

SEBAC Hosts First 2022 Prep Meeting

CSEA Stewards and Leaders Join Other SEBAC Unions to Prepare for 2022

Last month, hundreds of stewards, negotiating team members and leaders from all fifteen of the SEBAC unions met to discuss the anticipated

challenges associated with 2022. The State has hired the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to study staffing issues with a statutorily mandated requirement of finding \$500,00 million. Simultaneously the administration is claiming that up to 12,500 state workers could retire by mid-2022. Let us be clear: There are some in the Lamont administration and in the Legislature that view this as an opportunity to further shrink the workforce. We must stand up

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PICTURED: Members from the 15 SEBAC unions joined together in January to prepare for 2022.

Council 400 Schedules Out-of-State Virtual Meeting

Get Your Questions Answered by UnitedHealthcare and OSC Representatives

Back by popular demand, Anna Vita, UnitedHealthcare Senior Client Service Manager, and Rae-Ellen Roy, Assistant Director of Health Policy and Benefits Division, are scheduled to join us once more, but now with a focus on our out-of-state members. This meeting will explain your healthcare and pension benefit and offer you an opportunity to ask your benefit questions!

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February is McCusker Month!

Don't Miss You & Your Chapter's Chance to Donate!

Over the past several decades, CSEA SEIU Local 2001 has had the honor of awarding millions of dollars in educational scholarships to the children and grandchildren of our members.

These scholarships have helped address the ever-increasing cost of higher education to ensure that our working-class children have a pathway to further opportunities.

2020 proved to be the most unique and challeng-

ing year for the McCusker Committee- they faced these obstacles head on and found new and creative ways to fundraise and get through the hundreds of applications.

The McCusker Scholarship is made up solely from donations from our members and chapters. Every February the McCusker Committee kicks off the year with a call for donations because without our member's donations the scholarship would not exist. This year

we hope to be able to award more scholarships than before, so please help us get to our goal! You can donate via GoFundMe or by checks. Thank you in advance for your support and consideration.

To Donate through GoFundMe:
gofundme.com/f/McCusker-Fund
Or mail your checks to:
CSEA McCusker Scholarship Fund
760 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

CSEA Reach Tentative Agreement with First Student

Member Actions at Work Results in Win

CSEA School Bus members win a big victory against First Student in achieving a Tentative Agreement. The three yards worked together across county lines to collectively bargain and fight for a contract that respects all workers. The New Haven, New London and West Hartford Bus Yards set industry standards for school bus drivers across the state when the three yards organized the largest negotiations campaign in the School Bus Council.

Throughout the pandemic and school shutdowns members continued to attend negotiations via ZOOM and pressed forward with their agenda. When the Employer pushed back and would not budge during negotiations, the members in the three

yards rallied together in solidarity. After having done a member action where all employees reported to work wearing purple, the Boss' attitude quickly shifted and shortly after on December 21st, 2020, the parties reached a Tentative Agreement.

The Tentative Agreement includes, worker safety, protections, hours & wage security, as well as increases to the previously under matched 401(k), a path to earn up to \$29/hr after only 5 years of service, additional holiday pay, new and increased attendance bonuses, along with other benefits being equally offered to all bus yards. Congratulations drivers and monitors on your hard fought win.

CT Retiree Income Tax Exemption

Read the Retiree Team Column to Learn About This Exemption

Tax Season is nearly upon us! And while our members will soon be working diligently to file before the April 15th deadline, many members living in Connecticut now have the opportunity to take advantage of a tax exemption for the second year.

CSEA's Retiree Team has been working closely with the

Department of Revenue Service and Senator Saud Anwar to help answer your questions, despite not being professional tax preparers ourselves.

Please read page 6 for any and all information CSEA has been able to uncover about the Retiree Income Tax Exemption for CT State Income Taxes.

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Visit our union's website at: CSEA-CT.com

Postmaster: Please forward address changes to:
CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

Don't Miss Another Email! Update Your Information

Please visit bit.ly/UpdateCSEA TODAY to update your contact information for our database!



Meetings
And News

State Retiree Threat Corner

Hear the most recent threats against your benefits & learn how you can stop them!

Council 400 Election Slates

Check out Page 6 & 7 for information about your chapter's election

As the legislative session begins, we are already seeing our opponents put forth dangerous, yet unrealistic bills and resolutions that CSEA is

already working on squashing. One of the proposed bills is from Senator Alex Kasser, "An Act Concerning the Recalculation or Capping of Certain

State Employee Pensions" (Proposed Bill Number SB 57).

As a member your dues help to fund our member lobbying efforts to ensure your

benefits are protected and expanded. To join the Legislative Action Committee, please email CSEARetirees@csea760.com & check out csea-ct.com

COVID-19 Vaccine & Scams

All the information CSEA has about vaccine phase 1b

We know that you have questions about Governor Lamont's recent announcement that residents over the age of 75 would be included in 1b rollout. While CSEA SEIU Local 2001 does not have a role in our member's vaccine scheduling, we wanted to compile all of the information to help get you the facts.

and Drug Administration (FDA). The State of Connecticut COVID-19 Response team has the most up to date information related to vaccination availability, eligibility, and scheduling are available on their website: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccinations>.

Note that it will take time to roll out vaccines and more information and vaccination events will be announced in the coming weeks.

The following is a message from the Retirement Division:

"COVID-19 vaccines are an important step in slowing the spread of the disease and are authorized by the U.S. Food

If you don't have access to internet access can call Connecticut's COVID Vaccine

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Council 400 Hosting Healthcare & Pension Representatives

UnitedHealthcare and OSC Will Present Benefit Information & Answer Questions From Members

By: Bernadette Conway & Kevin Sullivan

The monthly virtual meetings have been very popular and helpful to members! Normally, February is the month that our Retiree Organizer visits our chapters in Florida and they are able to meet with insurance provider representatives.

