

SEBAC Negotiations Update

Situation Remains Fluid - Review Website for Up-to-Date Information

Contract negotiations remains a dynamic situation with updates occurring every day - and in some cases every hour.

This fluidity makes it impossible to avoid printing out-dated information in a monthly print publication.

To combat this dilemma, we have created a website which you can visit by scanning the QR code to the right, that will be kept up-to-date with

all available information on contract negotiations for our seven state division bargaining units.

Please note that this website will be kept updated as best as possible until all seven units reach a tentative agreement and the ratification process begins.



TARA KEATON
Testifying before the Appropriations Committee



TRAVIS WOODWARD
President
CSEA SEIU Local 2001

Tara Keaton (Left) and CSEA President Travis Woodward (Right) testify in front of the Appropriations Committee in support of CSEA legislative priorities.

Retiree Organizer Visits Florida Chapters

Kevin Sullivan Travels with Cigna & UnitedHealthcare to Update Members

For several years, with the exception of last year due to COVID-19, a Retiree Team member travels down to Florida to visit our seven retiree chapters that are scattered throughout the state. This year, Kevin Sullivan, Council 400 Retiree Organizer, traveled down to the sunshine state with the UnitedHealthcare and Cigna representatives to present new information about healthcare, pensions, Social Security and Medicare while also to answer any questions from members.

Kevin traveled for two weeks visiting all the corners of Florida - from Boca Raton to Ocala, Sarasota to Highland Beach, and everywhere in between. He heard from members who were concerned about protecting their pension and retiree healthcare agreement and rallied members to raise their collective voice (all the way from Florida!) to the State Capitol in Hartford, CT. He reminded them to sign up to contribute to the Political Action Committee so that we can work to ensure that pro-union

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We Need Your Personal Email for Contract Ratification

Our Negotiations Teams have been hard at work to reach a tentative agreement with the Lamont Administration. If our bargaining units reach agreement, we will move onto the ratification process. This process will be conducted electronically through personal email, so it is **imperative** we have each member's **personal email address in order for you to vote by email on your contract.**

All members can update their contact information at (CSEA site to update contact info) bit.ly/UpdateCSEA (**case sensitive**), this link is also available on the homepage of our website at **CSEA-CT.com**

Be assured that CSEA doesn't sell or share your information to outside sources.

There will be a one-day opportunity to cast your vote in-person at the Union Hall in Hartford (a date has yet to be determined).

Governor Lamont Delivers Budget Address

Members testify in front of the Appropriations Committee

Governor Lamont delivered his FY 2022-2023 proposed mid-term budget adjustments to the General Assembly in his state of the state speech this month. The \$24.2 billion budget proposal Governor Lamont offered is 2.4% more than the biennium budget approved in June 2021 and is \$5.6 million under the spending cap. It is compliant with the revenue cap, volatility cap and statutory debt limit. It includes \$325 million in revenue policy changes and \$274 million in expenditure policy changes.

With an influx of federal COVID-relief monies and swelling revenues from investors and high-income earners during the pandemic, the state's financial picture is rosier than it has been in recent years. The State Comptroller has projected a FY 2022 budget surplus of \$1.48 billion and other analysts predict it could grow to almost \$2 billion. The Rainy Day Fund also stands at its statutory maximum of \$3.1 billion.

Governor Lamont proposed a package of modest changes.

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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

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Meetings And News

MEETING DATES

The Council 400 Delegates Meeting is always held on the third Thursday of the month.

The April Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, April 21st at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall

All meetings are subject to change/cancellation depending on the state of the global pandemic

Chapter 401 (Hartford area):
Thursday, April 7th, 12:15PM lunch,
meeting at 12:45PM
CSEA Union Hall
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT
Patrice Peterson: 860-416-0306

Chapter 402 (Danbury area):
Wednesday, April 13th, at 10:00AM
Guest Speaker:
United Healthcare Representative
United Methodist Church
5 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury, CT
Linda Albanese: 860-354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area):
Tuesday, April 12th, at 1:30PM
Rose City Senior Center
8 Mahan Dr., Norwich, CT
Carol Burgess: 860-859-3641 (h)
860-303-7267 (c)

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area):
Tuesday, April 12th, at 10:00AM
Guest Speaker: United Healthcare Representative
Holy Trinity Greek Community Center
937 Chase Parkway (exit 17 off I-84), Waterbury
John Quinn: 203-804-0189

