

## CSEA Members Join Fight For a "People's Budget"

*Along with allied organizations and unions, CSEA pushes for a Recovery for All*

On February 20th, unions, community organizations and allies joined together for a 150 car caravan and a 300 person socially-distanced protest in front of the Governor's Mansion to protest his recently announced biennial budget. Protesters,

geared with signs, car markers, megaphones, chants, and even a drone, rallied around the idea of a "People's Budget" that puts the needs of the working class first. A "People's Budget" means that state services and programs would be fully funded so that

for all. Missing from the Governor's budget was also a progressive tax structure which would finally force the ultra-wealthy -- like the 17 billionaires in our State -- to pay their fair share. Further actions will continue to take place across our State over the next several months, be sure CSEA has your email so that you can be properly notified.



our recovery from the pandemic, can truly be a recovery

PICTURED LEFT: Member activists protest at the Governor's Mansion

## Members Testify in an Array of Public Hearings

*Moving Stories Punctuate Hours of Virtual Hearings in 2021 General Session*

With public hearings in full swing, our CSEA members have been busy drafting testimony and learning the ropes of this new virtual world. Below, please read a few excerpts from some of our member's most

effective, moving pieces of testimony.

Kevin O'Meara, Corrections Officer, testifying in support of Senate Bill 666: An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation Benefits For Certain *continue onto page 4*



PICTURED ABOVE: New London Bus Yard Members pose before their #PurpleAction day at work, pressuring the employer to listen to their concerns.

## Don't Miss Another Email! Update Your Information

Please visit [bit.ly/UpdateCSEA](https://bit.ly/UpdateCSEA) TODAY to update your contact information for our database!

## CT Retiree Tax Exemption

*Read the Retiree Team Column to Learn About This Retiree Income Tax 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 *continue onto page 6*

## Members Ratify Agreement with First Student

*Member Actions at Work Results in Win*

For the last several months we have updated you on the progress in our Bus Council where members are employed under First Student. For the first time ever, CSEA members demanded that rather than each of the three bus yards bargaining and negotiating on their own, for their specific bus yard, they negotiate together, under one union and one contract.

Since our first article back in November, these members have been busy with bus yard actions to bring the pressure to the employer. Last month we reported that CSEA School Bus members achieved a Tentative Agreement, and now we are very pleased to announce that agreement has been ratified.

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.

The Ratified Agreement includes, worker safety, protections, hours & wage security, as well as increases to the previously under matched retirement plan, 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. This achievement was made possible through your hard work and actions.

Visit our union's website at: [CSEA-CT.com](https://www.csea-ct.com)

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





Meetings  
And News

# State Retiree Threat Corner

## Learn How to Fight Back Against These Threats!

As State Retirees, the threat to your benefits is a nonstop barrage of attacks from people like Red Jahncke, an ultra-wealthy 'businessman', who believes your modest retiree benefits are unsustainable

entitlements you don't deserve. Read an excerpt from his most recent op-ed, "Union members should worry more about their retirement benefits. For the first five years through July 2022, the

state contribution to SERS is exempt from the spending cap; thereafter, it isn't. Moreover, Lamont is requesting another \$100 million reduction in the state's contribution to SERF, proposing to "extend

SERS amortization transition by 3 years." (CT Examiner, 2/20/21) It's time for Council 400 to fight back, email Dphelan@csea760.com to write a letter to the editor in response.

## Council 400 Election Slates

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

## COVID-19 Vaccine

All the information CSEA has about vaccine phase 1b

At our February 17th monthly virtual meeting, we had Anna Vita from United Healthcare and Rae-Ellen Roy from the Retirement Division answering questions from retirees. They both suggested that when you go to receive your COVID vaccine you bring your Medicare card, as you might be asked for that.

I'm sure you all remember that when we switched to United Healthcare, you were

told to put your Medicare card away and that you should not submit that to doctors or pharmacies. However, when you go to receive your COVID vaccine, it is okay and appropriate to give your Medicare card. The COVID vaccine is no charge to you, and you should not pay a copay. However, they do need to bill insurance for the administering of the vaccine. That is not something you should

pay for or be billed for. If you haven't made an appointment for your COVID vaccine yet, please do so as soon as you are able! If you are on the Medicare Advantage plan, you know we have told you that you don't need to bring your Medicare card to appointments any more - but you may need it for your vaccine, so bring your Medicare card with you if you can! COVID-19

continue onto page 5

## Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment will be coming in the Spring! It was delayed last year due to COVID but is on track for June

this year! If you need or want to make any changes to your dental plan, this is the time to do so!

