





## Meetings And News

### MEETING DATES

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

Chapter 401 (Hartford area)  
Spring Luncheon  
Thursday, June 6th begins at 11am (with cash bar)  
The Hartford Armory  
360 Broad St., Hartford  
Live Entertainment!

Buffet to include: Cesar Salad, Roast Beef, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Penne with Marinara, Vegetable, Desserts  
\$36 per person

RSVP by May 15th  
Checks should be made to:  
CSEA Chapter 401

Sent to: Sharon D. Mounds  
53-C Brookwood Drive  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
Sharon (860) 529-9885

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)  
Wednesday, May 8th - 10am  
Speaker: Aetna Representative  
United Methodist Church  
5 Clapboard Ridge Rd. Danbury  
Linda Albanese - (860) 354-6965

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

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)  
Spring Luncheon  
Tuesday, June 4th  
Social 11:30 - 12:30pm  
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 and raffle  
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)  
Tuesday, May 14th - 10am  
Speaker: Silver Sneakers  
Trinity Orthodox Church  
937 Chase Parkway, Waterbury  
Tina Franco (203) 721-4382

Chapter 405 (New Haven area)  
Thursday, May 9th - 10:30am  
Speaker: Cigna Representative  
Hamden Govt Center Building  
2750 Dixwell Ave. (3rd Floor)  
Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207

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  
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, May 14th - 1pm  
Guest Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep  
American Legion Post 75  
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr.  
Middletown, CT  
Joe Formica - (860) 347-4532

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)  
Wednesday, May 15th - 1pm  
St. Josephs of Stratford Church  
1300 Stratford Road  
Stratford, CT (on Rt. 113)

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area)  
Wednesday, May 8th - 1pm  
Social time is 12:30pm  
Guest Speaker: Kevin Sullivan  
CSEA Retiree Organizer  
Mansfield Senior Center  
303 Maple Road. Mansfield  
Doug Racicot - (860) 234-2537

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

Chapter 410 (Windsor area)  
Monday, May 13th - 1pm  
Guest Speaker: Bob Rinker,  
CSEA Regional VP East  
Suffield Senior Center  
145 Bridge St., Suffield

Amelia Smith - (860) 687-1848

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)  
Tuesday, May 21st - 1:30pm  
Guest Speaker: Bob Rinker,  
CSEA Regional VP East  
Putnam Town Hall - Rm. 112  
200 School St., Putnam  
Don Gladding - (860) 933-9998

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)  
Monday, May 20th - 10am  
Guest Speaker: Sebastian Puglisi  
CSEA Regional Vice President  
Cooperative Service Ext. Bldg  
843 University Dr, Torrington  
Kathryn Doan (860) 324-8300

Chapter 415 (Manchester area)  
Monday, May 20th - 1pm  
Guest Speaker: Cigna Rep.  
Manchester Elks Lodge  
30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT  
Stuart Clark - (860) 205-0657 (c)  
(860) 454-4818 (h)

Chapter 415 (Manchester area)  
Annual Spring Luncheon  
Monday, June 24th - 1pm  
Manchester Elks Lodge  
30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT  
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)  
Tuesday, May 14th  
12pm Social Time & 1pm Meeting  
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Leamon,  
Southeastern CT Probate Judge  
Groton Public Library  
52 Newtown Road, Groton  
John Knaff - (860) 857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area)  
Wednesday, May 8th - 1pm  
Plainville Public Library  
56 East Main St., Plainville  
Mark Kirschner - (860) 882-2717

Chapter 418  
(Community College Retirees)  
Tuesday, May 21st - 10am  
4C's Union Hall  
907 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford  
Bill Searle - (860) 745-3692

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

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>

**CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION**

**Car Dealers Know Cars but We Know Financing**

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

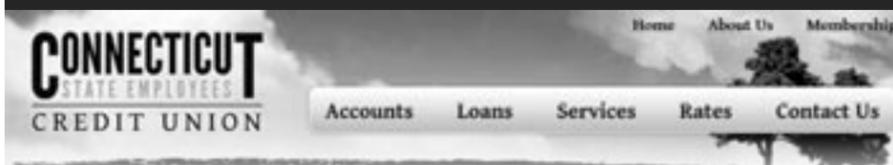
**New Car rate 4.99% APR\***      **Used Car Rate 5.49% APR\***

