

Vocational Instructor

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



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

Volume MMXXV Issue 6

October 2025

IMPORTANT REMINDER: CHECK YOUR CERTIFICATION!



You are responsible for maintaining your certification. You will not be reminded when it is expiring. If your certification expires, CTECS will drop you to substitute pay and you will be required to pay back time you were not certified and paid as a teacher. You will also have to repay any sick days and health insurance from that time.

Standing Strong, Speaking Up

by Makenzi Hurtado, SVFT President

The past month flew by in the blink of an eye. Your union officers have been very busy, both protecting current language and negotiating for new language. With any new administration there is a learning period. They are learning how our district functions (or doesn't) and we are learning how they work, as well. I have been very happy to see that Superintendent Crocco has been making time to visit all schools and meeting with our members while he is there. Based on our discussions, he is taking his conversations with our members and our building representatives seriously. I encourage you all to continue having open and honest conversations with Superintendent Crocco.

Last month I shared an idea with Dr Pritchard. I was hoping to work with the district to plan a CTECS open house for all legislators to visit their local CTECS school on the same day. I think it is important for them to see firsthand what is happening in our schools and how important it is that we are funded properly. Dr. Pritchard shared with me that they will be implementing my idea on a smaller scale at a few schools. While I will not be participating in the planning, I am glad that our State Representatives and Senators will have the opportunity to tour our schools. I know our members and students will impress them!

On September 12th, I participated in an Informational Forum on the State Impact of Federal Education Changes. I sat on a panel with leaders of other unions and educational groups. I was able to share how our district and other school districts in CT will be affected if we lose our funding and do not plan accordingly. I will continue to advocate for our members at the state level any chance I get.

I continue to hear from our members that they are frustrated with issues with orders and funding, lack of follow through from administrators, lack of support for our high need students, and many other issues. I hear you and we are bringing these issues to management on a regular basis. When we have specific examples it is much easier for us to share. We will continue to address these issues until we see the changes that are necessary. Please continue to share issues with your building representatives at your monthly school SVFT meetings and please feel free to reach out to me any time you need support. I will always stand with you and make sure that your voices and concerns are heard and taken seriously.



SOLIDARI-TEA

Makenzi will bring her tea and you bring yours!

Join Makenzi for an informal discussion on the work she is doing and share your experiences in the district. While this is an open forum, I ask that you limit personal questions that can be asked through email, text, or phone call.

We will meet the last Monday of every month at 4pm on Zoom (shared via email).
Save the Dates: 10/27, 11/24, 12/22, 1/26, 2/23, 3/30, 4/27

Elections for SVFT Vice President

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

VOTING - Wednesday, November 12, 2025 - 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after school
Look for notification from your building representatives on where the voting will take place.

Results will be announced at the General Membership Meeting.

Below are statements from both candidates.

Kara Papa

Dear SVFT Members and Colleagues,
I am honored to once again announce my candidacy for Vice President in this special election. If you supported me last time, thank you. I hope I can count on your vote again, and I ask you to spread the word to colleagues. If you didn't, I invite you to consider me this time. With a new Executive Director and a new Superintendent, we have a real opportunity to shape a collaborative future: one grounded in member-first leadership, transparency, and accountability. I have been an educator for over 23 years, and CTECS is in my blood. I know the challenges we face and the power we hold when we stand together. As Vice President, my commitment will always be to the we, not the me. I am not running for power; I am running to ensure your voices are heard, your questions are answered, and your work is respected. We are the backbone of CTECS. Our executive leadership must reflect that by prioritizing members' needs—health and safety, workplace climate, and the resources we need to teach and lead effectively. I will be present in schools, listening and advocating, and I will work to ensure all of us are treated with dignity and professionalism. With the election in November, time is short. Please invite me to visit your school or attend an event—I want to hear from you directly.

