

'State of the People' Equity Agenda Launched at Major Kick-Off Event

On Tuesday, February 6th, Senator Gary Winfield and State Representative Jillian Gilchrest joined advocates from across Connecticut held a parallel event to Governor Lamont's State of the State with a realistic view of the struggles of everyday Connecticut residents in what they dubbed, 'State of the People.'

Some of the most powerful remarks came from CSEA Paraeducator, Vicky Ceylan who moved the crowd with a success story about her son AJ, a recent UConn grad with Cerebral Palsy.

"We continue onto page 4

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Ed Daly



OBITUARY

Ed Daly, a giant in the Labor Movement in Connecticut, has passed away at the age of 90. Ed was an important and integral part of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, serving as President of the P4 Council, President of the Local from 1986 through 1992 and President of the Retiree Council 400 from 2008 through 2022, to name just a few ways he served the union.

Ed attended the University of Connecticut and worked as a Dairy Inspector for the Department of Environmental Protection, retiring in March of 1992. After his retirement, he never wavered nor rested in his fight for protecting the interests of public workers. Ed also served in the Korean War.

He leaves behind his children, and his CSEA family, to mourn his passing and appreciate his life of service.



ABOVE: P3B Stewards at the Union Hall for a Training Session with Field Director Kevin Mercik.

SEBAC 2024 Announcement

In 2022, Union Negotiation Teams worked hard to win a blockbuster four-year contract that delivered excellent economics - wage increases, steps and lump sums. Since 2022, the average CSEA state member has seen an almost 15% increase in wages. However, the State would not agree to include a raise/annual increment for the 24/25 contract year - consequently, we agreed to a wage reopener for that year. In the reopener negotiations which started in January, your CSEA bargaining

teams made it a priority to secure a fair increase as quickly as possible so that we can ensure that the raises are paid on time this July and so we can turn our sights onto the bigger negotiations for the full contract coming up this fall.

I am happy to announce that, together through our union, we were able to secure a 2.5% general wage increase plus step for the upcoming 24/25 contract year, a framework that aligns with the NP-I State Police unit which reached an agreement for 2024 a short time ago. This will be our sixth year in row with a solid general wage increase and steps on time, following some very difficult years in the 2010s. continue onto page 7

P3B Council Busy with Trainings Ahead of Major Fights

Recently, P3B stewards gathered for a dynamic training session aimed at enhancing their roles within the union. Led by Kevin Mercik, Field Director for CSEA, stewards delved into effective strategies for handling challenging managers and employing an organizing union model. The training emphasized the collective power of union workers in affecting positive change in the workplace.

Additionally, Lisa Bennet and Dora Bennett, both stewards and members of the P3B executive leadership team, shared valuable insights on new employee orientations and labor management processes. Their expertise further equipped stewards to navigate and advocate for their fellow union members.

The training was not only informative but also a testament to the unity and

strength represented by the SEIU CSEA stewards, as highlighted by the playful purple-lipped photo that captured the spirit of the event.

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

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

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**Meetings
And News**

MEETING DATES

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

Chapter 401 (Hartford area)
Thursday, April 4th - 1pm
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford
Zoom Meeting ID: 833 1491 7718
Patrice Peterson - (860) 416-0306

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)
Wednesday, March 13th - 10am
Guest Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,
CSEA Council 400 Organizer
United Methodist Church
5 Clapboard Ridge Rd. Danbury
Linda Albanese - (860) 354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)
Tuesday, April 9th - 1:30pm
Guest Speaker: Kevin Sullivan
CSEA Retiree Organizer
Rose City Senior Center
8 Mahan Drive., Norwich
Carol Burgess - (860) 859-3641

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area)
Tuesday, March 12th - 10am
Guest Speaker: Aetna Rep.
&
Tuesday, April 9th - 10am
Guest Speaker: A Financial Planner
Trinity Orthodox Church
937 Chase Parkway, Waterbury
Tina Franco (203) 721-4382

