

From Rally to Results

How CSEA State Units Won TAs

Nearly 600 state workers filled the Legislative Office Building in March to send a clear message to Governor Ned Lamont that he must recruit, retain, and reinvest in the workforce that delivers the Connecticut difference.

Close to 80 CSEA members were shuttled from the union hall to Hartford, helping pack the LOB lobby and making sure our union's signature purple shirts were seen and our finger snaps were heard alongside workers from across the state.

CSEA was also front and center in the program itself.

Meghan Cahill, a P4 Steward and Agricultural Research Tech I at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station,

was one of six speakers representing workers that night — and she brought the reality of state service

into sharp focus.

"You would think that a place with so many resources would invest deeply in the people who protect our communities, our environment, and our food systems," Cahill said. "That hasn't been the reality."

Like the rest of CSEA union members, the work that Meghan does is deeply important to the lives of Connecticut residents, "Do you want to worry about lead in your food? No? I didn't think so," she said. "That's not an abstract government function. That's protecting families."

Her remarks captured both the importance of the work and the

continued onto Page 4



Meghan Cahill, P4 Steward, addressed the crowd of 600 union members to demand the State recruit, retain and reinvest.

Paraeducators help keep our schools running; our roles within Connecticut's schools are varied and essential. In Tolland, the district I work in, the starting hourly rate is \$16.94. It just went up to minimum wage of \$16.94 on January 1st. In my opinion, a paraeducator is not a minimum wage job. This is causing staffing shortages, recruitment, and retention issues, directly impacting students, safety, inclusion, and the day-to-day operations of our schools.

JENNIFER MCLARNEY
CSEA SEIU LOCAL 2001
PARAEDUCATOR

Paraeducators Put Their Stories on the Record

As the Appropriations Committee reviewed the paraeducator bill last month, CSEA members made sure their voices were part of the official record.

More than 20 paraeducators and union members submitted written testimony in support of the legislation, which would estab-

lish a statewide minimum salary of \$45,000 for paraeducators and create a more consistent pay standard across Connecticut. Right now, wages vary widely from district to district, and in almost every case, they fall far short of what's needed to live.

Paraeducators wrote about working multiple jobs just to get

by. About staying in positions they care deeply about, even when the pay doesn't match the responsibility. And about the toll that low wages take, not just on their own families, but on the students who depend on stable, experienced support in the classroom.

The paraeducator

continued onto Page 4

CSEA Visits Chapter 431 in the Carolinas

By: Kevin Sullivan

A recent two-day trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina proved just how strong the CSEA retiree union truly is. Approximately fifty retirees gathered for a productive and spirited meeting of Chapter 431, the Carolinas Chapter, where members discussed important business, spent time with old friends, and looked ahead to the future.

The meeting covered a wide range of topics critical to Connecticut state retirees. Members received an update on the Aetna Medicare plan, the 2027 Pension and Healthcare Agreement, legislative updates from Hartford, we discussed the strength of the retiree union, and explored meaningful ways to grow and build Chapter 431.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the 2026–2028 Chapter Officer Elections. After a decade of dedicated leadership, long-time Chapter President John Yopp announced that he would not seek re-election.

John has been an incredi-

ble leader of this chapter, and it is worth noting that it was the late Charley White, John's predecessor as Chapter President, who first persuaded him to step up and serve. John's commitment, passion, and years of hard work have left a lasting mark on Chapter 431, and we are deeply grateful for everything he has given to this union. We are happy that John will continue as a Council 400 *continued onto Page 5*

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

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Meetings And News

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

Chapter 401 (Hartford area)
Thursday, May 7th - 1pm
Speaker: Aetna Representative
CSEA Union Hall & Zoom
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford
Zoom Mtg ID: 83617277918
Patrice Peterson: 860 416-0306

