



CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees

June, 2025

CSEA SEIU Local 2001

VOL. 58, NO. 6

CSEA Power on Display

Members Celebrate CSEA Day at the Capitol

On Saturday, May 31, over 200 CSEA SEIU Local 2001 members made their voices heard loud and clear at the Connecticut State Capitol during our powerful and action-packed CSEA Day. With just four days left in the legislative session, members from across the state boarded buses, marched to the Capitol steps, and rallied together to demand bold leadership in the face of a

manufactured fiscal crisis.

Chants like “Governor, Governor, hear our call! Fiscal roadblocks hurt us all!” echoed across the Capitol lawn as members called on lawmakers to declare a fiscal emergency and take immediate action to remove the outdated and harmful fiscal guardrails blocking desperately needed investments in our state. The rally focused on

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Morning without Childcare

Members Join Statewide Day of Action

On May 14, families, providers, and community allies across Connecticut took part in a powerful demonstration: A Morning Without Childcare. This coordinated, statewide action spanned 14 locations and was designed to show exactly what happens when our state continues to underfund and undervalue early childhood care.

From Waterbury to Willimantic, Hartford to New Haven, the message was clear: Connecticut’s childcare system is in crisis—and the status quo is not working for providers or families.

Waterbury. In her powerful remarks, she shared the daily challenges that childcare providers face:

“Too many of us go without affordable health care. The plans on Access Health CT are still out of reach for most child care workers. We care for other people’s children every single day — but many of us can’t afford to go to the doctor when we’re sick. We don’t have paid sick days. We don’t have retirement. That’s not how you treat essential workers.

“No one who does this critical, demanding work should have

Among those who spoke out was our union sibling, Maria Reyes, our Childcare Council President and family childcare educator in

to choose between their health and their paycheck. No one should have to stay quiet while the system crumbles around them.”

Maria spoke not just for herself but for the hundreds of educators and care providers across Connecticut who are pushed to the brink—underpaid, under-resourced, and too often unheard.

The action was more than symbolic. It’s part of a broader campaign to demand legislative solutions that stabilize and strengthen childcare.

That includes:

- Sustainable public investment in early childhood education

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Statewide SEBAC Stewards Meeting

Strategizing for 2025 Contract Negotiations

On Wednesday, May 14th, stewards, leaders, and bargaining team members from SEBAC’s 15 unions and 35 bargaining units gathered for a critical statewide meeting to align strategy, share updates, and build collective strength ahead of the final weeks of the legislative session.

The evening kicked off with a slice of pizza and a reminder of what brings us together—solidarity and shared purpose. SEBAC Chief Negotiator Danny Livingston set the tone with a status update on our key

goals, underscoring the urgency of securing fair contracts, fighting off harmful budget proposals, and defending public services.

We also heard powerful examples of how federal funding cuts are already impacting workers and communities. Whether it’s the sudden loss of public health funding or the looming expiration of ARPA-supported services, members were reminded that these aren’t abstract budget lines—they’re our jobs, our families, and our futures.

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Legislative Wrap Up Page 5&6



CSEA Childcare members traded their purple in for yellow for the day to join a statewide effort. Members in and around Hartford came to the Capitol to meet with Legislators and talk to the press.

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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Strike Spring in Connecticut