Chapter 405 (New Haven area)
Thursday, March 14th - 10:30am
Guest Speaker: Aetna Rep.
Hamden Govt Center Building
2750 Dixwell Ave. (3rd Floor)
Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207

Chapter 406 (Middletown area)
Tuesday, March 12th - 1pm
Guest Speaker: Robert Rodriguez,
Social Security Administration
American Legion Post 75
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr.
Middletown, CT
Joe Formica - (860) 347-4532

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)
Wednesday, March 20th - 1pm
St. Josephs of Stratford Church
1300 Stratford Road
Stratford, CT (on Rt. 113)

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area)
Wednesday, March 13th - 1pm
Social time is 12:30pm
Mansfield Senior Center
303 Maple Road. Mansfield
Doug Racicot - (860) 234-2537

Chapter 409
(Retired University Professors)
Friday, March 15th - 10am
CSEA Union Hall & via Zoom
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford
Zoom Meeting ID: 868 8922 7158
Dave Walsh - (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor area)
Monday, March 11th - 1pm
Guest Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep.

&
Monday, April 10th - 1pm
Guest Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,
CSEA Retiree Organizer
Suffield Senior Center
145 Bridge St., Suffield
Amelia Smith - (860) 687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area)
Thursday, March 21st - 12:30pm
Two Guest Speakers: Aetna
& Cigna Representatives
Online & at CSEA Union Hall
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford
Zoom Meeting ID: 876 7278 2961
Sebastian Puglisi (860) 529-8336

Chapter 412 (Putnam area)
Tuesday, March 19th - 1:30pm
The New Putnam Town Hall
200 School St., Putnam
Don Gladding - (860) 933-9998

**Council 400 Quarterly
Virtual Meeting**
Wednesday, March 20th 4PM
Via Zoom
Special Guest Speaker:
**Representative
Jane Garibay**
Sign on to Zoom
Enter Meeting ID:
817 1714 9043

Emails with a link to the zoom meeting will be sent out

Chapter 414 (Torrington area)
Monday, March 18th - 10am
Cooperative Service Ext. Bldg
843 University Dr, Torrington
Speaker: Bernadette Conway
Karen Pineman - (860) 354-6727

Chapter 415 (Manchester area)
Monday, March 25th - 1pm
Guest Speaker: Jason Doucette
Representing House District 13
Manchester Elks Lodge
30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT
Stuart Clark - (860) 205-0657
(c)
(860) 454-4818 (h)

Chapter 416 (New London area)
Tuesday, March 12th -
12pm Social Time & 1pm Meeting
Guest Speaker: Robert Rinker,
CSEA Council 400 Vice Pres.
East
Groton Public Library
52 Newtown Rd., Groton
&
Tuesday, April 9th -
12pm Social Time & 1pm Meeting
Guest Speaker: Aetna Representative
Waterford Public Library
49 Rope Ferry Rd., Waterford
John Knaff - (860) 857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area)
Wednesday, March 13th - 1pm
Guest Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep.
Plainville Public Library
56 East Main St., Plainville
Mark Kirschner - (860) 882-2717

Chapter 418
(Community College Retirees)
Tuesday, March 19th - 10am
4C's Union Hall
907 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford
Bill Searle - (860) 745-3692

Chapter 441 (Cape Cod, MA)
Meeting Date: TBD
Questions? Call Sherrill Stott
(774) 237-0220

**Check out
Page 6 for
more
Council 400
News!**

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>



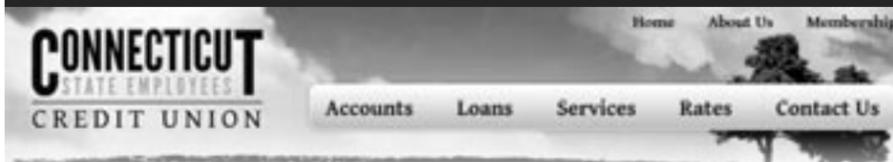
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www.CSECreditUnion.com

Closed on Good Friday, March 29th

Dividend Rates - Fourth Quarter 2023

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	3.00%	3.05%
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.