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)
Wed., April 8th - 10am
Speaker: Hospice Support
United Methodist Church
5 Clapboard Ridge Road
Danbury, CT
Linda Albanese: 860 354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)
Tues., April 14th - 1:30pm
Rose City Senior Center
8 Mahan Drive, Norwich
Carol Burgess: 860 303-7267

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area)
Tues. April 14th - 10am
Speaker: Daniel O. Tully,
Elder Law Attorney
Trinity Orthodox Church
937 Chase Pkwy, Waterbury
Tina Franco: (203) 721-4382

Chapter 405 (New Haven)
Thurs. April 9th - 10:30am
Speaker: Bob Rinker, Council
400 Regional Vice President
Hamden Government
Center Building, 3rd Floor
2750 Dixwell Ave., Hamden
Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207

Reminder: Chapter 406 will not be meeting in April.

Chapter 406 (Middletown)
Tues. May 12th - 12:30pm
Speaker: Daniel O. Tully,
Elder Law Attorney
Chapter Elections
American Legion Post 75
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr.
Middletown, CT
Bob Westendorff
(860) 343-0683

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)
Wed., April 15th 1pm
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,
CSEA Council 400 Organizer
St. Josephs of Stratford
National Catholic Church
1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford
Zoom ID: 872 4952 3823
Passcode: 000891
Liz Anderson (203) 676-0659

Chapter 408 (Willimantic)
Wed., April 8th, 12:30pm
Speaker: Bob Rinker, Council
400 Regional Vice President
Mansfield Senior Center
303 Maple Rd., Storrs
Doug Racicot (860) 234-2537

Chapter 408 (Willimantic)
Wed., April 8th, 12:30pm
Spring Luncheon Buffet
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Franco American Club
Pavilion, 116 Club Road,
Windham, CT 06256.
11:30 am to 3:00 pm.
Cost is \$20 per person
Live music! The Dixie Cats

Menu: Sausage & Peppers
Chicken Limone, Ziti with
Marinara Sauce, Salads,
Garlic Knots, Cookies,
Plus - Cash Bar
RSVP by June 2, 2026
to Christine Ashe
141 Love Lane
Coventry, CT 06238
Questions? 860 742-0667

Chapter 409 (Retired
State University Professors)
Speaker: Bob Rinker, Council
400 Regional Vice President
& an Aetna Representative
Friday, April 17 - 10am
CSEA Union Hall & Zoom
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford
Zoom ID: 868 8922 7158
Dave Walsh (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor area)
Monday, April 13th - 1pm
Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep.
Kent Memorial Library
50 N Main St, Suffield
Amelia Smith 860 687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area)
Summer Luncheon
Thursday, June 18 at 12:30pm
Casa Mia at the Hawthorne
2421 Berlin Tnpk in Berlin
Family Style Luncheon
Appetizer, Pasta, Salad, Prime
Rib, Chicken Parmigiana,
Mixed Vegetables, Roasted
Potatoes, Dessert, Coffee and
Tea. Cash Bar available.
\$25 Chapter 411 Members
\$50 for each guest.
Questions? Call or Text
Joy Gutis at (860) 966-3340

Chapter 412 (Putnam area)
Tues., April 21st - 1:30pm
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan
CSEA Council 400 Organizer
Chapter Elections
New Putnam Town Hall
200 School Street, Putnam
Don Gladding (860) 933-9998

Chapter 414 (Torrington area)
Monday, April 20th at 10am
Five Point Extension Bldg
852 University Dr., Torrington
Kathryn Doan 860 324-8300

Chapter 414 (Torrington area)
Monday, May 18th at 10am
Spring Luncheon
Five Point Extension Bldg
852 University Dr., Torrington
Kathryn Doan 860 324-8300

Chapter 415 (Manchester)
Mon., April 27th - 1pm
Guest: Sebby Puglisi, Council
400 Regional Vice President
Elks Lodge in Manchester
30 Bissell Street
Stu Clark: (860) 205-0657