You will receive something in the mail from the Comptroller's Department notifying you of the dates for Open Enrollment in the next

couple of months! When CSEA has exact dates they will be reported in the CSEA News and by email so be sure CSEA has your email!

## Council 400 Hosting March Virtual Meeting

### Members Asked and the Retiree Team Answered - Hear From Probate Experts in March

**NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH AT 4:00PM**

Attorney Ruth Fortune from Czepiga, Daly & Pope will discuss the Estate Administration Process (the step by step process of moving an estate through probate after someone passes away)

In November Council 400 had an Elder Law Attorney speak at their

monthly meeting, and many members wanted more detailed information about the probate process.

Let us know what you would like to hear about at our monthly meetings and we will do our best to address those subjects! Please contact Bernadette with suggestions at [bconway@csea760.com](mailto:bconway@csea760.com).

Emails with a link to the meeting will be sent out to everyone CSEA has 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](mailto:info@csea760.com) with your name and CSEA will make sure you are added to our email list!

## Medicare Part B Reimbursement & Social Security COLA Process

By now most retirees know that if you pay the basic premium of \$148.50 for your Medicare Part B, you do not need to submit anything to have the adjusted reimbursement in your pension check. In the January pension check, everyone received that adjustment.

If you pay a higher premium for your Part B or Part D because of IRMAA, you need to send a copy of your

Social Security statement to United Healthcare to receive the full amount reimbursed in your pension check.

Because the State Retirement Division needs to process all of that paperwork, it takes time for it to be in your pension check. If you did not receive your full reimbursement amount in your January pension check, it should be in your February pension

check. However, if you sent your paperwork in after February 1st it will be in your March pension check.

As long as you send your Social Security statement in by February 28th, it will be retroactive to January 1st of 2021. If you didn't send your paperwork in by that date, you can still receive the full amount, but it will not be retroactive, it will just be from the date they receive it.

Remember, if you pay the basic amount of \$148.50, you do not need to do anything, it was automatically adjusted!

If you do pay more than the basic amount, and haven't sent in a copy of your Social Security statement, do it now! You can submit it two ways, by sending in the mail or by email. To send it by mail, send it certified to:

**UnitedHealthcare Benefits Services  
PO Box 740221  
Atlanta, GA 30374**

You can also send it as an attachment by email to [DirectBill\\_KY-Operations@uhc.com](mailto:DirectBill_KY-Operations@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.

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. The Retirement Division

does not send them out monthly anymore, but you will receive one when you receive your COLA. It has your Part B reimbursement listed on there, make sure you check it!

You can request an advice any time by going to 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.

### 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**

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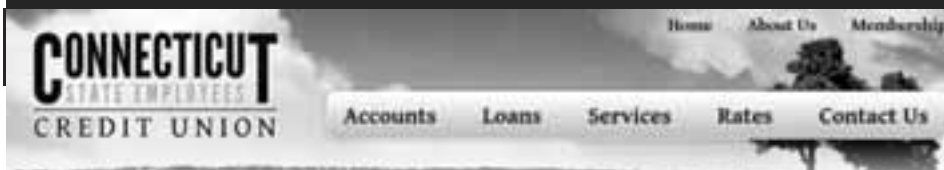
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Right now is the perfect time to combine end-of-year car deals with a low-rate CSE auto loan! You can get up to 125% financing on the selling price, including Tax, Title, Warranty and Conveyance Fee.

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**Closed New Year's Day**  
Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

**Closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

**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.

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<b>MIDDLETOWN</b> Connecticut Valley Hospital P.O. Box 2485 Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 347-0479	<b>STORRS</b> 1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 (860) 429-9306	<b>SOUTHBURY</b> Southbury Training School P.O. Box 644 Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 267-7610
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Hours: Main Office: Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Branches: Mon-Fri, 9:30am-4pm  
Drive-Up Teller (Hartford Only): Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm; Paydays Open Until 5pm

**RetireWise Seminars**

Back by popular demand, the MetLife Matt's will be hosting another RetireWise Seminar specifically for CSEA members - don't miss out on this great opportunity to get your finances in order. This two part seminar will take place on

April 13th and 20th from 4:30 – 6:30, virtually. Spouses and partners are welcome! If asked for the company name, type "CSEA SEIU 2001" Please register at [bit.ly/2NmsWVG](http://bit.ly/2NmsWVG) (case-sensitive)

**It's Election Time for CSC!**

The election will be held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Nominations will be accepted for all positions. Nominations will be open from

Monday, February 8, 2021 (8:00am) through Friday, April 16, 2021 (4:00pm). Nominations should be submitted via email to Jason Webster @ [JPWebster@csea760.com](mailto:JPWebster@csea760.com).