- Adams, Mildred, Health Professional
- Backman, Joanne, Judicial
- Ball, James, Service/Maintenance
- Bartone, Nancy, Engineer, Scien, Tech
- Behm, Elizabeth, Administrative Clerical
- Bornstein, Leonard, Social and Human Services
- Bratt, John, St Vocation Federation Teacher
- Budnick, Victor, Connecticut Innovations
- Callahan, Margaret, Health Professional
- Chafin, Marcelle, Health NonProfessional
- Charamut, Ruth, Judicial
- Chartier, Leo, Correctional Officers
- Clark, Jonathan, Correctional Officers
- Colao, Frank, Judicial
- Coor, Julia, Social and Human Services
- Cormier, Ingrid, Judicial
- Cutlip, Michael, UConn
- Debowes, Brian, Judicial
- Drake, Gary, Health Professional
- Dubowsky, Edward, Service/Maintenance
- Ensign, Jonathon, Managerial
- Fazio, Deborah, Health Professional
- Fenn, Barry, State Police
- Hannon, Robert, Engineer, Scien, Tech
- Hawkes, Anna, Service/Maintenance
- Henshaw, Carol, Social and Human Services
- Lessor, John, Judicial
- Long, Donald, Elected/Appointed
- Long, John, Service/Maintenance
- Mainetti, John, Service/Maintenance
- Mcclain, Carol, Administrative Clerical
- Mitchell, David, Correctional Officers
- Pedersen, Thomas, Criminal Justice Inspectors
- Pond, Catherine, Engineer, Scien, Tech
- Provençal, Ruthann, Administrative Clerical
- Quinn, Jane, Administrative Clerical
- Ruff, Kay, Health Professional
- Terry, Robert, State Police
- Tomascak, Wayne, Social and Human Services
- Tranzillo, Margaret, No Designated Unit
- Vance, Ginger, Health Professional
- Waranowicz, Jo-Ann, Health Professional
- Watson, Sally, Health Professional
- Weber, Alice, Administrative Clerical
- White, Gwendolyn, Administrative Clerical
- Winfrey, William, Service/Maintenance
- Young, Elmer, Protective Services
- Zadroga, Lucinda, Service/Maintenance
- Zaheer, Mohammad, Comm College Faculty

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

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- Beverly LeeSecretary/Treasurer
- David GliddenExecutive Director
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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.

"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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A 'State of the People'

A Response to Governor Lamont's State of the State and his Analysis of 'Good Fiscal Health'

continued from page 1 have over 1,300 paraeducator vacancies across Connecticut and our higher education system is facing hundreds of millions of dollars in deficit," said Victoria Ceylan, a Danbury Paraeducator, "And as a para who has been working since 2014, I still don't make \$18 per hour and my coworkers who have been paras for over 20 years are barely making \$20/hour. Those are not numbers reflective of a state in 'good fiscal health.' Connecticut has the money, but Governor Lamont, are you going to let a silly thing like the fiscal guardrails prevent us from spending the billions we have in surplus on critical investments like paras and higher education?"

Other speakers covered important issues like Just Cause for Tenants, a universal Just Cause law that protects tenants without a lease, whose lease is ending, or who are month-to-month from being evicted for no reason, higher education funding, and paid sick days for all workers.

"Let's remind ourselves of our joint vision of the mission of our public higher education system," said Oskar Harmon, a UConn Economics Professor, "It is a tool to lift up entire communities, to address racial and economic disparities and to set us up for a strong and stable economy. It is an economic engine of growth. It provides undergraduates with high quality skills in critical thinking, math, reading and writing that become the foundation for successful careers. Many go on to become doctors, nurses, engineers, business people, lawyers, teachers. Indeed the vast majority of our graduates stay in CT."

