



ABOVE: CSEA members joined 200 supporters to demand Governor Lamont address the \$200M deficit in our public higher education institutions.

## Higher Education Faces a Haunting Budget Crisis

On a crisp and eerie evening, nearly 200 advocates, including about 25 dedicated CSEA members and staff from our P3B, P3A, P4, and Childcare councils, gathered at the State Capitol to address the chilling budget crisis looming over Connecticut's public colleges and universities. Our higher education institutions are grappling with a staggering \$200 million budget deficit, a figure that sends shivers down the spines of students, parents, faculty, and staff.

The harsh reality is that these budget reductions

disproportionately affect low-income, working-class, and minority students, who make up a significant portion of the student body in public colleges and universities. The consequences have already begun to manifest, with over 300 contracts not being renewed for adjuncts and the distressing specter of program cuts and closures on some campuses. What's even more spine-tingling is that the expected budget cuts for 2025 could be even more crippling.

At a time when Connecticut has a historic budget sur-

plus, we should not be seeing headlines about program closures and tuition hikes.

This situation is particularly unsettling for those with children attending these institutions, as they now face the grim prospect of higher tuition fees and diminished access to vital services. Likewise, members seeking professional development opportunities, like childcare providers, are grappling with the impacts of less class offerings and program closures. These far-reaching effects are unsettling and touch the lives of many.

State employees are equally concerned about this deficit as they

*continue onto page 4*

## General Election - Tuesday Nov. 7th

In this year's Connecticut elections, CSEA is taking a stand by endorsing candidates in over 70 races. The significance of these elections cannot be understated. The outcome will directly impact our community, our workplaces, and our shared values as union members. It's paramount that we come together and make our voices heard at the polls on November 7th.

Voting is our most potent tool for shaping the future. Our endorsed candidates are committed to upholding pro-worker values and policies. These are individuals who understand the needs and concerns of our members and will be steadfast allies in advocating for our interests once elected.

However, endorsing these candidates is only the initial step in our engagement. We must actively support them in their campaigns, mobilizing our

**Important: Update Your Address with CSEA!**

**Moving South for the Winter?**

If you're a snowbird and heading south for the winter, make sure your address is up to date so you can enjoy your sunny days without any worry.

collective strength. This means making phone calls, knocking on doors, and spreading the word about our endorsed candidates among our social circles. Our collective action is what will truly make a difference in these elections.

Furthermore, our communications program is working to reach out to registered members in these districts. We're sending out mailers, texts, and emails to ensure that everyone is aware of the importance of voting for pro-worker candidates. It's crucial that we harness the power of technology and community engagement to amplify our impact.

As you browse the list of endorsed candi-

dates on page 6, remember that each name represents an individual who shares our values and vision for a better future. Keep an eye on your inbox for emails and text messages that will serve as reminders to cast your vote on November 7th.

Let's unite as CSEA members, rally our friends, family, and neighbors, and head to the polls on November 7th to ensure that pro-worker candidates prevail in these crucial local elections. Your vote is your voice, and together, we can make a resounding statement for our shared values and the future we envision.

*continue onto page 6*

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

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

### Also in this Edition:

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## MEETING DATES

The November Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, November 16th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall and via Zoom

Chapter 401 (Hartford area)  
Thursday, November 2nd - 1pm  
Guest Speaker: Subby Puglisi,  
CSEA Regional Vice President  
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford  
Zoom Meeting ID: 833 1491 7718  
Patrice Peterson - (860) 416-0306

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)  
Wednesday, November 11th - 10am  
Guest Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep.  
5 Clapboard Ridge Rd. Danbury  
Linda Albanese - (860) 354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)  
Tuesday, November 14th - 1:30pm  
Rose City Senior Center  
8 Mahan Drive., Norwich  
Carol Burgess - (860) 859-3641

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area)  
Tuesday, November 14th - 10am  
Guest Speaker: Subby Puglisi,  
CSEA Regional Vice President  
Trinity Orthodox Church  
937 Chase Parkway, Waterbury  
Tina Franco (203) 721-4382

Chapter 405 (New Haven area)  
Thursday, November 9th - 10:30am  
Guest Speaker: Julianne Munda,  
Certified Geriatric Physical Therapist  
Hamden Government Center Bldg  
3rd Floor (elevator available)  
2750 Dixwell Ave, Hamden  
Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207