Chapter 405 (New Haven area):
*To be held online only via Zoom
Thursday, April 14th, at 11:00AM
Guest Speaker:
United Healthcare Representative
The Zoom link to the meetings will be sent out via email, just click on the link to attend!
You can also call into the meetings at 1-929-205-6099, then type in Meeting ID: 826 8091 1354.
Ron Osokow: 203-671-7685

Chapter 406 (Middletown area):
Tuesday, April 12th, at 1:00PM
American Legion Post 75
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Middletown, CT
Joe Formica: 860-347-4532

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area):
Wednesday, April 20th, at 1:00PM
St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church
1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford
(on Rt. 113 toward Sikorsky Airport)
Carol Donofrio: (203) 470-4833

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area):
Thursday, April 14th at 12:30PM
Mansfield Senior Center
303 Maple St., Mansfield, CT
Marleen Dutra: (860) 477-0858

Chapter 409 (State University Professors)
Friday, April 15th, at 10:00AM
CSEA Union Hall
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT
Dave Walsh: (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor Locks area):
Monday, March 14th at 1:00PM
Guest Speaker: Andrea Luttrell, RDN, LDN
Big Y Registered Dietitian
Suffield Senior Center
145 Bridge St., Suffield, CT
Amelia Smith: 860-687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area):
Thursday, March 17th 1:00PM
Guest Speaker:
Cigna Dental Representative
CSEA Union Hall
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT
Sebastian Puglisi: 860-529-8336

Chapter 412 (Putnam area):
Tuesday, April 19th, at 1:30PM
Congregational Church of Putnam
175 Main St., Putnam, CT
Don Gladding: (860) 933-9998

Chapter 414 (Torrington area):
Monday, April 18th, at 10:00AM
Five Points Center for the Arts
843 University Dr., Torrington, CT
Karen Pineman: 860-354-6727

Chapter 415 (Manchester area):
Monday, April 25th, at 1:00PM
Elks Lodge
30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT
Donna McElduff: 860-454-0480

Chapter 416 (New London area):
*Meeting will be in-person AND online
Tuesday April 12th at 12:00PM
Zoom link will be emailed to members
Guest Speaker:
Cigna Dental Representative
Waterford Public Library
49 Rope Ferry Road Waterford, CT
John Knaff: 860-857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area):
Wednesday, May 11th at 1PM
Guest Speakers:
United Healthcare Representative
& CSEA Retiree Organizer: Kevin P. Sullivan
Plainville Public Library
56 East Main St., Plainville, CT

Chapter 418 (Community College Retirees):
* No April Meeting - Lobby Day *
Tuesday, April 5th
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Ave. Hartford
Bill Searle: 860-745-3692

Chapter 425 (Clearwater, FL Area):
Wednesday, April 13th 12:00PM
Spring Cookout at Philippe Park
2525 Philippe Pkwy, Safety Harbor, FL 34695
Hank and Ursula Bracker: (727) 848-0089

MARCH SOUTH CAROLINA MEETING WITH UNITEDHEALTHCARE, CIGNA AND CSEA REPRESENTATIVES

Details will be sent to chapter members

Chapter 431 (Myrtle Beach, SC Area):
Tuesday, March 15th 11:00am-1:30pm
Golden Corral Restaurant 868 Oak Forest Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Buffet will be available for \$10 per person
Checks should be made payable to:
"Chapter 431" and mailed to:
Virginia Nolan, Chapter 431 Treasurer
3204 S. Memorial Ave.,
Nags Head, NC 27959
John Yopp: (203) 507-1022

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 Dedicated Hearing Aid line: 1-855-523-9355

UnitedHealthcare: 1-888-803-9217

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.

2.49%^{APR*} NEW AUTO	2.99%^{APR} USED AUTO <i>(up to 6 model years)</i>
5.90%^{APR} USED AUTO <i>(over 6 model years)</i>	6.49%^{APR} NEW AUTO <i>(Impaired Credit)</i>

*Annual Percentage Rate. Certain restrictions apply. Cannot be applied toward existing CSE loans. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Visit www.CSECreditUnion.com for complete list of rates.

