



# CSEA NEWS

## The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees

June, 2024

CSEA SEIU Local 2001

VOL. 57, NO. 6

## 100 CSEA Members Join 500 Activists at Capitol

### Speakers Demanded Legislators Address Fiscal Guardrail Crisis

On Saturday, May 4th, the Connecticut State Capitol was alive with the voices of over 500 activists, including 100 dedicated members of CSEA, who gathered to demand crucial fiscal changes. This rally, part of the 2nd Annual CSEA Day, was held on the last Saturday before the end of the legislative session and showcased a powerful coalition of faith, labor, and community groups.

The event, themed "Guardrails Against Growth: Rally for Progress," kicked off with a diverse set of multilingual speakers, including CSEA child care provider, Maria Reyes, who highlighted the pressing issues at hand:

childcare, affordable housing, healthcare, and the detrimental impact of the current fiscal guardrails on these critical areas.

The speakers brought personal stories and professional insights, emphasizing the urgent need for legislative action. They called for adjustments to the fiscal guardrails to reflect economic realities and meet community needs. Maria in particular moved the crowd with her remarks on the importance of investing in our children:

Los proveedores de cuidado infantil necesitan una inversión mínima de 1.50 millones de dólares para transformar el cuidado infantil para las

familias de CT, ¡para que los padres puedan trabajar y tener un cuidado infantil asequible!

Todos los padres... los trabajadores... los proveedores y los miembros del sindicato tienen un interés común... lograr lo mejor para sus hijos.

El cuidado infantil debe ser una industria de calidad que sea una profesión respetada y que sea tratada con dignidad que aborda nuestras necesidades, como el acceso a una atención médica asequible.

Hoy luchamos juntos, a través de diferentes títulos de trabajo, pero como UN sindicato,

continue onto page 5



ABOVE: (TOP) Tashieanna O'Connor, a Child Care Council Leader, leads the crowd in chants. (BOTTOM) CSEA members hold #UNIONYES signs and the Connecticut for All banner.



ABOVE: 4,000 SEIU workers from across the country marched in Philadelphia to announce our 10-year plan to add 1 million members to SEIU by 2034.

## Legislative Session Wrap Up

By: Daniel I. Medress, Political Education Director

With the stroke of midnight on May 8, another legislative session of the Connecticut General Assembly came to a close. While CSEA members fought for and won several crucial legislative battles, the most recently concluded session was dominated by two words: "fiscal guardrails." The so-called "fiscal guardrails" - the spending, volatility, and revenue caps - loomed over nearly every decision made by legislators. These guardrails, originally intended to safeguard taxpayer

## 2024 SEIU Convention

### Seven Delegates & Alternates Travel to Philadelphia to Vote for New SEIU President

The 2024 SEIU International Convention, held last month in Philadelphia, marked a historic moment for America's service workforce. As we approach the 2024 Presidential Election, SEIU members gathered to debate and vote on resolutions that will shape our Union's direction for the next four years. The event was a pow-

erful demonstration of worker solidarity and the continuing fight for better conditions and benefits.

The convention began with opening remarks from Mayor Cherelle Parker, setting an optimistic tone for the proceedings. Among the notable attendees were our very own

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dollars and ensure the effective use of public funds, continue to prevent needed investments in public services despite Connecticut enjoying substantial budget surpluses and an overflowing rainy day fund. Even with these challenges, CSEA members pushed for and

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

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CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

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# Meetings And News

## MEETING DATES

**The June Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, June 20th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall and via Zoom**

Chapter 401 (Hartford area)  
Thursday, September 5th - 1pm  
CSEA Union Hall & via Zoom  
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford  
Patrice Peterson (860) 416-0306

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)  
Spring Luncheon  
Wednesday, June 12th - 12pm  
Chuck’s Steakhouse by Barbaries  
20 Segar St., Danbury  
Menu Options: French Dip, Baked Alaskan Cod, Chop Steak, 8oz NY Strip, Chuck’s Chicken  
Salad bar and dessert included  
RSVP by June 8th  
Cost is \$25 per person  
Checks to “CSEA Chapter 402”  
Sent to Krista Judson  
475 Berkshire Rd.,  
Southbury, CT 06488  
Krista Judson (203) 231-4176