We will miss meeting with you in person this year, but are planning the February Monthly Virtual meeting especially for out of state retirees. Anna Vita, Senior Client Service Manager for UnitedHealthcare, and Rae-Ellen Roy from the State of CT Retiree Benefits Division will be in attendance at

our Wednesday, February 17th meeting at 4:00 PM to answer questions for our out of state members, but all are welcome to attend, even if you're shivering here in CT your questions will be answered!

NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH AT 4PM SPEAKERS:

Anna Vita, UnitedHealthcare Senior Client Service Manager, and Rae-Ellen Roy, Assistant Director of Health Policy and Benefits Division. Emails with a link to the meeting will be sent out to everyone we have emails for, but if you are not able

to join online, you can call in: **Dial 1-929-205-6099 then Meeting ID: 963 3232 8607**

If you are not receiving our emails and would like to be added to our list so you can receive notification of virtual meetings, send an email to info@csea760.com with your name and we will make sure you are added to our email list!

Is there a special guest you would like to see at our monthly virtual meetings? Is there a specific subject you would like more information about? Contact me and let me know at bconway@csea760.com!

Medicare Part B Reimbursement & Social Security COLA Process

We want to make sure that you receive your full Medicare Part B Reimbursement! Retirees on Medicare receive their Social Security Statement by the end of the year.

On your Social Security Statement it will show how much you will be paying for your Part B. The basic amount for 2021 is \$148.50 (or \$445.50 quarterly), which is what most retirees pay. If your Social Security statement shows that is what you will be paying, you don't need

to submit anything - the State will automatically adjust your Part B Reimbursement to that amount for January 1st of 2021.

If your Social Security statement shows that you are paying an amount different from \$148.50 (higher or lower), or that you are paying an amount for Part D, then you will need to submit a copy of your Social Security statement to be reimbursed the correct amount. You should make a copy of the front page showing the

amounts you pay and write your State Employee ID number above your name (you can find your state employee ID number on your pension pay stub).

You can submit it two ways, by sending in the mail or by email. To send it by mail, send it to:

UnitedHealthcare Benefits Services PO Box 740221 Atlanta, GA 30374

It is a good idea to send it certified so you have proof that you sent it and the date you sent it. You can

also send it as an attachment

by email to DirectBill_KYOperations@uhc.com. Sending it by email is also proof of when you sent it.

You can also call to confirm they received it at 1-866-747-0048.

If you send it to them by February 28, 2021, it will be retroactive to January 1st of 2021. If it is received after that date, it will be adjusted after they receive it.

It is always a good idea to check your advice (what the

Comptroller's Office refers to as your pay stub) regularly so you know the amount you are being reimbursed. Since they no longer send out monthly advices, you will need to go online to review it at the Retiree Portal at <https://retirees.ct.gov>, or you can call them to have one sent to you at 860-702-3480, which will bring you to a menu - press "6" to leave a message to request a copy of the retiree direct deposit advice.

THE ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE BASIC PART B PREMIUM OF \$148.50 WILL BE IN THE

JANUARY PENSION CHECK. IF THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL IRMAA ADJUSTMENT FOR PART B OR PART D, IT MAY TAKE UP TO 60 DAYS FOR PROCESSING.

AS LONG AS YOU SUBMIT THE INFORMATION BY FEBRUARY 26TH DEADLINE, IT WILL BE RETROACTIVELY REIMBURSED TO THE BEGINNING OF 2021.

IF IT IS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE IT WILL BE REIMBURSED MOVING FORWARD FROM THE DATE THEY RECEIVE IT.

Important numbers to have on hand:

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528

Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537

Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: 1-800-922-2232

CSEA Retiree Organizer, Kevin Sullivan: 860-951-6614 x118

UnitedHealthcare: 1-888-803-9217

Oxford Health: 1-800-385-9055

Caremark: 1-800-318-2572

Cigna: 1-800-244-6224

HEP Care Management Solutions: 1-877-687-1448 or visit them at their portal: <https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx>

CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION

You are always a winner at CSECU!

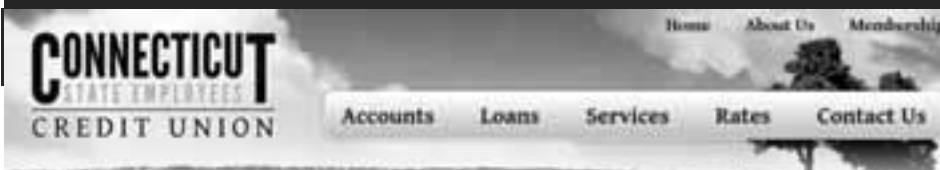
Get a Wheel of a Deal With a CSE Auto Loan

Right now is the perfect time to combine end-of-year car deals with a low-rate CSE auto loan! You can get up to 125% financing on the selling price, including Tax, Title, Warranty and Conveyance Fee.

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Find all the essential information about the products and services we have to offer. You can even print a loan application online! Best of all, it's accessible from your personal computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

www.CSECreditUnion.com

Closed New Year's Day
Friday, January 1st

Closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 18th

Dividend Rates - Fourth Quarter 2020

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	0.90%	0.90%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	0.25%	0.25%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	0.40%	0.40%

Minimum opening balance \$25.00. The annual percentage yield is accurate as of the last dividend declaration date. Rate may change after the account is opened. Fees or other conditions may reduce the earnings on the account.