\*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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Find all the essential information about the products and services we have to offer. You can even print a loan application online! Best of all, it's accessible from your personal computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [www.CSECreditUnion.com](http://www.CSECreditUnion.com)

**Closed - Memorial Day - Monday, May 27th**

**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><br>Uncas on Thames<br>401 West Thames St.<br>Norwich, CT 06306<br>(860) 889-7378 | <b>HARTFORD</b><br>84 Wadsworth St.<br>Hartford, CT 06106<br>(860) 522-5388 (Savings)<br>(860) 522-7147 (Loans) | <b>NEW HAVEN</b><br>1666 Litchfield Turnpike<br>Woodbridge, CT 06525<br>(203) 397-2949                 |
| <b>MIDDLETOWN</b><br>15 Ward Street<br>Middletown, CT 06457<br>(860) 347-0479                   | <b>STORRS</b><br>1244 Storrs Rd.<br>Storrs, CT 06268<br>(860) 429-9306  | <b>SOUTHBURY</b><br>Southbury Training School<br>P.O. Box 644<br>Southbury, CT 06488<br>(203) 267-7610 |
|   |   | <b>NEWINGTON</b><br>O'Neil Plaza<br>2434 Berlin Turnpike<br>Newington, CT 06111<br>(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.

- Bauer, Thomas, Engineer, Scien, Tech
- Blair, Shirley, Administrative Clerical
- Bois, Mary, Social And Human Services
- Calder, Clarence, Uconn - Faculty
- Carangelo, Robert, No Designated Unit
- Comstock, Betty, Univ Health Professionals
- Curnan, Janice, Administrative Clerical
- Curnow, Lester, Engineer, Scien, Tech
- Dearmitt, Chantal, Admin And Residual
- Dimichele, Felice, Correctional Officers
- Donovan, Virginia, Social And Human Services
- Dumas, Delphis, Healthcare
- Dunn, Stephen, Protective Services
- Dyer, Harold, No Designated Unit
- Florence, Debbie, Healthcare
- Gavitt, Alexander, Uconn
- Geib, Carl, Service/Maintenance
- Gumpert, Richard, Community Colleges
- Hegener, William, Judicial
- Holland, Rose, Healthcare
- lavasile, Gloria, Judicial
- Kelly, Vernis, Social And Human Services
- Kneen, Martha, Judicial
- Larocco, Sam, Engineer, Scien, Tech
- Louder, Valarie, Administrative Clerical
- Mannucci, Theresa, Health Professional
- Mencarini, Patricia, Social And Human Services
- Murphy, Resa, Administrative Clerical
- Neil, Raymond, Protective Services
- Perez, Archie, Admin And Residual
- Peterson, Robert, State Police
- Pollastro, Sabatino, Service/Maintenance
- Potter, John, Correctional Officers
- Rao, Hari, Health Professional
- Richardson, Sandra, Administrative Clerical
- Rollins, Judith, Administrative Clerical
- Romano-Connors, Debora, Managerial
- Russi, Eleanor, Administrative Clerical
- Ryan, John, Judicial
- Simboski, Mary, No Designated Unit
- Sinon, Donna, Administrative Clerical
- Sloan, Daniel, Health Professional
- Stapleton, Marilyn, Healthcare
- Stevens, Patricia, Social And Human Services
- Sullivan, Marion, Service/Maintenance
- Sundell, Alan, Admin And Residual
- Tomany, Joan, Protective Services
- Torres, Francisco, Service/Maintenance
- Villano, Peter, Legislative Management

**CSEA NEWS**

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

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CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION

Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW/CLC

- Travis 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).

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## Connecticut For All Democracy School

### Grading the Legislature at the State Capitol

*continued from page 1* Lamont's fiscal guardrails were highlighted as hindrances to achieving the needed investments in essential services.

Seth Freeman, president of the 4Cs, and Rebecca Wozniak, a student at Western CT State University and intern at CSU-AAUP, led a session grading Connecticut's progress on its Equity Agenda. Attendees participated by indicating whether the state was passing or failing on key issues such as

just cause eviction protections, paid sick and safe days, better working conditions for paraeducators, and more.

Dave Walsh, former CSU-AAUP member and Council 400 Retiree LAC Chair, spoke passionately in support of higher education, emphasizing the critical role it plays in the state's future. He underscored the importance of adequate funding and support for public higher education institutions.

