

2020 Voting Information: Election Day is November 3

One of the most important obligations of citizenship in our democracy is to vote for the candidate of your choice. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year all voters are eligible to vote by mail via absentee ballot in the Nov. 3 Presidential Election.

Voting in 2020 is important for the future of your family, UConn, UCPEA and the State of Connecticut as the nation emerges from the economic issues resulting from the pandemic. UCPEA encourages you to participate in this year's election.

Polls in Connecticut will be open on Election Day and if you decide to vote in person, please be sure to wear a mask and obey the social distancing guidelines. Polling location hours statewide are from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To vote by mail (absentee ballot), you must apply for a ballot. You may request an application from your Town Clerk [**Note:** many

towns are sending applications directly to voters] or go online to your municipal government website at least 15 days before the election (Oct. 20). An alternative is to use the application that the Secretary of State office will be sending to all qualified voters sometime in September.

Absentee ballots for applications received before Oct. 2 will be mailed on Oct. 2. Applications received after that date will be mailed soon after the application is received. **NOTE:** *The U.S. Postal Service suggests that you mail your ballot at least 7 days before Election Day – Oct 27.*

All cities and towns will have general drop boxes so if you choose to not mail your ballot you can place it in a drop box. Information about the locations of drop boxes in your community will be available from your Town Clerk's office.

COVID-19 Travel Update

The regional travel advisory between Connecticut, New Jersey and New York that directs incoming travelers from states with a significant community spread of COVID-19 to self-quarantine for a 14-day period was updated recently to include Arizona, Minnesota, Nevada, Rhode Island, and Wyoming to the list of impacted states that have met the metrics to qualify. There are 35 states on the list currently.

The requirement to quarantine applies to any person traveling into Connecticut from a state with a positive case rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or higher than a 10 percent test positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average. It also applies to any person arriving into Connecticut from a country for which the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#).

Anyone arriving to Connecticut from any of the impacted locations is required to fill out a travel health form upon their arrival. The form can be filled out online at [ct.gov/travelform](#).

The list of impacted locations is updated every Tuesday. For the most up-to-date information on the regional travel advisory, including an extensive list of frequently asked questions, visit [ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel](#).

Reconsideration Update

Just over 300 reconsideration requests were submitted between July 1 and Aug. 31, with more than 200 submitted during the last week of August.

The University has asked for additional time to process requests. In response, the UCPEA leadership has scheduled a meeting to discuss the current status of requests (i.e. the 100 requests submitted in July and early August) and projected processing times for the approximately 200 submitted in late August.

An update will be shared following the meeting with the University.

Staying Safe Means Pause on Holiday Gatherings

With the on-going concerns with COVID-19 and efforts to keep everyone healthy and safe, the Membership Services Committee has determined that UCPEA's annual holiday parties will not take place in 2020.

The Committee will develop a survey seeking ideas for alternative way(s) to celebrate the holidays and engage our members. We would encourage all members to participate in the survey.

Payroll Deduction Updates Regarding Dues, Social Security

A dues increase for AFT CT will appear in member paychecks dated Sept. 25, while Social Security/payroll tax deductions will remain the same.

Effective in the paycheck dated Sept. 25, AFT CT dues will increase by \$.24 to \$11.21 for all members with an FTE of 100%. All members with less than an FTE of 100% will see an increase of \$.12 per pay period to a flat amount of \$10.10. These increases follow UCPEA guidelines under our Bylaws when AFT CT increases dues.

Payroll tax deductions for Social Security will not change, based

upon a decision by the Office of the State Comptroller that it will not participate in the voluntary federal Social Security/payroll tax deferral. The Comptroller's Office says the decision is based on an internal analysis, as well as a consultation with IRS/U.S. Treasury, that it is a temporary measure and raises the potential of errors in federal reporting. Additionally, state employees who opt-in would ultimately face a significant financial burden and risk of penalties when this deferral is due and fully payable by the end of the current tax year. Any deductions not paid from September through December 2020 would be withheld from paychecks starting in January 2021.

Updated Online Learning Program Becomes LearnNOW

The Professional Issues Committee is in the process of renewing the updated New Horizons online learning program, now rebranded as LearnNOW.

As the professional staff of the University, one of the ways our members demonstrate their professionalism is by keeping up with changes in technology and expanding our ability better to support our students, faculty, and staff colleagues. UCPEA's commitment to helping our members to do just that with the renewed online training by the Professional Issues Committee.

LearnNOW provides the UCPEA staff the knowledge to maximize the technology at their fingertips. Additionally, as all of us are now working remotely due to COVID -19, LearnNOW covers tools such as Office 365, popular programs such as Excel and Word and also includes Business Skills training with courses on Online Meeting Etiquette, Learn Virtual Teams, and Working Effectively from Home to highlight a few of the more than 300 videos available.

Members will be notified when the updated LearnNOW program is available for enrollment.

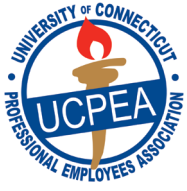
Frank, Sienna Receive UCPEA Scholarships for 2020

Two children of UCPEA members received \$1,000 scholarships named for founding member Sandy Schulte and former UConn President Philip Austin.

Noah Frank, a junior political science and economics major, received the Austin Leadership Scholarship, which recognizes academic achievement and leadership skills. He is the son of **Melissa Frank** in Procurement Services. He has served as Undergraduate Student Representative to the UConn Board of Trustees Honors & Awards Committee, music director of the Conn-Men a cappella group, chair of the USG Internal Affairs Committee, executive intern in the Office of Secretary of State

in Connecticut, campaign manager for the Jeff Currey for State Representative campaign, among other activities.

Kansas A. Sienna, a first year student in Animal Science received the Sandy Schulte Memorial Scholarship, awarded to high school seniors entering UConn. She is the daughter of **Dennis J. Sienna** in Procurement Services. She earned honors for high academic achievement in Advanced Placement classes including biology, pre-calculus and innovative technology and as an AP Scholar with Distinction. She is a member of the National Science Honor Society and the National Math Honor Society.



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Dates, Deadlines, and Things To Do

- Oct. 8, Thurs., Executive Board Meeting, Zoom
- Oct. 12, Mon., Indigenous People’s Day – UCPEA Office Closed
- Oct. 21, Wed., Union Steward Meeting & Training, Zoom, 12- 3 p.m.
- Oct. 22, Thurs., Executive Board Meeting, Zoom
- Nov. 5, Thurs., Executive Board Meeting, Zoom
- Nov. 19, Thurs., Executive Board Meeting, Zoom
- Nov. 26 & 27, UCPEA Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

All events and meetings are at noon, unless otherwise noted

- **Membership Discounts**
- **Professional Development applications are reviewed at the beginning of each month**
- **Childcare Deadlines Sept. – Dec. (Due Jan. 15)**

Dependent Tuition Waivers

The benefit applies to Fall & Spring semesters only
Deadlines: Spring Semester – Nov.15

Employee Tuition Waivers

The waiver applies to the Fall and Spring semesters only.
Deadlines: Fall Semester – Oct. 15

Tuition Reimbursement

Reimbursements apply to summer, fall and spring course work
Summer: Sept. 15; Fall Semester: Jan. 15; Spring Semester: June 1

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