7 Full Service Offices To Serve You

NORWICH Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich, CT 06306 (860) 889-7378	HARTFORD 84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 522-5388 (Savings) (860) 522-7147 (Loans)	NEW HAVEN 1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 (203) 397-2949
MIDDLETOWN Connecticut Valley Hospital P.O. Box 2485 Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 347-0479	STORRS 1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 (860) 429-9306	SOUTHBURY Southbury Training School P.O. Box 644 Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 267-7610
		NEWINGTON O'Neil Plaza 2434 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT 06111 (860) 667-7668

Hours: Main Office: Mon-Fri, 9^{am}-4^{pm} Branches: Mon-Fri, 9:30^{am}-4^{pm}
Drive-Up Teller (Hartford Only): Mon-Fri, 9^{am}-4^{pm}; Paydays Open Until 5^{pm}

Council 760

ATTENTION: Waterbury Food Service Workers, Lunchroom And Office Aides: CSEA SEIU Local 2002 has reached a tentative agreement for your bargaining unit.

Please reach out to your Staff Representative Rosa Salto at RSalto@csea760.com for more information.

NASHTU Pushes for Biden Support

By: Bob Rinker During the week of January 4th, the National Association of State Highway Transportation Unions (NASHTU) sent a letter to the incoming Biden Administration's Transportation Transition team urging support for NASHTU's long-standing legislative objectives. CSEA along with SEIU were founding members of the NASHTU in order to influence federal legislation as it impacts Federal Transportation funds.

cost effectiveness evaluations required by the Clean Contracting law passed in 2007 showed that **all** engineering and design services are less expensive than outside consultants. These cost effectiveness evaluations were done by Connecticut's own Department of Transportation. DOT won't say how much it costs taxpayers, but CSEA has taken those cost effective evaluations and applied them to current consultant contracts. **The results show waste of over a \$100 million per year.**

Specifically, NASHTU recommended that the Biden Administration support a requirement to perform a cost comparison analysis prior to outsourcing transportation services. State and local departments of transportation spend hundreds of millions of federal dollars every year on private contracts for engineering and related transportation services without competitive bidding and without determining if these contracts are cost-effective and the best to protect the public interest. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has concluded that outsourcing is "more expensive than performing work in-house, particularly for engineering services." Several states have also analyzed outsourcing by their DOTs and concluded outsourcing engineering and design services can cost two to three times as much as using in-house staff. In Connecticut,

NASHTU also asked the Biden Administration to support requiring public employees to perform the construction inspection on federally-funded transportation projects. On transportation projects, construction inspectors are the eyes, ears and voice of the public. Public inspectors ensure that construction standards are met, that projects meet safety requirements, and that the materials used will stand the test of time. Their role is to ensure that the motoring public gets what they pay for and public safety and the public interest are protected.

President Elect Joe Biden has said that infrastructure investment will be a key priority for his Administration. NASHTU looks forward to working with the Biden Administration and Congress to achieve these important public interest objectives.



CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees

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- Roland Bishop.....Secretary/Treasurer
- David Glidden.....Executive Director
- Drew E. Phelan.....Communications Specialist
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INSERTION DEADLINE: 1st of prior month.

MAILING ADDRESS: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106; PHONES: (860) 951-6614, toll-free: (800) 894-9479, FAX: (860) 951-3526; INTERNET: www.csea-ct.com.

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Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

Do you know how to limit what you owe the IRS?

Get free advice from the expert on the business of Family Child Care, Tom Copeland.

Union Meeting and Free Webinar "Record Keeping and Taxes in the Age of COVID-19"

The meeting will be by Zoom. Register in advance at this link:

[zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0pcO-ppjljHtWUZL0cn-LVqFf8K5qk3tFUx](https://zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/tj0pcO-ppjljHtWUZL0cn-LVqFf8K5qk3tFUx)
Date: Saturday

**February 6:
Time: 9:15 (Sign-in) - 1:00 PM.**

The meeting and workshop will be interpreted into Spanish.

Tip: Licensed providers, do you have an EIN (Employee Identification Number)? We recommend you get one. Using an EIN can help you avoid identity theft. You do not need professional help with this, go to the IRS website for free instruc-

tions and choose "sole proprietor." Here is the link:
<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/how-to-apply-for-an-ein>

¿Sabe cómo limitar lo que le debe al IRS?

Obtenga asesoramiento gratuito del experto en el negocio del cuidado infantil familiar, Tom Copeland.

Reunión sindical y seminario web gratuito

"Mantenimiento de registros e impuestos en la era de COVID-19"

La reunión será por Zoom. Regístrese con anticipación en este enlace:
[zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0pcO-ppjljHtWUZL0cn-LVqFf8K5qk3tFUx](https://zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/tj0pcO-ppjljHtWUZL0cn-LVqFf8K5qk3tFUx)
Fecha: Sábado 6 de febrero:

Hora: 9:15 (inicio de sesión) - 1:00 p.m.

La reunión y el taller se interpretarán al español.

Consejo: Proveedores con licencia, ¿tiene un EIN (Número de identificación de empleado)?

Le recomendamos que obtenga uno. Usar un EIN puede ayudarlo a evitar el robo de identidad. No necesita ayuda profesional con esto, vaya al sitio web del IRS para obtener instrucciones gratuitas y elija "propietario único." Aquí está el enlace:
<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/how-to-apply-for-an-ein>



Tom Copeland stands with Family Childcare Members after his last in-person presentation (pre-COVID).

SEBAC 2022 Preparation

continued from Page 1 against these opponents.

We must demand major investment in the vital public services our communities need in order to meet this unique and challenging moment of crisis, but we also need strong contracts for the workers delivering these services. By championing the policies that reduce the extreme levels of economic and

racial inequities while simultaneously establishing a fair and progressive tax structure, we can create a more equitable and stronger future for our state.

