

NBFT SPOTLIGHT



AFT Connecticut
A Union of Professionals

Wishing All Union Brothers and Sisters a Happy New Year 2026



2025-2026 NBFT Membership Meetings

- February 10
- March 10
- May 12

*All membership meetings are on zoom.



Union Directory
Website: www.nbft.net

President
Sue Saluru
saluru@csdnb.org
860.681.1552

High School Vice President
Basia Maselek
maselek@csdnb.org
860.681.1735

Middle School Vice President
Cliff Parker
parkercl@csdnb.org
860.681.1904

Elementary Vice President
Laura Skinner
skinnerL@csdnb.org
860.681.1817

Elementary Vice President
Stephen Gray
grays@csdnb.org
860.681.1714

PreK-12 Pupil Services/Special
ED Vice President
Leah Clark
clarkl@csdnb.org

Treasurer
William Sanford
sanford@csdnb.org

Recording Secretary
Maciej Fornal
fornal@csdnb.org

President's Message

Dear colleagues,

Happy 2026! I hope you had a wonderful and restful holiday break. I hope you could dedicate time to self-care, family, friends, and anything that brings you joy. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for your dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to our students and the public schools. The past year brought challenges, change, and hard work—but you continued to show strength, solidarity, and care for one another.

In addition to our annual Retirement party, we have two exciting upcoming events. I hope that these events can foster a sense of camaraderie and solidarity and bring a fun evening of laughter and relaxation to you and your family or friends. We'd love to see you, so please save these dates:

- Wolfpack game - **Friday, March 6, 2026** (20 pp), Friday nights offer \$2 beer and \$2 hot dogs, and it is also a giveaway night: a gift will be given to every ticket holder. You do not need to be an 871 member to attend; friends and family are welcome! Information on how to purchase will be forthcoming.
- Yardgoats game - **Friday, May 1, 2026** (\$17 pp). Every ticket sold has a \$2 credit toward food and/or merchandise. You do not need to be an 871 member to attend; friends and family are welcome! Information on how to purchase will be forthcoming.
- NBFT Retirement party - May 21st, 2026, 4 PM at the Back 9.

On a personal note, after 30 years as an urban public high school English teacher (26 at NBHS), I will retire at the end of this school year. There was no “one” reason why I chose this year. Several years ago, I set my goal at 30 years of service. The time has come! I am having a phenomenal year with my students, and I am taking that as a sign not to push my luck lol. As our NBFT Constitution allows, I will remain as your Union President through the end of my term. There is still much unfinished business and important work to be done, both on our Local level and on the state and national levels. I will ensure that whoever my successor is, there will be a smooth transition and the mission of advocating for safe working conditions, fair contracts, and the respect public school educators and staff deserve will carry forward.

As we move into the New Year, let us continue to support one another, uplift our profession, and work together for the betterment of our schools and communities. I am confident that, together, we can face whatever lies ahead and make meaningful progress for our members and the students we serve.

Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy, peaceful, and successful New Year.

In solidarity,
Sue

Fidelity



Fidelity was reinstated as a 403(b) vendor last school for pre-tax and ROTH contributions. If you choose to use Fidelity as your 403(b) vendor then you will need to include a printed copy of the New Enrollment confirmation with the attached Salary Reduction Agreement (SRA) for the initial 403(b) set up.

Employees that wish to set up an account with Fidelity may call the toll free number listed on the attached 403b TSA Companies list or visit their website at Note that the plan number is needed to set up an account (see the attached vendor list). If you have an existing account with Fidelity you may use your current log in credentials after you click the “Start now” and “Get started” buttons. If you do not have an existing account then you will need to click on “Start now”, “Get started”, and “Register as a new user” buttons. Please call the toll free number listed on the attached 403b TSA Companies if you need assistance.

[CLICK HERE FOR LIST OF 403B COMPANIES](#)

[CLICK HERE SALARY REDUCTION AGREEMENT](#)



Scholarships



1. AFT Connecticut Scholarships *Application Deadline: Not yet set*

- The AFT Connecticut Scholarship Selection Committee awards two \$2,500.00 scholarships each year:
- The first scholarship is the George C. Springer Scholarship is for AFT Connecticut members
- The AFT Connecticut Scholarship is for members' spouses or domestic partners or children of members.\

2. AFT Porter Scholars Program - *Application Deadline: March 31, 2026*

This program offers four-year, \$8,000.00 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members, as well as one-time \$1,000.00 grants to AFT members.

3. Union Plus Scholarships - *Application Deadline: January 31, 2026*

Amounts range from \$500.00 to \$4,000.00, and these one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall each year.

[Click here for more information and how to apply.](#)



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

How to sign up

- 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](#)

NBFT Welfare Report

By Ashley Lodovico

On behalf of the entire membership, the NBFT congratulates it's members for these happy occasions:

Meghan Lacey (Lincoln) marriage

Tea Zizolli (Gaffney) birth of daughter

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

Kevin Dawiczuk (Pulaski) loss of father

Mary Zottola (NBHS) loss of mother

Kirsty Naples (Holmes) loss of father in law

Lynn Hermenegildo (Holmes) loss of grandmother



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