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)  
Spring Luncheon  
Tuesday, June 4th  
Social 11:30am  
Luncheon 12:30pm  
Montville Polish Club  
85 Maple Ave., Uncasville  
\$25/member & \$27/guest  
Choice of Stuffed Chicken or Filet Mignon. Includes: salad, potato, vegetable, ice cream, coffee. Also: cash bar & raffle  
Checks to: CSEA Chapter 403  
RSVP by May 31st to:  
Richard Kerrigan - 83 Case St.,  
Norwich, CT 06360  
Checks to: “CSEA Chapter 403”  
Richard Kerrigan (860) 848-9881

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area)  
Wednesday, June 12th - 11am  
Imperial China Buffet  
625 Straits Tpke, Watertown  
(next to LaBonne’s Market).  
\$15/member. RSVP by June 6th  
Please make/send checks to:  
“CSEA Chapter 404”  
c/o Tina Franco  
45 Peach Orchard Rd

Prospect, CT 06712-1052  
Tina Franco (203) 721-4382

Chapter 405 (New Haven area)  
Spring Luncheon  
Thursday, June 13th - 12pm  
Anthony’s Ocean View  
450 Lighthouse Rd, New Haven  
Cost is: \$15 per member  
\$25 for spouse & \$30 per guest  
Huge buffet with many options  
RSVP by May 31st to:  
“CSEA Chapter 405”  
c/o Bill Morico  
470 Ellsworth Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Bill (203) 776-0876

Chapter 406 (Middletown area)  
Tuesday, September 10th - 1pm  
American Legion Post 75  
58 Bernie O’Rourke Dr.  
Middletown, CT  
Wayne Duffy - (203) 379-7687

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)  
Wednesday, June 12th  
12:30pm - Luncheon  
Riverview Bistro  
946 Ferry Blvd.  
Stratford, CT, 06614  
Order off of the menu,  
members pay for their meals  
Liz Anderson (203) 676-0659

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area)  
Spring Luncheon  
Wed., June 12th, 11:30am  
Franco American Club Pavilion  
116 Club Rd., Windham  
Menu to include: cheese & crackers, BBQ chicken, hotdogs, hamburgers, ziti with marinara, pasta and potato salad, fruit salad & cookies  
Including cash bar and live entertainment!  
Cost is \$18.00 per person  
Checks to: CSEA Chapter 408  
Sent to: Christine Ashe  
141 Love Lane,  
Coventry CT 06238  
RSVP by: June 1st  
Christine (860) 742-0667

Chapter 409  
(Retired University Professors)  
Friday, June 21st - 10am  
CSEA Union Hall & via Zoom  
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford  
Zoom ID: 868 8922 7158  
Dave Walsh - (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor area)  
Spring Luncheon  
Monday, June 10th  
12pm Social & 1pm Luncheon  
Guest Speaker: State of CT  
Comptroller Sean Scanlon  
Figaro Restaurant  
90 Elm St., Enfield, CT  
Members and 1st guest: \$18  
Each additional guest: \$27  
Choice of entree: Eggplant Parm,  
Chicken Francaise, Veal Parm,  
Filet of Sole or NY Sirloin.  
Served with vegetables, pasta,  
coffee, tea, dessert & cash bar  
RSVP by June 5th to:  
Oscar Gomez, Ch. 410 Treasurer  
33 Sylvester Street  
Springfield, MA 01109  
Payable to: “CSEA Chapter 410”  
Oscar (413) 246-2829

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area)  
Annual Summer Luncheon  
Thursday, June 20th 12:30pm  
Casa Mia on the Green  
Meal Options: Prime Rib,  
Filet of Sole, Lemon Chicken  
with salad, pasta, vegetable,  
potato, dessert and coffee/tea  
\$20/members & \$40/guests  
RSVP by June 10th  
Send checks to: Joy Gutis  
34 Farview Road  
Brookfield, CT 06804  
Payable to: “CSEA Chapter 411”  
Call Joy - (860) 966-3340

