

## 2026 CSEA Day Fourth Annual Celebration

About 75 CSEA members came together for this year's CSEA Day, starting the morning at the union hall with breakfast, photos, and a chance to connect before heading to the Capitol together.

By the time we arrived, the building was packed. Advocates from across Connecticut filled the halls, each pushing their own issues, each trying to be heard. But our group stood out right away—purple shirts, familiar faces, and a clear sense of purpose.

We weren't just there to be part of the crowd, we were there to stand up for each other, pushing issues that impacted fellow union members.

The day began at a press conference focused on the Care4Kids crisis, where Family Child Care Council President Maria Reyes put into words what families and providers are facing right now.

"More than 3,000 families are on the Care4Kids waitlist. Families who need care today—not months from now... That is not a system. It is a broken promise."

That waitlist isn't abstract. Right now, nearly 4,000 children across Connecticut are waiting for care. While they wait, parents, most often mothers, are pushed out of the workforce. Families lose income. Providers struggle to stay open. And more often than not, someone else in the family steps in to fill the gap, unpaid, just to keep things together. *continued onto Page 4*



CSEA Day means filling the State Capitol with our signature purple shirts and talking to legislators about issues touching all 25,000 CSEA members! This year members focused on state contracts, paraeducator salaries, long-term care insurance and the Care4Kids waitlist.



On Tax Day, hundreds of workers came to the Capitol dressed as billionaires, to deliver 1,500 postcards demanding Governor Lamont tax the ultra-wealthy.

## State Contracts Approved!

Negotiation teams put in months of work to reach tentative agreements. Members overwhelmingly ratified those agreements. And now, the General Assembly has voted to approve these contracts, marking the last step for the SEBAC 2026 Agreement and our individual bargaining unit contracts.

We stood together and brought home a big win for all of our members.

But not every legisla-

tor sees this as the win it is, and not every legislator voted in favor of these reasonable contracts. They didn't support the public services you deliver and they didn't support you or your colleagues, who make "The Connecticut Difference" in our communities every day.

Let's be clear about what a no vote means. These contracts help recruit and retain workers in agencies struggling with thousands of vacancies while protecting the qual-

ity of services our communities rely on and ensuring stability in our workforce after years of strain.

Despite that, some lawmakers chose politics over solutions. Minority Leader Candelora was asked for his reaction to these contracts and said, "There's only certain people eating at the trough right now, and everyone else is getting thinner and thinner. We have to stop feeding the pigs, and start

*continued onto Page 4*

## Tax Day Highlights our Upside Down System

On Tax Day, workers, students, small business owners, and union members gathered outside the Capitol with a simple message: The system isn't working, but it doesn't have to be this way.

As part of a Connecticut For All coalition action, which CSEA is a proud member of, more than 1,500 postcards were delivered to Governor Lamont calling for a fairer tax system.

The event brought together people across industries to highlight the upside down logic of working people paying their share, while the wealthiest con-

tinue to benefit from a system tilted in their favor, subsidizing their wealth gains.

Speakers included Alicia Hernandez Strong, a 4th grade teacher from New Britain who doesn't mind paying taxes, but is frustrated with a system where there's not enough money for schools, but enough money to keep

taxes low for the ultra wealthy; Lauren Anderson, a small business owner struggling to compete with a rigged system; Amir, a working class Southern CT State University student who has seen the impact of rising prices and low wages first hand; and Seth Freeman, SEIU The 4Cs president and coalition leader calling on *continued onto Page 5*

Visit our union's website at: [CSEA-CT.com](http://CSEA-CT.com)

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

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## Meetings And News

\*All Chapters must hold their Biennial Chapter Elections before June 1st

The May Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, May 21st at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall & by Zoom

Chapter 401 (Hartford area)  
\*Spring Luncheon\*  
Thursday, June 4th - 11:30am  
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,  
CSEA Council 400 Organizer  
Live Entertainment with  
Linda Ransom & Chris Casey  
The Hartford Armory & OMS  
360 Broad St., Hartford  
(free parking in LOB garage)  
\$35 per member \$40 per guest  
Buffet menu includes: Caesar salad, Roast beef, Chicken Cacciatore, Coconut Shrimp, Penne Pasta (vegetarian), Vegetable medley, roasted potatoes, cakes, cookies, tea, coffee, soda, and Cash Bar  
RSVP by May 28th to:  
"CSEA Chapter 401" send to:  
Sharon D. Mounds  
53-C Broodwood Drive  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
Questions? Call - Sharon D Mounds: (860) 529-9885

