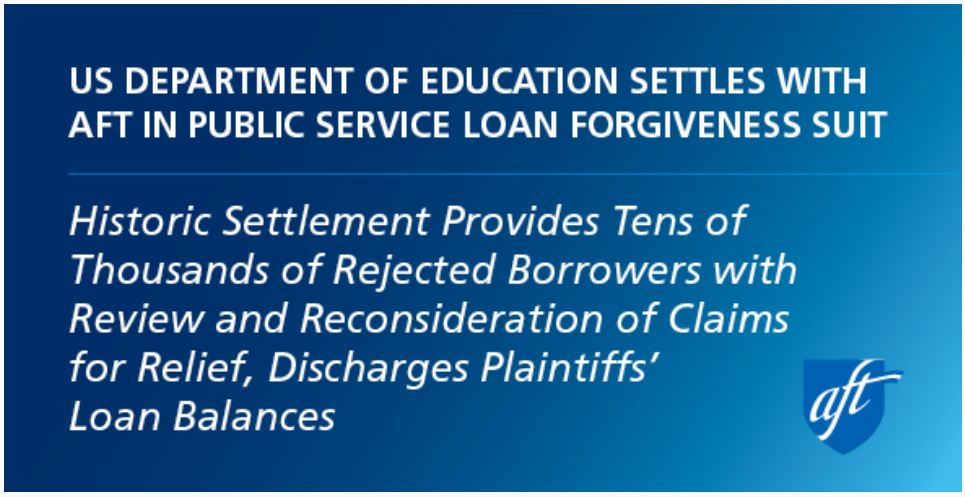
VOL. 75 ISSUE 3 NOVEMBER 2021

NBFT SPOTLIGHT

Landmark Case won!!!!

AFT Connecticut
A Union of Professionals



We want everyone who wants to attend college to be able to do so, but it has become increasingly unaffordable. More than 42 million Americans, including many of our members, now owe $1.7 trillion in student debt.

Since 2016, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) has been working to address and abate this student debt crisis. AFT has hosted thousands of debt clinics, pressed lawmakers for changes and took this fight to the courts. AFT took on one of the largest loan servicers in the country, Navient, and then in July of 2019, in a groundbreaking legal action, AFT sued then-Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos for mismanaging the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and leaving tens of thousands of borrowers with nowhere to turn when their relief was denied.

AFT president Randi Weingarten announced on Oct. 12 that AFT reached a settlement in Weingarten v. DeVos. The Department of Education led by Secretary Miguel Cardona agreed to work with AFT to ensure relief for the countless borrowers who relied on the promise of Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

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The department has agreed that a promise made is a promise kept.Millions of Americans will now have their loans completely forgiven or will be properly enrolled in a forgiveness program crediting their years of past payments, putting them much closer to full forgiveness. The AFT's nurses, educators, public employees, school staff and higher education staff will all benefit from these changes. Early October, the Department of Education made much-needed changes, expanding who qualifies for PSLF and making the system more manageable. (If you will qualify under this waiver, it's critical to apply for it by Oct. 31, 2022.)

With the settlement of Weingarten v. DeVos, we have more good news to share. Since the creation of the program in 2007, 98 percent of all borrowers who have applied for PSLF have been denied. With the Education Department's temporary waiver, plus this settlement, every one of those borrowers' PSLF applications will be reviewed and processed through a new review procedure.

We expect this new review process—which is the core of this settlement—to result in complete discharge for tens of thousands of student loan borrowers across the country, including teachers, nurses, firefighters and others eligible for PSLF.

The Biden administration continues to work on implementation of these changes, with input from the AFT and others, to ensure a fast, clear and simple process so public service workers can get full credit for the payments they made toward PSLF and soon see a zero balance on their student loan statements. And the AFT continues to work on behalf of our 1.7 million members to get them the help they deserve through hundreds of AFT student debt clinics and through our partnership with Summer, an online resource that helps members navigate and reduce student loan debt.