Chapter 412 (Putnam area)  
Annual Summer Luncheon  
Tuesday, June 18th  
12pm social & 1pm lunch  
Black Dog Bar and Grille  
146 Park Rd., Putnam  
\$17.59/member & \$37.59/guest  
Hot lunch buffet: salad, rolls,  
baked haddock, beef brisket,  
vegetables, dessert, coffee/tea  
Please RSVP by June 13th  
Checks to: “CSEA Chapter 412”  
Sent to: Francis Duquette  
PO Box 99  
Thompson, CT 06277  
Fran (860) 923-2781 or  
fduquette@yahoo.com

Chapter 414 (Torrington area)  
Annual Spring Luncheon  
Monday, June 17th - 10am  
Cooperative Service Ext. Bldg  
843 University Dr, Torrington  
Lunch will be catered  
Members: \$5 Guests: \$15  
RSPV by June 7th, to:  
Peaches Miller, 93 West Avon rd

Avon, CT 06001  
or call Peaches at (860) 830-0632  
Checks to: “CSEA Chapter 414”

Chapter 415 (Manchester area)  
Annual Spring Luncheon  
Monday, June 24th - 1pm  
Manchester Elks Lodge  
30 Bissell St., Manchester  
Buffet of sandwiches, salads,  
chips, cookies, beverages  
Cost: \$10 per CSEA Member  
\$15 for guest (limit one guest)  
Checks to: CSEA Chapter 415  
RSVP by June 14th to:  
Bill Dorn: 848 Center Street  
Manchester, CT 06040  
Questions? Bill (860) 840-1688

Chapter 416 (New London area)  
Annual June Luncheon  
Tuesday, June 11th 12pm  
Par 4 Restaurant  
(at Shennecossett Golf Course)  
83 Plant Street Groton  
Buffet includes: Baked Stuffed  
Shimp, Chicken Parmesan,  
Mashed Potato, Green Salad,  
Strawberry Shortcake, Coffee  
Members: \$17.50 Guests: \$35  
RSVP by June 3rd to:  
John A. Knaff, 191 Rogers Rd  
Groton, CT 06340  
Checks to: “CSEA Chapter 416”  
John Knaff - (860) 857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area)  
Wednesday, September 11 - 1pm  
Plainville Public Library  
56 East Main St., Plainville  
Mark Kirschner - (860) 882-2717

Chapter 418  
(Community College Retirees)  
Tuesday, June 18th - 11am  
The Nook Farm Cafe  
(at the Mark Twain House)  
351 Farmington Ave., Hartford  
Colleen Richard - (860) 202-4128

Chapter 421 (Daytona, FL)  
Spring Luncheon  
Thursday, June 6th at 12pm  
Guest Speaker: Aetna Rep:  
Stephanie Saunders  
Louie's Pizza House  
Foxboro Plaza  
1347 Beville Road  
Daytona Beach, FL 32119  
John Veray (386) 871-0573

## 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>

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STATE EMPLOYEES  
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Car Dealers Know Cars but  
We Know  
Financing

Our auto loan puts you  
in the driver's seat.  
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dealership and apply  
through CSE for a  
better rate.

New Car rate  
4.99% APR\*

Used Car Rate  
5.49% APR\*

\*Annual Percentage Rate. Certain restrictions apply. Cannot be applied toward existing car loans. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Rate is subject to change at any time.

**Terms available up to 7 years!**\*Annual Percentage Rate. Certain restrictions apply. Cannot be applied toward existing car loans. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Rate is subject to change at any time.

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**Closed - Juneteenth - Wednesday, June 19**

Dividend Rates - First Quarter 2024

	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

<b>NORWICH</b> Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich, CT 06306 (860) 889-7378	<b>HARTFORD</b> 84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 522-5388 (Savings) (860) 522-7147 (Loans)	<b>NEW HAVEN</b> 1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 (203) 397-2949
<b>MIDDLETOWN</b> 15 Ward Street 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
		<b>NEWINGTON</b> 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.