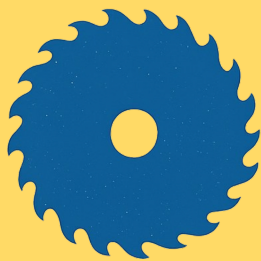
Bob Riccitelli

I began my career in 1993 as Architectural Department Head after graduating from Platt Tech in 1983, and since then I have dedicated my professional life to both education and union service. Since 2015, I have proudly served as Executive Union Representative, and before that, four years as Treasurer. During this time, I have seen our union face many challenges and accomplishments—Constitution and By-Laws revisions, six contract negotiations, significant budget reductions, and the removal of an Executive Director whose direction, I believe, would have jeopardized our system's existence. I have also worked with five Superintendents and two Executive Directors, always guided by one principle: putting our membership first.

My decision to run for Vice President is rooted in three priorities. First, I believe my experience defending and enforcing our contract will continue to benefit our members. Serving on district committees and advocating for fair working conditions ensures our collective voice is heard.

Second, I see the Vice President's role as both a partner and support system for our President, ensuring leadership remains strong, collaborative, and member-focused.

Finally, I want to pass on the lessons I've learned as Executive Union Representative. Continuity and mentorship are vital to our union's future.



THE FIRST CUT FORUM

Monthly Virtual Mentor Sessions for New Trade Teachers

This year, the SVFT will be hosting monthly virtual meetings for new trade teachers, facilitated by Jamie Lamitie. These sessions are open to any trade teachers in their first few years of teaching. Each meeting will highlight a different topic, while leaving time for open discussion and questions.

The **First Cut Forum** is a place to build your teaching "toolkit", connect with colleagues, and get the support you need as you start your journey in trade education.

Mark your calendar! 6pm Meetings

Reminders will be sent out in advance with the Zoom link, making it easy to join. We will use the same link every month.

October 20—*Organizing your Google Classroom, Google Drive, and Gradebook*

November 17—*TEAM*

December 15—*Certification*

January 12

February 9

March 16

April 20

May 18—*In Person Meet & Greet*

All State Vocational Federation of Teacher Members
are invited to the
General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

5PM

A. I. Prince Technical High School

Tiered Lecture Hall

ALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION WILL BE IN PERSON.

Attendance will be counted for in person members only.

Register for In Person Attendance

This helps us plan for food and seating.
The link will also be sent through Action Network.
<https://forms.gle/hru3fWYSSLYXwyMK6>



Zoom ID for Online Attendance

Meeting ID: 844 6381 2346
Passcode: 559966

Online Attendance will be for viewing only.

We will not have the chat or unmute online participants.

The link will also be sent through Action Network.

Labor Management Committee Meetings

→ Do you have concerns that are not related to our contract language?

Four times a year, our Labor Management Committee (one trade teacher, one academic teacher, and one support service teacher) meet with management to bring forward issues that are affecting members across the district.

Please share your concerns with your building representatives or Makenzi, so that we can represent you in the room. This year our meetings are scheduled for:

September 15, 2025

December 16, 2025

March 18, 2026

May 13, 2026

→ **Past minutes were always shared in our newsletters. Go look at past issues to see what we were working on! Moving forward we will post our minutes on our website.**

Important Reminders

Sick Bank Enrollment is open from September 1st to November 1st every year. The enrollment form is available on our website. You must be a full time employee for three years or a part time employee for three years and 66 days to enroll. Your building reps will have a list of who is eligible to enroll. If you have enrolled in the past, you do not need to enroll again. If you are unsure if you are in Sick Bank, please reach out to Damaris Hernandez.

Tuition Reimbursement is still being paid. Lillian Rivera Hick's email address is tuition.reimbursements@cttech.org. If Lillian does not respond that your email is received, please check that you used the correct address.

Calendar

10/8 Executive Council

10/9 Wright Tech Health

& Safety Visit

10/13 Deadline to
Announce Running for
Vice President (Election on
11/12)

10/20 First Cut Forum

10/27 Solidari-TEA

11/12 General Membership & VP Election

11/13 CTECS Board Meeting

11/13 Prince Tech Health & Safety Visit



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!

Vocational Instructor

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

President Makenzi Hurtado

Vice President Paul Angelucci

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.