Chapter 416 (New London)
Tues. April 14th at 12pm
Speaker: Beth Ladwig
Leamon - Probate Judge
Groton Public Library
52 Newtown Rd., Groton
John Knaff: 860-857-4244

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

Chapter 418
(Community College Retirees)
Tues., April 14th - 10am
Speaker: Aetna Representative
4C's Union Hall in Hartford
907 Wethersfield Ave
President Colleen Richard
(860) 202-4128

Chapter 441: Cape Cod, MA
Wed., May 13 at 10:30am
Dennis Public Library
5 Hall St., Dennisport, MA
Speakers: Kevin Sullivan,
CSEA Retiree Organizer
Aetna & Cigna Representatives
Chapter 441 President,
Richard Peterson 203 507-
1189



COUNCIL 400 2026 PICNIC

Save the Date
Wednesday, Aug 19th



Important numbers to have on hand: Caremark: 1-800-318-2572

Cigna: 1-800-244-6224

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: 1-800-922-2232

Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537

CSEA Retiree Organizer, Kevin Sullivan: 860-951-6614 x118

HEP Care Management Solutions: 1-877-687-1448 or visit them at their portal:

Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533

UnitedHealthcare: 1-888-803-9217

<https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx>



Unclutter Your Finances with a Debt Consolidation!

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With a debt consolidation loan at CSE, pay off your bills and consolidate your high-rate debt into one simple monthly payment at a fixed 7.80% APR*. Loans are available up to \$25,000 with repayment terms up to 60 months.

For more info, call any of our offices or visit www.CSECreditUnion.com. Applications must be received or postmarked by April 30, 2026.

*Annual Percentage Rate. Not available to pay off CSE loans, including CSE Visa cards. Total CSE unsecured debt limit (excluding CSE Visa and CSE student loan) not to exceed \$25,000. Rate may change without notice.



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Dividend Rates - First Quarter 2026 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.

7 Full Service Offices To Serve You

NORWICH Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich, CT 06360 (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 family, friends and loved ones.

- Adams, Michael W, State University Faculty
- Andersen, David, Managerial
- Barney, Harry, Comm College Faculty
- Barry, John, Correctional Officers
- Bittel, Eugene, Judicial
- Bosco, Albert, Judicial
- Brennan, Francis, Healthcare
- Browdy, Nancy, Confidential
- Carlino, Carolyn, Uconn Health
- Daniels, David, Uconn
- Demirs, Francine, Healthcare
- Dulak, Natalie, Administrative Clerical
- Edwards, Patricia, Education
- Giangrave, Santo, Engineer, Scien, Tech
- Gilchrist, Georgeanne, Administrative Clerical
- Goodridge, Georgia, Administrative Clerical
- Guilford, Allan, St Vocation Federation Teacher
- Hitchcock, Irene, St Vocation Federation Teacher
- Hourin, Raffaella, Judicial
- House, Lewis, State University Faculty
- Hutchinson, Deatra, State Police
- Krimerman, Leonard, Uconn
- Lapalme, Mary, Service/Maintenance
- Lessor, James, Judicial
- Levy, William, Comm College Faculty
- Litke, Stephen, Admin And Residual
- Litvinoff, Roberta, Social And Human Services
- Lorenc, Agnes, Healthcare
- Maloney, Christopher, Engineer, Scien, Tech
- Martinelli, Diane, Confidential
- Osnato, V James, St Vocation Federation Teacher
- Perreira, David, Engineer, Scien, Tech
- Peters, Joseph, St Vocation Federation Teacher
- Ritchie, Toni, St Vocation Federation Teacher
- Scott, Joseph, Uconn
- Shappy, Frank, Service/Maintenance
- Shepard, Ann, Judicial
- Simmons, Donald, State Police
- Simonelli, James, Correctional Officers
- Synnott, Kevin, State University Faculty
- Townsend, Mark, Social And Human Services
- Turcio, Charles, Social And Human Services
- Ward, Jeffrey, Service/Maintenance
- Zampano, Joseph, Criminal Justice Inspectors

CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees

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Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW/CLC

- Travis WoodwardPresident
- Diane MurphySecretary/Treasurer
- David GliddenExecutive Director
- Drew E. StonerCommunication Director
- Jason P. WebsterGraphic/ Technical Assistance

INSERTION DEADLINE: 1st of prior month.