If you are a current AFT member who may be affected by this settlement: The AFT will help you navigate this new process with our partner Summer. Working with Summer, AFT members already have saved $500 million on student loans. Summer helps AFT members take the steps necessary to qualify for PSLF, including under the just-announced temporary waiver. AFT members can sign up for a free account with Summer: **click here for link**

If you are a borrower who works in public service and want individualized help from a PSLF expert, you can join the AFT as an associate member now and access a Summer account: **click here**

Our years of advocacy for AFT members around the country is paying off. We're seeing firsthand the difference it makes when we have a president and a secretary of education who believe in education and in delivering on promises made to Americans.

For more information click here

In solidarity,
NBFT LOCAL 871

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 • 5:30 PM

New Britain Public Library
20 High Street, New Britain, CT 06051
(Free parking available behind the library)

Join us for our second in a series of conversations about the issues facing the city of New Britain. This is an important next step in forming a new coalition that will take action. If you live or work in New Britain, you should be part of determining our community's future.

Co-hosted by:

New Britain Federation of PARAEDUCATORS
LOCAL 2407, AFT CT, AFT, AFL-CIO

N B F T

The Puerto Rican Society of New Britain

New Britain Fed. of Teachers, Local 871, New Britain Fed. of Paras, Local 2407, & the Puerto Rican Society of New Britain

For questions, contact the organizers at:

860-992-9595 / nbconversations@gmail.com

Pre-register at:

https://tinyurl.com/2ndNBCCRSVPform

This in-person event will require social distancing and masks.

Click here to sign up

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT

STUDENT DEBT CLINIC

Presented by Chris Goff, AFT Higher Education

NOVEMBER 22, 2021
(MONDAY)

5:00-6:30PM
ZOOM Webinar

Register online: http://go.aft.org/StudentDebtClinicRSVP

Select "CONNECTICUT: AFT Connecticut *WEBINAR* 5:00 pm 11/22/2021" from the "Student Debt Clinic" drop down field. Meeting link and info will be emailed week before webinar.

IS STUDENT DEBT STRESSING YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, OUT? YOU'RE NOT ALONE

More than 43 million US workers owe $1.4 trillion dollars in student loans, with ~93% of it owed to the US Department of Education. Workers are going into more debt to finance their education, and more workers are defaulting on those loans because wages aren't rising to keep up with the costs.

THE SYSTEM IS BROKEN!

THERE'S GOOD NEWS!
AFT, OUR NAT'L UNION, HAS DEVELOPED STUDENT DEBT CLINICS THAT WILL:

- Educate you on the national student debt crisis
- Show you how to lower your payments, sometimes to $0, through enrolling in income-driven repayment programs
- Teach you how to meet the requirements for Public Service Loan Forgiveness, which will get your debt forgiven, tax free, after ten years worth of payments
- Inspire you to join with your union as we
- **ORGANIZE** and **MOBILIZE** for a more just system of paying for college.

Student Debt CLINICS

OPEIU 153, AFL-CIO AMM

35 Marshall Road | Rocky Hill, CT 06067 | www.aftct.org | (P) 860.257.9782 | (F) 860.257.8214

Click here to sign up

AFT Connecticut
A Union of Professionals

LEGAL ISSUES FOR EDUCATIONAL STAFF

FOR TEACHERS & PSRP MEMBERS

PRESENTERS: Eric Chester & James Demetriades, AFT CT Attorneys

This training will discuss a number of legal issues facing educational staff as they prepare to return to schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics to be covered include:

- Employees right to health and safety when returning to work
- ADA accommodations for vulnerable people
- Mandatory vaccination and/or testing polices
- Mandatory reporting and dealing with the Dept of Child & Families

Please join us for this timely and informative presentation.

Thursday
November 4, 2021
5PM - 6:30PM

Virtual Workshop via Zoom

Zoom info will be sent via email to registrants prior to workshop.