<div><div>Meetings And News</div></div>	<p>The June Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday June 26th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall and via Zoom</p> <p>Chapter 401 (Hartford area) September 4th at 1pm CSEA Union Hall</p> <p>Chapter 402 (Danbury area) *Spring Luncheon* June 11th at 12pm Chuck’s Steakhouse 20 Segar St., Danbury Cost is \$25 per person Checks to: CSEA Chapter 402 RSVP by June 6th Sent to: Krista Judson 475 Berkshire Road Southbury, CT 06488</p> <p>Chapter 402 (Danbury area) Wed., September 10th - 10am United Methodist Church 5 Clapboard Ridge Road Danbury, CT Linda Albanese:860 354-6965</p> <p>Chapter 403 (Norwich area) *Spring Luncheon* Tuesday, June 17th 11:30am Social hour 12:30pm Guest Speakers 1:00pm Buffet Luncheon Holiday Inn,Chelsea Rose Rm 10 Laura Blvd., Norwich, CT Menu includes: Baked Cod, Beef Tenderloin Tips, Chicken Picatta, Herb Roasted Potatoes Warm Rolls w/butter, Salads, NY style cheesecake, soda, Coffee & Assorted Teas Cash bar too! \$41 per person RSVP by June 5th make check Payable to “Chapter 403” Mail to: Richard Kerrigan 83 Case Street Norwich, CT 06360</p>	<p>Chapter 403 (Norwich area) Tues., September 9th - 1:30pm Rose City Senior Center 8 Mahan Drive, Norwich Carol Burgess:860 303-7267</p> <p>Chapter 404 (Waterbury area) Tues. September 9th - 10am Trinity Orthodox Church 937 Chase Pkwy, Waterbury</p> <p>Chapter 405 (New Haven) Thurs. Sept. 11th - 10:30am Hamden Government Center Building, 3rd Floor 2750 Dixwell Ave., Hamden Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207</p> <p>Chapter 406 (Middletown) Tues. September 9 - 12:30pm American Legion Post 75 58 Bernie O’Rourke Dr. Middletown, CT</p> <p>Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area) Wed., September 17 - 1pm St. Josephs of Stratford National Catholic Church 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford Zoom ID: 872 4952 3823 Passcode: 000891 Liz Anderson (203) 676-0659</p> <p>Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area) *Pre Summer Break Luncheon Wed., June 11th - 12:30pm Riverview Bistro Restaurant 946 Ferry Blvd., Stratford Order from menu, pay for what you order!</p> <p>Chapter 408 (Windham Area) Wednesday, Sept. 10th, 1pm Mansfield Senior Center 303 Maple Rd., Storrs Doug Racicot (860) 234-2537</p> <p>Chapter 409 (Retired State University Professors) Friday, Sept., 19th - 10am CSEA Union Hall & Zoom 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford Zoom ID: 868 8922 7158 Dave Walsh (860) 684-4773</p> <p>Chapter 410 (Windsor area) Monday, September 8 - 1pm Kent Memorial Library</p>	<p>50 N Main St, Suffield Amelia Smith 860 687-1848</p> <p>Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area) *Summer Luncheon* Thurs., June 19th at 12:30pm Elaine’s Restaurant 1841 Berlin Tnpk., Wethers. Entree Choices: Prime Rib, Chicken marsala, Salmon filet Meals include: hors d’oeuvres, salad, pasta, potato, veggies, dessert, coffee or tea \$20/member and \$40/guest RSVP by June 11, 2025 Send checks made payable to “CSEA Chapter 411” to: Joy Gutis, 34 Farview Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804 Joy (860) 966-3340</p> <p>Chapter 412 (Putnam area) *Spring Pot Luck Luncheon Please bring a dish to share! Tues., June 17th - 1:30pm Putnam Town Hall 200 School Street, Putnam Don Gladding (860) 933-9998</p> <p>Chapter 414 (Torrington area) Monday, June 16th at 10am Five Point Extension Bldg 852 University Dr., Torrington Kathryn Doan 860 324-8300</p> <p>Chapter 415 (Manchester) *Spring Luncheon* June 23rd at 1pm Elks Lodge in Manchester 30 Bissell Street Buffet with Sandwich platters, salads, chips, cookies, and beverages Ch 415 Members: \$10 One guest: \$15 Checks:CSEA Chapter 415 RSVP by June 13th to: Bill Dorn 848 Center Street Manchester, CT 06040 Questions? Call Bill at (860) 840-1688</p> <p>Chapter 415 (Manchester) Monday, Sept. 22nd - 1pm Elks Lodge in Manchester 30 Bissell Street Stu Clark: (860) 205-0657</p>	<p>Chapter 416 (New London) Tuesday, Sept 9th at 12pm Waterford Public Library 49 Rope Ferry Rd, Waterford John Knaff: 860-857-4244</p> <p>Chapter 417 (Plainville area) Wed., Sept 10th - 1pm Plainville Public Library 56 East Main St., Plainville Mark Kirschner (860) 882-271</p> <p>Chapter 418 (Community College Retirees) Tues., Sept 16th - 10am 4C’s Union Hall in Hartford 907 Wethersfield Ave Zoom ID: 7421833716 Passcode: 6KUURC Colleen Richard (860) 202-4128</p> <p>Chapter 418 (Community College Retirees) *Summer Picnic in the Park* Tues., June 17th - 11am Elizabeth Park - West Hartford WEST 7 parking lot area Bring lunch and a chair!</p> <p>Chapter 421: (Daytona, FL) Tuesday, June 17th, 2025 Louie’s Pizza House 1347 Beville Road Daytona Beach, FL 32119 Social begins at 11:30am Lunch at 12pm Meeting and Guest Speaker (to be determined) to follow Cost:A fixed fee of \$10.95 plus tax and tip per person All-you-can eat pizza buffet Includes Greek salad & garlic knots. Drinks and choices off the menu not included Please RSVP by June 10th via text or phone call to Ruth Finizio, President, at 860-680-1860 or via email to ruthfinizio@gmail.com</p> <div><div>Council 400 Retiree Summer Picnic - Page 7</div></div>
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Important numbers to have on hand:

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528	Aetna Customer Service: 1-855-648-0391
Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537	Caremark: 1-800-318-2572
Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533	Cigna: 1-800-244-6224
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: 1-800-922-2232	
CSEA Retiree Organizer; Kevin Sullivan: 860-951-6614 x118	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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Closed Juneteenth

Thursday, June 19th

Dividend Rates - First Quarter 2025 Rates

	Dividend Rate	Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	2.50%	2.53%
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.

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(860) 522-7147 (Loans)

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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
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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.

Amato, Barbara,Administrative Clerical

Bates, Edward, Engineer, Scien, Tech

Bilodeau, Virginia,Administrative Clerical

Blankenburg, Marilyn, Administra-
tive Clerical

Butler, Kevin, Service/Maintenance

Church, Stanislaw,Administrative Clerical

Ciarleglio, Eileen, Healthcare

Collins, Kathryn, Protective Services

Colon, Efrain, Correctional Officers

Depolito, Sherri, Healthcare

Dogolo, Kim,Admin And Residual

Dolce, Claire, Managerial

Figiel, Irena, Service/Maintenance

Futtner, Edwina, Legislative Management

Gallagher, Dawn, Healthcare

Gardner, Howard, Service/
Maintenance

Garner, John, Correctional Officers

Goldberg, J, Dept Of Transportation

Hetrick, Marjorie, Healthcare

Hightower, Gertie, Healthcare

Hjulstrom, Justin, Correctional Officers

Johnson, Patricia, State Police

Kokoszka, Ronald, Service/
Maintenance

Krupski, Richard,Admin And Residual

Latney, James, Judicial

Laveway, Patrick,Administrative Clerical

Lenoir, Claire, Service/Maintenance

Miner, Bruce, Social And Human Services

Pakenham, Richard ,Admin And Residual

Parizeau, Robert, Protective Services

Peifer, Mary Ann, Uchc Health

Rodriguez, Carmen,Administrative Clerical

Rovero, Daniel, Legislative Management

Salmon, Robert, Service/
Maintenance

Seymour, Concetta, State University

Shepard, Gary, Correctional Officers

Suckley, Robert, Service/
Maintenance

Sullivan, Eleanor, Judicial

Thomas, Carolyn,Administrative Clerical

Weinland, Thomas, Uconn - Faculty

Zacchio, Dominic, Service/
Maintenance

Mccoy, David, Dept Of Transportation
Mcdonald, Eugene, Correctional Officers
Miller, David, Service/Maintenance

CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's
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CSEA Day at the Capitol

Rallying, Lobbying, Tacos & More!

continued from page 1 what working families need now: healthcare for childcare providers, fair wages for paraeducators, and fully funded contracts for state workers.