**CSC - Making History**

By: Bob Rinker On January 27, 2021, the American Journal of Industrial Medicine published a peer-reviewed article on the groundbreaking survey of CSEA's Correction Supervisors Council (CSC) health needs. The authors of the article were Julius Preston, former president of CSC, Vincent Steele, former executive vice-president of CSC, Robert Rinker, retired CSEA executive director, along with CSC's colleagues at UConn Health; Dr. Alicia Dugan, Dr. Sara Namazi, Dr. Martin Cherniack, and Dr. Jennifer Cavallari.

In 2015 and 2016, a design team composed of then current leadership of CSC, Dr. Dugan and Dr. Namazi used a participatory process to conduct a health needs assessment of the members of CSC. In most intervention research, the researchers leave out the input of the workers to be assessed in the process. This participatory process used by CSC resulted in a health needs assessment that was tailored to meet the needs of our correctional supervisors.

One hundred and fifty seven members participated in the survey. The findings yielded new insights about supervisors' lived experiences of work and health. This novel approach allowed CSC leadership to identify health issues that would not have been detected using conventional health assessments. The survey results have given CSC the opportunity to develop health interventions that address the root cause of poor health. So far, using the newly negotiated contract language on health and wellness, CSC along with UConn Health has provided training on sleep, mental health, nutrition and substance abuse. Sleep training was the first intervention implemented by the group. Sleep training was chosen because the survey showed that correction supervisors averaged less than 6 hours of sleep per night and only 2.5 hours of sleep when the supervisor worked a back-to-back shift. Ideally, adults should get about 7 to 8 hours of sleep per night or whenever their

*continue onto page 5*



**CSEA NEWS**

The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees

USPS # 224-100 ISSN # 0273-6055

Published Monthly by:

CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION

Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW/CLC

- Stephen Anderson.....President
- Roland Bishop.....Secretary/Treasurer
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- 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](http://www.csea-ct.com).

"CSEA NEWS" (USPS 224-100, ISSN 0273-6055) is published monthly for \$2.80 per year members, \$5.00 per year non-members, by CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106-1263. Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT. Postmaster: Send address changes to "CSEA NEWS," 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106-1263.

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# Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

### Mask Notice:

License-exempt (relative care) providers: We have received some donations of cloth face masks. The bulk of them are reusable white cotton. They are in 2 sizes, adult and child.

If you are in need of some, please contact Eda at Edibiccari@csea760.com. If you do not have email, leave me a voicemail message with your telephone number at X.123 after calling (860)951-6614

### Tom Copeland Update:

More than 200 providers participated in the annual Tom Copeland tax forum. Check your email for the recording.

### Aviso de Máscara:

Hemos recibido algunas donaciones de máscaras de tela cara. La mayor parte de ellos son de algodón blanco reutilizable. Se encuentran en 2 tamaños, adultos y niños. Si usted necesita

algo, por favor contacte con Eda en Edibiccari@csea760.com. Si no tienes correo electrónico, déjame un mensaje de correo de voz con tu número de teléfono a X.123 después de llamar (860)951-6614

### Actualización de Tom Copeland:

Más de 200 proveedoras participaron en el entrenamiento anual de impuestos. Verifica tu correo electrónico para ver la grabación.



PICTURED TOP LEFT: Tom Copeland greets Child-care Providers during his virtual session. PICTURED BOTTOM LEFT: Over 200 Providers joined to hear from Tom Copeland on "Record Keeping and Taxes in the Age of COVID-19".