Visit Our Website: www.CSECreditUnion.com

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

Dividend Rates - Fourth Quarter 2021

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	0.60%	0.60%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	0.25%	0.25%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	0.35%	0.35%

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, 9am-4pm Branches: Mon-Fri, 9:30am-4pm
Drive-Up Teller (Hartford Only): Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4pm; Paydays Open Until 5pm

Gone too Soon: CSEA Members Who Have Passed On

The Office of the State Comptroller has provided CSEA with the following members that have recently passed away. Our condolences are with their friends, family and loved ones.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Aiken, James | Frost, Doris | Messenger, Kenneth | Rooney, James |
| Bouchard, Paulette | Gallo, Maxine | Murray, Nancy | Sangermano, Joseph |
| Campbell, Deloris | Johnson, Joseph | Oleary, Joseph | Smith, Lois |
| Capellaro, Donald | Lamkins, Brien | Palermo, Lawrence | Solak, Mark |
| Ciarlone, Anthony | Leahy, Michael | Paluso, John | Stypinski, Louis |
| Clancy, Matthew | Lloyd, Catherine | Pettinicchi, John | Taylor, Ann |
| Dalenta, Richard | Madden, Joseph | Prague, Edith | Wall, Mary |
| Dempsey, Alexandra | Marrow, Lella | Presutti, Gloria | Whalen, Allen |
| Durgy, Helen | Marshall, Thomas | Quinlan, Edward | Wolkovitz, Edith |
| Engle, David | Martin, Francis | Quinley, Herbert | Wood, Lewis |
| Erway, Ella | Martin, Rosemary | Rice, Joan | |
| Forbes, Harry | Mathison, Richard | Richmond, Alexander | |



CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees

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CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION

Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW/CLC

- Travis WoodwardPresident
- Milagros BrownSecretary/Treasurer
- David GliddenExecutive Director
- Drew E. StonerCommunication Specialist
- Jason P. WebsterGraphic/ Technical Assistance

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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The inclusion of advertising in the CSEA News does not constitute an endorsement



Its election time for CSC!

The election will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

Nominations will be accepted for all positions. *Everyone that we have an email for will receive the Zoom link in advance of the meeting. If we don't have your email, send it to us at EMAIL@CSEA760.COM.*

If you don't have email you can attend by calling in at:

1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 527 239 5220
We hope you will join us!

CSEA in the News

This month if you visit our Facebook page or check out the *CT Insider*, *CT Mirror* or *CT News Junkie*, you'll see various members of CSEA being interviewed and lending their opinions to critical issues that have been hitting Connecticut's media.

Tara Keaton, the Executive Vice President of the Corrections Supervisors Council, was interviewed by the *CT Insider* on her thoughts regarding the short staffing crisis in DOC and the opportunity to hire a more diverse workforce as people move towards retirement and work to refill vacancies.

"Keaton said the state's current affirmative action policies also fail to fully address diversity and equity, a problem she said is evident at — but not limited to — the Department of Corrections, and can affect who gets promoted and who doesn't" (*CT Insider*, "CT state government struggling to improve workforce diversity", 2/14/2022).

Jennifer Corti and Kevin Devery, P-3B stewards and teachers at the Manson Youth Institution were also interviewed in response to an article about student outcomes at

Devery worked to give the *CT News Junkie* background on the impact that short staffing and a lack of resource has on students and staff, and how dedicated the staff is despite these challenges.

"The DOC needs to hire teaching staff as soon as possible and provide wages and incentives that will keep them," Devery said. "Our main mission is to focus on our population to make sure their needs are met and exceeded," he said. "We can't do hiring, staffing and retainment, that's not the role of our state school."

"But the staff is dedicated to providing the students with the best education possible, We want what's best for our students," Corti said. "I've never worked with more dedicated people. We have to perform our teaching every day with 20% less staff" (*CT News Junkie* "Manson Teachers Face Staffing Challenges", 2/16/2022).

Travis Woodward, CSEA's President, was interviewed by the *CT Mirror* about the State Contracting Standards Board and the need to fully fund and staff this important watchdog board. In his budget address, Governor Lamont funded

this facility. Corti and three positions, instead of the five that are necessary, and effectively moved the oversight of the board to the Auditors of Public Accounts which would strip the board of its enforcement powers.

"What he's doing this year is completely insidious," said Travis Woodward, president of CSEA-SEIU, Local 2001, "The board's doing great work, and now you want to cap them off at the knees?" (*CT Mirror*, "Lamont would remove contracting watchdog's enforcement powers", 2/16/2022).

