make sure they have received it.

Our only goal is to represent our members accurately on this issue. We will share the results of this survey with our members and with management.

If you are not receiving surveys from EZvote or emails from ActionNetwork, please let me know! mhurtado@svft.org

### **Spring Break Is Almost Here**

*by Bob Riccitelli , Executive Union Representative*

Happy New Year to all. It’s that time of year that we start to make plans for our Spring recess. There are a few things you need to keep in mind while making these plans, specifically concerning our contract and ethics.

Our contract does not guarantee a Spring recess. After five school closures, the Superintendent will start removing days from the spring recess, starting from the beginning of the break. This is stated on the district calendar. Schools closures must be made up whether they are for weather, staff shortage, mechanical failure at school, etc. We are contracted to work 188 days.

Surprising school closures can leave you to panic about your plans. If you are traveling, make sure your plans are refundable or you can get credit to reschedule at a later date. You can use your PL time but because you will be extending a recess, principals can limit the number of approved ELR requests for PL to the first five teachers. That is a long standing practice and a Stipulated Agreement.

You cannot use sick time. Please don’t play around with this. Your principals have a right to ask for a Medical Certificate if you use sick time because it is extending the recess. If you are not sick and the charge is substantiated, you could face ethics charges for wage thief. Not only would you need to pay back the time, but you will also receive some form of discipline, Most likely a multi-day suspension.

By understanding our contract language, we hope to make this time a little less stressful. You all deserve a vacation and a break. Book refundable and hope for delays only!

# AFT CT Legislative Conference

February 1, 2025  
9am-1pm

Registration  
8:30am

Legislative Office Bldg  
Hartford  
Room 1D

Breakfast Buffet will be  
Provided



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER:

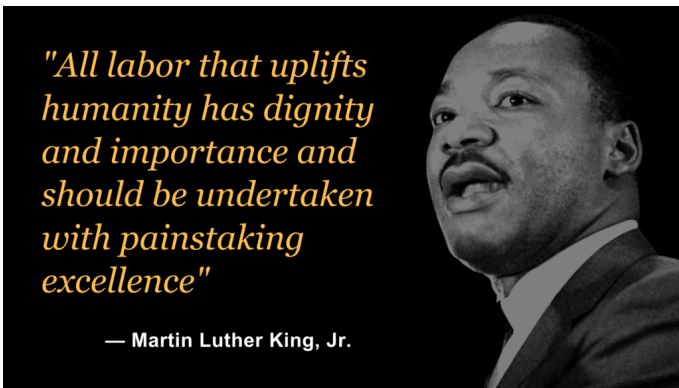


<https://bit.ly/AFTCT25LegConf>

# Calendar



- 1/15 Contract Negotiation Committee Meeting
- 1/15 SERS Retirement Info Session with SVFT—7pm
- 1/20 Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 2/5 Executive Council Meeting
- 2/6 Goodwin Health & Safety Visit
- 2/12 No School
- 2/18 No School



## 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

## 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.