## Legislative Update: Public Hearings

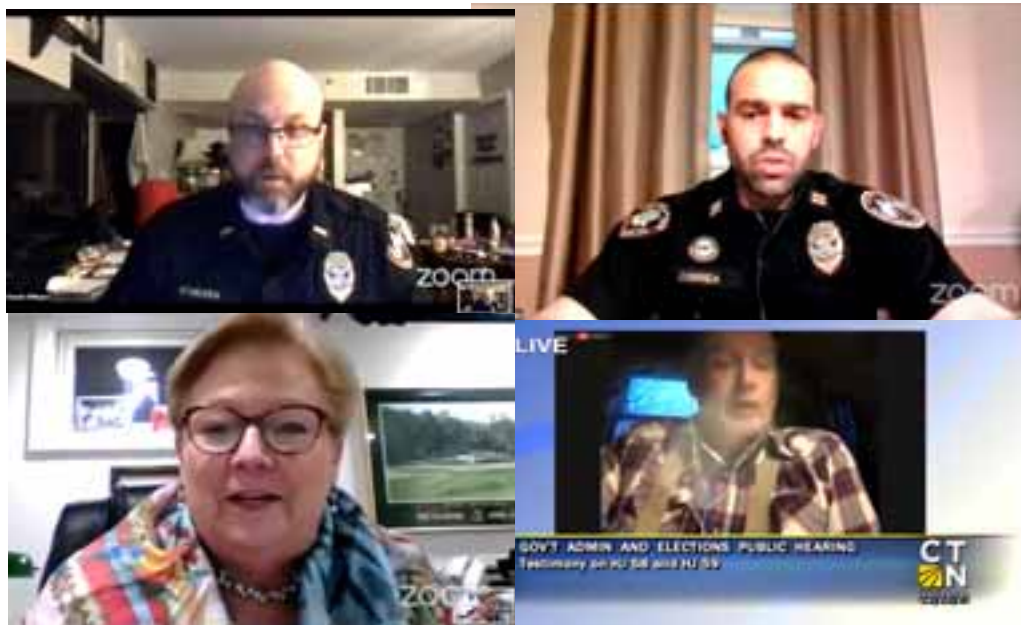
*continued from Page 1*  
Mental Or Emotional Impairments And Mental Health Care For Correctional Staff, Emergency Medical Staff And Dispatchers:  
"This is just one disgusting example of countless incidents where I have absolutely ZERO control. I am a broken man. I am NOT the same human being that I once was 15 long years ago. I can't quite remember myself to be honest but I know for sure I am forever changed.

I have submitted and been denied a Worker's compensation claim for

PTSI. I remained out of work until my forced return on January 6th, 2021 because I simply hadn't received a paycheck for several months and could not afford to go into any further debt. Very sad as I was completely debt free prior to this incident in accordance with one of life goals to be debt free by the time I retire. I now have to start over. It is currently, as we speak in appeals, seemingly in vein as I and my fellow brothers and sisters in blue remain the "forgotten cops" as we are inevitably out of sight, and out of mind, yet have ALL raised our right hands while swearing the same oath to protect and serve the residents of the State of Connecticut. I absolutely and respectfully urge you to include myself and my Correctional brothers and sisters in blue in the PTSI bill. I urge you

to look at this not as a further financial burden to the state, but to hold onto and not lose sight of the human element."  
Patrice Peterson, Council 400 Chapter President testifying in support of House Joint Resolution 58: Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting and House Joint Resolution 59: Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit Early Voting:  
"As a Registrar of Voters, I had the experience of seeing the full impact of No-Excuse Absentee Voting in last year's primary and general election. In my hometown, West Hartford, we had almost 50% of total electors vote absentee. That translates to over 19,000 people who cast their vote by absentee ballot. West Hartford had over an 87 % turnout rate. We heard from thousands of citizens who talked about safety at the polls, that being able to vote absentee gave them a chance to study a ballot

to make better informed decisions, that due to the severe limitations of voting on one day during certain hours had prevented those with multiple jobs, overtime work shifts and work schedules from voting in the past, that long lines had prevented many with time constraints or physical challenges from voting in the past. It is clear that so many who may have been frustrated by the voting limits in the past were anxious to avail themselves of absentee voting as was allowed last year. I heard directly of the importance of expanding voting opportunities to so many citizens.  
It is past time to recognize the needs of the citizens of Connecticut and expand voting to include both early voting and no excuse absentee voting. Especially on behalf of the retired and older voters I ask for you to support both House Joint Resolution 58 and 59. Do not continue to limit our ability to cast a ballot just due to being the land of steady habits."



PICTURED TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE: Kevin O'Meara and Marco Correia deliver their PTSI testimony, Patrice Peterson and Anson Smith deliver testimony on Early Voting and Absentee Balloting.

## CSEA Fights for Collective Bargaining Rights for Probate Workers



PICTURED ABOVE: Probate Courter Workers deliver their testimony in Support of HB. 6382

On Thursday, February 18, the Labor and Public Employees Committee overwhelmingly voted in favor of HB 6382. This important piece of legislation would finally allow probate court workers to have collective bargaining rights and choose to join a union. Of course the bill still needs to be passed

by the House and the Senate, but this is a significant step forward for Probate workers to have the right to organize. Our CSEA Organizing and Political teams are working hard with Probate Clerks on making sure HB 6382 makes it to the governor's desk. CSEA members know firsthand the importance of

collective bargaining rights and the strength that comes with being part of a union. Contact your General Assembly members today and tell them to support HB 6382. Collective bargaining rights are workers' rights and all workers deserve them.