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)  
Wed., May 13th - 10am  
Speaker: Hospice Support  
United Methodist Church  
5 Clapboard Ridge Road  
Danbury, CT  
Linda Albanese: 860 354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)  
Tues., May 12th - 1:30pm  
Speaker: Aetna Representative  
Rose City Senior Center  
8 Mahan Drive, Norwich  
Carol Burgess: 860 303-7267

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)  
\*Spring Cookout!\*

Tues., June 16th - 11:30am  
Pavillion at Mohegan Park  
(near the disc golf course)  
Norwich, CT  
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and BBQ Chicken. Please bring cookout sides or supplies, room for lawn games/cards  
Cost is \$12 per person  
RSVP to Richard by June 8  
Richard Kerrigan  
83 Case Street  
Norwich, CT 06360  
Richard (860) 848-9881

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area)  
Tues. May 12th - 10am  
Speaker: Aetna Representative  
Trinity Orthodox Church  
937 Chase Pkwy, Waterbury  
Tina Franco: (203) 721-4382

Chapter 405 (New Haven)  
Thurs. May 14th - 10:30am  
Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep  
Hamden Government  
Center Building, 3rd Floor  
2750 Dixwell Ave., Hamden  
Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207

Chapter 405 (New Haven)  
\*Spring Luncheon\*  
Thurs., June 11th - 12pm  
Anthony's Ocean View  
450 Lighthouse Road  
New Haven, CT 06512  
Limited to 60 attendees!  
Extensive menu including:  
Hot and Cold D'oeuvres;  
stuffed clams, Asian style wings, eggplant rollatini, charcuterie, empanadas, etc.  
Pasta Station including:  
rigatoni bolognese, farfalle primavera, cavatelli sorrentino  
Dessert Stations with: gourmet coffee, and assorted desserts  
Cost per Member: \$25  
Spouse/Partner cost: \$35  
Non-member guest: \$45  
Deadline is Thurs., May 28

RSVP by sending check to:  
CSEA Chapter 405 c/o  
Bill Morico  
470 Ellsworth Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Payable to CSEA Chapter 405  
Questions call Bill or Sue  
Bill Morico (203) 764-0759  
Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207

Chapter 406 (Middletown)  
Tues. May 12th - 12:30pm  
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan  
CSEA Retiree Organizer  
\*Chapter Elections\*  
American Legion Post 75  
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr.  
Middletown, CT  
Bob Westendorff  
(860) 343-0683

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)  
Wed., May 20th 1pm  
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., May 13th, 12:30pm  
Speaker: Jennifer Disette,  
Center for Healthy Aging  
Mansfield Senior Center  
303 Maple Rd., Storrs  
Doug Racicot (860) 234-2537

Chapter 408 (Willimantic)  
\*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)  
Friday, May 15th - 10am  
CSEA Union Hall & Zoom  
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford  
Zoom ID: 868 8922 7158  
Dave Walsh (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor area)  
Monday, May 11th - 1pm  
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan  
CSEA Retiree Organizer  
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., May 19th - 1:30pm  
Speaker: Tammy McLaughlin  
Connecticut Alliance for  
Retired Americans  
Putnam Town Hall  
200 School Street, Putnam  
Don Gladding (860) 933-9998



# 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

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



## CSE is Celebrating 80 Years with New/Used Auto Rates at 4.80% APR\* and Personal Loan Rates at 9.80% APR!

\* Annual Percentage Rate



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)

### 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

<b>NORWICH</b> Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich, CT 06360 (860) 889-7378	<b>HARTFORD</b> 84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 522-5388 (Savings) (860) 522-7147 (Loans)	<b>NEW HAVEN</b> 1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 (203) 397-2949
<b>MIDDLETOWN</b> 15 Ward Street Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 347-0479	<b>STORRS</b> 1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 (860) 429-9306	<b>SOUTHBURY</b> Southbury Training School P.O. Box 644 Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 267-7610
		<b>NEWINGTON</b> O'Neil Plaza 2434 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT 06111 (860) 667-7668

Hours: Main Office: Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Branches: Mon-Fri, 9:30am-4pm  
 Drive-Up Teller (Hartford & Middletown): Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4pm; Paydays Open Until 5pm