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Rally to Results

All Seven CSEA State Bargaining Units Reach TA Following Massive Action

continued from Page 1

frustration many members are feeling over the gap between what public service should be and what workers are experiencing right now.

This event was about building pressure at a critical juncture in negotiations. At the time of the press conference only about 12 of the 35 units in SEBAC had reached Tentative Agreements (including P3A and P3B and NP-8 who still showed up in solidarity for the event!) Just a few days later and that number jumped and now nearly all 35 units have reached Tentative Agreements, including all seven CSEA bargaining units. And where members have already voted, those agreements

have been ratified with overwhelming support — more than 97% yes.

That kind of movement doesn't happen in a vacuum. Our negotiations team need this sort of movement to create leverage to push these agreements forward to a point that delivers on the goals the members have outlined.

As we wrap up ratification across all seven CSEA state bargaining units, we head towards legislative approval. Check out page 7 to see what we're up against. Hint: It's going to be a fight & we'll need you.



600 state union members filled the Legislative Office Building lobby to demand fair contracts. A few days later, all CSEA units reached a Tentative Agreement.

Paraeducators Push a \$45K Minimum Salary

continued from Page 1

bill is focused on creating a real, statewide baseline for the profession — not just small fixes. At its core, the bill sets a \$45,000 minimum salary for paraeducators, ensuring that no matter where someone works in Connecticut, there is a floor that reflects the value of the job.

We're not letting those stories sit in a committee file. We're actively sharing paraeducator experiences across social media to make sure the public — and lawmakers — understand what's really happening in schools across the state.

If you're a paraeducator, email our Communications Director Drew at Dstoner@csea760.com

and share what a \$45,000 minimum salary would mean for you along with a photo of yourself. These stories are helping drive the conversation and build support for change.

Paraeducator Appreciation Week is March 30th - April 3rd and is an important moment to recognize the work paras do every single day. As part of that,

CSEA Para Council President Cynthia Ross-Zweig will join other para council leaders to accept a proclamation from the Governor honoring paraeducators across Connecticut.

Recognition matters. But paraeducators are making it clear: it's time for that recognition to be backed up with real investment.

Does CSEA have your correct contact info on file?

Update your info by scanning the QR code below.



BILLIONAIRES in Connecticut are **STRANGLING** our state budget, **HOARDING** private university wealth, **PROFITING** from ICE at home & wars abroad.



It's time for us to unite & **FIGHT BACK!**

CONNECTICUT
MAY DAY 2026

HARTFORD | NEW HAVEN

PREPARE TO MOBILIZE IN **HARTFORD & NEW HAVEN** ON MAY 1!

Friday, May 1st
More Info to Come

ONE STRUGGLE • ONE FIGHT • ALL WORKERS UNITE

Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

In 2025, Connecticut put \$300 million into early childhood programs. It was a big step, but right now, more than 3,000 families are still stuck on the Care4Kids waitlist.

That means parents waiting months for care they need now. Not later. Not eventually. Now.

That's why lawmakers are pushing Connecticut Senate Bill 265 childcare bill, which would add another \$70 million to help clear the backlog and get families into care. But at a press conference highlighting the waitlist in March, we didn't just hear about numbers or policy. It was about what this looks like in real life.

Maria Reyes, a family child care provider and President of the Family Child Care Union Council of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, put it plainly.

"We're not talking about an abstract system," Reyes said. "We're the ones opening our homes before sunrise, feeding kids, teaching them, caring for them — so parents can go to work."