After the rally, members took their fight inside the Capitol. Armed with pens and personal stories, we filled out letter after letter to legislators—and we were ready and waiting as House members arrived for their Saturday session. Every lawmaker who entered the building heard our message: Connecticut has the money. It's time to spend it on the people who keep this state running.



Chant Leader Vicky Celyan, Danbury Paraeducator, energized the crowd at the Capitol.

And just ten minutes before the event began, we got wind of a last-minute attack: Republican legislators were trying to remove municipal and paraeducator workers from the state's Paid Sick Day law. But thanks to the immediate and organized action of our members inside the Capitol—who made sure every lawmaker knew exactly what was at stake—that attempt was defeated before it could take hold. Every single legislator who walked through the doors heard: "Do not take away paid sick days from public workers."

After a long day of action, members



Meghan Cahill, P4 Steward, greeted legislators and talked about the importance of investment in core programs.

gathered back at the union hall to reflect and recharge—over a well-earned taco dinner. It was a celebration of our solidarity, a reminder of our collective power, and a commitment to keep fighting.

CSEA Day wasn't just a rally—it was a declaration. We will not be ignored. We will not be divided. And we will not rest until Connecticut's budget reflects the needs, dignity, and worth of the people who make this state work.



As Governor Lamont entered the Capitol for the day, CSEA members greeted him and talked about the issues important to our union.

A Morning without Childcare //

Una Mañana Sin Cuidado Infantil

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- Fair pay for providers
- Access to care for all families, regardless of income or immigration status

This year, state lawmakers have a choice: continue down a path of disinvestment—or rise to the moment by building a childcare system that respects providers, supports working parents, and gives children the strong start they deserve.

You can be part of the solution. Join us by signing and sharing the petition calling on Connecticut's leaders to take urgent action: seiu2001.cc/FCC-petition

When we fight together—for the families we serve, for the care workers who keep our

communities running—we win.

El 14 de mayo, familias, proveedoras y aliades comunitarios en todo Connecticut participaron en una poderosa demostración: Una Mañana Sin Cuidado Infantil. Esta acción estatal coordinada se llevó a cabo en 14 localidades y fue diseñada para mostrar exactamente lo que sucede cuando nuestro estado continúa desfinanciando y subvalorando el cuidado infantil temprano. Desde Waterbury hasta Willimantic, desde Hartford hasta New Haven, el mensaje fue claro: el sistema de cuidado infantil de Connecticut está en crisis—y el status quo no está funcionando ni para las proveedoras ni para las familias.



Members in Bridgeport (TOP) and Waterbury (BOTTOM) came together to celebrate the statewide action: Morning without Childcare.

Entre quienes alzaron la voz estuvo nuestra compañera sindical, María Reyes, presidenta del Consejo de Cuidado Infantil de CSEA y educadora de cuidado infantil familiar en Waterbury. En sus poderosas palabras, compartió los desafíos diarios que enfrentan las proveedoras de cuidado: "Demasiadas de nosotras vivimos sin acceso a atención médica asequible. Los planes en Access Health CT siguen siendo inalcanzables para la mayoría de las trabajadoras del cuidado infantil.

Cuidamos a los hijos de otras personas todos los días —pero muchas de nosotras no podemos permitirnos ir al médico cuando estamos enfermas. No tenemos días de enfermedad pagados. No tenemos jubilación. Así no se trata a las trabajadoras esenciales.

"Nadie que realice este trabajo crítico y exigente debería tener que elegir entre su salud y su cheque de pago. Nadie debería quedarse callado mientras el sistema se derrumba a su alrededor."

María no habló solo por ella, sino por las cientos de educadoras y proveedoras de cuidado en todo Connecticut que están al límite—mal pagadas, con pocos recursos y demasiado a menudo ignoradas.

Esta acción fue más que simbólica. Es parte de una campaña más amplia para exigir soluciones legislativas que estabilicen y fortalezcan el sistema de cuidado infantil. Esto incluye:

- Inversión pública sostenible en educación infantil temprana
- Pago justo para las proveedoras
- Acceso al cuidado para todas las familias, sin importar ingresos o estatus migratorio

Este año, les legisladores estatales tienen una elección: continuar por un camino de desinversión—o estar a la altura del momento construyendo un sistema de cuidado infantil que respete a las proveedoras, apoye a las familias trabajadoras y dé a les niños el buen comienzo que merecen.