Chapter 406 (Middletown area)  
Tuesday, November 14th - 1pm  
Guest Speaker: Danny Medress  
CSEA Political Director  
American Legion Post 75  
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr. Middle-  
town  
Joe Formica - (860) 347-4532

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)  
Wednesday, November 15th - 1pm  
Guest Speaker: Kevin Sullivan  
CSEA Retiree Organizer  
St. Josephs of Stratford Catholic  
Church  
1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford (on  
Rt. 113)  
Joan Matzonkai - (203) 751-0300

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area)  
Thursday, November 9th - 12:30pm  
Guest Speaker: Aetna Representa-  
tive  
Mansfield Senior Center  
303 Maple Road. Mansfield  
Doug Racicot - (860) 234-2537

Chapter 409 (University Profes-  
sors)  
Friday, November 17th - 10am  
CSEA Union Hall & via Zoom  
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford  
Zoom Meeting ID: 868 8922 7158  
Dave Walsh - (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor Locks area)  
Monday, November 13th - 1pm  
Guest Speaker: Aetna Representa-  
tive  
Suffield Senior Center  
145 Bridge St., Suffield  
Amelia Smith - (860) 687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area)  
\*\*Holiday Luncheon\*\*  
Thursday, December 14th -  
12:30pm  
Elaine's Bar and Grill  
1841 Berlin Tpke., Wethersfield  
Meal choice: Chicken, Beef, Fish  
Appetizers, Salad, Pasta, Veg.,  
Dessert  
\$20/member & \$40/guest  
Send "CSEA Chapter 411" checks  
to:  
Joy Gutis, 34 Fairview Rd.,  
Brookfield, CT 06804  
RSVP by December 5th to:  
Joy Gutis (860) 966-3340

Chapter 412 (Putnam area)  
Tuesday, November 21st - 1:30pm  
The NEW Putnam Town Hall  
200 School St., Putnam  
Don Gladding - (860) 933-9998

Chapter 414 (Torrington area)  
Monday, November 20th - 10am  
Guest Speaker: Cigna Representa-  
tive  
Cooperative Service Extension Bldg  
843 University Dr, Torrington  
Karen Pineman - (860) 354-6727

Chapter 415 (Manchester area)  
Monday, November 27th - 1pm  
Guest: Sarabeth Campanelli  
Registered Dietitian  
Manchester Elks Lodge  
30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT  
Stuart Clark - (860) 205-0657 (c)  
(860) 454-4818 (h)

Chapter 416 (New London area)  
Tuesday, November 14th - 12pm  
Guest Speaker: Cigna Representa-  
tive  
Waterford Public Library  
49 Rope Ferry Rd., Waterford  
John Knaff - (860) 857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area)  
Wednesday, November 8th - 1pm  
Guest Speaker: Aetna Representa-  
tive  
Plainville Public Library - Auditor-  
ium  
56 East Main St., Plainville  
Mark Kirschner - (860) 882-2717

Chapter 418 (Community College  
Retirees)  
Tuesday, November 21st - 10am  
Guest Speaker: Rep. Jane Garibay  
(HD60)  
Assistant Majority Leader  
4C's Union Hall  
907 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford  
Bill Searle (860) 745-3692

February Out of State Meetings will  
be Annual Meetings and Social  
Events with Kevin Sullivan (CSEA  
Retiree Organizer), Aetna and  
Cigna Representatives speaking and  
answering questions.

Chapter 421 (Daytona, Florida)  
Wednesday, November 8th -  
11:30am  
Guest Speaker: Jennifer Betti, Senior  
Advocate at Assisted Living Made  
Simple  
Houlighan's - Port Orange  
1396 Dunlawton Ave., Port Orange,  
FL  
Ruth Finizio - (860) 680-1860

Chapter 422 (Ocala, Florida)  
Thursday, February 1st - 11:00am  
Francesco's Ristorante  
16770 US-441 Summerfield, FL  
Menu Choices: Chicken Parmesan,  
Sirloin Tips, White Fish Piccata,  
or Eggplant Rollatini. Includes:  
salad, bread, coffee/tea & dessert  
Door prizes and 50/50 raffle  
Cost: \$19/member and \$24 guest  
Send meal choice and  
"CSEA Chapter 422" Checks to:  
Hilda Spotts, 513 Fairways Cir., Unit  
A  
Ocala, FL 34472. Deadline is  
1/15/24  
Frank Berlinkski - (860) 604-7688

