

Wednesday, December 02, 2009

Colleagues,

At a time when the prospects for continuing the LPN program seemed most bleak, we have found some hope. During a meeting in Hartford, three of our LPN department heads – Connie Gibeault, Donna McBrien, and Ted Moscovitz – ran into Governor Jodi Rell. They briefly discussed the LPN situation with her, and she volunteered that if the program could find a way to cover its costs, it would not have to be cut. We need to be realistic about the statement: she is a politician, she may have just been being polite, and it would require raising fees 400% or 500% to be cost effective. Still, it was not just another dead end.

On Monday, December 7, one representative from each of the LPN programs will meet at the SVFT office in Rocky Hill to discuss strategies for saving the program. We are hoping that our lobbyist and a representative from AFT-CT will be able to attend; regardless, we will be ready to organize our efforts and establish a plan of action. We are anxious to hear what steps teachers have taken and who has been contacted; we will listen as well as speak. We hope every instructor shares his or her concerns, questions, and ideas with their school's representative so they can be shared at the meeting. Obviously, the odds are still considerable, and we must – though unwillingly – continue to make sure that everyone's rights are protected if the program is ultimately suspended. However, our conversations with numerous LPN instructors today have shown a renewed sense of purpose and an invigorated enthusiasm. We meet with the Superintendent on Thursday, and will be certain to share any information we can. We thank all of you for your continuing efforts on behalf of the LPN program.

In Solidarity,

Rick Tanasi  
SVFT President

Jan Hochadel  
SVFT Vice-President

Ed Leavy  
SVFT Executive Union Rep