Allard, Gary, Judicial  
Appleby, George, State University  
Brennan, Ann, Judicial Management  
Brownell, Charles, Managerial  
Caouette, Gene, Service/Maintenance  
Caragliano, John, Admin And Residual  
Chabot, Claire, Administrative Clerical  
Daly, Edward, Engineer, Scien, Tech  
Dragon, Carl, Service/Maintenance  
Edwards, William, Correctional Officers  
Fabry, David, Engineer, Scien, Tech  
Fisher, Gayle, Judicial  
Frett, Calma, Correctional Supervisor  
Gay, Florence, Administrative Clerical  
Gibson, Gordon, Engineer, Scien, Tech  
Godick, Anna, Administrative Clerical  
Gori, Helen, Health Professional  
Harmon, Katherine, Healthcare  
Hendrix, Bryon, Service/Maintenance  
Holmes, Patricia, Health Professional  
Kimball, Paul, Managerial  
Kowalski, Helen, Administrative Clerical  
Leblanc, Tracey, Healthcare  
Little, Clive, Healthcare  
Lussier, Charles, Service/Maintenance  
Maher, Hildegard, Social And Human Services  
Medlar, Susan, Healthcare  
Morales, Rosa, Social And Human Services  
Morrissey, Patricia, Admin And Residual  
Murgich, Dorothea, Comm College Admin  
Nettis, John, St Vocation Federation Teacher  
Nogiec, Delores, Other  
Nuttall, Paul, Uconn Faculty  
Oconnor, Josephine, Administrative Clerical  
Porter, Kenneth, Service/Maintenance  
Previti, Shirley, Engineer, Scien, Tech  
Randall, Dermot, Service/Maintenance  
Rieger, Jean, Administrative Clerical  
Robinson, Joyce, Service/Maintenance  
Roy, Loretta, Service/Maintenance  
Saramanidis, Steven, Health Professional  
Stevens, Glennice, Administrative Clerical  
Tokes, Mary, Uconn  
Torres, Francisco, Service/Maintenance  
Urbanetti, Julius, Administrative Clerical  
Villano, Peter, Legislative Management  
Vonbritton, Agnes, Healthcare  
Weston, Judith, Healthcare  
Williams, Willie, Correctional Officers

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

Travis Woodward	.....President
Beverly Lee	.....Secretary/Treasurer
David Glidden	.....Executive Director
Drew E. Stoner	.....Communication Director
Jason P. Webster	.....Graphic/ 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](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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**CSEA Partners with Habitat for Humanity**  
*First Good Works Volunteer Event is a Success!*

The CSEA SEIU Local 2001 Good Works Committee recently partnered with Habitat for Humanity for a successful community service event. Members enthusiastically participated in various projects, showcasing their commitment to volunteerism and community engagement. The event not only

demonstrated the union's dedication to serving its community but also highlighted the importance of collective action and solidarity in union work. The Good Works Committee extends its gratitude to all members who participated and contributed to the event's success. Not only did dozens of

members volunteer their Saturday, but councils and chapters raised thousands of dollars to support this work. These efforts have made a positive impact, reinforcing our commitment to giving back and supporting those in need. The Good Works Committee looks forward to future op-

portunities to continue its mission of community service and volunteerism, building on the success of this event to further strengthen the union's impact in the community.



No pets allowed per Public Health regs except for Service animals. Please bring License.

# Council 400

# Summer Picnic

RSVP by  
Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>

**The Farmington Polo Club**  
162 Town Farm Rd, Farmington, CT 06032  
**August 14, 2024**

RSVP by  
Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>

**\$15** for Members  
**\$25** for Non-Member spouses  
**\$38** for Guests

**Buffet 12Noon – 2:30PM**  
See page 1 for Menu, Games and Entertainment details



# 100 CSEA Members Join 500 Activists at Capitol

## Speakers Demanded Legislators Address Fiscal Guardrail Crisis

continued from page 1 *porque somos UNA SOLA voz, gracias a todos por estar aquí para levantar esta lucha.*

\*\*\*

Child care providers need a minimum investment of \$1.5 billion to transform child care for CT families, so that parents can work and can have affordable child-care!