SEBAC held a press conference earlier this month to announce our legislative agenda and call on the General Assembly and Lamont Administration to protect public services. Keith Hill and Travis Woodward both spoke on behalf of CSEA, "Our workforce is emaciated," said Keith Hill, President of P4 Chapter 24 (DEEP) and supervising environmental analyst with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and a member of CSEA-SEIU Local 2001" (*CT Mirror*, "Labor leaders brace to battle Lamont to preserve state workforce", 2/7/2022).

Go Green!

Opt-In to our Digital CSEA News

Did you know that the average person in the US uses more than 700 pounds of paper per year? Or that despite global digitalization, paper usage has actually grown 126% in the last 20 years in the US?

The CSEA News has been an integral part of our communications program for decades, but it is 2021 and we have a host of resources to reduce our carbon footprint and "Go Green." The most effective way for our members to "Go Green" is to request that the CSEA News be sent digitally rather than a hardcopy in the mail!

"Going Green" not only helps decrease the amount of paper waste in our landfills, but it also reduces ink waste and the carbon emissions from delivery. Many of our CSEA members have been interested in decreasing their carbon footprint and opting into the digital E-Newsletter is a great way to take a small step towards a greener

future! Every month you will receive this digital paper in your email inbox - all of the same information, just a lot less waste! To opt into the Go Green E-Newsletter, simply visit bit.ly/GoGreenCSEA and fill out the form.

To make your communications experience even easier, we've launched a BRAND NEW WEBSITE! Visit CSEA-CT.com or SEIU2001.org and let us know what you think - give us feedback on what you like, don't like and what you want improved by visiting bit.ly/CSEAWebSiteInput (case sensitive). If CSEA has your email address, then you've already received this survey in your inbox, but if we don't then it is also a good opportunity for you to update your contact information by visiting bit.ly/UpdateCSEA (case sensitive).

Council 400 Quarterly Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, March 16th at 4:00 P.M.

Speaker: Elder Law Attorney Daniel Tully *Everyone that we have an email for will receive the Zoom link in advance of the meeting. If we don't have your email, send it to us at EMAIL@CSEA760.COM.*

Topic: Protecting your Assets *If you don't have email you can attend by calling in at:*

1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 527 239 5220
We hope you will join us!

Council 400 Membership Drive

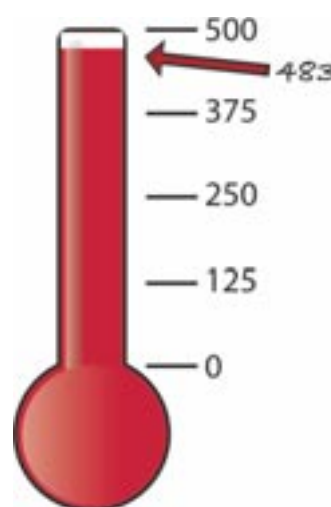
Now that the weather is starting to warm up a bit here in New England...

Council 400 has decided to SPRING into action - organizing new members into the Union!

Thanks to our team of dedicated retiree activists our

membership drive has been going very well and we just need a final push to make sure we meet and exceed our goal!

We want to ensure CSEA Council 400 remains the strongest and most active union fighting for the rights of retired State of Connecticut Employees! You too can help with our annual membership drive and ensure the benefits you've worked so hard to earn are secure throughout your retirement.



Ways YOU can help:

- Talk to your friends/former co-workers, ask them if they are ready to join the fight in protecting pensions and healthcare at home and Social Security and Medicare in Washington!
- Have your spouse sign a Spousal Membership card - they get your benefits too!
- Join us for one of our upcoming phone bank sessions at the Union Hall!

Retiree Organizer Visits Florida Chapters

Kevin Sullivan Travels with Cigna & UnitedHealthcare to Update Members

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legislators make their way to the State Capitol and US Capitol.

Everyday, CSEA members fight together to protect their pension, healthcare, Social Security and Medicare coverage by talking to legislators, testifying at public hearings, contributing to the Political Action Committee,

attending rallies and press conferences, signing petitions and much more.

Every member can get involved - remember there is no union without "U"! Reach out to Kevin Sullivan at KSullivan@csea760.com to see how you can make a difference.