"El día que el trabajador del hogar no puede ir a trabajar porque está enfermo, sencillamente se le descuenta ese o esos días de su pago al final de la semana," dijo Karime Pimentel, líder de las campañas de Días de Enfermedad Pagados y Robo de Salario con el Proyecto del Valle de Naugatuck. "Siguiendo sus compromisos financieros intactos y la realidad de no poder afrontarlos. Exponiéndose así a ser desalojados, no poder alimentar a sus familias y quedar desamparados. Experiencia que vivimos en carne viva de más 75 familias en la ciudad de Waterbury, de nuestro grupo comunitario de trabajadores unidos, durante la pandemia del covid-19."

On the day that the domestic worker is unable to go to work because they are sick, they simply have



that day or those days deducted from their pay at the end of the week, leaving their financial commitments intact and the reality of not being able to meet them," said Karime Pimentel, leader of Paid Sick Days and Wage Theft campaigns with Naugatuck Valley Project, "Thus exposing themselves to eviction, not being able to feed their families, and risking becoming homeless. We experienced this first hand with more than 75 families in the city of Waterbury, from our community group of workers united, during the covid-19 pandemic.

"No one deserves to live in constant fear and stress of being displaced for retaliatory or gentrifying reasons or for no reason at all, also known as

no-fault evictions," said Amanda Watts (he/they) of the CT Tenants Union, "Landlords' unchecked no-fault eviction power is an egregious tool that works to pacify many tenants like my neighbors and me into accepting subpar treatment and living conditions. Connecticut currently protects elderly, differently abled folks, and those who live in federally subsidized or public housing from being evicted for no reason because lawmakers recognize how detrimental evictions can be. Why not extend this important Just Cause Eviction Protection to all tenants in Connecticut?"

CSEA In the Press

Amplifying Paraeducator Issues & Vacancies in State Agencies

Recent news coverage has highlighted the critical role of paraeducators in Connecticut's education system and the ongoing challenges they face. In Groton, the Board of Education's decision to roll back tutoring cuts and request additional funds was a victory for paraeducators like Jessica Beckford and Jessika Brown, who provide essential support for students with special needs. However, these cuts put more pressure on paraeducators and impact their personal finances, as highlighted by Beckford's statement that losing hours meant a significant loss of income, especially after holiday spending.

The rally at the Capitol for greater equity and revenue, covered by *CT News Junkie*, featured impassioned speeches from paraeducators like Victoria Ceylan. Ceylan highlighted the critical role

paraeducators play in students' lives and called for better pay and investment in education. These sentiments were echoed by Travis Woodward, president of CSEA-SEIU Local 2001, who emphasized the need to fill vacancies in key professional posts to maintain essential services. In a later piece also featured in the *CT News Junkie*.

As the legislature prepares to reconvene, Democratic state legislators and activists have unveiled an "Equity Agenda" to tackle systemic inequalities. The plan, compiled by CT For All, aims to promote social services programs and eliminate inequalities. This announcement comes at a crucial time when funding for education and social services is under scrutiny, highlighting the importance of advocacy for paraeducators and essential services.



CSEA For Higher Education Funding!



CSEA SEIU Local 2001
@cseaseiulocal2001

Faculty, staff, students, and community members are urging permanent and full funding of Connecticut's public higher education system, as the Appropriations Committee convenes to hear testimonies. Advocates are specifically calling on Governor Lamont to ease restrictions on fiscal guardrails, thereby bolstering our workforce pipeline and enabling students to realize their aspirations.

#FundOurFutureCT #UnionYes



CSEA SEIU Local 2001

It's CSEA - ready to fight for better wages & benefits?

Yes! How can I join the fight?

Text "CSEA" to 787753 to start receiving text updates!

TEXT "CSEA" TO 787753

P3B Mocktails & More!

The most recent P3 B Mocktails event was held at the Yard Tavern in Enfield on Feb 9th. It was a Valentine's Day theme and all members were encouraged to bring a friend or loved one to share in the festivities.