All parents...workers...providers and union members have a common interest... achieving the best for their children.

Child care must be a quality industry that is a re-

spected profession and is treated with dignity addressing our needs such as access to affordable healthcare.

Today we fight together, all with different job titles, but as ONE union, because we are ONE voice, thank you all for being here to raise this fight.

After the rally, CSEA members returned to the union hall with their families for a celebratory gathering. The atmosphere was festive, with a delicious taco feast that fostered camaraderie and connection. This event provided a unique opportunity for members from various councils to interact, break down barriers, and build stronger relationships.

Child care council members in particular took the opportunity to strategize and plan with one another for the upcoming year of fights.

The 2nd Annual CSEA Day was not just a demonstration of solidarity and a call for legislative action but also a celebration of community and unity. It highlighted the power of collective action and the importance of continuing the fight for a fair and just society. By coming together, CSEA members and their allies are not only advocating for immediate changes but also paving the way for a better future for all.



# 2024 SEIU Convention

## Seven Delegates & Alternates Travel to Philadelphia to Vote for New SEIU President

continued from page 1 members: Travis Woodward, Patrice Peterson, Warren Packer, Diane Murphy, Patricia Gaskin, and Tanya Jackson, plus Executive Director, David Glidden.

A pivotal moment of the convention was the election of April Verrett as the new SEIU president. Verrett, who replaces Mary Kay Henry, makes history as the first Black president of SEIU. Henry's 14-year tenure saw numerous victories for workers' rights, and her retirement was celebrated with heartfelt tributes. Patrice Peterson, Vice President of Council 400 Retirees and a member of the Union

Forever Workgroup, ensured Henry's legacy was honored by organizing a special card-signing event.

The convention wasn't confined to the walls of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. On Sunday, approximately 4,000 SEIU members marched from the Convention Center to Independence Mall, showcasing their unity and strength. They chanted and rallied for higher standards and new rules to benefit workers across all industries. "Workers today, they know they have power, and they're willing to use it," said April Verrett, former SEIU secretary-treasurer and newly elected President.

The Unions for All March concluded at Independence National Historical Park, where elected officials, including Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Hughes and U.S. Senator Bob Casey, expressed their support. Senator Casey praised the delegates, saying, "As members and as leaders of SEIU, for all that you do, the dignity of your work, the value of your work, how you help the most vulnerable among us, we're grateful for that work. It has never been more important."

BELOW: Patrice Peterson (left) gave outgoing SEIU President Mary Kay Henry (middle front) her Union Forever Tshirt after signing her card.





Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil



**Child Care Council Elections !**  
This August members of the Child Care Council will be voting to elect regional and statewide officers to the child care council.

**WHAT ARE THE POSITIONS?**  
The Statewide positions are:  
President (Automatic delegate to the Executive Council)  
Vice President (Automatic delegate to the E- Council)  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Alt. Delegate to the Executive Council  
McCusker Trustee(CSEA Scholarship Committee)  
Auditors (3)

Members will also elect leaders for the each of the five(5) regions:  
Regional Vice President  
Lead Organizer  
Organizer

All elected positions are 2 year terms.

**SO WHAT IS THE PROCESS?**  
Be on the lookout for invitations and notices to regional and statewide council meetings, where we will go over the roles, duties and responsibilities of the elected positions.

Nominations for the positions will be done during the Child Care Council Meeting on June 22nd at 9am.

Voting will be held during the

August Child Care Council Meeting. More specific dates and details to come during the July regional meetings!

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RUN OR BE NOMINATED?**  
Licensed AND unlicensed providers who are members in good standing who have been a part of their child care union for at least one(1) year can run or be nominated.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?**  
Licensed AND unlicensed providers who are members in good standing are eligible to vote!