## Gone too Soon: CSEA Members Who Have Passed On

The Office of the State Comptroller has provided CSEA with the following members that have recently passed away. Our condolences are with their family, friends and loved ones.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Apuzzo, Josephine, Administrative Clerical       | Pysz, Robert, Judicial Marshals            |
| Bailey, Dennis, Engineer, Scien, Tech            | Rodriguez, Thomas, Service/Maintenance     |
| Bartell, John, Service/Maintenance               | Saltzgeber, Pere, Health Professional      |
| Batt, Susan, Administrative Clerical             | Sargis, Robert, Engineer, Scien, Tech      |
| Bayusik, Leona, Comm College Faculty             | Sibiga, Michael, Eo Smith School           |
| Bergeron, Pamela, Health Nonprofessional         | Single, Lawrence, Service/Maintenance      |
| Carlson, Barbara, Admin And Residual             | Skrip, John, Comm College Faculty          |
| Cataldo, Samuel, Service/Maintenance             | Smith, Joseph, Service/Maintenance         |
| Combes, Denis, Service/Maintenance               | Smith, Mary-Zita, Health Nonprofessional   |
| Conley, James, Uconn Health                      | Sorice, Lucille, No Designated Unit        |
| Correia, Ernest, State Police                    | Sosnowski, Mark, Admin And Residual        |
| Digrizia, Carol, Health Nonprofessional          | Spencer, Carol, Admin And Residual         |
| Divergilio, Carol, Administrative Clerical       | Taylor, Marsha, Social And Human Services  |
| Drouin, Patricia, Health Nonprofessional         | Tolley, William, State University          |
| Dudley, Mark, Uconn                              | Topalis, Nicholas, Service/Maintenance     |
| Fragale, Thomas, State Police                    | Viera, Harry, Service/Maintenance          |
| Gardner, Robert, Health Nonprofessional          | Vittorio, Helen, Social And Human Services |
| Graham, Delores, No Designated Unit              | Wallett, Ronald, Judicial                  |
| Hammersley, Robert, No Designated Unit           | Way, Sharon, Health Professional           |
| Hosmer, Louisa, Correctional Officer             |  |
| Hurley, Jane, Administrative Clerical            |  |
| Kohn, Mary, State University                     |  |
| Kolega, Alice, Admin And Residual                |  |
| Kozlowski, Lucy, Administrative Clerical         |  |
| Littlehale, Loretta, Ct Housing And Finance Auth |  |
| Luty, John, Protective Services                  |  |
| Mahon, Thomas, Service/Maintenance               |  |
| Malone, James, State University                  |  |
| Mcleod, Kim, Administrative Clerical             |  |
| Meneses, Carmen, Service/Maintenance             |  |
| Mercer, Nancy, Uconn                             |  |
| Mucciario, Anthony, Education                    |  |
| Nowak, Lelia, Health Nonprofessional             |  |
| Noyes, Ann, No Designated Unit                   |  |
| Obst, Earl, Fiscal Administrator                 |  |
| Parzych, Jean, No Designated Unit                |  |
| Pena, Miguel, Social And Human I Services        |  |

## 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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| Jason P. Webster | .....Graphic/ Technical Assistance |

INSERTION DEADLINE: 1st of prior month.

MAILING ADDRESS: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106; PHONES: (860) 951-6614, toll-free: (800) 894-9479, FAX: (860) 951-3526; INTERNET: [www.csea-ct.com](http://www.csea-ct.com).

"CSEA NEWS" (USPS 224-100, ISSN 0273-6055) is published monthly for \$2.80 per year members, \$5.00 per year non-members, by CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106-1263. Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT. Postmaster: Send address changes to "CSEA NEWS," 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106-1263.

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# CSEA Day 2026: Solidarity in Action

*From retirees and paraeducators to state workers and childcare providers and everyone in between!*

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sacrifice instead of investment.

As members made clear throughout the day, without Care4Kids, kids can't learn, parents can't work, providers can't stay open, and the state's economy can't function the way it should.

From there, members spread out across the Capitol, meeting directly with legislators and dropping off handwritten letters. These weren't long policy papers or talking points—they were short, personal, and direct. Who we are. What we're seeing. What needs to change.

Members talked about the growing crisis in our schools, where more than 1,300 paraeducator positions remain unfilled and the average salary sits around \$27,000 a year. They talked about what that means in real classrooms—students losing consistency, support, and stability because the people doing that work can't afford to stay. They pushed for HB 5446, which would set a \$45,000 minimum salary and begin to make those jobs sustainable, not just for workers, but for the students who rely on

It's a system being held together by

them every day.