If we don't choose a recovery for all and instead move towards an austerity approach, then we will continue to weaken the foundation of our State's economy while undoubtedly worsening the income inequal-

ity, resulting in an unsustainable, K-shaped recovery that only benefits the ultra-wealthy.

It's time to choose a recovery that is truly for all so that our State can come back stronger, collectively.



PICTURED: State union workers share the stories of the services they provide to our State.

Where Have You Gone Joe DiMaggio?

By: Bob Rinker "Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio? Our nation turns its lonely eyes to you... What's that you say Mrs. Robinson? Joltin Joe has left and gone away..."

These are the lyrics from a Simon and Garfunkel song recorded on February 2, 1968. The same can be said of the newspaper, the *Hartford Courant*, Connecticut's paper of record. Where have you gone???

The *Hartford Courant*, the longest continuously published newspaper in the country, is on a death spiral. The overlords of the Tribune Company and the hedge fund guys seeking to buy it out are having a fire sale of its assets. The overlords have stopped printing the newspaper in Hartford. They have abandoned their modernized print operation and have laid off 150 workers. The newspaper will now be printed in Springfield, Massachusetts; so much for getting the latest news. The overlords have even put up for sale their iconic building in Hartford's Capitol district.

Over the years, we have seen the changes. Remember, if you were a sports fan, you could pick up the *Courant* in the morning and read the late sports scores from the West Coast? Today, you are lucky to find the score of UConn men's or

women's basketball game if the game started after 8:00 p.m. Remember when the *Courant* had local bureaus and in your regional edition you could read stories about what was going on in your town? Today, the B section as it is called is more about obituaries than local news. As pointed out to me by a retiree member if it were not for the obits (you pay to have an obituary published in the *Courant*), there would be nothing in the B section. You are lucky to read one story a month about your local town.

There are two staples of a good newspaper; its reporters and its editorial board. Its reporting staff is a shadow of their former selves. The Capitol Bureau used to have five reporters and an editor. Today, they have Chris Keating. Many of the reporters have departed to Hearst Media that publishes the *CT Post* and the *CT Mirror* (online newspaper). There used to be a reporter in every town in the Hartford area. There was even once a labor reporter. Yes, a labor reporter that reported on issues affecting the labor movement in Connecticut. The labor reporting is now done by the business reporter.

There is no longer an editorial board. In fact, there are no longer

daily editorials written by the editorial staff. I remember the days when some of us state employee union leaders we made our pilgrimage to the editorial board room of the *Courant* to debate and sometimes argue with the editorial board staff about its editorial content on state employees. Now, on at least three days a week, the editorials are content bought from the *Tribune Content Services* or the *New York Times*. It used to be a pleasure reading locally written Op-Eds and letters to the editors. I may not have agreed with them, but it gave me a sense of what Nutmeggers were thinking about relative to current events.

The *Courant* has effectively contracted out its newspaper. Not only buying editorial content, it buys news stories from the *CT Mirror* and other sources. The other day I was reading a news story from Keith Phaneuf in the *Courant* and I realized that it seemed familiar to me. I then realized it was the same story published in the *CT Mirror* two days before it appeared in the *Courant*. The *Courant* used to have a policy that if a story was published in another newspaper the *Courant* would not cover the story. It depended on its reporters to get the story first.

Andrew Krieg, a former

reporter for the *Courant* wrote the book, *Spiked: How Chain Management Corrupted American's Oldest Newspaper*. The book was published in 1988. So we should have seen the demise of the *Courant* long ago. The reason the book was of interest to CSEA members is that it contains a chapter about our P-4 bridge safety inspectors. The book detailed how the then editor and publisher had the reporters make up a story that our members were not fully conducting bridge safety inspections. The reason for the falsehoods was so that the *Courant* could win a Pulitzer Prize for reporting like its sister paper, the *Kansas City Star*. While Governor O'Neill called for the firing of our members based upon the story, we defended our members and none of the discipline held up, but our members went to hell and back.

I still get the *Courant* every day, but fewer people do. My subscription on a yearly basis is over \$800. The solution for the *Courant* is for it to gain local control and ownership of the newspaper. Or pretty soon, its' use will be to as my grandmother described some newspaper in her days as, "It is only good for lining the bird cage, and wrapping dead fish."

Vaccine Phase 1b Update for Member 75 and Older

continued from Page 1 Assistance Line at 877-918-2224.”

CSEA has compiled further information that was verified at the time of this printing. Please note that this is a fluid situation and information is changing rapidly. Your healthcare provider and other vaccine providers are your best contact for up-to-date information.

Visit our website for links referenced below to learn more about vaccine distribution, scheduling your vaccine appointment and the recent scams you should be aware of. If you have any questions, there are relevant numbers listed in each section. This is a fluid situation so we advise members to reach out to these contacts as well as their primary care physician for questions. CSEA SEIU Local 2001 is not able to provide vaccine advice, answer COVID questions, or assist with vaccine scheduling.

Vaccine Distribution - What We Know

Governor Lamont has announced that 1b of Connecticut's COVID-19 vaccine rollout will begin on Monday, January 18th and will now include residents in the state that are over the age of 75. If you are in this category, you can start scheduling appointments to receive the vaccine now. **WARNING:** Spots are filling up quickly. Here is the estimated breakdown of the 1b cohort: Residents over the age of 75 are estimated to account for about 277,000 individuals; Residents and staff of congregate settings are estimated to account for 50,000 individuals, and; Frontline essential workers represent the largest category with an estimated 325,00 individuals.