**WHAT IS A “MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING”?**  
Any licensed OR unlicensed child care provider who has signed a membership card to join the union;AND is either;  
Currently receiving payment through Care4Kids, OR;  
has received a payment from Care4Kids in the last six (6) months  
\*(To vote in August, you would need to have received at least one payment in or since February, 2024)

\*\*\*

**¡Elecciones del Consejo de Cuidado Infantil !**  
Este agosto, los miembros del consejo de cuidado infantil votarán para elegir a los funcionarios

regionales y estatales para el consejo de cuidado infantil.

**¿CUÁLES SON LAS POSICIONES?**  
Las posiciones estatales son:  
Presidente (Delegado automático al Consejo Ejecutivo)  
Vicepresidente (Delegado automático al Consejo Ejecutivo)  
Secretario  
Tesorero  
Alt. Delegado en el Consejo Ejecutivo  
McCusker Trustee (Comité de Becas CSEA)  
Auditores (3)

Los miembros también elegirán líderes para cada una de las cinco(5) regiones:  
Vicepresidente regional  
Organizador principal  
Organizador

Todos los puestos elegidos tienen mandatos de 2 años.

**ENTONCES, ¿CUÁL ES EL PROCESO?**  
Esté atento a las invitaciones y avisos a las reuniones regional y estatal, donde repasamos las funciones, deberes y responsabilidades de los puestos elegidos.

Las nominaciones para los puestos se harán durante la reunión del Consejo de Cuidado Infantil el 22 de junio

a las 9 a.m.

La votación se llevará a cabo durante la reunión del Consejo de Cuidado Infantil de agosto. ¡Fechas y detalles más específicos durante las reuniones regionales de julio!

**¿QUIÉN ES ELEGIBLE PARA POSTULARSE O SER NOMINADO?**  
Los proveedores con licencia Y sin licencia que son miembros en buen estado y que han formado parte de su sindicato de cuidado infantil durante al menos un (1) año pueden postularse o ser nominados.

**¿QUIÉN ES ELEGIBLE PARA VOTAR?**  
Los proveedores con licencia Y sin licencia que son miembros en buen estado son elegibles para votar!

**¿QUÉ ES UN "MIEMBRO EN BUEN ESTADO"?**  
Cualquier proveedor de cuidado infantil con licencia O sin licencia que haya firmado una tarjeta de membresía para unirse al sindicato;Y es cualquiera de los dos;  
Actualmente recibiendo pago a través de Care4Kids, O;  
Ha recibido un pago de Care4Kids en los últimos seis (6) meses \*(Para votar en agosto, tendría que haber recibido al menos un pago en o desde febrero de 2024).

STRONGER  
CSEA  
SEIU  
Local 2001  
TOGETHER

Central Connecticut State University

Student Center ■ Alumni Hall

105 Ella Grasso Blvd, New Britain, CT

Biennial Convention

Friday, October 25, 2024

The 83rd Anniversary Biennial Convention of CSEA SEIU Local 2001 will convene on Friday, October 25, 2024 at the Central Connecticut State University, Student Center.

Registration will open at 8:00 am.  
The convention will convene promptly at 9:00 am.  
• Elect President and Secretary/Treasurer  
• Vote on any Constitutional Amendments  
• Guest Speakers

CSEA Chapters and Councils should be conducting their elections in the coming months. Please contact your staff representative at (860) 951-6614 for information about chapter/council officer and delegate elections.  
Only elected delegates and elected alternate delegates are eligible to attend the CSEA Biennial Convention on October 25th. Election Results must be provided to the CSEA Main Office (bconway@csea760.com) by Friday, September 30th in order to be registered for the convention and receive credentials.



## Legislative Session Wrap Up

By: Daniel I. Medress, Political Education Director

*continued from page 1*

made progress in several critical policy areas important to councils throughout the local.