And right now, she said, the system is running on sacrifice. When families can't access care, something has to give. Usually, it's work.

Parents — most often mothers — end up cutting hours or leaving their jobs altogether. Other times, a family member steps in to help, unpaid, putting their own income on hold just to make things work. That's not a system.

That's people patching holes. "Connecticut's childcare system is being held together by sacrifice instead of investment," Reyes said.

And the waitlist is where that reality shows up most clearly. These aren't just names on a list. They're families trying to figure out how to get through the week. Providers trying to stay open. Workers trying to stay in the workforce.

Everyone knows that Care4Kids works, but the problem is, too many can't access it.

That's why providers and advocates are pushing lawmakers to finish the job: fund the program, clear the waitlist, and actually support the people doing this work every day.

"Because when child care works, Connecticut works," Reyes said, "And right now, this is not working."

En 2025, Connecticut destinó 300 millones de dólares a programas de primera infancia. Fue un gran paso, pero, en este momento, más de 3.000 familias siguen estancadas en la lista de espera de Care4Kids.

Eso significa que los padres llevan meses esperando por un cuidado que necesitan ahora. No más tarde. No en algún momento futuro. Ahora mismo.

Por eso, los legisladores están impulsando el Proyecto de Ley del Senado de Connecticut 265 sobre el cuidado infantil, el cual añadiría otros

70 millones de dólares para ayudar a eliminar el retraso acumulado y lograr que las familias accedan a los servicios de cuidado. Sin embargo, en una conferencia de prensa celebrada en marzo para poner de relieve la situación de la lista de espera, no solo escuchamos hablar de cifras o políticas; se trató, más bien, de cómo se manifiesta esta realidad en la vida cotidiana.

Maria Reyes, proveedora de cuidado infantil familiar y presidenta del Consejo Sindical de Cuidado Infantil Familiar del sindicato CSEA SEIU Local 2001, lo expresó con total franqueza:

«No estamos hablando de un sistema abstracto», afirmó Reyes. «Somos nosotras quienes abrimos las puertas de nuestros hogares antes del amanecer, alimentamos a los niños, les enseñamos y cuidamos de ellos, para que sus padres puedan ir a trabajar».

Y en este preciso instante — señaló— el sistema funciona a base de sacrificios. Cuando las familias no logran acceder a servicios de cuidado, algo tiene que ceder. Por lo general, lo que cede es el trabajo.

Los padres —y, con mayor frecuencia, las madres— terminan reduciendo sus horas laborales o abandonando sus empleos por completo. En otras ocasiones, un familiar interviene para ayudar de forma no remunerada, poniendo en pausa sus propios ingresos con el único fin de hacer

que las cosas funcionen. Eso no es un sistema; es gente tratando de poner parches a los problemas.

«El sistema de cuidado infantil de Connecticut se mantiene en pie gracias al sacrificio, en lugar de a la inversión», declaró Reyes.

Y es precisamente en la lista de espera donde esa realidad se manifiesta con mayor claridad. No se trata de simples nombres en una lista; son familias que intentan averiguar cómo llegar al final de la semana; son proveedores que luchan por mantener sus negocios abiertos; son trabajadores que se esfuerzan por permanecer en la fuerza laboral.

Todo el mundo sabe que el programa Care4Kids funciona; el problema radica en que son demasiadas las personas que no logran acceder a él. Por eso, tanto los proveedores como los defensores de esta causa están presionando a los legisladores para que terminen la tarea: financiar el programa, eliminar la lista de espera y brindar un apoyo genuino a las personas que realizan esta labor día tras día.

«Porque cuando el cuidado infantil funciona, Connecticut funciona», concluyó Reyes. «Y, en este momento, esto no está funcionando».

Council 400 Heads South: Chapter 431, The Carolina's

continued from Page 1 Delegate.