(Top to Bottom): Florida Chapter 422 Ocala, Florida Chapter 426 Ft. Meyers, Florida Chapter 427 Vero Beach and Florida Chapter 421 Daytona Beach members listen to Retiree Organizer, Kevin Sullivan as well as UnitedHealthcare and Cigna Representatives about updates to their pension, healthcare, Social Security and Medicare.

BILLIONAIRE-FUNDED, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SEEK TO DESTROY OUR UNION.

Did You Know They Trying to Get Your Personal Information?

They are demanding that the state provide our personal phone number, email and even our address so that they can knock on our door and try to convince us to give up our voice and our power.



WHY DO THEY WANT TO GET RID OF UNIONS?

Because They're True Goal is to:

- Adopt a state hiring freeze across all departments
- Make immediate mass layoffs
- Cut pensions
- Raise the retirement age
- Freeze health plans and replace with high-cost plans
- Reduce benefits
- Delay raises and cost of living adjustments
- Purge departments and programs
- Contract out jobs to companies that refuse to pay living wages

BUT UNIONS STAND IN THEIR WAY

BUT I'M STICKING WITH MY UNION!

Unions make a difference in the lives of working families - from wages and pensions to healthcare and paid time off - without unions the path to the middle class would be closed. I know me and my family are better off sticking with my union!

SEBAC Demands Investments

Legislative Agenda Urges State to Protect Public Services

On Monday, February 7th Senator Jorge Cabrera joined state employees and recipients of public services from various state agencies to announce SEBAC's legislative agenda which calls for the protection and expansion of these critical public services. Speakers addressed the need for increased funding and higher staffing levels in order to ensure a strong future for Connecticut.

Over the past several decades, the state workforce has been beaten down by staffing shortages and underfunding across state agencies. This trend has only escalated since the start of the pandemic, with a 7.6% decrease in staff from just July 2019 and July 2021. This represents one of the largest reductions in the country, according to a recent report by the Pew Charitable Trusts. This destruction of public services directly impacts people across Connecticut, particularly communities of color, during a period of time when reliance on public services is at an all-time high.

"Public services are ubiquitous throughout Connecticut, but the work that the women and men do at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protections impacts each and every one of us immensely," explained Keith Hill, Supervising Environmental Analyst at

the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and CSEA SEIU Local 2001 P-4 Chapter 24 President, "Next time you drink from a public drinking water source, swim at one of our public beaches, or even just take a deep breath of fresh air, remember that without proper staffing and funding in state agencies like DEEP, those everyday activities become unsafe and unhealthy."

"As both a state employee and a recipient of public services, I have a deep understanding of the importance of strong investment in critical infrastructure," said Travis Woodward, Project Engineer at the Department of Transportation and CSEA SEIU Local 2001 President, "As our state workforce shrinks due to attrition, the quality and accessibility of crucial public services diminishes. How will we ensure our bridges are safe, our roads plowed, our students are enriched, and our patients cared for? We won't unless we invest in our public services."



(Top Left-Right): Lisa Slade (4C's), Keith Hill (CSEA SEIU Local 2001), Anthony Soto (AFSCME Council 4), (Middle Left to Right): Travis Woodward (CSEA SEIU Local 2001), Suomia Dode (Tunxis Graduate), Seth Freeman (4C's), (Bottom Left to Right): Tina Flores (SEIU 1199), Senator Jorge Cabrera and Nayeli Garcia (ULA)

MetLife RetireWise Seminars for CSEA Active Members!

Get your finances on track with the award-winning Retirewise Workshop Series.

With Retirewise, you'll be on your way to making smarter financial decisions and creating an action plan that works for you. From budgeting and building an emergency fund to determining your investment options and creating a will, there's something for everyone to learn.

Each Retirewise session has different topics that build on each other.

- Building the Foundation
- Creating & Managing Wealth
- Establishing Your Retirement Income Stream
- Making the Most of What You Have

Join your colleagues for the complimentary Retirewise workshop series. Still on the fence?

Visit bcove.video/3DriUYv for a sneak peek of what to expect.

Spouses and partners are welcome!

Reserve Your Spot at: bit.ly/3ldCYzj (case-sensitive)

Workshop details

Session 1: Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Session 2: Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Time: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm EST

If asked for company name, enter CSEA SEIU 2001

Can't attend but still need help with financial questions? You can still sign up for a free personal consultation.