Chapter 423 (Highland Beach,  
Florida)  
Monday, February 12, 2024  
Renzo's Cafe, 6900 N Federal Hwy,  
Boca Raton, FL  
Lunch Options: Order off the Menu  
Ron Herzig - (561) 994-6428

Chapter 424 (Sarasota, Florida)  
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - 9am  
The Carlisle Inn and Conference  
Center  
3727 Bahia Vista St, Sarasota, Florida  
Continental Breakfast \$20 per per-  
son  
Checks made to "CSEA Ch 424"  
Robert Mackiewicz, 414 Pelican  
Moorings,  
Venice, FL 34285. Deadline is 2/1/24  
Bob Mackiewicz - (941) 497-2370

Chapter 425 (Clearwater, Florida)  
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 - 11am  
Perkins Restaurant  
2626 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd.,  
Clearwater, FL 33759  
Menu & Cost: TBD  
Linda Callahan - (727) 821-4048

Chapter 426 (Ft. Myers, Florida)  
Friday, February 9 - 11:30am  
KJ's Steakhouse  
10950 S Cleveland Ave,  
Fort Myers, FL 33907  
Menu & Cost: TBD  
Debra Gould - (203) 605-6690

Chapter 427 (Vero Beach, Florida)  
Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
Fort Pierce Elks Lodge 1520  
608 S 5th St., Fort Pierce, FL 34950  
Lunch includes Buffet, choices-  
Chicken, Pot Roast, Potatoes au  
Gratin,  
Salad, Rolls, Soft drinks  
Cost is \$25.00 per member and  
guest  
Make Checks Payable to:  
"CSEA Chapter 427" and mail to:  
Deborah Manganaro,  
10111 Greatwoods Pond Dr.  
Ft. Pierce, Fl. 34945  
Martha Jurek - (860) 558-8172

Chapter 431 (North and South  
Carolina)  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 - 11am  
Golden Corral - 868 Oak Forest  
Lane  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina  
Cost: FREE for members!  
John Yopp - (203) 507-1022

Chapter 441 (Cape Cod, Massachu-  
setts)  
Sherrill Stott - (774) 237-0220

## 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

Aetna Customer Service: 1-855-648-0391

Caremark: 1-800-318-2572

Cigna: 1-800-244-6224

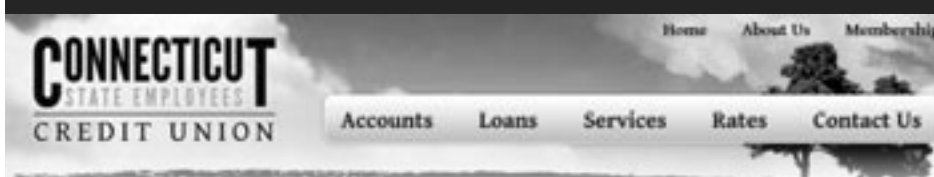
HEP Care Management Solutions: 1-877-687-1448 or visit them at their portal:  
<https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx>



Manage your Visa Credit Card through our CSE Visa Credit Card Mobile App or online site. View transactions, lock or unlock your card for security, report your card as lost or stolen, set up travel notifications, access e-Statements, and make payments. Visit our website at [www.CSECreditUnion.com](http://www.CSECreditUnion.com) for more details.

**COMING SOON - We will be offering a Rewards Visa Credit Card later this fall. More information will be available on our website and in the winter newsletter.**

Visit Our Website: [www.CSECreditUnion.com](http://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](http://www.CSECreditUnion.com)

**Closed Veteran's Day - Friday, Nov 10**  
**Closed Thanksgiving - Thursday, Nov 23**

**Dividend Rates - Third Quarter 2023**

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	2.75%	2.79%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	1.25%	1.26%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	2.00%	2.02%

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**  
15 Ward Street  
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 & Middletown): 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.