Tú puedes ser parte de la solución. Únete firmando y compartiendo la petición que llama a les líderes de Connecticut a tomar acción urgente: seiu2001.cc/FCC-petition Cuando luchamos juntas—por las familias a las que servimos, por les trabajadores del cuidado que mantienen nuestras comunidades funcionando—ganamos.

Good Works Committee Hosts Second Annual Habitat for Humanity Event



The CSEA SEIU Local 2001 Good Works Committee sponsored a Habitat for Humanity Build on Saturday, May 17th. It was in the same East Hartford neighborhood they worked at last year. They would like to thank the participants and the sponsors that made it possible. Those that participated were Julia Battistoni, Kyle Borbas, Kyle Craig, Karen Isherwood, Deepa John, James Kennedy, Mark Kirschner, Alexej Klebous, Kathleen Knight, Lystra Julien-Mayers, Robin Moussa, Pat Padlo,

Stacey Pappano, Beatrice Perez, Nicholas Quicquaro, Jenna Rudewicz, Rob Smith, Ned Statchen, and Dylia Turley. CSEA members show up for their communities!



CSEA members listen on as the Habitat for Humanity Coordinator explains the plan for the day.



P4 Member Mark Kirschner handled the wood working.



20 CSEA members participated in a Habitat for Humanity event this year.

Go Green!

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2025 Legislative Session Wrap Up By: Daniel I. Medress, Political Education Director

One of the most important jobs of the Connecticut General Assembly is to pass a budget every two years. Connecticut's biennial budget is the financial blueprint for our state's spending and operations. Money for environmental analysts in the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection? That's in the budget. Money for local school districts? That's in the budget. Money for educational programs in the Department of Correction? Again, that's in the budget.

As CSEA members have always known, the final form of the Connecticut state budget, the version that is ultimately passed through both chambers of the General Assembly and signed by the Governor, is important... critically important, existentially important. The Connecticut state budget funds our jobs, the retirements we've earned, the schools to which we send our children, and so much more. However, this year, unlike any other time in our state's or nation's history, members of the General Assembly were tasked with crafting a budget without

anything resembling clarity from the federal government.

Although a budget was approved by the legislature and is expected to be signed by Governor Lamont, this process is far from over. Connecticut, like other states in our republic, is expected to lose billions of dollars in support when a federal budget is passed and signed into law. How much we as a state lose is not yet known, but estimates range in the billions of dollars. This lack of certainty from the federal government hung over the entire legislative session and had impacts, large and small, on not only the legislative agenda of CSEA members, but on virtually every aspect of the state budget and legislative process.

So, with all that in mind, let's take a look at how the CSEA agenda fared in the 2025 legislative session of the Connecticut General Assembly:

The next biennial state budget: CSEA members worked with our allies across the state, including in the Connecticut for All Coalition, the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC), and the

Municipal and Board of Education Union Coalition to push for a state budget that puts working people first. While House Bill 7287: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET includes some definitive positives for CSEA members, it falls short of a transformative budget that prioritizes people who work for a living or are struggling to make ends meet. This budget does not ask billionaires to pay their fair share, it does not include a capital gains surcharge on high earners, and while it makes movement on the Volatility Cap – which we were most focused on – the everyday residents in Connecticut will not feel a real difference, since it doesn't make significant enough changes to address public investment short-changing like education and healthcare.