Retirees and members also spoke about long-term care, where people who did everything right—planned ahead, paid into the system for decades—are now facing premium increases as high as 50 to 174 percent. For people living on fixed incomes, those increases aren't manageable. They force impossible choices: cut back on essentials, drop coverage, or risk not having care when it's needed most. Members urged support for HB 5304 to hold insurance companies accountable and make sure those policies remain usable and affordable.

State workers showed up in force too, highlighting state contracts that our seven state bargaining units overwhelmingly ratified. These contracts continue to be critical in the fight to recruit, retain and reinvest in our work force. State staffing levels are effectively back to 2008 levels, but the demands on agencies haven't gone down. If anything, they've grown. That means fewer workers doing more, delays in services, and increasing strain on systems that people depend on every day. From maintaining

roads and protecting public health to supporting families and responding to emergencies, the work doesn't stop—but the support behind it hasn't kept up.

What stood out most throughout the day wasn't just the issues, but who was showing up for them. State employees speaking up for childcare providers. Retirees advocating for paraeducators. Members standing behind fights that may not be their own job, but are part of the same bigger picture. That's what solidarity looks like.

In a building full of competing priorities, that kind of unity matters. It cuts through the noise. It shows lawmakers that these issues aren't isolated—they're connected, and so are we.

CSEA Day isn't about one issue or one group. It's about showing what it looks like when working people show up together and speak for themselves.

And this year, they did. (And don't worry, we'll be back to a Spring Saturday for 2027!)



## State Contracts Reach Legislative Approval!

continued from Page 1

worrying about our taxpayers."

Connecticut's 17 billionaires have had a 34% raise in the last 16 months, that's \$24.7B added to their network in less than a year and a half.

But working families are pigs?

. Every Democrat voted in favor of these contracts, but across the House and Senate, only seven Republicans voted yes.

Come November, when all of these elected officials are up for re-election, we will NOT forget who voted against working families. When

you see your legislator between now and then, remind them that protecting our state's excellent public services begins with supporting the working people who make "The Connecticut Difference."

The fight continues as we set our sights on negotiations for our master Pension and Healthcare benefits, which expire next year. Stay informed. Stay involved.

“

What to do? Lamont's "tentative agreements" require General Assembly approval..Citizens should contact their elected representatives in Hartford and **demand a state employee wage freeze. The 33% pay raise already received is much more than enough. 60% is beyond the pale.**

- Red Jahncke, CT Examiner

”

**Contribute to CSEA PAC to push back on attacks like these.**

## Hearst Media Workers are still Waiting for a Contract

Nearly a year after voting to form a union, workers at Hearst Connecticut Media are still waiting for a contract.

They did everything right—organized, voted, and made their voices clear. Management has responded by dragging its feet.

No meaningful progress. No fair agreement. That delay has real consequences.

Every day without a contract means uncertainty around pay, protections, and working conditions.

And it sends a message that workers' voices can be ignored—even after they've voted. Send an email now!

Tell Hearst to stop stalling and come to the bargaining table!

Target: Jeffrey M. Johnson, senior vice president of Hearst and the president and group head of Hearst Newspapers

SIGN THIS PETITION

First Name  Comments

Last Name

Email \*

Zip/Postal Code \*

Sign up to email updates from The Newsletter of New York

Send an email now!



## Tax Day Question: Who is this system built for?

*continued from Page 1* Governor Lamont and lawmakers to pass the Stand Up for CT Agenda and tax the ultra wealthy to fund Connecticut.

At the same time, a new report shows that Connecticut's 17 billionaires increased their wealth by \$24.7 billion—a 34% jump. Speakers also emphasized that Connecticut has one of the more regressive tax systems

in New England. Maine passed a millionaires tax last week, and Rhode Island is expected to pass one this year. Massachusetts has had a millionaires tax in effect since 2024.

That contrast is hard to ignore.

As one speaker put it, the issue isn't whether Connecticut can afford to invest in its people—it's whether leaders are willing to make that choice.

Because right now, the system is working exactly as designed. The question is who it's designed to work for.

## Family Child Care Provider News

### Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

#### A Victory Powered by Child Care Providers

This win didn't happen quietly. It was built step by step, voice by voice.

Throughout the legislative session, union leaders and members showed up. Providers filled the Capitol, shared powerful written and spoken testimony, stood before the press, spoke at press conferences, and organized across multiple lobby days. Together, these actions created real pressure on the Governor and state legislators to act.

Because of that collective effort, we secured a one-time payment equal to 6.5% of providers' Care4Kids earnings from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

And when it came time to vote, members didn't sit on the sidelines. Hundreds mobilized, reached out to one another, and made sure every voice was counted. The result: a unanimous YES vote to approve the funds.