How to Make a Vaccine

Appointment for Eligible

Ib Individuals

The following is from the Governor's press release on January 14th: Healthcare Provider: Many residents have already been or will be contacted to schedule an appointment by their healthcare provider if their provider is participating in the state's vaccine program. Not all providers are administering the vaccine. A list of participating providers is available at ct.gov/covidvaccine. Residents are urged not to contact their physician or healthcare provider directly for COVID vaccine appointments.

Online: There are a few ways for you to schedule your vaccine appointment online and depending on your preferred provider location, you'll want to be sure to choose the correct portal. If you are interested in being vaccinated at one of the three big medical institutions (UCONN Health, Hartford Healthcare and Yale New Haven Health), then you will need to register and book an appointment through their individual portals. Note: Each provider requires registration through MyChart or MyChartPLUS. Click on the each provider link for more information: UCONN Health (locations in Farmington, CT) Dedicated scheduling phone number (860) 679-5589 Question and Vaccine issues call center (860) 679-8888 Click [HERE](#) for step-by-step instructions to UCONN Health MyChart and Vaccine Scheduling (required for scheduling an appointment) Hartford Healthcare (several locations throughout state) Dedicated scheduling phone number (860) 827-7690 Click [HERE](#) to be brought to the MyChartPLUS registration form (required for scheduling an appointment)

Yale New Haven Health (several locations throughout state)

Click [HERE](#) to be brought to the MyChart registration for (required for scheduling an appointment)

Once you've created your MyChart, schedule your appointment [HERE](#)

Other providers that don't include the list above are using the state's Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) to schedule vaccine appointments. More information can be accessed online [HERE](#). Note: VAMS providers do not require the MyChart or MyChart-Plus required at the above facilities. VAMS is currently scheduling for the following provider locations:

Trinity Health of New England (hospitals and other locations)

Griffin Hospital
Nuvance Health
Stamford Hospital

Bristol Hospital
Local Health Departments
Federally Qualified Health Centers

Telephone: Those without internet access can call Connecticut's COVID Vaccine Appointment Assistance Line at 877-918-2224.

The phone system was created in partnership with the Department of Public Health and United Way of Connecticut and is specifically targeted to provide support for eligible vaccine recipients who have limited technology access, or who have language, disability, or other barriers that could prevent them from using existing self-scheduling options successfully. The line will take calls on Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will offer a call-back option when all contact specialists are busy serving other callers. The team will aim to return calls as soon as possible, with the goal of same-day response. Please be patient as scheduling an appointment may take time.

The Second Dose

When you arrive at your appointment for your first vaccine dose, you will be given further information about scheduling for your second dose. Be sure to talk to the facility that provided your first vaccination dose with any questions about the second dose. You will have to register again just like you did for your first shot. Be sure you register through the same provider that you received the first shot from.

Don't Be Fooled by COVID Vaccine Scams

In the past CSEA has warned Council 400 about Social Security and stimulus check scams, but now we regret to have to warn you about COVID-19 vaccine scams.

There are only a limited number of federally approved vaccines and treatments. As of 1/16/21 there are only two available and approved by the US FDA - Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine. Do not fall for any scammers offering "miracle cure" treatments or medication to prevent or cure the virus. Furthermore, be sure to review the below advice from the CT Department of Consumer Protections: No one from a legitimate vaccine distribution site will ever ask for your Social Security number or bank information in order to receive a vaccine.

You will never have to pay to get early access to the vaccine.

While you may be asked to provide health insurance information when you receive the vaccine, you do not need health insurance to receive the vaccine.

You will never be asked to pay to put your name on a list to receive the vaccine. Scammers may look like a legitimate business or organization online in an effort to take any of this secure information- don't fall for it!

Make sure that the emails you receive (like this one) come from a known and trusted organization and before clicking any links or opening any attachments make sure the email looks "right".

Is the email address from the correct domain? Does it contain any spelling errors? Does the email ask for sensitive information that you would normally never provide?

Is it poorly written? Does it contain grammatical mistakes?

Is there a suspicious attachment? When you hover your mouse over any links, does the web address lead you to where you expected?

Is the message designed to make you panic?

If you become aware of a vaccine-related scam or believe you or someone you love may be the victim of a scam, you should file a complaint with state and local authorities. Suspected fraud or business-related scams can be reported to the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection by visiting ct.gov/DCP or sending an email to dcp.complaints@ct.gov. Suspicious activities related to vaccine distribution practices or concerns for public health can be reported to local law enforcement or local public health officials.

Next Steps

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is an exciting step, but you still must be careful. Even after you get your second vaccination (remember two are required!), you will still need to wear a mask, wash your hands frequently and social distance. CSEA SEIU Local 2001's Union Hall will remain close as we wait for notice about vaccination for staff. Meetings will continue to be held virtually and we will be sure to keep you updated as things change.

Legislative Update From Political Director, Daniel I. Medress

The 2021 legislative session of the Connecticut General Assembly started on January 6 with the swearing in of representatives and senators. Although this

ceremony took place at the Capitol – both inside and outside of the building as part of the safety protocols in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic – it marks the

beginning of a legislative session that will look unlike any we have seen before.

Unless there is a significant ramp up in the distribution of the vaccine, the likelihood

is that most of this session, scheduled to adjourn on June 9, will be conducted virtually.

Right now, you can watch live streams of committee meetings on YouTube and, when

public hearings commence, people will be able to sign up online and testify via Zoom or by phone. For more information about legislation and committee meetings,

visit the General Assembly's website at cga.ct.gov or our state's government and public policy broadcaster, the Connecticut Network, at ct-n.com.