Here are some of the legislative highlights from the Connecticut General Assembly 2024 legislative session:

### **\*\*State Budget:\*\***

The Appropriations Committee did not pass any changes to the existing biennial budget. They not only did not pass their own version of the budget, as the committee normally does, they did not even pass the Governor's proposed changes. This lack of action can be traced back to the so-called "fiscal guardrails": it was believed that the existing biennial budget was over the spending cap. So, if they opened the budget to make any changes, the first thing they would have to do is make cuts. Instead of heading down that path, the General Assembly passed a supplemental spending bill (House Bill 5523: An Act Concerning Allocations of Federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds and Provisions Related to General Government, Human Services, Education and the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025). The money in this bill is from the remaining American Rescue Plan dollars from the federal government (federal dollars are outside the spending cap). HB 5523 allocates approximately \$372.5 million to fund a variety of things, including additional money for the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, and the Care 4 Kids program. The funding provided for in HB 5523 is better than none at all; however, the bill's existence in the first place is a prime example of how out of whack the budgeting process has become.

### **\*\*Paraeducator Legislation:\*\***

Paraeducators from CSEA and other unions have been working for years to raise pay and standards in their profession. Paraeducators continue to deal with low pay, weak benefits, and a lack of respect for the work they do. This session, they championed a strong bill that would have made significant improvements to their careers and lives. House Bill 5348: An Act Concerning Paraeducators would have created a minimum yearly

salary of \$45,000 for paraeducators, given paraeducators access to a strong defined-benefit retirement plan, extended and expanded the healthcare subsidy program, and made other improvements for Connecticut's paraeducators. Again, because of its cost and the so-called "fiscal guardrails," and despite passage out of the Education Committee, the bill was not called for a vote in the Appropriations Committee. This shortsighted and frustrating decision did not stop paraeducators from achieving progress through some different pieces of legislation. The previously mentioned HB 5523 includes money to extend and expand the paraeducator healthcare subsidy program, as well as \$1.8 million to fund professional development - including an immersive training program and grants to local school districts. House Bill 5436: An Act Concerning Educator Certification, Teachers, Paraeducators and Mandated Reporter Requirements changes all references in state statute from "paraprofessional" to "paraeducator." This is a small but important change in language that more accurately reflects the importance of the work done by paraeducators.

### **\*\*State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) Agreement:\*\***

The wage reopener agreement negotiated between SEBAC unions and the governor and approved overwhelmingly by CSEA members was filed with the General Assembly at the start of April. The agreement was first approved by the Appropriations Committee and then passed by both the state Senate and state House. As a reminder, the agreement passed by the committee and the General Assembly takes the form of two separate but identical resolutions: one for the Senate and one for the House. And, as they are resolutions, they did not need to be signed by the Governor; once they passed both chambers, they were fully approved.

### **\*\*State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB):\*\***

CSEA members helped create the SCSB, Connecticut's public contracting watchdog, and have been working to ensure its effectiveness since the Board first

met over a decade ago. In the 2024 session, there were two nearly identical bills that would improve and enhance the work of the SCSB: Senate Bill 389: An Act Concerning the State Contracting Standards Board and State Procurement and Senate Bill 391: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the State Contracting Standards Board. To streamline the legislative process, the bills were merged into SB 391 and passed out of the Government Administration and Elections Committee before passing unanimously out of the Senate. Unfortunately, the bill was not called in the House. The SCSB and this legislation have a lot of support in the General Assembly, and CSEA members will be back next year to get a bill to the governor's desk.

### **\*\*Union Power for Seasonal State Employees:\*\***

Connecticut currently hires thousands of seasonal state employees working in roles such as maintenance workers, lifeguards, seasonal park rangers, interpretive guides, first aid attendants, resource assistants, seasonal maintainers, office assistants, and seasonal Special Conservation Officers. The work done by seasonal state employees, while necessary and valuable, overlaps with work done by full time state employees. Yet seasonal workers don't currently have a viable path to joining their co-workers in the union - and consequently, their pay is woefully substandard and they have no access to healthcare. Senate Bill 411: An Act Concerning Temporary State Employees And Collective Bargaining would automatically place seasonal state employees in the appropriate state bargaining units. This is simple: seasonal state employees should not be excluded from collectively bargained contracts, but should instead be treated the same as other workers in state service.

