

NBFT SPOTLIGHT



AFT Connecticut
A Union of Professionals

Retirement Party

When:

May 15 4:00-6:00 PM

Where:

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

Why:

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

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To our 2025- 2026
Teacher of the
Year School
Based Nominees



Congratulations
to Maciej Fornal
as the 2025-2026
Teacher of the
Year for CSDNB

| School | Teacher of the Year |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Adult Ed | Carlos Villarini |
| Brookside | Abigail Perez |
| Catalyst | Elizabeth Crespan |
| Chamberlain | Crystal Diaz |
| DiLoreto | Nicole Dery |
| Gaffney | Elizabeth Prince |
| HALS | Jenna Lombardo |
| Holmes | Elizabeth DeBlock |
| Jefferson | Melissa Qualls |
| Lincoln | Elizabeth 'Betty' Murratti |
| NBHS | Maciej Fornal |
| Northend | Jennifer Welch |
| Pulaski | Veronica Cordero-Rivera |
| RELC | Danielle David |
| SCA | Scott Larkin |
| Slade | Rebecca Chance |
| Smalley | Jill Giguere |
| Smith | Michael Sposito |
| Vance | Krista Leach |

Congratulations Retirees!!!

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Margarita Manrique | Slade |
| Luz Vazquez | NBHS |
| Sara Foligno | Chamberlain |
| Awilda Diaz | Lincoln |
| Antoinette Asberry | NBHS |
| John Larkin | SCA |
| Michael Blanker | NBHS |
| Darilyn Roberts | NBHS |
| Mark Slowik | NBHS |
| Marie Field | Gaffney |
| Glenn Banks | Slade |
| Thomas Wankertl | NBHS |

President Message

Dear Colleagues,

We are in the home stretch! I hope you had a wonderful spring break and are back at work with renewed energy and positivity. We only have weeks to go, and still so much to do.

National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5-9, and National Teacher Day is May 6th. It is a special week where we are acknowledged and shown gratitude for our dedication to educating and changing students' lives. Take time that week to honor YOURSELF for what you do. We sometimes forget to take those moments to rest, recharge, and acknowledge it is ok to be tired...of work, of responsibility, and sometimes of being the one who holds things together both at work and at home. Please always prioritize yourself and tap into the many resources at your fingertips if you need to. I will be emailing our membership next week with some great annual deals and discounts that I hope you take advantage of.

As we end the year, the PDEC will assess how the new TEVAL system went and start next year with discussions on what went well, what needs to be addressed, and how we can truly support teachers. Remember to always reach out to your reps, VPs, or me with any concerns. This year has been challenging with the understaffing and high turnover rates in our special education programs. It is not easy to work understaffed, and your strength and willingness to show up for our students do not go unnoticed by your colleagues. Thank you for your dedication.

On a personal note, I will be getting surgery on May 2nd, so I will, unfortunately, be out for the remainder of the year. After the initial recovery period is over, I will continue to work remotely as your Union President, so our last Membership meeting on 5/13 will proceed as planned. Unfortunately, I will miss the 2025 NBFT Retirement Party on May 15th. This is one of the highlights of the year where we honor our colleagues as they move onto the next chapter of life, announce our NBFT scholarship winners, and celebrate each other as another year comes to a close. Sticking with tradition, we will be gathering at the Back Nine in NB, starting at 4 pm. My designee as the party MC will be announced in the upcoming days.

As this year closes, I would like to give a special shout-out to our RETIREES! If you see one of these amazing people in your building, take a moment to thank them! Retirees, you have given so much of your life, time, energy, and heart to the children of New Britain. On behalf of the Union Leadership team, we thank you and honor you! We hope to see you at our annual NBFT Retirees party. Although I won't be there physically, my well wishes and heartfelt gratitude will be there. Cheers to you all - enjoy the fantastic next chapter and remember, it's 5 o'clock somewhere 😊!!

On behalf of the Union Leadership team, we wish you a wonderful end of the year. Rest, recharge, be merry, and enjoy every moment of your well-deserved summer vacation!

In solidarity,
Sue

NBFT Welfare Report

By Ethan Wendehack

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

Tate MacDonald (Vance) Engagement

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

Janet Barneschi (retired) passed away

2024-2025 NBFT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- MAY 13

*MEETING STARTS AT 4:00 PM



Contract Corner

This month is sick leave



[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL CONTRACT CLAUSE](#)

Teachers do not need sick notes for the first 40 hours of work due to the new Connecticut paid sick leave law. After 40 hours the contract language kicks in. Administration can ask for a doctors note after 3 days or in cases of suspected abuse after the first 40 hours. Notes should not be given to administration and should be scanned to the Talent Department. Miolle Luceus is who the notes should be sent to.

AFT Plus Benefit Corner



Cost of home and auto insurance keep going up.



You could bundle and save with Farmers GroupSelect! Select customers switched and saved hundreds on average by bundling auto and home insurance.

Call 877-AFT-9638 for a free quote today.

[Click here to get a quote](#)



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