**INTERESTED IN TESTIFYING?**  
Contact Drew (Dphelan@csea760.com) or Danny (Dmedress@csea760.com) to get basic how-to information, templates and other important issue to walk you through the process.



## Council 400 Fights for Absentee Balloting & Early Voting

By: Kevin Sullivan

Public hearings on two critical voting reform constitutional amendments took place on Monday, February 21 before the General Assembly's Government Administration and Elections Committee. CSEA retiree members came out in full force to support the expansion of voting rights in Connecticut. Committee members heard from Council 400 members and voters from throughout Connecticut about how important it is to pass House Joint Resolution 58: Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting and House Joint Resolution 59: Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting.

Members of the Council 400 Legislative Action Committee (LAC) have been preparing for months for these resolutions to be heard in the General Assembly. That preparation included phone calls, virtual meetings, preparing testimony, having guest speakers like Secretary of the State Denise Merrill addressing these proposals at a monthly retiree chapter meeting, as well as sending out an online survey to over 9,000 retired state employees.

Even during a global pandemic, Connecticut saw the highest voter participation rate ever recorded (79.9%) in the November General Election! The option to use a mail-in ballot was a welcome choice for voters across the state. A person should not have to choose

between their health and their right to vote. Approximately 650,000 Connecticut voters chose to exercise their right to vote by using an absentee ballot. This helped protect the health of voters, poll workers, and the democratic process.

While 73% of Connecticut voters support the use of No-Excuse Absentee Ballots, CSEA retirees have shown overwhelming support! The results from our survey show that 81% of our retired members (who participated in the survey) support it. And over 98% of those polled found voting by absentee ballot to be either "easy" or "very easy."

Meanwhile, nearly 80% of Connecticut voters support an early voting proposal. HJ 59 would allow early, in-person voting. Opening up

opportunities for everyday people to become more involved with the democratic process should be an easy sell. Unfortunately, there are some that do not want to see this legislation passed. That is why many Council 400 members mobilized quickly and showed their support for both of these proposals.

In order to make no-excuse absentee and early voting a reality, we have to amend the Connecticut State Constitution, a multi-step process that begins in the General Assembly and ends with a statewide vote. In order for these issues to appear on the ballot in 2022, the resolutions must be passed by a supermajority (75%) vote in the House and Senate this legislative session. If a supermajority is not reached, the

resolutions can still be put before voters in 2023, if they are again passed by both chambers of the General Assembly during next year's session.

It has been shown that no-excuse and early voting are safe and secure while opening access to those who might otherwise not vote. The people of Connecticut want it, now it is time our elected officials make it happen!

For opportunities to get involved please reach out to Kevin Sullivan (Ksullivan@csea760.com)

A link to the survey on absentee voting and a link to send an email to your legislators around HJ 58 and HJ 59 can be found on the CSEA website - SEIU2001.org

## Vaccine Phase 1b Update for Member 65 and Older

*continued from Page 1* vaccines are an important step in slowing the spread of the disease and are authorized by the U.S. Food 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. If you don't have access to the internet, you can call Connecticut's COVID Vaccine Appointment Assistance Line at 877-918-2224.

## Governor Lamont Hosts Vaccine Townhall with Council 400 & CT ARA

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, Council 400 had an opportunity to host a Townhall with Governor Ned Lamont along with the Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans focused on the vaccine rollout for seniors.

One member that asked a question was Win Heimer, "How do you address people like the bus driver, grocery store clerk or the young person with a heart condition, who had been led to believe that they would be vaccinated at this point and now suddenly find that they are in a different situation?" To which the

Governor responded, "Look the CDC came up with a list of folks, essential workers, those with co-morbidities and it represented almost half the adult population. We could have done that, but you saw websites crashing and longlines with nothing at the end of it. Even if we did that it would have taken 2 months to get their appointment. I would say this way prioritizes those who are most at risk. Maybe you are a bus driver who has a grandparent at home that you want to see. Thank God he or she is safe, but your time

is going to come in 3-6 weeks."

Bill Buhler also asked, "What are you doing to chase after those who should have received the vaccine by this time but some reason didn't because they couldn't get an appointment or are scared?" To which the Governor responded, "We've worked very hard, especially in underserved areas, to get the vaccine administered, working with trusted advocates, who can say 'this is the right thing to do and it is safe.'"