### **\*\*Freedom of Information (FOI) Address Exemption:\*\***

For the past couple of sessions, CSEA members along with our allies in SEBAC and unions that represent municipal and board of education workers have been working to expand the existing FOI address release exemptions. Every public employee deserves to have their home address exempted from release through the FOI process. Senate Bill 436: An Act Concerning Revisions To The Freedom Of Infor-

mation Act Concerning The Nondisclosure Of The Addresses Of Certain Employees passed out of the Government Administration and Elections Committee but was not called for a vote in the Senate. Issues and concerns around personal privacy and safety are not going away, and CSEA members will continue to fight for this important protection.

### **\*\*Paid Sick Days Expansion:\*\***

In 2011, CSEA members helped pass the nation's first paid sick days law. Since Connecticut led the way, other states and municipalities have passed their own versions of a paid sick days law that far exceeded ours. After several years of working to pass an improved and expanded paid sick days law, this year CSEA members and allies helped pass House Bill 5005: An Act Expanding Paid Sick Days In the State. The bill signed by the governor removes the employer size threshold and definition of "service worker" in current law, increases the rate at which employees accrue leave, and decreases the waiting period before they can use it. HB 5005 is a major improvement to Connecticut's paid sick days laws and a bright spot in an otherwise tough session.

### **\*\*Family Childcare Providers:\*\***

Childcare providers have been working for years to bring greater resources into the early education sector to improve services, reverse the trend of vacancies in the profession, and help with recruitment and retention. House Bill 5002: An Act Concerning Early Childhood Care and Education which, among other things pertaining to early childcare and education, contains language creating the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund. This fund will be used for childcare and early childhood education programs and has the potential to be an important tool in the fight to improve wages, healthcare, and retirement benefits for providers.

The obstacles presented by the so-called "fiscal guardrails" are not insurmountable. And, the need to reform how they operate is being recognized by more and more people every day. And so, we fight on!

# Solidarity Season

## Disney Workers Vote to Join Magic United & Next Steps for UAW

In a heartening display of solidarity, Disneyland workers have voted to unionize under the banner of "Magic United." With an overwhelming vote of 953 to 258, the Anaheim-based performers, who bring beloved characters like Mickey Mouse, Elsa, and Chewbacca to life, will now be represented by the Actors' Equity Association. This union, known for representing Broadway actors and stage managers, will advocate for higher wages, better working conditions, and more reliable schedules.

The union campaign was sparked during the pandemic when performers voiced concerns about health and safety, particularly around sharing costumes and interacting closely with visitors. Additionally, despite a wage increase from \$20 to \$24.15 in January, the rising cost of living in Southern California underscored the need for more robust support and representation.

Disneyland's performers are not alone in their union efforts; stage performers and hospitality workers at the resort have long been unionized, and characters at Walt Disney World in Orlando have been represented by the Teamsters for decades.

Meanwhile, in Vance, Alabama, the unionization efforts at the Mercedes-Benz plant faced a setback but also highlighted

significant progress and the potential for future success. Workers at the plant, along with those at the Bibb County battery plant, voted 2,045 to 2,642 against joining the United Auto Workers (UAW). Despite the loss, the close margin of 597 votes signals a strong and growing support for unionization in the South.

Several factors played a role in the outcome. Management's targeted anti-union campaign, which included leveraging team leaders, created significant challenges for union organizers, but a \$2/hour raise for some employees and the elimination of a two-tier pay system—a major grievance among workers—was a direct result of union pressure. This strong demonstration of the power and influence of collective action even in defeat will surely help future unionization efforts.

The close vote

reflects a significant shift in worker sentiment and sets the stage for future organizing efforts.

Let's draw strength from these national movements and channel it into our local efforts. Together, we can build a stronger, more equitable future for all workers. Solidarity forever!



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