All mocktail events are open to P3B members plus 1 guest and are being held throughout the state every 2nd Friday every other month. "food is on us, cash bar."

Attendees enjoyed food, drink, small party favors, and "Photo Booth"

fun. The Valentine's Day themed party favors included candy chocolate heart boxes, conversation hearts, and chocolate roses - not to mention the hand-crafted heart magnet party favors from P-3B leader Kevin Devery.

P3B president Stephaine Darden Smith and other union leaders were present to answer union questions and to share in the fun.



Go Green!

Sign up to have the CSEA News be sent digitally rather than a hardcopy in the mail.

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BJ Wholesale Membership Offer

We are happy to offer BJ's Membership once again. To better serve you, all membership enrollments and renewals will

be processed through our BJ's Partnership Support Center by calling them directly at 1-800-313-8887. Please use the CSEA Code 350150

The expiration date of the offer is February 1, 2025.

Please note, the CSEA 'Group Promo Code' which is 350150. This code is unique to CSEA. When contacting the Support Center, you will need to reference this 'Group Promo Code' to qualify for the discount

BJ's Partnership Support Center details Phone #: 1-800-313-8887 Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM EST

When you call, you will need to supply the following information -

- Your Organization's 'Group Promo Code', which is 350150
- Debit or credit card information
- If a current BJ's member, a membership ID which can be found on your BJ's membership card or from within the BJ's app

Here is the current offer: The membership levels are now Club (formerly Inner Circle) and Club + (formerly Rewards).

NEW MEMBER OFFER: (These new member rates are amazing!) (plus tax in NY and NJ)

Any employee/union member may OPEN a NEW Club membership at the discounted rate of \$20/12 months (\$35 savings off the In-Club rate of \$55/12 months) or

May OPEN a NEW Club + membership at the discounted rate of \$60/12 months (\$50 savings off the In-Club rate of \$110/12 months).

Both offers also include one household member card at no charge. (2 cards total on membership.) This applies to NEW members only...previous or existing members are not eligible for new member rates.

EXISTING MEMBER OFFER: (plus tax in NY and NJ)

This program also enables your employees/union members to EXTEND their existing Club or Club + memberships at the rates below:

The Club renewals are only \$50/12 months.

The Club + renewals are only \$100/12 months.

With payment, 12 months will be ADDED onto current expiration date of existing members.

Council 400 Celebrates its Champions *A Big Thank You to our Members for Their Recruitment Efforts*

In the spirit of unity and strength, CSEA Council 400 extends a heartfelt thank you to a special group of members who have gone above and beyond in welcoming new faces into our fold. Their dedication to growing our community speaks volumes about their commitment to the collective well-being of retired State of Connecticut employees. It's with great appreciation that we recognize Tom Welch, Jim Battistelli, Sharon D. Mounds, David Monckton, Lamel Smith, Jean Roberts, Stanley Sobieski, Mary Jean Kanabis, Tina Franco, Jane Marrone, Doug Racicot, Mable Maynard, Don Gladding, Nancy Dyer, Susan Marabito, Andrew Woods, Win Heimer, Sebastian Puglisi, Bill Searle, Iris Bennett, Elizabeth Anderson, Greg Daniels, and Lynda Mazzafaro for their outstanding efforts in recruiting new members into the retiree union.

The vibrancy of our union lies in the diversity and the experiences of our members. Each new member brings a wealth of knowledge and a fresh perspective that enriches our community. The efforts of our dedicated recruiters have not

only bolstered our numbers but have also strengthened our collective voice, ensuring that the interests and rights of retired State of Connecticut employees are heard and protected.

We encourage all CSEA Council 400 members to follow in the footsteps of these remarkable individuals. Many retired State of Connecticut employees are yet to join our ranks, and each one represents an opportunity to fortify our union further. Reaching out to former colleagues and friends who have retired can make a significant difference. By sharing your positive experiences and the benefits of being part of our union, you can help expand our community and enhance our ability to advocate for the rights and benefits of all members.