## Correctional Supervisor's Council

*continued from Page 3* work schedule dictates their sleep hours. The training focused on sleep hygiene and a guided meditation to help supervisors fall asleep faster. The mental health training was the next intervention because the survey showed high levels of work/family stress and exposure to workplace trauma. High levels of stress and trauma can lead to anxiety/depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. The number of supervisors exposed to suicides of fellow workers and inmates, whether successful or not, far exceeded any comparable law enforcement occupation. The training focused on mental health literacy, how to access mental health services

and more importantly to break down the shame, stigma, silence and solitude that a person with a mental health illness suffers through in our society. Mental illness is like any physical illness in that when properly treated the person can recover and lead a normal life. The last training that was recently completed was on nutrition and substance abuse. The survey showed that more than 80% of correction supervisors are overweight or obese. While this may not be much different from the normal population, it is significant in that being overweight or obese was not present when they were hired into the Department of Correction. In an earlier study, normal weight correction

officers who became overweight or obese did so by the third year on the job and this carried forward to their retirement. The training focused on nutrition literacy; how to eat the right foods. Because of Covid, the 173 members that participated in the training did so by Zoom, a first for our correctional supervisor members. The training was spread out over a ten day period so that more supervisors could be released for their yearly contractual day of training on health and wellness. The current CSC design team includes Millie Brown, CSC President, Tara Keaton, CSC Interim Executive Vice-President, Wayne Cole, Captain and Julie Stewart, Captain.



PICTURED ABOVE: Council 400 Members join Governor Lamont, DPH Commissioner Deidre Gifford and Chief Operating Officer, Josh Geballe.

### CHPEA MEMBERS:

Meeting Information will be sent out by email from Julius Preston (JPreston@CSEA760.com, be sure CSEA has your email by updating your member profile at [bit.ly/UpdateCSEA](https://bit.ly/UpdateCSEA)

# SEBAC Puts Forth a Framework To Address Racism in State Government

## While much work is still necessary, SEBAC takes first steps

After the murder of George Floyd, SEBAC created the Racial Justice Committee in which four CSEA Staff sit. The goal of this committee is to push for structural change in State Government, and the group has been making incremental progress. The group of activists have been particularly busy throughout February's Black History Month meeting with legislative leaders like Senate President Martin Looney and House Speaker Matt Ritter, along

with members of Governor Lamont's Administration to push three specific demands.

These demands have been shaped through numerous conversations with rank-and-file member activists through virtual convenings and represent an approach that offers structural change to long-standing problems. The first demand is the creation of an Inspector General for Racial Justice which would have the sole purpose of pushing for constant

progress towards eliminating systemic racism in state government through a myriad of actions. The second demand is focused on a zero tolerance policy that maximizes safety and establishes powerful and actionable whistleblower procedures which is currently lacking in Connecticut's state government. Finally, the final demand is a 1% labor/management-controlled career training fund which would immediately provide funding and resources

for on the job education and advancement that is aimed at breaking the cycle of racial differences in access to education and opportunity.

Together, these three demands provide a framework for which State employees can begin to push back against decades of racial injustices that are pervasive across our state government. And while there remains much work ahead of us, SEBAC is optimistic that these are the right steps, in the right direction.

## CT State Retiree Income Tax Exemption

continued from Page 1  
Income Taxes.

### 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 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-10am and 3pm-4:30pm, Mondays are their busiest call day.

## Council 400 Chapter Election Slates

During 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, CSEA arranged for an alternate option to hold elections in the coming year through the CSEA

News. Every consideration was given for all members to have access to vote and to do so safely. Because of the varying degrees of access to and mastery of technology and email, utilizing the most widely used communication for retirees, the CSEA News, made the most sense.

In the February edition of the CSEA News, the slates were reported from chapter nominating committees and CSEA

asked for nominations from the floor in the form of contacting Bernadette Conway at bconway@csea760.com or 860-951-6614, ext. 112 by the deadline of February 26th. With no nominations from the floor, the reported slates are duly elected by acclamation and are listed below.

Thank you to all members that step up for a role in their chapter, whether it be as an officer, auditor, council delegate or alternate delegate or

any volunteer role. Chapter meetings play an important part of keeping our members informed and active.