Vice President

Joanne Brogis stepped up to take on the role of Chapter President. Secretary Walter Diaz and Treasurer Ginny Nolan both chose to continue in their positions for another two-year term, providing stability and experience as the chapter moves forward.

A heartfelt thank you to all new, continuing, and past officers for your dedication to keeping

Chapter 431 a vibrant and active part of the CSEA retiree family.

2026–2028 Chapter 431 Election Results

President: Joanne Brogis

Vice President: Bonnie Reynolds

Secretary: Walter Diaz

Treasurer: Ginny Nolan

Assistant Treasurer: Katherine Frazier-Fillmore

Chapter Auditors: Beverly Noble, William

Nolan, and Blondell Williams

Council 400 Delegates: John Yopp, Barbara Jarboe, Katherine Frazier-Fillmore, Mary DiPietro, and Joanne Brogis

Chapter 431 is proof that CSEA Council 400 is strong from Connecticut to the Carolinas and beyond. We look forward to seeing what this chapter accomplishes in the years ahead.

“
I'm losing income, families can't work, people are losing their apartments because they cannot work and I'm barely making it because I can't get any children in the daycare because families can't afford it without Care4Kids. We need funding now. It's too long for families that really need to get to work now. They need food. They need clothes, transportation to get their children to school. Parents are going through a lot because of this waiting list.
TANAIRI ALMODOVAR
CSEA SEIU LOCAL 2001
CHILDCARE PROVIDER
”

On the Fight to Secure \$70M to Fund the Care4Kids Waitlist

As the 2026 Legislative Session continues, CSEA members are speaking out on issues important to them!

“
Workers deserve to know when data about them is collected, how it's used, and how it influences their conditions. Workers must have a voice in how these tools are implemented, including through collective bargaining, to ensure technology supports rather than replaces them.
TRAVIS WOODWARD
CSEA SEIU LOCAL 2001
PRESIDENT
”

Testifying for AI Protections & Guardrails

Supervising Judicial Marshal Retirements & Promotions!

The Supervising Judicial Marshals Council wants to take a moment to congratulate the 11 members who have retired since June, 2025 while welcoming the 13 newly appointed Lieutenants.

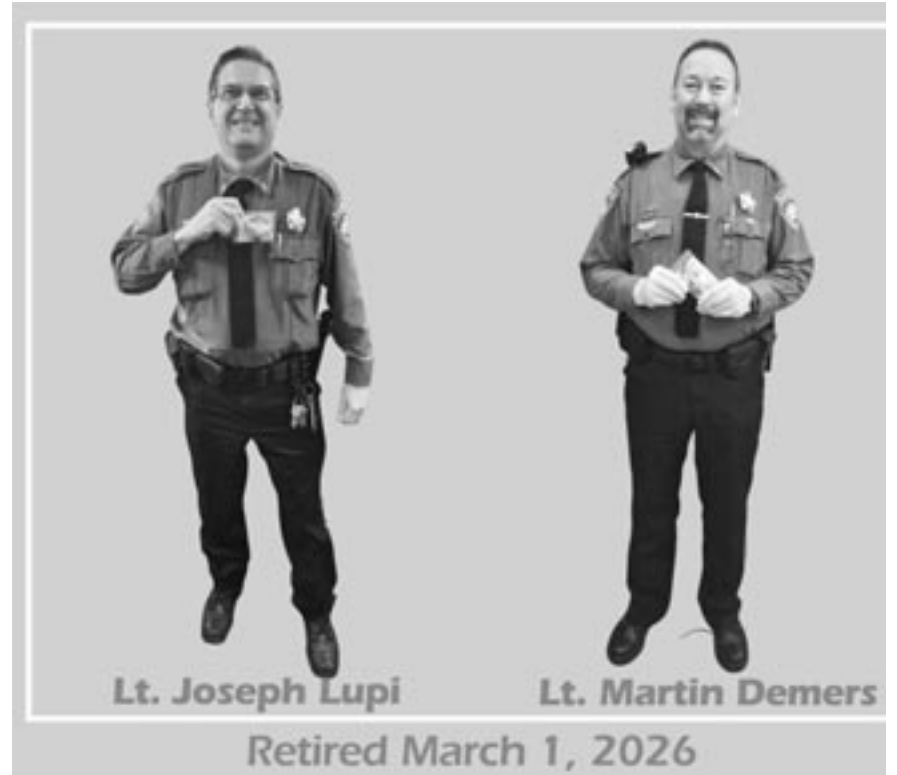
Retired Lieutenants:

- Lt. William Hope Retired 6/1/2025
- Lt. Shannon Cardella Retired 8/1/2025
- Lt. Nicholas Cataldo Retired 9/1/2025
- Lt. Trisha Thompson Retired 10/1/2025
- Lt. Ryan Labieniec Retired 11/1/2025
- Lt. Carlos Cardona Retired 11/1/2025
- Lt. Anthony Romano Retired 11/1/2025
- Lt. Christopher Dadio Retired 11/1/2025
- Lt. Nicholas Winn Retired 1/1/2026

- Lt. Joseph Lupi Retired 3/1/2026
- Lt. Martin Demers Retired 3/1/2026

New Promoted Lieutenants:

- Lt. Brendan Ciccone
- Lt. Victor Cruz
- Lt. Joshua Dalby
- Lt. Stephen Lonczak
- Lt. Kimberly Miller
- Lt. Chijoke Ozurumba
- Lt. Jeffrey Patten
- Lt. Richard Powers
- Lt. Thomas Schrey
- Lt. Mark Silva
- Lt. Jovan Solano
- Lt. Karlyrose Torres
- Lt. Andre Wright



IT'S ELECTION TIME FOR CSC! MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**MARCH 17 (8AM)-
APRIL 17 (4PM)**
NOMINATIONS WILL BE OPEN

**ELECTION DAY
TUES JUNE 2ND**
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

Scholarship Opportunities for Kids & Grandkids of Members!

Throughout the 50+ year history of the Bernard McCusker Memorial Scholarship, CSEA has awarded approximately 1,000 scholarships totaling over \$1,000,000.00! We give great thanks to all the CSEA councils, chapters and individuals that have contributed over the years.

The 2026 Bernard McCusker Memorial Scholarship is now available.

Applications will be accepted through April 30th at 4:30PM when all materials are due.

**CSEA
Bernard McCusker
Application**

WHY SPOUSES OF CT STATE RETIREES SHOULD JOIN CSEA COUNCIL 400

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.

Contact Kevin Sullivan at ksullivan@csea760.com or 860-951-6614 ext. 118 to join!

The CSEA SEIU Local 2001 Convention will be held on Friday, October 16th at Central Connecticut State University!

All chapter and council elections need to be completed and reported to the Director of Administration by Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at bconway@csea760.com.



The first 4-year contract (CEUI NP-2) passed the House and Senate & opponents gave us a preview to what's to come.

"You would think that a step or the raise would have been what we would be looking at, not a combination of both."

Republican (Baltim, Columbia, Coventry, Farmington, Tolland)



"I understand why there's consternation for this kind of commitment over the next four years. Especially seeing what's happening in the economy."

"Or the holidays and all the other stuff that goes along with it."

Republican (Tolland)



"Do you think that that is sustainable for the state of Connecticut's finances?"

"This is a huge amount of our budget every year and I feel like the path we're on is unsustainable."

Republican (Danbury & Glastonbury)



Social Activities Committee Adds More Trips!