The event also addressed the challenges

facing public higher education, including budget cuts, tuition increases, and staff layoffs. The Democracy School concluded with a call to action, urging attendees to sign the Higher Ed For All petition to send emails to relevant targets.

As attendees left the event, they were inspired and energized, ready to take on the challenges ahead and work towards a more equitable and just Connecticut for all.



CSEA Activist Win Heimer, poses with friends from ARA!

Dave Walsh, Council 400 Retiree LAC Chair Addresses Crowd

## Legislative Update

By: Daniel I. Medress, Political Education Director

With just a few days left of the 2024 Legislative Session, there is still a lot for us to keep an eye on. Unfortunately all of our priorities are facing the same obstacle - Governor Lamont's unnecessarily rigid fiscal guardrails which are siphoning away funds from much needed programs. This policy stance is failing Connecticut residents in a wide array of areas:

**State Budget** – The Appropriations Committee did not pass any changes to the existing biennial budget, including the Governor's proposed changes. And because the current budget is believed to be over the spending cap, if the Appropriations Committee had tried to pass a budget, the first obstacle they would have run into would be the spending cap and the need to immediately make cuts to an already starved budget.

House and Senate Leadership are looking to find several hundred million for a supplemental spending package, with a significant portion

earmarked for higher education funding, but even that faces a questionable future on Governor Lamont's desk. As we look ahead over the last few days of session, it is critical that our membership continues to raise our collective voices to demand a brighter future for Connecticut.

**Paraeducator Legislation** – House Bill 5348: Unfortunately, An Act Concerning Paraeducators died in the Appropriations Committee due to cost. However, we are working to get the non-monetary parts of the bill included in other legislation (this is how we've been able to make legislative progress for paraeducators in the past few sessions) while also securing funding to extend and expand the healthcare subsidy program and improve and enhance professional development training programs.

**FOI Address Exemption** – Senate Bill 436: An Act Concerning Revisions To The Freedom Of Information Act Concerning The Nondisclosure Of

The Addresses Of Certain Public Agency Employees would exempt the release of home address for all state, municipal, and board of education employees through a FOI request. The bill has passed out of the Government Administration and Elections Committee and while we continue to push for its passage, it's possible that we may only achieve a scaled-down version this year.

**The State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB)** – At the start of session, there were two bills introduced to improve the operations 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. The bills had a lot of overlapping parts, so in order to streamline the legislative process they were merged into one bill. SB 391 passed out of the Government Administration Elections Committee and is

awaiting further action in the Senate.

**Childcare Legislative Proposals** – Several bills related to childcare are making progress, but face challenges because of the restrictions presented by the so-called "fiscal guardrails". House Bill 5051: An Act Establishing Early Start Ct, Senate Bill 152: An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Office Of Early Childhood, and House Bill 5002: An Act Concerning Early Childhood Care And Education are all moving forward in the legislative process, with each awaiting further action.

**Collective Bargaining for Seasonal State Employees** – Senate Bill 411: An Act Concerning Temporary State Employees And Collective Bargaining would give full collective bargaining rights to seasonal employees working for the state. The bill is still in the Senate and has not yet been referred to the Appropriations Committee, but we are working closely with legislators and administration staffers to ensure its progress.



# Council 400

# Summer Picnic



**The Farmington Polo Club**

162 Town Farm Rd, Farmington, CT 06032

**August 14, 2024**

**RSVP by**

**Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**RSVP by**

**Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>**

# Paraeducator Appreciation Day

April 3, 2024

The first Wednesday of every April is dedicated to showing our appreciation for the paraeducators across the country that help make our

schools and students successful. This year, Governor Lamont held a proclamation signing in his Office at the State Capitol with paraeducators

throughout Connecticut. CSEA had two members in attendance, Para Council President Cynthia Ross-Zweig and Danbury leader, Vicky Ceylan, who accepted a copy of the proclamation on behalf of the nearly 2,500 paraeducators that make up the CSEA Para Council. Paras play a crucial role in supporting students, teachers, and families, often working behind the scenes to ensure the smooth operation of educational programs. They provide essential assistance in classrooms, offering one-on-one support to students, helping with lesson preparation, and fostering a positive learning environment. Para Appreciation Day is a time to express gratitude for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to enhancing the educational experience for all. It's a day to honor these unsung heroes and show them the appreciation they truly deserve.