The budget, however, is not without some bright spots:

- The budget **raises the volatility cap threshold (a fiscal roadblock that diverts some revenue outside of the General Fund to the Budget Reserve Fund) by about \$600 million** a year, which will allow for additional state spending on important public services;
 - For now, even though we must continue to be mindful of what the Federal government has in store, the budget funds the jobs and work of the state, municipal, and board of education employees who depend on it;
 - Additionally, the **budget funds state employee pensions and healthcare**; The budget establishes a **refundable income tax credit of \$500** a year for childcare providers, including CSEA members, in state-licensed family child care homes; and
 - The budget appropriates **\$10 million a year to continue the paraeducator healthcare subsidy program**.
- While not the budget, the General Assembly also passes another important
- continue onto Page 6*

2025 Legislative Session Wrap Up

continued from page 5

bill every session: the bond bill. As the name implies, the bond bill allocates bonded money for various state funded projects. However, the bill deals with more than bonds. This year’s bill, House Bill 7288, also includes some wins for CSEA members:

- Sections 183 through 185 make changes to the existing **Connecticut Municipal Retirement Systems (CMERS)**. These changes were negotiated between the Comptroller, CSEA, other municipal and BOE unions to help strengthen CMERS and ensure its long-term stability; and
- Sections 234 through 236 adds school employees, like paraeducators, that do not require a professional certification to Connecticut’s paid leave program, CT Paid Leave.
- **Collective Bargaining Agreements:** Prior to the start of the legislative session, CSEA members were ready to pass any collective bargaining agreements or memorandums of understanding that made their way to the General Assembly for approval. However, no CSEA bargaining units had a contract before the General Assembly this session.
- **Paraeducators:** There were two pieces of legislation that drew the most attention from paraeducators: House Bill 7010:AN ACT CONCERNING PARAEDUCATORS and House Bill 7195:AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR PARAEDUCATORS. HB 7010 would have made significant progress around raising wages for paraeducators while improving retirement and healthcare benefits. And, HB 7195 would have allowed paraeducators to collect unemployment benefits over the summer months when they are not working. Unfortunately, due to the spending restraints placed on the budget because of the fiscal roadblocks, neither of these bills moved forward to the Governor’s desk this year. Protecting the healthcare subsidy and expanding paid leave are certainly positive outcomes, but the General Assembly and the Governor have to act now to raise wages and improve benefits for paraeducators.
- **Childcare Providers:** With childcare being one of the General Assembly’s priority issues this year, members of CSEA’s Childcare Council were active throughout the session to ensure the passage of quality legislation that improves the lives and careers of providers. The session started with legislative proposals that could have brought real harm to the state’s childcare subsidy program, Care 4 Kids.

However, thanks to childcare provider members working with allies in the General Assembly, the childcare bills passed this year represent a genuine step forward for providers and the work they do. The General Assembly passed and Governor Lamont is expected to sign two childcare bills; Senate Bill 1:AN ACT INCREASING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS, SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION and House Bill 5003:AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION.

SB 1 establishes the Early Childhood Education Endowment. The endowment will be funded initially with about \$220 million in money from Connecticut’s budget surplus, this will allow the endowment to exist outside of the state spending cap. The endowment is intended to generate interest through investments and will be allowed to spend around 12% of its total a year. It will be overseen by the Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board which includes a seat for the appointment of a family childcare provider. The ultimate goal of the legislation is to provide childcare services to children from birth through five years old and to ensure that no family earning less than \$100,000 a year pays anything towards childcare, while families earning over \$100,000 a year do not pay more than 7% of their income towards childcare services. If all goes according to plan, the endowment should be able to start making payments in 2028. SB 1 also creates a healthcare subsidy program for childcare providers. In Fiscal Year 2026, the bill tasks the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange (i.e.Access Health CT) with studying the need for, and then creating, a health insurance subsidy program for childcare providers. In Fiscal Year 2027, \$10 million has been appropriated for the subsidy program, jointly established by Access Health CT and the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), to be up and running.

HB 5003 creates an online portal for childcare services.

This will be one-stop shopping for parents who are looking for childcare services while also providing an opportunity for providers to gain new clients. The software to create the portal will likely be purchased through a private firm, but the portal will be maintained and operated by in-house state employees. HB 5003 also requires OEC, by July 1, 2027, to implement a prospective payment system (payment based on enrollment rather than attendance) for Care 4 Kids to comply with federal law.