Day Trips

- Saturday May 16 Encore Casino
- Sunday, June 28 Newport Playhouse & Cabaret Restaurant
- Saturday, July 18 Yankees v. Dodgers
- Sunday, July 26 Baseball Hall of Fame
- Saturday, August 22 Red Sox v. Giants
- Saturday, September 5 Hartford Yard Goats Labor Day Game
- Sunday, September 20 Resorts Catskills Casino

Overnight Trips

- September 21-23 Margaritaville Resort - Cape Cod
- October 27-29 Tropicana Atlantic City on the Boardwalk

The CSEA Social Activities Committee has planned several trips for 2026! Trips across New England and beyond are reflective of the member feedback the committee has received over the past few years. Please scan the QR code to earn more about each trip and download the registration form. If you have any questions, please contact SAC Chair Tina Franco at 203-721-4382 or txfranco@gmail.com.



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (SAC)

Review the latest trip offerings on our website or contact SAC at CSEATrips@gmail.com



Scan me



Connecticut Needs AI Regulation & Data Protections

You don't need a technical explanation of artificial intelligence to know something feels off.

We see it online, where the same product costs different amounts depending on who's buying.

We see it when a loan, insurance rate, or service price changes based on data we never agreed to share or can't see.

We feel it at work, where decisions are being made by systems no one can explain.

Call it AI, algorithms, or "dynamic pricing"—the label doesn't really matter. What's actually happening is the already rigged system is getting even more unfair.

One of the clearest examples is happening right now in grocery stores. Across the country, and right here in Connecticut, there's growing concern about algorithmic pricing tools that can raise prices in real time based on demand, location, or consumer behavior.

To corporations, it's efficiency. But to consumers, it's price gouging. Because when prices can be adjusted instantly and invisibly, the question becomes: what's stopping companies from charging the absolute maximum people can bear?

Christopher DeCiantis is a P4 Steward and Information Technology Analyst 3 for the Department of Administration's Bureau of Information Technology Solutions (BITS) in service to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) (say that three times). He submitted testimony last month to legislators around AI-protections, "When you use A.I., if it does not

know the answer, it will confidently give you the wrong answer."

That's not just a technical flaw. That's a real-world problem when those "answers" determine someone's schedule, paycheck, or job security.

That same dynamic is already showing up on the job. AI systems are increasingly being used to set schedules, monitor productivity, evaluate performance and flag workers for discipline or termination.

Bianca Beland, a P4 steward and Environmental Analyst with DEEP, described the impact to workers when this happens during last month's hearing, "When I worked in retail, my manager personally created our schedules because she knew we are all human and that compassion and flexibility was often needed due to staff needing time off for things like births, deaths, and illnesses. Automated decision systems aren't human - and they can't be programmed to have real human compassion, sympathy, or empathy."

That kind of flawed data doesn't just sit in a spreadsheet. It feeds into performance metrics, evaluations, and decisions about workers' futures.

Information Technology Subject Matter Expert and P4 Steward, Lester Tillman (Department of Administrative Services/Bureau of Information Technology in service to the Department of Developmental Services), gave an example to legislators of the impact that taking humans out of the loop will have "Currently the state has technology engineers that use automated systems to facilitate processes and work flows in the sharing and distribution of information. This is under-

stood to help improve work performance, but even with these automated processes there are human engineers running them."

There's a pattern emerging, when AI is introduced without guardrails, companies gain more control while workers and consumers lose visibility and mistakes become harder to challenge. While the bottom 90% eat up the costs.

Right now, Connecticut is already pushing back on some of the most visible harms—like AI-driven price manipulation.

But we also need to recognize that the same technology reshaping prices is reshaping workplaces.

That's where Senate Bill 435 comes in which would establish basic protections around automated decision systems in the workplace—ensuring that when AI is used to make decisions about workers, there are protections and guardrails in place.

Technology should make life better—not more expensive, less transparent, or harder to challenge. Workers and consumers deserve to understand the decisions that affect their lives. And no one should lose a job, a paycheck, or the ability to afford basic necessities because of a system that doesn't know what it's doing—but pretends it does.

This legislative session, lawmakers must take on AI protections which includes passing SB 435, not to stop innovation, but to make sure it works for everyone.

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