**Chapter 401:**  
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:**  
LINDA ALBANESE  
Chapter President  
CAROL CALSETTA  
Chapter Vice President  
GINNY VERHOFF  
Chapter Treasurer  
*continue onto Page 7*



MARY ORSILLO Chapter Secretary	<b>Chapter 405:</b> RONALD OSOKOW Chapter President	Council Delegate GERALD ROGAN Council Delegate	GEORGIANNA EASTWOOD Chapter Asst.	Council Delegate TOM WELCH Council Delegate	Council Delegate MONICA KNAFF Council Delegate
MICHAEL BRADBURY Chapter Auditor	WILLIAM HILL Chapter Vice President	MARGE BEPKO Council Delegate	Treasurer ROGER IVES Chapter Secretary	KATHRYN CASEY Council Delegate FRED DUNN Council Delegate	SHEILA YEE Council Delegate BEVERLY WASHINGTON Council Alternate
JOHN SCOTT Chapter Auditor	WILLIAM MORICO Chapter Treasurer	<b>Chapter 408</b> (election held in <b>March 2020):</b>	JANICE BARTHOLOMEW Chapter Auditor	FRANCIS DUQUETTE Council Delegate	<b>Chapter 417</b> (election held in <b>March 2020)</b>
LINDA ALBANESE Council Delegate	CHRISTINE ESPOSITO Chapter Secretary	MARLEEN DUTRA Chapter President	ROGER IVES Chapter Auditor	<b>Chapter 414:</b> KAREN PINEMAN Chapter President	CATHY TOSCANO Chapter President
CAROL CALSETTA Council Delegate	RONALD OSOKOW Council Delegate	CHRISTINE ASHE Chapter Vice President	ROBERT RINKER Chapter Auditor	WILLIAM BARBER JR Chapter Vice President	CHARLES BANNON Chapter Vice President
EILEEN FERRIS Council Delegate	CHRISTINE ESPOSITO Council Delegate	DONNA CLAUSON Chapter Treasurer	OSCAR GOMEZ Chapter Auditor	GEORGE WESTON Chapter Treasurer	LAURA BROOKMAN Chapter Asst. Treasurer
JOHN SCOTT Council Delegate	WILLIAM HILL Council Delegate	DONNA CLAUSON Chapter Secretary	AMELIA SMITH Council Delegate	CHARLOTTE STEPTOE Chapter Asst.	ROBERTA DODD Chapter Secretary
DAWN GALLAGHER Council Delegate	WILLIAM MORICO Council Delegate	MERRILL BEAN Chapter Auditor	ROGER IVES Council Delegate	HELEN BILAK Chapter Auditor	LOIS ENGBLOM Chapter Asst. Secretary
<b>Chapter 403:</b> CAROL BURGESS Chapter President	ANDREW GAMBARDELLA Council Delegate	DOROTHY EATON Chapter Auditor	ROBERT RINKER Council Delegate	DAVID HOFFMAN Chapter Auditor	ROBERT BORCHARD Chapter Auditor
ROSEMARY BRULOTTE Chapter Vice President	<b>Chapter 406:</b> JOSEPH FORMICA Chapter President	MARLEEN DUTRA Council Delegate	MARCO ARENAS Council Delegate	JAMES SERKEY Chapter Auditor	LEON CORMIER Chapter Auditor
GAIL CARR Chapter Treasurer	MICHAEL O'BRIEN Chapter Vice President	CHRISTINE ASHE Council Delegate	OSCAR GOMEZ Council Delegate	KAREN PINEMAN Council Delegate	JOHN LESSOR Chapter Auditor
EILEEN WILKINSON Chapter Secretary	EDMUND MCRAE Chapter Assistant Vice President	PATRICIA CHAMBERLAND Council Delegate	DAVID HOFFMAN Chapter Auditor	CHARLOTTE S TEPTOE Council Delegate	CATHY TOSCANO Council Delegate
ROSE BRULOTTE Chapter Auditor	JOSEPH CARTA Chapter Treasurer	DONNA CLAUSON Council Delegate	JAMES SERKEY Chapter Auditor	GEORGE WESTON Council Delegate	LEON CORMIER Council Delegate
EILEEN WILKINSON Chapter Auditor	WALTER COX Chapter Assistant Treasurer	ANITA LEIBOWITZ Council Delegate	KAREN PINEMAN Council Delegate	DEBRA BURDICK Council Delegate	KATHERINE KALWAT Council Delegate
CAROL BURGESS Council Delegate	WAYNE DUFFY Chapter Secretary	FRANCES PAQUIN Council Delegate	CHARLOTTE S TEPTOE Council Delegate	<b>Chapter 415:</b> DONNA MCELDUFF Chapter President	DIANNE WOMACK Council Delegate
