

# NBFT SPOTLIGHT



**AFT Connecticut**  
*A Union of Professionals*

## Retirement Party

When:

**May 21 4:00-6:30 PM**

Where:

**The Back Nine Tavern  
at Stanley Golf Course**

Why:

**To celebrate  
your fellow union  
brothers and sisters**

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# President Message

Dear colleagues,

I hope you had a wonderfully restful and fulfilling spring break. What a month it has been. The budget crisis has had everyone on edge: the affected teachers, non-affected teachers, support staff, and students. Our school administrators have also been steadfast in their support of the district's proposed cuts. Your advocacy and voice for our profession, our colleagues, and our students at BOE and Common Council meetings, phone calls, and letter writing have been unparalleled. This is one of those moments when everyone is working together with one voice to advocate for what is right. Thank you to those of you who were able to show up in public and work behind the scenes - one person cannot do it alone.

This crisis was a jarring reminder of how important contract language is. If you haven't done so recently, please take a look at our contract that we fought so hard for and ratified with a 98.5% vote (unheard of). We have rights, and we should know what they are. With the budget changes happening in real time, by the time you read this, there will undoubtedly be more updates. Please keep hope alive for our colleagues, programs, and students. On a personal note, it is very disheartening (but not surprising) that the FIRST discussion schools always have when it comes to cuts are teachers and anyone forward facing with students and any program that directly impacts students. Are we not in the business of the education and welfare of children? What about the waste and abuse of so many other contracts, purchases, and salaries (!) of those who do NOT directly impact the teaching, learning, and well-being of our students? Why are those expenses still in the budget? It would behoove every 871 member to attend a Board meeting or two, read the packets, and learn for themselves what we spend money on. You might need a drink after this newfound knowledge.

Despite the budget issues and associated stress, we have good things to celebrate! May 4th starts Teacher Appreciation Week. Please keep a lookout for my email with links to deals. Celebrate yourself this week for all of your dedication, heart, and love that you pour into your job daily. It does not go unnoticed. Our annual NBFT Retirement Party will be on May 21st, 2026, at 4 PM at the Back 9. We look forward to seeing you there as we honor outgoing retirees and award our three NBFT Scholarships. This will (sadly) be the last NBFT Retirement party I will emcee, so I will ensure it is a great time!

As we start to close out this school year, please continue to support each other, uplift our profession, and work together for what's best for our students and families. I hope that everyone of you has a wonderful summer that is filled with personal time, family time, and joy for what you love.

In solidarity,  
Sue

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**To our 2026-  
2027 teacher of  
the year  
school based  
nominees**



School	Teacher of the Year
Adult Ed	Filomena Mascolo
Brookside	Michelle Abraham
Catalyst	Fornita Kincy
Chamberlain	Monica Gambino
DiLoreto	Sarah Bell
Gaffney	Kelly Mowchan
HALS	John Richard
Holmes	Emily Zimmerman
Jefferson	Marlene Calandra
Lincoln	Marisa Sullivan
NBHS	Alyssa Hughes
Northend	Jenna Sayers
Pulaski	Jovanna Bailey
RELC	Candice Carnegie-Palmer
SCA	Christopher Gaetano
Slade	Delphine Marden
Smalley	Amanda Andrews
Smith	Katie-Lynne Recinos
Vance	Chrisanthy Psaras

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**To all our  
retirees!!  
Thank  
you for  
your  
service.**

Susan Saluru	NBHS
Alexandra Aponte-Garcia	NBHS
Tracy Edley-Clarke	Jefferson
Lynn Emra	Pulaski
Maureen Leltao	RELC
Patricia Ubysz	Climb
Paula Morrissey	Holmes
Michelle Abraham	Brookside
Susan Brigandi	Smith
Paula Cormier	Holmes
Brain Crowley	NBHS
Jacqueline Escales	Holmes
Piper Faulkner	Vance
Evelyn Hudyma	Pulaski
Lorie Woloszynski	NBEAC
Joan Landrum	NBEAC
Glenn Banks	Slade

# NBFT Welfare Report

By Ashley Lodovico

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of the following members for their recent losses:

Jill Fitzsimmons (HALS) Loss of brother in law

Lynn Hermenegildo (Holmes) Loss of mother in law

## 2025-2026 NBFT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- MAY 12

\*MEETING STARTS AT 4:00 PM



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)