- Arcieri, Rosemary, Social And Human Services(P-2)
- Barrett, Barbara, Administrative Clerical (Np-3)
- Barron, Joseph, Service/Maintenance (Np-2)
- Bracker, Captain Heinrich, St Vocation Federation Teacher
- Brandon, Donna, Social And Human Services(P-2)
- Calabrese, Marilyn, Health Professional (P-1)
- Campanella, Carmella, Health Nonprofessional (Np-6)
- Clark, Suzanne, Health Nonprofessional (Np-6)
- Cohen, Faye, State University Faculty
- Deluca, Louis, Legislative Management
- Fichera-Eagen, Rose, Managerial
- Filpula, John, St Vocation Federation Teacher
- George, Susan, Comm College Faculty Cccc
- Grasso, Joseph, Uchc - Faculty - Aaup
- Hankin, Marion, Other Non-Bargaining
- Hempel, Ann, Admin And Residual (P-5)
- Hopkins, William, Admin And Residual (P-5)
- Jernigan, Richard, Health Nonprofessional (Np-6)
- Jones, Ronald, Engineer, Scien, Tech (P-4)
- Kelib, Faraz, Ct Housing And Finance Auth
- Landry, Arthur, No Designated Unit
- Leech, Scott, Service/Maintenance (Np-2)
- Lewis, Beverly, Service/Maintenance (Np-2)
- Liberatore, Franco, Managerial
- Mack, Annie, Administrative Clerical (Np-3)
- Makowski, Henrietta, Social And Human Services(P-2)
- Manwaring, Pamela, Administrative Clerical (Np-3)
- Matarazzo, Thomas, Comm College Faculty - Aft
- Mcquaid, Tracey, Administrative Clerical (Np-3)
- Moses, Gladstone, Social And Human Services(P-2)
- Myers, Milton, Uconn - Faculty
- Najda, Thomas, Service/Maintenance (Np-2)
- Neumann-Hernsdorf, Diane, Managerial
- Nitsch, Joanne, Health Professional (P-1)
- O'connor, William, Correctional Officers (Np-4)
- Persaud, Rampeer, Health Nonprofessional (Np-6)
- Rondeau, Dorothy, Service/Maintenance (Np-2)
- Schaefer, Janet, Admin And Residual (P-5)
- Schwartz, Judith, Comm College Faculty Cccc
- Shutt, Guy, Health Nonprofessional (Np-6)
- Viera, Felix, Service/Maintenance (Np-2)
- Ward, Bradford, Judicial - Judges
- Ward, T Jeanne, Admin And Residual (P-5)

**CSEA NEWS**

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Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW/CLC

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- Beverly Lee .....Secretary/Treasurer
- David Glidden .....Executive Director
- Drew E. Stoner .....Communication 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).

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# The Haunting Tale of the \$200M Deficit

continued from Page 1 prepare for the 2024 wage and step re-opener and look forward to negotiating the 2025 Collective Bargaining Agreements. It's always difficult winning fair and honorable contracts, but when some state employees are being laid off, it makes it even harder.

To bring attention to this critical situation, students symbolically "slashed" their service sashes during the rally, serving as a

stark reminder of the dire consequences of these budget cuts.

As the dust settled and the event concluded, the resounding message was clear: Connecticut's higher education is facing a harrowing future. Small budget increases have failed to keep up with inflation, leading to a gradual erosion of instructional quality and essential support services.

With Halloween just around the corner,

these budget cuts cast a daunting shadow of uncertainty over Connecticut's higher education system. Their far-reaching implications extend to students, faculty, and staff, creating an atmosphere of unease. Moreover, these chilling reductions are set to complicate negotiations for 2024 and 2025, further intensifying the uncertainty that envelopes higher education in the state.



ABOVE: Nearly 200 activists gathered in front of the State Capitol.



ABOVE: CSEA staff pose with two long-time Council members, Tom Connolly (left) and Win Heimer (right).



ABOVE: Childcare council members showed their solidarity at the rally!

## Corrections Supervisors Council

NP-8 SUPERVISOR'S

# Holiday SOIREE

DECEMBER 9TH 2023

Casa Mia at the Hawthorne  
2421 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, CT 06037

Entry \$50 per person

DRESS TO IMPRESS MUSIC COMEDY OPEN BAR  
RAFFLE BUFFET & MORE

## Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

# Holiday PARTY

DECEMBER 2ND

STARTING AT 4PM

AMALFI'S RESTAURANT  
580 WOLCOTT ST WATERBURY

TICKETS \$25 | 60 PERSON CAP

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TO RECIEVE THE REGISTRATION FORM