## Family Child Care Provider News

*Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil*



### WORKSHOP 1: HOW TO P.O.P!

STRATEGIES OF A SUCCESSFUL UNION ORIENTATION PRESENTER

#### Become a Power Builder!

Learn to grow your union by recruiting members and empowering child care providers through the union.



REGISTER TO BECOME A POWER BUILDER:

[BIT.LY/POWERBUILDERPOP](https://bit.ly/powerbuilderpop)

### TALLER 1: ¡COMO HACER P.O.P!

ESTRATEGIAS DE UN PRESENTADOR DE ORIENTACIÓN SINDICAL EXITOSO

#### ¡Conviértete en un "Power Builder"!

Aprenda a hacer crecer su sindicato reclutando miembros y empoderando a los proveedores a través del sindicato.



REGISTRESE PARA SER UN "POWER BUILDER"

[BIT.LY/POWERBUILDERPOP](https://bit.ly/powerbuilderpop)

BELOW (Top): Para Council President Cynthia Ross-Zweig and Vicky Ceylan accept a copy of the Governor's Proclamation.

(Bottom) Paraeducators fill the Governor's office.



## Cigna Open Enrollment

By: Kevin Sullivan, Retiree Organizer

Open Enrollment is your annual opportunity to make changes to your dental coverage, including changing plans and adding or removing dependents.

Spring is finally here and so is OPEN ENROLLMENT! Open enrollment begins May 1st and ends May 31st, 2024.

Retirees will be receiving a copy of the Cigna Dental Options Planner in the mail, but here at CSEA we

wanted to make sure Retirees knew their options.

There are four options that are offered (which have not changed since the previous Open Enrollment Session)—Basic, Enhanced, Cigna Dental Care DHMO and Total Care DHMO.

If unable to access carecompass.ct.gov to view benefit information, you can call 833-740-3258 for benefit assistance.

Deciding what plan is best for you

is a personal decision. We recommend that you compare the plans based off of the services you will most likely be utilizing.

It's also important to be mindful of whether or not you plan to use providers in or out of the network. Talking to your dentist about planned procedures is also a great step when making these decisions.

If you are happy with your plan then there is no need to submit new

forms, your current selections will just carry over, effective July 1st.

If you have any questions regarding changes you want to make to your Dental Plan, Cigna Representatives can be reached at 833-740-3258.

And, as always, Kevin is ready to assist with any issues that may arise and may be reached at ksullivan@csea760.com or (860) 951-6614 x118.



## CSEA SEIU Local 2001



**August 31, 2024**  
 1214 Main St, Hartford, CT 06103  
**Tickets:** \$30/seat  
**Location:** behind Home Plate  
**Parking:** \$5.00 surrounding ballpark

All Active/Retired Union members and guests invited.

Gates open: 4:30 PM | Game Time: 6:10PM  
 Rain or Shine | No refunds

Mail completed coupon and check payable to:

**"CSEA Social Activities Committee"**  
 C/O Tina Franco  
 45 Peach Orchard Rd, Prospect, CT 06712-1052

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Name               |   |
| Guest              |   |
| Home Address       |   |
|                    | (Tickets will be mailed to your home address at the beginning of August.) |
| Phone #            |   |
| Email Address      |   |
| No of Tickets      |   |
| \$ Amount Enclosed |   |



# Mission Statement

CSEA SEIU Local 2001 represents thousands of active state, municipal, Board of Education, Childcare Providers, school bus workers and state retirees. CSEA has negotiated for better and safer employment for their active members and a secure and plentiful retirement. Our goal is to raise the profile of the membership of CSEA in communities through volunteerism.

To that end, the CSEA Good Works Committee will use the collective power of its membership to provide support to those in need in this organization and community. Currently the Good Works Committee sponsors the two following events:

- Thanks for Giving Drive - gift certificates to those in need nominated by fellow members
- Springtime Habitat for Humanity Event

The Good Works Committee is always open to suggestions from the membership for volunteer opportunity possibilities.

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



## Danbury Public Schools Facing Massing Budget Shortfall

Danbury Public Schools are facing a proposed budget for the next fiscal year that doesn't fully fund the current school employee staffing levels, leading to district leaders starting the process of identifying positions that may be cut and who could receive layoff notices.

