

# NBFT SPOTLIGHT



Wishing All Union  
 Brothers and  
 Sisters a Happy  
 New Year 2021



## 2020-2021 NBFT

### Membership Meetings

- February 9 (Election announcements for candidates)
- March 16 (Election)
- May 12



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# President's Message

Union Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year! As I write this message my hope is that you all had a wonderful holiday break and that you had the chance to recharge your mental and physical batteries a bit. I go into 2021 hopeful that we will be finally be able to move past the pandemic. I truly hope that the loss of life due to the pandemic begins to dissipate over the next year.

As for what lies ahead for the NBFT, we will be conducting elections, monitoring the modified TEVAL process, helping with TEVAL revisions, running an election and preparing for negotiations, which will occur this summer. As always we will be preparing a survey for the membership with regards to our priorities for this negotiation cycle.

As we go into negotiation we will be once again entering a very poor fiscal environment. In talking with other local Union Presidents, the discussion has been about how difficult it will be to forecast the economic landscape over the next two years. While some towns are forecasting some realized savings, tax revenue in many towns and cities, including New Britain, has been negatively impacted by the pandemic. Some locals who have recently bargained have already had to take a "zero year." At this point this is not a part of any conversations we are having, but it's important to know what's out there. As always we will pursue fair and equitable compensation and benefits. We will push for more refined contractual procedures and practices. There are several contractual areas (aside from salary and benefits) that need tending. An example would be the Sick Bank procedures for collecting days into the bank. Since the Janus case has come and gone, we no longer have what was known as agency fee payers, we must now clarify who gets to use the Sick Bank in a style and form that makes it equitable and sustainable. As I said the last time we went into the negotiation season...we have to look at some of the details of the contract that serve to divide us as we try and apply a universal contract to an increasingly diversified set of job descriptions and specialized areas.

*Continued on next page*

# President's Message continued

Once again we will ALL have to collectively reassert that we are indeed a Union of interconnected professionals and while we cannot all get what we individually want, we continue to strengthen those universal ties that bind our collective work and service to the community. My hope is to engage the membership in some spirited conversation as well as look for areas to improve, so that “the Union” can continue to be a force for fair and equitable labor, a champion of public schools, and a force for advocacy in the community.

In the weeks and months ahead we will begin conversations with our negotiations chair personnel and they in turn will be reaching out to see who might be willing to serve on the negotiations committee. Our goal once again will be to capture a good cross section of our membership. We will also be putting out information about the election process shortly and a timeline for when it will occur. This time around we will be contending with the pandemic and all of the logistical challenges it brings, but I am confident that we can see the process through.

Take Care and Be well.

Sal

## NBFT Welfare Report

By Nicole Solimine

On behalf of the entire Membership the NBFT congratulates its members for these happy occasions: Taylor Warinsky (Pulaski) engaged and Katie Zapatka (Chamberlain) birth of baby boy.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of the following members for their recent losses: Will Bergeron (Gaffney) aunt passed, Cerina Hernandez (Gaffney), grandfather passed, Daniel Broderick (HALS) father passed, Karin Stasikowski (NBHS) mother passed, Matthew Denecour (NBHS) father passed, Sandy Dichner (NBHS) mother passed, William Candelori (Slade) father passed, Kevin Bonaparte (retiree) passed away, Dolores Garofalo (retiree) passed away, Dr. Paul Sequeria (former superintendent) passed, Sharon Palmer (Former President of the AFT-CT) passed away.



AFT Connecticut presents to our [members...](#)  
*A Union of Professionals*



# Sleep Health Virtual Workshop

**We spend 1/3 of our lives asleep.**

Join us for a workshop to find out why it's so important to get a good nights rest. We will learn about different sleep disorders, as well as sleep architecture and what you can do to get better sleep!

**Register online:**

<https://leadernet.aft.org/webform/sleep-health>  
or email: [amowrey@aftct.org](mailto:amowrey@aftct.org)

**MONDAY**  
**JANUARY**  
**25<sup>TH</sup>**  
**2021**

**5:30pm**  
**to**  
**7:00pm**

Zoom link to be provided  
after registering.

**Presented by:**  
**Stephanie Johnson**  
Member of L&M Techs  
Local 5051



**[Click here to sign up](#)**

# Answering Your Questions about COVID-19 Vaccines

- On Tuesday, Jan, 12th, at 6pm there will be a town hall on vaccines.
- There will be experts who will answer questions from union members about the new COVID vaccines.

Please join the AFT, SEIU, AFSCME and the NEA



Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 6 p.m. ET

## Answering Your Questions about COVID-19 Vaccines



**Dr. David Michaels**  
 professor, George Washington University School of Public Health; former assistant secretary of labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration



**Dr. Peter Marks**  
 director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration



**Dr. Nancy Messonnier**  
 director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

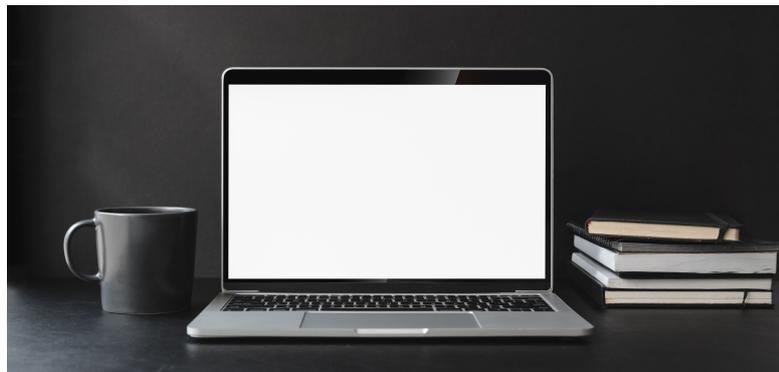


**Dr. Helene Gayle**  
 president, Chicago Community Trust; co-chair, Committee on Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine

**RSVP at: [bit.ly/CV19vaccine](https://bit.ly/CV19vaccine)**

[Click here to sign up](#)

# AFT Plus Benefit Corner



## Looking for a new computer

Save 10% as a union member using your union plus discount on a dell computer.

[Click here to check out the savings](#)



If you would like to have something added to the spotlight for your union brothers and sisters please email [local871president@gmail.com](mailto:local871president@gmail.com)