For more information at metlifepiansmart.com/website/24112/

Hearing Aids are Fully Covered Under UnitedHealthcare

Hearing aids are very expensive, and having them fully covered in your plan is a huge benefit! To make sure you utilize this benefit correctly, you **must** contact your health insurance provider first to make sure you go to a hearing specialist that is in-network. If they are not in-network, your hearing aids will not be covered. Whether it is the first time you are getting a pair, or need to re-order a new hearing aid, you need to check if your hearing aid specialist is in-network first. If you went to a hearing aid specialist previously, they

could have dropped out of the network, so don't assume a provider is still in-network, always check first!

If you are under the age of 65 and covered by Anthem, call the Anthem Health Advocate phone line at 1-866-611-8005. That number is on the back of your Anthem insurance card. If you are 65 or older, there is a dedicated hearing aid line for United Healthcare, 1-855-523-8355.

Your benefit provides for hearing aids every 36 months (3 years). This is an unlimited benefit, there

will be no cost for the device(s) or supplies. Accessories would be an additional charge, so always check with the provider if it will be covered in the cost or not before agreeing on any accessories or upgrades.

If you are going for your first pair, call the dedicated line. If you are going for your second pair, call the dedicated line. Even if you think your provider is in the network, call the dedicated line to make sure! You do not want to have any surprise charges for your hearing aids!


The United Healthcare Dedicated Hearing Aid Line is **1-855-523-8355**


The Anthem Dedicated Hearing Aid Line is **1-866-611-8005**





Healthy At Home with UnitedHealthcare

With UnitedHealthcare® Healthy at Home, you are eligible for the following benefits up to 30 days following all inpatient and skilled nursing facility discharges:

 28 home-delivered meals through Mom's Meals® when referred by a UnitedHealthcare Advocate. Contact Mom's Meals for additional details and to place your meal orders if you have been referred into the program: **1-866-204-6111**, TTY 711, 7 a.m.–6 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday.

 12 one-way rides to medically related appointments and to the pharmacy when referred by a UnitedHealthcare Advocate. Contact ModivCare™ for additional details and to schedule your trip: once you have been referred into the program: **1-833-219-1182**, TTY **1-844-488-9724**, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. local time, Monday–Friday, or by visiting www.modivcare.com/BookNow.

 6 hours of in-home personal care provided through a CareLinx® professional caregiver to perform tasks such as preparing meals, bathing, medication reminders and more. A referral is not required. To access your in-home personal care benefit, contact CareLinx at **1-844-383-0411**, TTY 711, 8 a.m.–7 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday and 10 a.m.–6 p.m. CT, Saturday and Sunday, or by visiting www.carelinx.com/UHC-retiree-post-discharge.

 **Questions? Or recently discharged and need a referral?**
Call **1-800-457-8506**, TTY 711, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. local time, Monday–Friday, or visit www.UHCRetiree.com

Update on UMass Network Status with UnitedHealthcare

For the past year, CSEA Council 400 members have been advocating to the State of CT and UnitedHealthcare to ensure that critical services are covered at UMass facilities. Through raising our collective voices we have made progress in the right direction.

We are pleased to announce UMASS facilities and specialists are accepting the UnitedHealthcare® Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) plan effective January 1, 2022. At this time, it does not include UMASS primary care providers.

As a reminder, the UnitedHealthcare® Group Medicare Advantage plan will cover care from an out-of-network primary care provider, as long as they are a Medicare-approved provider and accept the plan. You should talk to your primary care provider before accessing care to confirm they will see you as a patient.

Any questions please call UnitedHealthcare at 1-888-803-9217, TTY 711, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. local time, Monday–Friday

There is a new program provided by UnitedHealthcare that you should know about called Healthy at Home. This program is for anyone covered by the UH benefits that was admitted in the hospital for a surgery or procedure, or who was in a skilled nursing facility. This free service is available to you even if you have a spouse or other family members living with you, and there no minimum stay for this to be utilized! To access this benefit you can call the customer service number on the back of your insurance card at 1-888-803-9217 to learn if you qualify for this benefit and any additional recommendations necessary.

