



Call 860-257-9782 before March 4th to register.



## Legislative Issues Conference

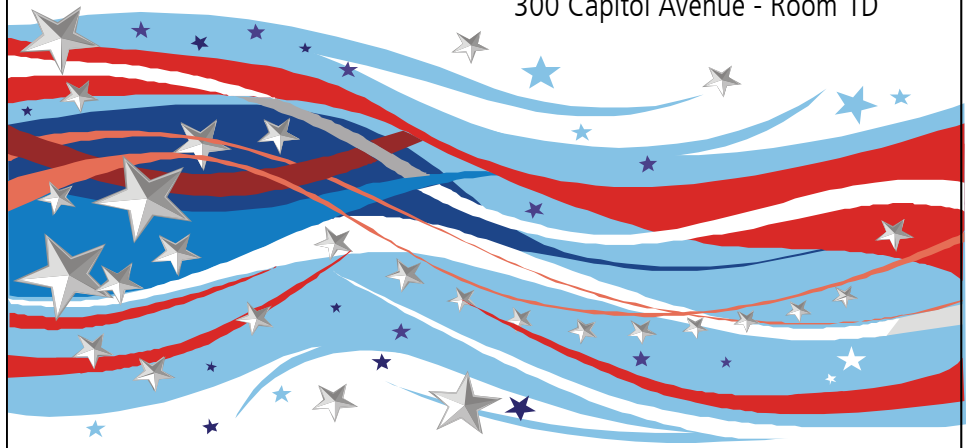
Visit our website at [www.aftct.org](http://www.aftct.org) for more information.

**RESCHEDULED—**  
**Saturday– March 6, 2010**  
(Due to conflict with the Memorial Service for victims of the Middletown Explosion)

This is a FREE Conference that will include Breakfast & Lunch.

8:30am Registration  
9:00am - 2:00pm Conference

Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT  
300 Capitol Avenue - Room 1D



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

35 Marshall Road  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
Phone: 860-257-9782  
Phone: 888-398-3373  
Fax: 860-257-8214  
Email: [tmerisotis@aftct.org](mailto:tmerisotis@aftct.org)  
[www.aftct.org](http://www.aftct.org)



**Go Green!**

AFT Connecticut is working to reduce paper consumption. If you would like your "Action Line" newsletter e-mailed to you instead of mailed please send your address to Teri Merisotis at [tmerisotis@aftct.org](mailto:tmerisotis@aftct.org).

First Class  
Permit  
Pre Paid  
No. 325  
Rocky Hill CT  
06067

## Public Hearings

This is the time for public hearings at the State Capitol. Here are some tips for you if you want to come up and testify for a piece of legislation.

At hearings, you can learn what others with different views on the issue are saying. Remember, if no one comes to testify on the issue, legislators can use that as an excuse to kill the legislation (no public interest in it) or to pass/kill bad legislation (there was no opposition): "No one testified against/for the bill."

### How Do You Find Out About Hearings?

Every day during the legislative session, the legislature publishes a Legislative Bulletin. This Bulletin contains the notices of hearings. The only place to get these publications is at the Legislative Office Building (LOB), Room 1400, or you can get it on-line: the address is [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov). Few people have the time to actually go to the Capitol to get a copy of the Bulletin and not everyone has a computer. Here are other possibilities that AFT Connecticut members have:

- Get on the AFT Connecticut Action Line mailing list. This is a weekly newsletter during the Legislative session to keep you apprised of the issues.
- Go to the AFT Connecticut website: [www.aftct.org](http://www.aftct.org)

### How Much Notice Will I Get?

Unfortunately, the legislature's rules do not require a lot of notice. The rules mandate five days (days, not business days - sorry) notice for a hearing and three days notice of which bills will be heard at that hearing. The committees sometimes give more notice, but it is not the requirement.

## Public Hearing Schedule

### Labor Committee

The Labor Committee is having a hearing Thursday, February 25 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 2A of the Legislative Office Building. As you can see below, there are many issues that impact state employees. They are also hearing a bill on restoring the vo-tech Adult Ed LPN Program.

S. B. No. 171 (RAISED) An Act Establishing a Licensed Practical Nurse Program.

H. B. No. 5058 (RAISED) An Act Concerning the Right to Organize for Certain State Employees.

H. B. No. 5202 (RAISED) An Act Concerning Telecommuting Options for State Employees

### What Should I Expect at the Hearing?

The first hour of a public hearing is usually reserved for lawmakers and state officials. But arrive well before the scheduled start of the hearing to sign up for the public portion. It works a lot like the deli counter of a grocery store. Those with the lowest number testify first. But, some committees will also listen to testimony by bill number. Designate the bills on which you will testify and whether you are for or against the proposal.

It is a good idea to listen to the testimony of the people before you, especially that of the state agency representatives. They can give the latest information on the legislation and it is important to know their position. It is also important to be able to refute the other side's argument. Also, you don't want to just repeat what everyone else has said.

Expect that legislators will come and go often. Legislators are on many committees and have other meetings or hearings going on at the same time. Legislators have been known to eat during hearings and to talk to each other while someone is testifying. While this may seem disrespectful to you, it is the nature of the process so you need to do some things to be sure your testimony is heard.

H. B. No. 5203 (RAISED) AN Act Concerning State Service Retirement Credit and Teachers' Retirement Credit.

H. B. No. 5207 (RAISED) An Act Concerning Criminal Background Checks fro Prospective State

### Education Committee

The Education Committee has reserved these tentative dates for public hearings: March 1, March 8, and March 15. The hearings will probably be in the afternoon. As soon as we know what bills will be heard we will put them on the internet and e-mail them out.



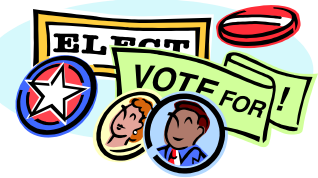
# YOU ARE INVITED...

## 2010 CANDIDATE FORUM

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Place TBA



Forum with ALL Gubernatorial and State-Wide Candidates.  
Please RSVP to AFT Connecticut (860) 257-9782.

## A Few Facts About The Connecticut General Assembly

Keep in mind – the only truly universal rule in the legislative process is that there is no universal rule in the legislative process.

### Schedule

The General Assembly is part time. It is in session for five months in odd numbered years and three months in even numbered years. The schedule is set by the State Constitution. **In 2010, the General Assembly opens on Feb. 3, 2010 and adjourns on May 5, 2010.**

### Membership

There are 151 House of Representative Members and 36 Senators in the General Assembly. The Governor, M. Jodi Rell and the Lt. Governor, Michael Fedele, are both Republicans. The Lt. Governor serves as the President of the Senate meaning he presides over the Senate, but he only votes if there is a tie. The highest ranking member of the Senate is the President Pro Tempore, Donald Williams, and a Democrat. He is

elected by the membership of the Senate. The House of Representatives is presided over by the Speaker of the House, who is Christopher Donovan, a Democrat. He is a member of the House and elected Speaker by the House members.

### Committees

The General Assembly has joint committees with members from both the House and the Senate. Each Committee has a House and a Senate Chair. The number of Senators and Representatives assigned to each Committee is proportional by party and by house.

Unlike Congress, members of the General Assembly do not have a lot of staff. They also do not receive a lot of phone calls or mail on most issues. Legislators acknowledge that they are impressed and give special attention to an issue if they receive even 10 letters or phone calls about a particular subject.