## What is OPEB? State Retiree Health Care

You may have read a recent article in the *CT Mirror* by Keith Phanuef, "Another looming fiscal challenge in CT: State retiree health care", we encourage you to read this article in its entirety but wanted to also provide you with SEBAC's full statement on the matter:

"While we generally support pre-funding, the situation is likely to improve over time even without changes to the pre-funding system, because of rules changes we've already made through collective bargaining; these will result in the Federal Government paying over 90% of the costs of retiree healthcare for an ever increasing percentage of state employees, raising retirement ages, and increasing the penalties and premiums for early retirees. Through this and many other wage and benefit changes, state workers have already sacrificed far more than their share to help protect the

public and state services during the prior times of economic downturn.

"We are now at the point where we have a recruitment and retention crisis doing ongoing damage to the public structures and communities which depend on state services, causing particular hardship to working families, communities of color, our youngest residents, and our oldest. We are not going to agree to make a bad situation worse by lessening the incentive to choose to be and remain in public service. What the state should be doing now, especially in these times of budget surpluses, is investing in the critical services and structures the vast majority of Connecticut's people need to build a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. A dedicated, growing and long service workforce is just one piece of that long term solution."

## Heinrich Walter Wilhelm "Captain Hank" Bracker

August 12, 1934 - September 22, 2023



Captain Hank Bracker peacefully passed away at his residence in Holiday, Florida, on September 22, 2023. He was born in Hamburg, Germany, on August 12, 1934, and later migrated with his family to the United States, settling in New Jersey. Hank was a

proud alumnus of Maine Maritime Academy. His professional journey included two decades as an educator in Connecticut.

Concurrently, he devoted over forty years of his life to a distinguished military career as an Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve. Upon relocating to Florida, he embarked on a career in real estate and subsequently left a legacy by documenting historical vignettes for future generations. Hank was also a respected member of the Tarpon Springs Masonic Lodge #112 and served as the long-time Chapter 425 President for State of Connecticut retirees living in the Clearwater, Florida area.

Captain Hank is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Ursula, along with their two sons, T.J. and Richard, and their devoted wives, Cecilia and Christine. He is further remembered by his cherished grandchildren, Matthew Bracker and Rebecca Baldetti, as well as his adored great-granddaughter, Madison.

## P4 & CSC Council Videos With Many More to Come!



ABOVE: CSEA Secretary/Treasurer and CSC President Beverly Lee spoke to the production team about the importance of having a union, especially during uncertain times.



ABOVE: CSEA President, Travis Woodward, was interviewed during our 2-day media blitz to introduce new members to the P4 council.

## 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 2023 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](http://bit.ly/GoGreenCSEA) and fill out the form.

To make your communications experience even easier, we've launched a NEW WEBSITE! Visit [CSEA-CT.com](http://CSEA-CT.com) or [SEIU2001.org](http://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/CSEA-WebsiteInput](http://bit.ly/CSEA-WebsiteInput) (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](http://bit.ly/UpdateCSEA) (case sensitive).