The Healthy at Home program is an added value and provides:

- 28 home-delivered meals through Mom's Meals after any inpatient stay:

- 12 one-way rides to medically related appointments and to the pharmacy
- 6 hours of in-home personal care
- The services must be obtained within 30 days of release from inpatient status i.e. hospital or Skilled Nursing
- A new referral is required after each discharge to obtain services
- This program helps to decrease readmission rates for members

We recommend you check with your treating physician or nurse to find out if you are in the hospital for observation or actually admitted in the hospital. There are times where you are assigned a room, but are there under observation, which would not make you eligible for this additional benefit.

Big Y No Longer in UnitedHealthcare Preferred Network For Prescription Drug

For those of you that use Big Y to obtain your prescriptions, as of January 1st, they are no longer part of the Preferred Pharmacy Network.

Because Big Y is no longer a part of the Preferred Pharmacy Network, you can no longer receive your zero copay for chronic condition prescriptions through them. Using a preferred pharmacy for your 90 day chronic condition prescriptions means you receive them at zero copay. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case for Big Y.

You can call the UnitedHealthcare customer service number at 1 (888) 803-9217 to find another participating Preferred Pharmacy near you.

Governor Lamont Delivers Budget Address

Members testify in front of the Appropriations Committee

Continued from Page 1

tax cuts, including (1) increasing the property tax credit from \$200 to \$300 and expanding it to all property owners with household incomes of up to \$130,500; (2) accelerating a planned phase-in to exempt pensions and annuities from state income tax from 2025 to 2022; (3) expanding the student loan tax credit for employers who pay down workers' student loans; and (4) lowering the mill rate cap on motor vehicle property taxes from 45 to 29 mills and reimbursing local governments for lost revenue.

Several weeks ago, Governor Lamont announced that he would use federal

COVID relief funds to increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 30.5% to 41.5% for tax year 2020. In this budget proposal, he maintains most of that increase for tax year 2021, but does not continue it in future years.

In addition, better than assumed revenue projections caused Lamont to propose shifting \$810 million of federal ARPA funds previously allocated for revenue replacement into an off-budget account for new and expanded programs. The mechanism would allow the Governor and policymakers to bypass the spending cap. And while we are glad that Governor Lamont took a

step in the right direction by proposing \$15 million for pandemic pay for essential state workers (which is in addition to the \$20 million that was previously allocated for state essential workers in the FY 2022-2023 biennium budget), he refused to include any for municipal or private sector essential workers. None of those funds have been distributed and are part of ongoing negotiations. Despite declaring healthcare workers, firefighters, janitors, teachers and school staff, police officers, transit workers, grocery store employees, corrections officers and many others "essential" with the stroke of a pen, Governor Lamont

has ignored their sacrifice and the risks they have had to take.

Another disappointment was the Governor's failure to adequately fund the State Contracting Standards Board. Instead, the Governor largely moves oversight of state contracting to the Auditors of Public Accounts and allows the Auditors "to receive referrals of procurement issues" from the State Contracting Standards Board. This change will effectively neuter one of our state's most important oversight entities. The proposal to eliminate the Board's enforcement powers, at a time when contracting procedures need as much

transparency as possible, is dangerous and shortsighted.

CSEA members have been busy testifying in front of the Appropriations Committee to ensure that our legislative priorities are pushed through this short legislative session. If you are interested in testifying - either in person or by submitting written testimony - please contact Danny Medress, our Political Director, at DMedress@csea760.com. He will be able to help you craft your testimony, walk you through the process of signing up for in person testimony or submitting written testimony.

Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

My name is Rhonda Knowles. I am a family childcare provider in West Haven, Ct. I have been in the industry for 32 years. When I was asked to be part of the leadership team in the union, I felt very honored. I have always been involved in the fight to have our industry recognized as a vital part of our economy. I realized that one voice had some influence, but the union had hundreds of voices that could be called on to make a difference when we had issues to address. We have made strides, but we have much more work to do. We were asked to step up when the pandemic first came to our state. We didn't hesitate to do our part in keeping our programs open so that other essential workers could go to work. When I was asked to be part of our contract negotiations team I learned another vital part of our union. The evening hours were long after working a 9 1/2 hour work day, but well worth it. Our team did an awesome job, fighting

for our fellow providers. May 2022 be a year that our industry is recognized for the business woman we are and the vital part we play in giving our children 0-5 years old the best opportunities for social skills and brain development. If asked, would I do it again? The answer is yes. Thank you for the opportunity to express what being one of the women on our leadership team means to me.