SEBAC Legislative Proposals: CSEA, along with other unions in SEBAC, worked to pass a trio of important pieces of legislation: Senate Bill 1486:AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY STATE EMPLOYEES AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, Senate Bill 1499: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD, and House Bill 6850:AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONCERNING THE NONDISCLOSURE OF THE ADDRESSES OF CERTAIN PUBLIC AGENCY EMPLOYEES.. These bills have been run in the General Assembly in previous sessions, but there was hope that they would make it to the Governor’s desk this year. Ensuring that temporary, or seasonal, state employees have full access to their collective bargaining rights - something that SB 1486 would have accomplished, enhancing the work of the State Contracting Standards Board - the focus of SB 1499, and protecting the residential address of public employees from release through the Freedom of Information system - the intent of HB 6850 - should be no brainers. Unfortunately, these bills got

caught up in the frenzy of the end of session and were not called for a vote.

Just Cause/Tenants Union: CSEA worked with our allies in the Connecticut Tenants Union to pass a strong universal just cause bill, House Bill 6889:AN ACT CONCERNING EVICTIONS FOR CAUSE, which would have expanded existing protections to prohibit no-fault, lapse of time evictions to all renters (except those in small, owner-occupied buildings), so tenants in good standing can remain in their homes. Much like the bills supported by SEBAC, this piece of legislation should be racing towards the Governor’s desk. However, the legislative session was adjourned before it could be called for a vote.

The General Assembly legislative session has been described as a three act play: Act 1 - bills are introduced in committee, Act 2 - bills are subject to public hearings, and Act 3 - bills receive a vote in the chambers of the House and Senate. Well, this year, because of the dysfunction coming out of Washington, D.C., we’re going to have an encore. The General Assembly is widely expected to convene a Special Session in a few months to deal with any ramifications that result from federal funding cuts.

All of this is enough to be reminded of an exchange of dialogue the novelist Cormac McCarthy once wrote between two police officers. A deputy says, “It’s a mess, ain’t it Sheriff?” And the Sheriff replies, “If it ain’t, it’ll do till a mess gets here.”

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Elaine Ann Colson



SEPTEMBER 24, 1932 - MAY 20, 2025

OBITUARY

Elaine Ann Bunting Colson, 92, of Manchester CT, passed away peacefully on May 20th. Elaine attended Bay Path College and the University of Connecticut and went on to enjoy a long and fulfilling career as an administrative secretary at CSEA SEIU Local 2001, where she worked for more than 40 years. She also spent time early in her career working at the Connecticut State Capitol, reflecting her deep interest in politics and public service.

Statewide SEBAC Stewards Meeting

Working Together to Secure Fair Contracts for 2025 Negotiations

continued from page 1 We shared updates from the bargaining tables, highlighting the threat of wage freezes and underinvestment in our workforce. Lobbyists from various unions also reported on the threats and opportunities at the Capitol. From fiscal “roadblocks” to overdue investments in care, education, and public infrastructure, the message was clear: if we want a budget that reflects our values, we must organize

and act. Stewards also shared best practices and brainstormed new ways to activate members, especially as we head into a crucial budget fight. With just weeks left in the session, this meeting was a rallying point for public sector union members ready to fight for dignity, respect, and the resources our communities deserve.



SEBAC Chief Negotiator Danny Livingston provided an update on 2025 negotiations.



SEBAC Stewards, delegates and negotiation team members came together from across unions and state agencies.



As the spouse of a Connecticut state retiree, you benefit directly from the hard-earned healthcare and pension protections your family relies on. By joining CSEA Council 400 for just \$60 per year, you help strengthen the voice of retirees and their families at the Capitol and in negotiations that affect your healthcare, cost-of-living adjustments, and long-term retirement security. You don't need to have worked for the state — if you're receiving benefits through your spouse's retirement, you have a stake in protecting them. Your membership supports advocacy, representation, and access to helpful information and resources all year long. It's a small investment that helps protect what you've earned together.