Candidate Name	Office	Municipality	Are They a Union Member?
Daniel B Stahl	Board of Aldermen, Ward 6	Ansonia	
Rohan Brown	Board of Aldermen, Ward 4	Ansonia	AFSCME
Rosemarie Huggins	Board of Aldermen, Ward 5	Ansonia	
Stevie Bobbitt	Board of Aldermen, Ward 5	Ansonia	Former NYC Teachers Union member
Thomas Finnucan	Board of Aldermen, Ward 3	Ansonia	CSEA
Mary Terhune	Board of Assessment Appeals and Zoning Board of Appeals	Bolton	CSEA
A. Fiona Pearson	Town Council, At-Large	Cheshire	CSU-AAUP
Patricia Cramer	Town Council, District 4	Cheshire	Former NYC teacher and social worker unions member
Christopher Rivers	Board of Education	Colchester	
Karen Belding	Board of Finance	Colchester	
Rosemary Coyle	Board of Selectmen	Colchester	Retired CEA member and past president
Dave Koji	Board of Selectmen	Colchester	
Michele Wyatt	Tax Collector	Colchester	
Sean Gillespie	Treasurer	Colchester	
Stefanie Tracey-Calash	Board of Education	Colchester	
Gayle Furman	Town Clerk	Colchester	Former AFT member
Denise Turner	Board of Selectmen	Colchester	Former 1199 member
Scott Chapman	Board of Finance	Colchester	
Krista Kardys	Board of Assessment Appeals	Colchester	Former nursing union member
Michelle Millington	Board of Education	Colchester	AFSCME
James Demetriades	Mayor	Cromwell	1199
Jason Bowsza	First Selectman	East Windsor	
Swapna Das	Constable	Farmington	Former UHP member
Dan Gaiewski	Town Council	Groton	
Ian Thomas	Board of Education	Groton	CSEA
Laurie Sweet	Legislative Council, Representative At-Large	Hamden	
Abdul Osmanu	Legislative Council, District 3	Hamden	
Jay Moran	Mayor	Manchester	Former AFSCME member
Pamela Floyd Cranford	Board of Directors	Manchester	CSEA and AFSCME member (retiree)
Sarah Jones	Board of Directors	Manchester	AFSCME member
Jerald Lentini	Board of Directors	Manchester	Former Newspaper Writers Guild member
Jessee Muniz Poland	Board of Directors	Manchester	
Dennis Schain	Board of Directors	Manchester	CSEA member
Heather Doucette	Board of Education	Manchester	Former CSEA member
David Eisenthal	Board of Education	Manchester	
Beth Mix	Board of Education	Manchester	Former CSEA member
Kwasi Ntem-Mensah	Board of Education	Manchester	
Warren Packer	Constable	Manchester	CSEA member
Chad Cardillo	City Council, At-Large	Meriden	AFT
Nickimmy Hayes	Board of Education	Meriden	AFT
Richard Lacourciere	City Council, At-Large	New Britain	Former AFT member
John McNamara	Common Council, Ward 4	New Britain	Former 4Cs and current CSEA member
Chris Anderson	Mayor	New Britain	
Nathan "Nate" Simpson	Common Council, Ward 1	New Britain	
Alisha Blake	Board of Education	New London	CEUI/MEUI
Amy DeVoe Perrotti	Board of Education	Newington	
Avgoustis "AJ" Tiniakos	Town Council	Newington	
Jessica Weaver	Board of Education	Newington	
Jon Trister	Mayor	Newington	
Kathy Gonzalez	Town Council	Newington	1199
Meri Beatrice	Board of Education	Newington	Former UFCW member
Mitch Page	Town Council	Newington	Former AFT and current AAUP member
David Derynoski	Board of Education	Southington	
William Knoegel	Planning & Zoning Commission	Southington	CSEA member
Dave Zoni	Town Council	Southington	
Chris Palmieri	Town Council	Southington	
Kaitlin Shake	Town Council, District 7	Stratford	AFSCME member

VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE

**Tuesday,  
November 7th**

**2023**

**Municipal  
Elections**

**Your Vote  
Your Voice**

VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE

Candidate Name	Office	Municipality	Are They a Union Member?
Ole Kushner Hermanson	Town Council	Vernon	Staff at MNA
Maryann Levesque	Town Council	Vernon	
Laurie Bajorek	Mayor	Vernon	
Simone Sewell	Board of Education	Vernon	
Riley O'Connell	Mayor	Wallingford	
Nick Gauthier	Representative Town Meeting, District 1	Waterford	
Ursula Moreshead	Representative Town Meeting, District 1	Waterford	1199
Mary Childs	Representative Town Meeting, District 2	Waterford	CEA and AFT
Kathy Mullen-Kohl	Representative Town Meeting, District 3	Waterford	
Ronald H. Elkin	Representative Town Meeting, District 3	Waterford	

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Candidate Name	Office	Municipality	Are They a Union Member?
Tyler Mack	City Council, 131st District	Bridgeport	
Bernie Dennler	First Selectman	Colchester	CSEA
Roberto Alves	Mayor	Danbury	
Lauren Garrett	Mayor	Hamden	
Josh Michtom	City Council	Hartford	
Alexander Thomas	City Council	Hartford	
Tiana Hercules	City Council	Hartford	
Darnell Ford	Common Council	Middletown	1199
Ben Florsheim	Mayor	Middletown	
Justin Elicker	Mayor	New Haven	

**Candidates Not Included in the Last Edition of CSEA News**

## 2024 Medicare Update

*By: Kevin Sullivan, Retiree Organizer*

We want to keep you informed about important developments regarding your Part B (and Part D if applicable) reimbursements for the year 2024. The standard amount for Medicare Part B for the upcoming year will be \$174.70.