Rhonda Knowles, Childcare Provider & Council Leader

Mi nombre es Rhonda Knowles. Soy un proveedor de cuidado infantil familiar en West Haven, CT. He estado en la industria por 32 años. Cuando me pidieron que formara parte del equipo de liderazgo del sindicato. Me sentí muy honrado. Siempre he estado involucrado en la lucha para que nuestra industria sea reconocida como una parte vital de nuestra economía. Me di cuenta de que una voz tenía alguna influencia, pero el sindicato tenía cientos de voces a las que se podía recurrir para marcar la diferencia cuando teníamos problemas que abordar. Hemos avanzado. Pero tenemos mucho más trabajo por hacer. Se nos pidió que demos un paso al frente cuando la pandemia llegó por primera vez a nuestro estado. No dudamos en hacer nuestra parte para mantener abiertos nuestros programas para que otros trabajadores esenciales

pudieran ir a trabajar. Cuando se le pidió que formara parte de nuestro equipo de negociación de contratos. Aprendí otra parte vital de nuestra unión. Las horas de la tarde eran largas después de trabajar una jornada laboral de 9 1/2 horas. Pero bien vale la pena. Nuestro equipo hizo un trabajo increíble, luchando por nuestros compañeros proveedores. No conseguimos todo lo que queríamos. Pero dimos lo mejor de nosotros. Que el 2022 sea un año en que nuestra industria sea reconocida por la mujer empresaria que somos. Además, el papel vital que desempeñamos es darles a nuestros niños de 0 a 5 años las mejores oportunidades para desarrollar habilidades sociales y cerebrales. Si me lo pidieran, lo volvería a hacer. La respuesta es sí. Gracias por la oportunidad de expresar lo que significa para mí ser una de las mujeres en nuestro equipo de liderazgo.

State Task Force on Retirements Announce Findings

A legislative task force that was charged with examining the retirements that are potentially expected over the next several months released their final recommendations earlier this month. The task force made several proposals which included automatic refilling of vacant positions, continuous recruitment practices, an effort to push off the COLA and

retiree healthcare change, a change to make it easier for managerial employees to unionize and setting benchmarks to improve racial and gender diversity within the state workforce.

The recommendations will be provided to the legislature for possible action during the 2022 Legislative Session.

Lawmakers are hoping that the potential retirements will present an opportunity to diversify the state workforce. Therefore the panel is recommending steps that will help the workforce to better reflect the diversity of the state's overall population. A chief diversity officer who would report directly to the governor is part of these recommendations to help meet those benchmarks.

Throughout the next few weeks these recommendations and SEBAC's legislative agenda priorities will be heard at public hearings. Please keep an eye out for updates on these pieces of legislation and opportunities to help push these bills out of committee.

Senate Democratic Caucus Announce Support of Labor

An Act Protecting Connecticut Workers Gains Traction

Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney and Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff held a press conference outside the State Capitol on February 17th to announce the Senate Democratic Caucus' support for An Act Protecting Connecticut Workers. The legislation was raised earlier in the Labor & Public Employees Committee and is a package of pro-worker measures, including:

- **Providing hero pandemic pay for all essential workers**
- **Protecting workers seeking to form a union from employer mandated captive audience meetings**
- **Expanding workers' compensation coverage for Post Traumatic Stress Injuries (PTSI) to include all workers**
- **Increasing the number of paid sick days employers are required to provide employees and expanding the types of employers who must comply**
- **Requiring employers to provide advance notice of employees' work schedules**
- **Creating a pathway to waive the**

repayment requirements for unemployment benefit recipients who were overpaid through no fault of their own.

- **Requiring warehouse operators to disclose work quotas and speed metrics to employees and government agencies and ban "time off task" penalties that affect the health and safety of employees.**

This bill will directly address the many concerns of Connecticut working class families, from providing pandemic pay to all essential workers, to protecting the right to unionize, and so much more.

As with all of the other pieces of legislation that CSEA and our coalition partners are supporting, it will be imperative to have members talking to their legislators,

testifying at hearings, submitting letters to the editors and the many other activities that have been proven to push important legislation through the General Assembly. Our Political Director, Danny Medress, will be sure to update members when these opportunities present themselves.



PICTURED ABOVE: Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney and Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff held a press conference outside the State Capitol to announce the Senate Democratic Caucus' support for An Act Protecting Connecticut Workers.

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