Legislative Update From Political Director, Daniel I. Medress (Continued)

Even though this session might look different than in years past, it still holds fundamental importance to every member of CSEA. In

early February, Governor Ned Lamont will submit his proposed budget which will be followed by public hearings in the Appropriations

Committee. And, while CSEA members will be working to pass a range of different critical pieces of legislation during this

session, as we all know, it is the biennial budget that impacts each and every one of us. Contact your staff representative about

getting involved in CSEA's work to pass a fair budget that funds our jobs and protects the services we provide.

CT State Retiree Income Tax Exemption

continued from Page 1

What is the Retiree Income Tax Exemption?

CSEA understands that our retirees are on a fixed budget—and that soaring medical costs paired with the increased cost of living makes handling expenses while aging difficult. During the 2018 legislative session, CSEA advocated for a bill aimed at making that fixed budget a little easier to deal with. The bill increased the threshold for Social Security income exemptions as well as implemented a new exemption, starting at 14% and increasing progressively until it reaches 100% in 2024, for pension and some annuity income at the same increased threshold. The legislature voted to institute this bill to first be implemented starting with your 2019 tax returns.

The following schedule impacts pension and annuity income for singles and couples with adjusted gross income (AGI) levels of up to \$75,000 and \$100,000, respectively.

TAX YEAR	% EXEMPTION
2019	14% (LAST YEAR)
2020	28% (THIS YEAR)
2021	42%
2022	56%
2023	84%
2024	100%

The legislation also increases the threshold for 100% exemption for income taxes on Social Security from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for singles

and \$60,000 to \$100,000 for couples.

What is eligible under the tax exemption?

Social Security income is eligible for at least a 75% exemption (100% depending on your income), and employer-based pensions, and some annuities are eligible for a 14% tax exemption this year (depending on your income) which include: 401(k), 403(b) and Governmental 457(b) plans reported on line 4D on the Federal 1040-form.

Who is eligible for the tax exemption?

First off, this legislation only covers Connecticut residents filing their Connecticut State Income Taxes. Historically, in Connecticut, pension and annuity income was taxed 100% (or with a 0% exemption), however, starting in 2019, for those that have a Federal AGI below \$75,000 for single filers (\$100,000 for joint filers), retired Connecticut residents will be able to deduct a percentage of their pensions and annuity income when calculating their State AGI. The deduction is 28% for this year and will continue to increase annually until 2025 when it reaches 100% exemption.

If your Federal AGI is at or above this amount (either as a single or joint filer) you will not be eligible for any exemption.

Now, let's discuss the Social Security portion. Historically, Connecticut exempted income tax from Social Security income that the federal government exempts, as well as some of the Social Security income that the federal government taxed for those who had a Federal AGI under \$50,000 for single filers and \$60,000 for joint filers. For those with Federal AGI's over these thresholds, Connecticut offered a 75% exemption, rather than the full 100%. Starting in 2019, however, the legislature raised this threshold from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for single filers and from \$60,000 to \$100,000 for joint filers. If your Federal AGI is at or above this amount (either as a single or joint filer) you will still be eligible for a 75% exemption.

How can I be sure to get the exemption if I'm eligible?

When filling out your 2020 Form CT-1040, Line 48b: 28% of Pension or Annuity Income. If your filing status is single, married filing separately, or head of household with federal AGI for the taxable year of less than \$75,000 or married filing jointly with federal AGI of less than \$100,000, and you receive income from certain pensions and annuities, such as from a defined benefit plan, 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) plans, you qualify for this subtraction modification. To determine the amount to enter on this line, begin with the amount reported

on federal Form 1040, Line 4d, or federal Form 1040-SR, Line 4d, Taxable amount of pensions and annuities. From the amount on Line 4d, subtract military retirement pay, Tier 1 and Tier 2 railroad retirement benefits, and Connecticut teachers' retirement pay. Multiply the result by 28%. Enter the amount on this line. Military retirement pay and Tier 1 and Tier 2 railroad retirement benefits are fully exempt from Connecticut income tax, and should not be included in this calculation. The subtraction modification for these benefits are reported on Lines 44 and 43, respectively, on the Connecticut return. Taxpayers who receive income from the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board are already allowed to exempt 25% of that income from Connecticut income tax on Line 45 of the Connecticut return.

CSEA does not have tax professionals on hand, and are therefore unable to advise our members on their individual filing, so if you have specific tax questions you need to consult a tax professional or contact the Department of Revenue Services directly at (860) 297-5962. It is recommended that you call during off-peak hours to minimize your wait time throughout tax season which are Tuesday-Friday from 8:30am-10:00am and 3:00pm-4:30pm, Mondays are their busiest call day.

Council 400 Chapter Election Slates

Because of the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, CSEA/SEIU, Local 2001 took the action of delaying the chapter and council elections from 2020 to 2021 for the safety of our members through a Special Convention this past June. Now with the pandemic continuing to make meeting in-person unsafe, we need to arrange for an alternate option to hold elections in the coming year.

Every consideration needs to be given for all members to have access to vote and to do so safely. Because of the varying degrees of access to and mas-

tery of technology and email, utilizing the most widely used communication for retirees, the CSEA News, makes the most sense.

Each chapter nominating committee has been contacted and their report for the upcoming chapter elections are listed below.

If you would like to nominate someone or yourself for a position in your chapter for Chapter President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, Council Delegate or Alternate Delegate, or Auditor, please contact Bernadette Conway at bconway@csea760.com or 860-951-6614,

ext. 112 by close of business Friday, February 26th. She will get the information to the chapter Nominating Committee.

Under the normal circumstances of an election at a meeting in person, Nominations from the Floor would happen at this point in the election. By contacting Bernadette Conway that will take the place of the "Nominations from the Floor" process. For the chapters with no contested elections, if there are no nominations, the below slates will be duly elected by acclamation.