For those interested in becoming more involved in recruitment efforts, CSEA Council 400 offers organizing incentives that not only reward your efforts but also contribute to our growth and solidarity. Kevin Sullivan, the CSEA Council 400 Organizer, is available to provide more information about these incentives and sup-

port your recruitment endeavors. You can reach out to Kevin at KSullivan@csea760.com to learn more about how you can contribute to our mission of protecting and expanding the benefits and rights of our members.

In closing, we extend our deepest gratitude to Tom, Jim, Sharon, David, Lamel, Jean, Stanley, Mary Jean, Tina, Jane, Doug, Mable, Don, Nancy, Susan, Andrew, Win, Subby, Bill, Iris, Liz, Greg and Lynda for their exceptional contributions. Their efforts exemplify the spirit of solidarity and commitment that lies at the heart of CSEA Council 400. Let us all strive to contribute to our union's growth and strength, ensuring a bright future for all retired State of Connecticut employees.

Together, we are stronger. Let's continue to grow our union and stand united in our mission.



There's Still Time!

CSEA Local 2001
SEIU
stronger together

APPLY FOR MCCUSKER!

The 2024 Bernard McCusker Scholarship Application Window is open until 4/30



CSEA-CT.COM

IT'S ELECTION TIME FOR CSC! MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARCH 18 (8AM)- APRIL 19 (4PM)
NOMINATIONS WILL BE OPEN

ELECTION DAY TUES JUNE 4TH
10-7PM CSEA UNION HALL-760 CAPITOL AVE HARTFORD

Nominations will be accepted for all positions. Nominations should be submitted via email to Jason Webster @ jpwebster@csea760.com

Child Care Providers Testify

Proveedores de cuidado infantil testifican

More than fifteen dedicated home-based family childcare providers took to Zoom during recent legislative hearings, each member representing a crucial voice in the ongoing battle for access to affordable quality health insurance. The providers made their presence felt as they passionately testified about the challenges they face in securing access to affordable quality health care, while prioritizing the quality care and education they provide to the children. As integral contributors to Connecticut's economy, their ability to provide childcare enables parents to join the workforce, underscoring the crucial role they play in driving economic growth and stability. Through their personal and heartfelt testimonies, they shed light on the harsh reality that many in their profession endure, where the lack of affordable quality healthcare options poses a significant barrier to their well-being and ability to provide quality early education to the children in their care.

As frontline workers in the child-

care sector, your participation in hearings serves as a catalyst for progress, reminding legislators of the critical importance of centering the voices of those directly impacted by policy decisions. Child care providers play a crucial role in shaping legislation that not only benefits the individual but also uplifts the entire childcare community, paving the way for increased access to affordable quality health insurance and other essential benefits.

Share your Testimony!

<https://forms.gle/m4atcCRyzwX6FwdD8>

Más de quince proveedores de cuidado de niños familiares dedicados en el hogar recurrieron a Zoom durante las recientes audiencias legislativas, cada miembro representando una voz crucial en la batalla en curso por el acceso a un seguro de salud de calidad asequible. Los proveedores hicieron sentir su presencia mientras testificaban apasionadamente sobre los desafíos a los que se enfrentan para garantizar el acceso a un seguro médico asequible y de calidad, al tiempo

que priorizan la atención y la educación de calidad que brindan a los niños. Como contribuyentes integrales a la economía de Connecticut, su capacidad para proporcionar cuidado de niños permite a los padres unirse a la fuerza laboral, subrayando el papel crucial que desempeñan en el impulso del crecimiento económico y la estabilidad. A través de sus testimonios personales y sinceros, hablan sobre la dura realidad que muchos en su profesión soportan, donde la falta de opciones de atención médica de calidad y asequible plantea una barrera significativa para su bienestar y su capacidad para proporcionar una educación temprana de calidad a los niños a su cuidado.