Rest assured, you will receive additional notifications through various channels, including CSEA News, emails from our team, and you will also be informed by the Comptroller's Office via traditional mail.

**Standard Part B Premium:**

If you are paying the standard, basic amount for Part B, you don't need to take any action. Your Part B reimbursement will be automatically included in your pension check, just as it has been in the past.

**MEDICARE OPEN-ENROLLMENT PERIOD CLARIFICATION**

The Medicare open-enrollment period can be overwhelming, with an influx of mailers, phone calls, and television advertisements. However, we want to clarify the following for State retirees:

**Higher Part B Premium (or Part D Premium):**

If you pay an amount higher than the basic rate for Part B or if you are enrolled in Part D, please be prepared to submit the relevant information, as you have done in previous years. The administration of Part B submissions will now be handled by the Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan, our new carrier.

As a State retiree, you are not required to take any action during the Medicare enrollment period.

This enrollment period applies to non-State retirees who need to make changes to their Medicare plans. Therefore, you can safely disregard any calls, emails, mailings, and ignore television commercials related to Medicare enrollment. Only communication bearing the State of Connecticut Comptroller's Office address or insignia should be given attention.

If you are being charged more than \$174.70 for Medicare, you must submit your Medicare Premium Notice to the following address by February 29, 2024:

We also want to address any notifications from Aetna that mention the option to "opt out" of your current plan. We strongly advise against opting out of your State retiree health insurance plan. This information is included in communications to meet federal Medicare requirements, but State Retirees will find it extremely challenging to secure a better plan elsewhere. Therefore, we recommend that you do not opt out of the plan.


**Email, Fax or Mail a copy of your Medicare Premium Notice to:**

Email: STCTMailbox@aetna.com  
 Fax: 1 (855) 481-3124  
 Mail:  
 Aetna, Inc.  
 PO Box 7083  
 London, KY 40742

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the CSEA Council 400 Retiree Team, and we will be happy to assist you in any way we can.

**DO NOT SEND CERTIFIED - Certified Mail will be rejected!**

**Does CSEA have your correct contact info on file? Update your info by scanning the QR code.**



# #SolidaritySeason

Strengthening the Labor Movement Across the Country

Unions are at the forefront of demanding fair treatment and better working conditions and from Hollywood actors to autoworkers and healthcare professionals, the past few months have seen major labor disputes that have captured national attention. While these struggles may seem distant from our own in Connecticut, they hold valuable lessons, opportunities and momentum for us at the bargaining table and in the legislature.

The 100+ day, 160,000-member strike by members of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) has disrupted the entertainment industry, shutting down film and TV production and leading to intense negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. The primary point of contention is revenue-sharing in the streaming era and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). SAG-AFTRA has utilized creative techniques to draw attention to these concerns including a masterful use of social media to

garner support of the general public.

In a nearly six-week-long strike involving the United Auto Workers (UAW) and Ford, both parties have tentatively agreed on terms, potentially ending the strike at the Big Three automakers. The agreement includes wage increases and improved benefits for workers, demonstrating the power of collective bargaining. 45,000 UAW members walked off the job at Ford, General Motors and Chrysler factories across the U.S., disrupting production and supply chains. Once again, members leveraged their own stories on social media and traditional media to gain public support. The strike by 75,000 healthcare professionals at Kaiser Permanente, the largest healthcare labor dispute in U.S. history, ended with a tentative deal that addresses staffing shortages with substantial wage increases. The involvement of acting U.S. Labor Secretary Julie Su played a crucial role in reaching this agreement, underscoring the importance of political support and involvement in labor

disputes.

As these labor actions capture headlines, it's critical for us in Connecticut to connect our struggles - at the bargaining table and in the legislature - to these national movements.

1. **Stay Informed**: Text "CSEA" to 787753 to get a text every few weeks detailing a way you can show solidarity.  
2. **Solidarity**: Express solidarity with the striking workers, donate to strike funds, post on social media and attend campaign events to help raise awareness and show support.  
3. **Lobbying**: Engage with elected officials at the local, state and national levels to ensure that labor issues are a legislative priority.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is based on the circumstances at the time of writing. The

labor actions and situations described here are subject to rapid changes and developments in the ever-evolving labor environment.



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