If a chapter election is contested, there will be an election for

that chapter with ballots by mail.

Chapter 401 is allowed eight Delegates and three Alternate Delegates.

PATRICE PETERSON
Chapter President
SHARON D. MOUNDS
Chapter Vice President
ALPHONSE MAROTTA
Chapter Asst. VP
LAWRENCE LUNDEN
Chapter Treasurer
JOAN MORGAN
Chapter Secretary
CHARLES DOBSON, JR
Chapter Auditor
SHELLEY OSTOP
Chapter Auditor
CHARLES WOOLSEY
Chapter Auditor
PATRICE PETERSON
Council Delegate
SHARON MOUNDS
Council Delegate
THOMAS CONNOLLY

Council Delegate
WINSTON HEIMER
Council Delegate
LAWRENCE LUNDEN
Council Delegate
STANLEY SOBIESKI
Council Delegate
CHARLES WOOLSEY
Council Delegate
STUART MAHLER
Council Delegate
SHELLY OSTOP
Council Alternate
JEAN MORNINGSTAR
Council Alternate
RUTH CION
Council Alternate
Chapter 402 is allowed five Delegates and three Alternate Delegates.
LINDA ALBANESE
Chapter President
CAROL CALSETTA
Chapter Vice President
GINNYVERHOFF
Chapter Treasurer

MARY ORSILLO
Chapter Secretary
MICHAEL BRADBURY
Chapter Auditor
JOHN SCOTT
Chapter Auditor
LINDA ALBANESE
Council Delegate
CAROL CALSETTA
Council Delegate
EILEEN FERRIS
Council Delegate
JOHN SCOTT
Council Delegate
DAWN GALLAGHER
Council Delegate
Chapter 403 is allowed seven Delegates and three Alternate Delegates.
CAROL BURGESS
Chapter President
ROSEMARY BRULOTTE
Chapter Vice President
GAIL CARR