Como trabajadores de primera línea en el sector del cuidado y educación de los niños, su participación en las audiencias sirve

como un catalizador para el progreso, recordando a los legisladores la importancia crítica de centrar las voces de aquellos directamente afectados por las decisiones políticas. Los proveedores de cuidado infantil desempeñan un papel crucial en la configuración de la legislación que no solo beneficia al individuo, sino que también eleva a toda la comunidad de cuidado de niños, avanzando el camino para acceso a un seguro médico de alta calidad y otros beneficios esenciales.

Comparta su testimonio!<
forms.gle/m4atcCRyzwX6FwdD8 >



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



SEBAC 2024 Announcement

continued from page 1

Your Bargaining Team strongly encourages you to Vote Yes!

This resolution was achieved as a result of all state employee unions standing together through the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC).

If CSEA has your personal email address, then you should have received your tentative agreement, along with a FAQ document, and Q/A submission form. You will also receive an email at your personal email address with information on how to vote electronically so it is imperative that we have updated contact information. Please update your contact information by scanning the QR code above by Tuesday March 12th to ensure that you'll be able to vote on Thursday March 14th! Note that there will also be in-person voting at CSEA Headquarters (760 Capitol Ave, Hartford) on Saturday March 16th for those that prefer that option.

Please take this opportunity to ensure that your CSEA membership file contains a working personal email address that you can access to vote on your contract. This is also a good opportunity to update all of your contact information with us if you haven't done so in 2024 yet.

Travis Woodward
CSEA President

“IT IS TIME FOR LAMONT TO IMPOSE A BACK-LOADED WAGE AND INCREMENT FREEZE IN THE FOURTH "OPEN" YEAR OF SEBAC 2022. OTHERWISE, THE NUTMEG STATE WILL FALL EVEN DEEPER IN DEBT.”

- Red Jahncke, CT Insider

Disagree? Contribute to CSEA PAC to push back on attacks like these.

CSEA Council 400 Rallies Florida Members

Retiree Organizer Kevin Sullivan Travels Across the State Ahead of 2027 Negotiations

In early February 2024, Kevin Sullivan, Retiree Organizer for CSEA Council 400, went on a tour across Florida. His goal was to meet with union members and their spouses in cities from Ocala to Myrtle Beach, SC, to talk about the union's efforts to protect their pensions and healthcare.

The tour featured discussions led by Linda Larson from Cigna on dental plans for Connecticut retirees, and Stephanie Saunders from Aetna, who tackled healthcare questions, helping members get a clear grasp of their benefits. "I was happy to see these two representatives in Florida again this year. They are both extremely knowledgeable, patient and helpful for all of the retirees that attend the Out-of-State meetings" Kevin remarked.

Each event drew 30 - 50 participants, and were successful in filling new officer positions, welcoming new union members, and engaging participants with some CSEA swag. The meetings showed CSEA Council 400's growing community and engagement from dedicated members out of state.

A significant moment of Kevin's trip was the enthusiasm from members to back the union's political action committee, with more than twenty committing to monthly contributions. This underscored the value of

participation, engagement, and ensuring one's interests are represented and protected, especially with the upcoming 2027 negotiations. According to Kevin, "Our members outside of Connecticut know how important it is to stay involved and informed on what is happening in Hartford. Contributing to the Political Action Committee is an easy, yet effective way to make sure their voice is heard all the way from Florida!"

Despite any worries about future negotiations, Kevin provided assurance. He tackled concerns, confirming CSEA Council 400's readiness to defend State of Connecticut retiree's interests.

Kevin's February 2024 Florida tour highlighted the union's proactive stance on

member engagement and advocacy, enhancing community ties and setting the stage for increased activity. CSEA Council 400 stands out as a committed advocate for all State of Connecticut retirees benefits, including their pensions and healthcare. Kevin is happy to be back in Connecticut with his family, friends and coworkers, but will miss the warm February weather down south.



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