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2025 COUNCIL 400 RETIREES

Annual Picnic

RSVP BY AUG 5TH

THE FARMINGTON POLO CLUB
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FARMINGTON, CT

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025
11:00-4:00PM**


**SWIMMING, HORSESHOES, BOCCE, BASKETBALL, FISHING
CELEBRATE SOCIAL SECURITY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY!**

Buffet (12:00-2:30PM)
Hamburgers, Veggie Burgers, Hotdogs, Grilled Chicken, NE Clam Chowder, Chili con Carne, Sausage & Peppers, Corn on the Cob, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Egg Potato Salad, Tossed Salad, Watermelon, Cake by Bernadette, Soft Serve Ice Cream

WOW!

\$15 - Members
\$25 - Non-Member Spouse
\$38 - Guests

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NO PETS ALLOWED

SERVICE DOGS ARE WELCOME

Member/Member spouse			
Non-Member spouse			
Phone#			
Email (if you want confirmation)			
Chapter#/Location			
# of Guest	Guest Name(s)		
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Amt Enclosed \$			

QUESTIONS
STU CLARK: 860-205-0657
TINA FRANCO: 203721-4382

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Strike Spring: Union Power on the Rise, Right Under Attack

Across Connecticut, workers are rising—and they’re not alone. From machinists to caregivers to ironworkers, the last few months have shown the true meaning of solidarity and what’s possible when workers stand together. But even as victories stack up, so do the attacks on our rights.

The Wins: What Solidarity Has Delivered Ironworkers at Jescraft

After weeks of holding the line in Oxford, the ironworkers at Jescraft who struck for union recognition won big: management formally recognized their union, marking a critical step forward for workplace safety, job security, and respect. These workers braved unsafe conditions and broken promises—and walked out to demand better. Now, they have a voice on the job.

Pratt & Whitney IAM Members

Over 3,000 machinists stood strong against efforts to weaken retirement security and shift rising healthcare costs onto workers. After a powerful strike and 24-hour picket lines, they reached a

tentative agreement that reflects the strength of a united workforce.

SEIU 1199 Nursing Home Workers

More than 5,700 caregivers were prepared to walk off the job on May 27th—but because of their organizing and pressure on the Governor, a last-minute agreement was reached, averting the strike and delivering gains in staffing, safety, and compensation. This wasn’t a gift—it was a win earned by members who refused to be ignored.

UAW Workers at Electric Boat

With over 2,400 members authorizing a strike for a fair contract, UAW workers forced the issue to the bargaining table. Their action helped shine a light on the urgent need for real investment in skilled trades and the workers behind Connecticut’s defense industry.

Backus Hospital AFT Nurses

In Norwich, nurses continue to sound the alarm about a deteriorating patient care crisis. Their informational picket on May 15

drew widespread support and helped spotlight the link between safe staffing and patient safety. Their advocacy is part of a growing movement demanding health-care that respects both caregivers and those they care for.

But just as workers across the state have begun to make gains, there’s a disturbing pattern emerging in the legislature. Republican leaders are trying to strip away key labor protections, including:

- Blocking unemployment benefits for striking workers
- Weakening arbitration rights for public sector workers
- Undermining our right to strike

These are not just policy disagreements—they are attacks on the very foundation of union power. Denying unemployment during a strike is a cruel tactic to force workers into silence. Gutting arbitration tilts the playing field in favor of management. Chipping away at the right to strike is nothing less than an assault on collective bargaining itself.

We are fighting back with

legislation like SB 8, which would provide unemployment benefits for striking workers—because no one should have to choose between standing up for their rights and putting food on the table. It’s about dignity, fairness, and protecting the right to fight for better conditions.

We’re also fighting for bold budgets, fair contracts, and real investments in the workers who make Connecticut run. Every time someone says “we can’t afford it,” remember: we have the second-largest surplus in state history. What we can’t afford is continued disinvestment.

We believe in a Connecticut where every worker is respected. Where strikes are not a last resort but a turning point. Where the labor movement isn’t just surviving—it’s growing stronger.

Let’s be clear: we are not the problem—we are the solution. From Jescraft to Backus, from the Capitol to the picket line, our message is clear:

When we fight, we win together.

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