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Chapter Treasurer EILEEN WILKINSON	gates and three Alternates Delegates.	KEVIN LYNCH Council Delegate	gates and three Alternates Delegates.	Chapter President DOUGLAS SMITH	Chapter 408 held their election in March and chose their nine Delegates and three Alternates Delegates as...
Chapter Secretary ROSE BRULOTTE	JOSEPH FORMICA Chapter President	DENISE LYNCH Council Delegate	DONALD GLADDING Chapter President	Chapter Vice President SHEILA YEE	MARLEEN DUTRA Chapter President
Chapter Auditor EILEEN WILKINSON	MICHAEL O'BRIEN Chapter Vice President	ELLEN BEATTY Council Alternate	FRANCIS DUQUETTE Chapter Vice President	Treasurer MARJORIE BROWN	CHRISTINE ASHE Chapter Vice President
Chapter Auditor CAROL BURGESS	EDMUND MCRAE Chapter Assistant Vice President	FRANK CANNATELLI Council Alternate	KATHRYN CASEY Chapter Treasurer	Chapter Secretary GERALDINE PHILLIPS	DONNA CLAUSON Chapter Treasurer
Council Delegate NANCY BRAYMAN	JOSEPH CARTA Chapter Treasurer	Chapter 410 is allowed seven Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.	FRED DUNN Chapter Auditor	Chapter Asst. Secretary DONALD LEVENSON	DONNA CLAUSON Chapter Treasurer
Council Delegate PATRICIA MACVEIGH	WALTER COX Chapter Assistant Treasurer	AMELIA SMITH Chapter President	CHRISTOPHER BURKE Chapter Auditor	Chapter Auditor CHRISTINE KRZEMIEN	DONNA CLAUSON Chapter Secretary
Council Delegate GUY BROWN	WAYNE DUFFY Chapter Secretary	ROBERT RINKER Chapter Vice President	FRED DUNN Chapter Auditor	Chapter Auditor RICHARD KERRIGAN	MERRILL BEAN Chapter Auditor
Council Delegate ROSE BRULOTTE	JOAN HOLLEY I Chapter Asst. Secretary	REBECCA SMITH Chapter Treasurer	THOMAS WELCH Chapter Auditor	Council Delegate MARJORIE BROWN	DOROTHY EATON Chapter Auditor
Council Delegate GAIL CARR	JOSEPH FORMICA Council Delegate	GEORGIANNA EASTWOOD Chapter Asst. Treasurer	DONALD GLADDING Council Delegate	Council Delegate LESTER SHAPIRO	MARLEEN DUTRA Council Delegate
Council Delegate PAULA CHARTIER	JOAN HOLLEY Council Delegate	ROGER IVES Chapter Secretary	TOM WELCH Council Delegate	Council Delegate JOHN KNAFF	CHRISTINE ASHE Council Delegate
Council Delegate Chapter 404 is allowed seven Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.	EDMUND MCRAE Council Delegate	JANICE Chapter Auditor	KATHRYN CASEY Council Delegate	Council Delegate NANCY DRISCOLL	PATRICIA CHAMBERLAND Council Delegate
JOHN QUINN Chapter President	MIKE O'BRIEN Council Delegate	ROBERT RINKER Chapter Vice President	FRED DUNN Council Delegate	Council Delegate DOUGLAS SMITH	DONNA CLAUSON Council Delegate
RONALD CHASSE Chapter Vice President	JOSEPH CARTA Council Delegate	OSCAR GOMEZ Chapter Auditor Alternate	FRANCIS DUQUETTE Council Delegate	Council Delegate MONICA KNAFF	ANITA LEIBOWITZ Council Delegate
JOHN BUTKUS Chapter Treasurer	WAYNE DUFFY Council Delegate	AMELIA SMITH Council Delegate	Chapter 414 is allowed five Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.	Council Alternate SHEILA YEE	FRANCES PAQUIN Council Delegate
ROGER O'TOOLE Chapter Asst. Treasurer	WALTER COX Council Delegate	ROGER IVES Council Delegate	KAREN PINEMAN Chapter President	Council Alternate BEVERLY WASHINGTON	SUSAN CHVIRKO Council Delegate
SUSAN MIRABITO Chapter Secretary	JOEL KARABEINIKOFF Council Delegate	ROBERT RINKER Council Delegate	WILLIAM BARBER JR Chapter Vice President	Council Alternate *This is a contested election for Chapter President. Ballots will be sent by mail to chapter members.	DOROTHY EATON Council Delegate
JOHN QUINN Council Delegate	JOHN PAPPY Council Alternate	MARCO ARENAS Council Delegate	GEORGE WESTON Chapter Treasurer	Chapter 418 is allowed five Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.	MERRILL BEAN Council Delegate
ANTHONY GWIZADOWSKI Council Delegate	Chapter 407 is allowed five Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.	OSCAR GOMEZ Council Delegate	CHARLOTTE STEPTOE Chapter Asst. Secretary	WILLIAM SEARLE Chapter President	JUDITH ORTIZ Council Alternate
MARY LYNDA MAZZAFERRO Council Delegate	CAROL DONOFRIO Chapter President	SEBASTIAN PUGLISI Chapter President	HELEN BILAK Chapter Auditor	ELIZABETH MARAFINO Chapter First Vice President	Chapter 417 held their election in March and chose their five Delegates and three Alternates Delegates as...
MARIA MIRABILIO Council Delegate	CAROLE ALEXANDER Chapter Vice President	MARGE KAGAN Chapter Vice President	DAVID HOFFMAN Chapter Auditor	FELIPE FLORES Chapter Second Vice President	CATHY TOSCANO Chapter President
SUSAN MIRABITO Council Delegate	ROSE MARIE BEPKO Chapter Treasurer	M JOYAL GUTIS Chapter Treasurer	JAMES SERKEY Chapter Auditor	RAYMOND MERCIK Chapter Treasurer	CHARLES BANNON Chapter Vice President
RICHARD ALDRIDGE Council Delegate	ROSE MARIE BEPKO Chapter Secretary	JOHN FRANCOLINI Chapter Auditor	KAREN PINEMAN Council Delegate	MUSHIBA Chapter Treasurer	DONNA JAMUL Chapter Treasurer
BEVERLY STODDARD Council Delegate	MARIE IANNUCCI Chapter Auditor	MARGE KAGAN Chapter Auditor	CHARLOTTE STEPTOE Council Delegate	ALICE BURSTEIN Chapter Secretary	LAURA BROOKMAN Chapter Asst. Treasurer
Chapter 405 is allowed nine Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.	CAROL DONOFRIO Council Delegate	FRANK ARUTE Chapter Auditor	GEORGE WESTON Council Delegate	ELAINE FOLKERS Chapter Auditor	ROBERTA DODD Chapter Secretary
RONALD OSOKOW Chapter President	MARY RADOCCCHIO Council Delegate	SEBASTIAN PUGLISI Chapter President	DEBRA BURDICK Council Delegate	ESTHER ALAIMO Chapter Auditor	LOIS ENGBLOM Chapter Asst. Secretary
WILLIAM HILL Chapter Vice President	GERALD ROGAN Council Delegate	MARGE KAGAN Chapter Auditor	Chapter 415 is allowed five Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.	MARILYN TYSZKA Council Delegate	ROBERT BORCHARD Chapter Auditor
WILLIAM MORICO Chapter Treasurer	MARGE BEPKO Council Delegate	SEBASTIAN PUGLISI Council Delegate	DNA MCEL DUFF Chapter President	WILLIAM SEARLE Council Delegate	LEON CORMIER Chapter Auditor
CHRISTINE ESPOSITO Chapter Secretary	Chapter 409 is allowed five Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.	JOY GUTIS Council Delegate	WILLIAM DORN Chapter Treasurer	BETTE MARAFINO Council Delegate	JOHN LESSOR Chapter Auditor
RONALD OSOKOW Council Delegate	DAVID WALSH Chapter President	BEVERLY MANNING Council Delegate	ED DALY Council Delegate	KATHLEEN BAVELAS Council Delegate	CATHY TOSCANO Council Delegate
CHRISTINE ESPOSITO Council Delegate	PAUL BEST Chapter Vice President	MICHAEL ROSSETTI Council Delegate	Chapter 416 is allowed six Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.	Two of our Council 400 chapters were able to complete their elections before COVID made it impossible to meet again, chapters 408 and 417, so they will not need to conduct their elections again.	KATHERINE KALWAT Council Delegate
WILLIAM HILL Council Delegate	JOHN HARMON Chapter Treasurer	JOHN FRANCOLINI Council Delegate	*RICHARD KERRIGAN Chapter President	Listed below are the results of their chapter elections:	DIANNE WOMACK Council Delegate
WILLIAM MORICO Council Delegate	KEVIN LYNCH Chapter Co-Treasurer	MARGE KAGAN Council Delegate	*JOHN KNAFF Chapter President		JOHN LESSOR Council Delegate
ANDREW GAMBARDELLA Council Delegate	ANTHONY MALTESE Chapter Secretary	ROBERT BRIGGAMAN Council Alternate			ROBIN DODD Council Alternate
Chapter 406 is allowed eight Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.	DAVID WALSH Council Delegate	FRANK ARUTE Council Alternate			
	SHEILA GARVEY Council Delegate	Chapter 412 is allowed five Delegates and three Alternates Delegates.			
	JOHN HARMON Council Delegate				

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