Register online at:

Click here to sign up

or email: amowrey@aftct.org

NBFT Welfare Report

BY NICOLE SOLIMINE

On behalf of the entire Membership the NBFT congratulates it members for these happy occasions: Chris Golino (Jefferson) married, Samantha Strickland (Chamberlain) birth of baby boy, Stevi Zommer (Jefferson) married.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of the following members for their recent losses: Donna Kolodziej (RELC) father passed, Samantha Strickland (Chamberlain) father passed.

We wish a speed recovery to John Richard (HALS) recovering from surgery.

2021-2022 NBFT Membership Meetings

- December 14
- February 8
- March 8
- May 10

*All membership meetings for now will be on zoom. Link will be sent out the day of meeting from Sal.

Children's Enrichment Fund

- Do you want to support the children of New Britain in times of need?
- Please consider donating as little as the cost of a cup of coffee a week. The children's enrichment fund last year for example helped one of our student's family who lost everything in a house

Two ways to sign up

Paper Card

Get a card from your union rep and fill it out. Then interoffice to payroll.

Electronic signup

- Click on the link below.
- Print the application.
- Fill out the form.
- Scan using copier and email it to yourself.
- Forward scanned PDF attachment from your district email account and email it to payroll@csdnb.org

[Click here to sign up to support the Children's Enrichment Fund]

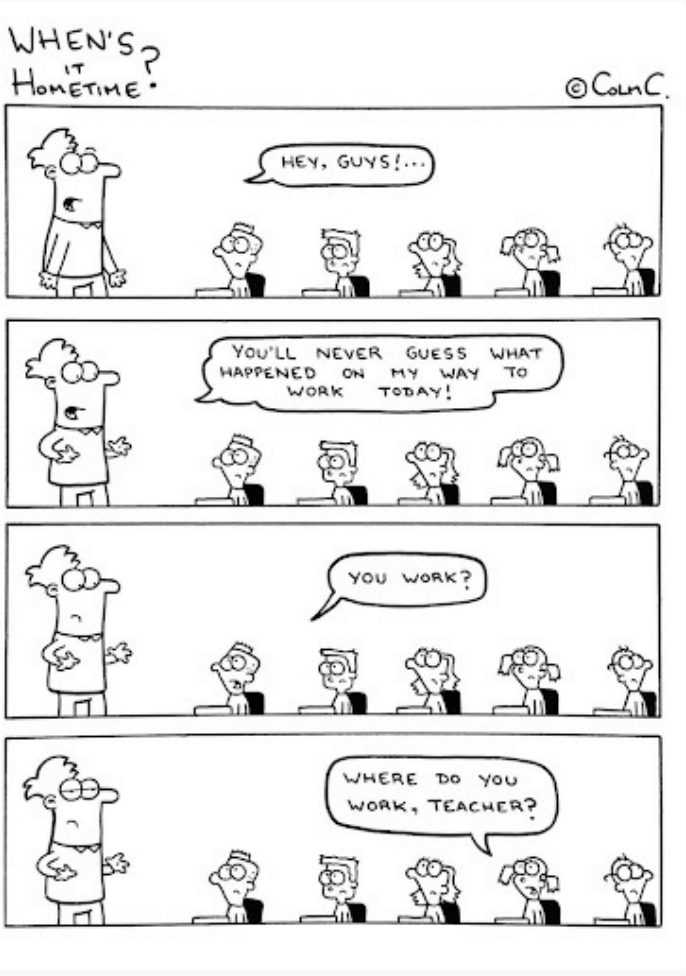
AFT Plus Benefit Corner

Ready to save money on your cell phone??

AT&T

Union members can save up to $10/month savings per line on AT&T Unlimited Elite® with AT&T Signature Program.

[Click here for more information]



If you would like to have something added to the spotlight for your union brothers and sisters please email local871president@gmail.com