Danbury Para Chapter President Missy Cole

has been vocal in demanding that Danbury fully fund and staff our schools, offering the following quote to press outlets, "The success of our students relies on investment from the City of Danbury- a \$21 million shortfall means fewer resources and support when our schools are already drastically understaffed. Our schools

need more staff, not less, and without addressing this shortfall we are telling students and their families that their futures are not worth funding."

CSEA members will continue to be active in the fight to secure the necessary funding our schools need to be successful.

## Council 400 Phone Bank: A Resounding Success

On March 26th, the CSEA Union Hall at 760 Capitol Ave was abuzz with activity as CSEA Council 400 hosted a phone bank event aimed at bolstering its membership ranks among Connecticut's retirees. The event not only saw a great turnout but also marked a significant step toward strengthening union solidarity.

The event kicked off with a short training session for the ten retiree volunteers who were at the heart of this initiative. These volunteers, all current members of CSEA Council 400, were equipped with key talking points and responses to common questions, ensuring they were well-prepared to handle the phone calls effectively.

Volunteers reached out to potential members to discuss the benefits of joining CSEA Council 400, emphasizing the union's role in protecting retiree interests, especially in light of upcoming 2027 negotiations. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with nearly two hundred State of Connecticut retirees requesting membership cards or more information about the union.

Council 400 Recruitment Chair Tom Welch and organizer Kevin Sullivan coordinated the event, ensuring all logistical aspects were covered, including the setup of phones, calling lists, and membership forms. The conducive environment allowed volunteers to make calls comfort-

ably, contributing to the event's success.

Feedback gathered post-event was highly encouraging, with volunteers expressing satisfaction with the organization and execution of the phone bank. This feedback will be invaluable in refining strategies for future events.

The successful phone bank event represents a crucial victory for CSEA Council 400 in its ongoing efforts to expand its membership and enhance its capacity to advocate effectively for retirees' rights and benefits. The enthusiasm and collective action displayed promise a stronger, more unified future for the union and its members. More opportunities will be coming up soon. Stronger Together!



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CSEA-CT.com

# Solidarity Season

## Starbucks and Volkswagen Workers Join Union Wave

In Tennessee, workers at a Volkswagen plant made history by voting to unionize, marking the first time employees at a foreign-owned auto plant in the South have done so. This landmark victory, with a resounding vote of 2,628 to 985, is a testament to the power of solidarity among workers. President Shawn Fain of the United Auto Workers (UAW) expressed confidence that this win is just the beginning, with more unionization wins expected at auto plants across the US.

The UAW's \$40 million campaign targeting 13 automakers, including VW, Mercedes, Tesla, and others, reflects a growing momentum for unionization in the auto industry. Workers are fed up with unfair treatment and are asserting their rights. In order to pre-empt union organizing, we are seeing many companies offering raises, but it doesn't seem to be enough to quell the energy of the labor resurgence.

In Nebraska, over 8,000 government workers secured a victory in a remote work battle, with a state labor court affirming their right to maintain their working arrangements while the court considers Governor Jim Pillen's order to end remote work. The Nebraska Association of Public Employees (NAPE) stood firm in protecting

its members' rights and emphasized that any violation of the court's order would be held accountable. Telework is a popular target of opponents and throughout the SEBAC 2024 debates we heard multiple legislators attack CT state workers on their telework arrangements.

In Washington, Starbucks is challenging labor's power at the Supreme Court, seeking a stricter test for when courts can intervene to protect union organizers. This case underscores the growing tensions between corporate interests and workers' rights. President Biden's support for workers' rights and the aggressive stance of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) are seen as threats by some corporations,

leading to legal battles like the one at Starbucks.

Despite these challenges, union popularity is on the rise. Workers are realizing the power of collective action and are standing up against corporate greed and unfair labor practices. Solidarity is our strength, and together, we can build a more just and equitable future for all workers.

**“CT SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD SUCH GENEROUS AND UNDERFUNDED PAY AND BENEFITS FOR STATE EMPLOYEES. NOR ARE THEY FAIR.. LAMONT IS NEGOTIATING WAGES FOR FISCAL 2025, THE FOURTH YEAR OF SEBAC 2022. HE CAVED TO SEBAC IN 2022. NOW, HE NEEDS TO SHOW SOME SPINE AND REFUSE ANY WAGE INCREASE.**

- Red Jahncke, CT Insider

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