NANCY BRAYMAN Council Delegate	JOAN HOLLEY Chapter Asst. Secretary	SUSAN CHVIRKO Council Delegate	TEPTOE Council Delegate	WILLIAM DORN Chapter Treasurer	JOHN LESSOR Council Delegate
PATRICIA MACVEIGH Council Delegate	JOSEPH FORMICA Council Delegate	DOROTHY EATON Council Delegate	GEORGE WESTON Council Delegate	ED DALY Council Delegate	ROBIN DODD Council Alternate
GUY BROWN Council Delegate	JOAN HOLLEY Council Delegate	MERRILL BEAN Council Delegate	DEBRA BURDICK Council Delegate	DONNA MCELDUFF Council Delegate	<b>Chapter 418:</b> WILLIAM SEARLE Chapter President
ROSE BRULOTTE Council Delegate	EDMUND MCRAE Council Delegate	JUDITH ORTIZ Council Alternate	WILLIAM DORN Council Delegate	WILLIAM DORN Council Delegate	ELIZABETH MARAFINO Chapter First Vice President
GAIL CARR Council Delegate	MIKE O'BRIEN Council Delegate	<b>Chapter 409:</b> DAVID WALSH Chapter President	THERESE SCHNOOR Council Delegate	YOLANDA CASTILLO Council Delegate	FELIPE FLORES Chapter Second Vice President
PAULA CHARTIER Council Delegate	JOSEPH CARTA Council Delegate	PAUL BEST Chapter Vice President	ED DALY Council Delegate	<b>Chapter 416:</b> JOHN KNAFF Chapter President	RAYMOND MERCIK Chapter Treasurer
<b>Chapter 404:</b> JOHN QUINN Chapter President	WAYNE DUFFY Council Delegate	JOHN HARMON Chapter Treasurer	DONNA MCELDUFF Council Delegate	SHEILA YEE Treasurer	MUSHIBA Chapter Secretary
RONALD CHASSE Chapter Vice President	JOSEPH CARTA Council Delegate	KEVIN LYNCH Chapter Co-Treasurer	WILLIAM DORN Council Delegate	GERALDINE PHILLIPS Chapter Secretary	ALICE BURSTEIN Chapter Auditor
JOHN BUTKUS Chapter Treasurer	WAYNE DUFFY Council Delegate	ANTHONY MALTESE Chapter Secretary	THERESE SCHNOOR Council Delegate	MARJORIE BROWN Chapter Asst. Secretary	ELAINE FOLKERS Chapter Auditor
ROGER O'TOOLE Chapter Asst. Treasurer	WALTER COX Council Delegate	DAVID WALSH Council Delegate	YOLANDA CASTILLO Council Delegate	DONALD LEVENSON Chapter Auditor	ESTHER ALAIMO Chapter Auditor
SUSAN MIRABITO Chapter Secretary	JOEL KARABEINIKOFF Council Delegate	SHEILA GARVEY Council Delegate	CASTILLO Council Delegate	CHRISTINE KRZEMIEN Chapter Auditor	MARILYN TYSZKA Council Delegate
JOHN QUINN Council Delegate	JOHN PAPPY Council Alternate	JOHN HARMON Council Delegate	<b>Chapter 412:</b> DONALD GLADDING Chapter President	MARJORIE BROWN Chapter Asst. Secretary	WILLIAM SEARLE Council Delegate
ANTHONY GWIZADOWSKI Council Delegate	<b>Chapter 407:</b> CAROL DONOFRIO Chapter President	KEVIN LYNCH Council Delegate	FRANCIS DUQUETTE Chapter Vice President	LESTER SHAPIRO Council Delegate	BETTE MARAFINO Council Delegate
MARY LYNDA MAZ- ZAFERRO Council Delegate	CAROLE ALEXANDER Chapter Vice Presi- dent	DENISE LYNCH Council Delegate	KATHRYN CASEY Chapter Treasurer	JOHN KNAFF Council Delegate	KATHLEEN BAVELAS Council Delegate
MARIA MIRABILIO Council Delegate	ROSE MARIE BEPKO Chapter Treasurer	ELLEN BEATTY Council Alternate	FRED DUNN Chapter Secretary	NANCY DRISCOLL	
SUSAN MIRABITO Council Delegate	ROSE MARIE BEPKO Chapter Secretary	FRANK CANNATELLI Council Alternate	CHRISTOPHER BURKE Chapter Auditor		
RICHARD ALDRIDGE Council Delegate	MARIE IANNUCCI Chapter Auditor	<b>Chapter 410:</b> AMELIA SMITH Chapter President	FRED DUNN Chapter Auditor		
BEVERLY STODDARD Council Delegate	CAROL DONOFRIO Council Delegate	ROBERT RINKER Chapter Vice President	THOMAS WELCH Chapter Auditor		
	MARY RADOCCIO	REBECCA SMITH Chapter Treasurer	DONALD GLADDING		

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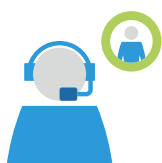
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