#### What to Expect

This agreement provides a one-time payment equal to 6.5% of your Care4Kids earnings from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. To be eligible, providers must be actively receiving Care4Kids subsidy payments during the months of July, August, and September 2026. The agreement states payments will be issued after September and on or before October 31, 2026.

This is a rare and powerful moment, securing additional funding while still actively negotiating our union contract. It shows what's possible when union members stand together and take action.

We celebrate this victory, and we keep moving forward.

#### Una victoria impulsada por los proveedores de cuidado infantil

Esta victoria no ocurrió en silencio. Se construyó paso a paso, voz por voz.

Durante toda la sesión legislativa, el liderazgo sindical y los miembros se hicieron presentes. Los Proveedores llenaron el Capitolio, ofrecieron testimonios escritos y orales, hablaron ante la prensa, participaron en conferencias de prensa y asistieron

a múltiples días de cabildeo. Todas estas acciones en conjunto generaron presión real sobre el Gobernador y los legisladores estatales.

Gracias a ese esfuerzo colectivo, logramos asegurar un pago único equivalente al 6.5% de los ingresos de Care4Kids de los proveedores desde el 1 de julio de 2025 hasta el 30 de junio de 2026.

Y cuando llegó el momento de votar, los miembros respondieron. Cientos y cientos se movilizaron, se comunicaron entre sí y se aseguraron de que cada voz contara. El resultado: un voto unánime de Sí para aprobar estos fondos.

#### Qué esperar

Este acuerdo proporciona un pago único equiv-

alente al 6.5% de sus ingresos de Care4Kids desde el 1 de julio de 2025 hasta el 30 de junio de 2026.

Para ser elegibles, los proveedores deben estar recibiendo activamente pagos del subsidio de Care4Kids durante los meses de julio, agosto y septiembre de 2026. El acuerdo establece que los pagos se emitirán después de Septiembre y antes o no más tarde del 31 de octubre de 2026.

Este es un momento poco común y poderoso: asegurar fondos adicionales mientras continuamos negociando nuestro contrato sindical. Demuestra lo que es posible cuando los miembros se unen y actúan.

Celebramos esta victoria, y seguimos adelante.

Lt. Calvin Patrick (Ret. with the State of CT New Britain Judicial District) passed away on 4/24/2026. He was known for his compassionate leadership and a smile ready for everyone. Calvin served with the Hartford County Sheriff Department and with CT Judicial Marshal for over 20 years, retiring on 1/31/2020, guiding many new Marshals, Sergeants, and Lieutenants as a mentor. His colleagues described him as a "true professional" with a passion for the job, one who was always professional and dependable. He served as the original Vice President of the SJM Council until his retirement. I had the pleasure of working with him when the SJM Council started and during the years his joyous laughter and great sense of humor was an asset. God bless his family and thank you for all your dedication and service. Calvin, you will be highly missed.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
LT. CALVIN PATRICK

- LT. Robert Perez  
SJM Council Union President

## CT Special Olympics Summer Games

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH!**

Join other CSEA Good Works volunteers at Connecticut's Biggest Celebration of Inclusion on June 6th! Experience the power of sport as athletes and Unified partners from across Connecticut compete, connect, and inspire.

**Job Assignments** for the day include Escorting Athletes, Staging, Result Recording, and Awards. Scan the QR code to register as a volunteer:

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 6th

**WHERE:** Southern Connecticut State University, Hamden Hall Beckerman Athletic Center, and Yale University West Campus

**SPORTS:** Cycling, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field

This event is more than a competition - it's a statewide celebration of inclusion, determination, and community. This annual event brings together athletes and Unified partners along with their coaches to compete after months of dedicated training. They proudly represent their Local Programs and communities while showcasing determination, sportsmanship, and pride as they vie for ribbons and medals across multiple sports.

### Become a Volunteer!



## Council 400 Meetings & Luncheons

Chapter 414 (Torrington area)  
Monday, May 18th at 10am  
\*Spring Luncheon\*  
Catered by Freund's Farm  
Classic Farm to Table Buffet  
with the Freshest Spring  
Offerings - Seasonal, Local &  
Thoughtfully Prepared!  
Five Point Extension Bldg  
852 University Dr., Torrington  
Cost is \$20 per person  
RSVP by calling Kathryn  
Deadline is May 10th  
Kathryn Doan (860) 324-8300

Chapter 415 (Manchester)  
Mon., May 18th - 1pm  
Speaker: Aetna Representative  
Elks Lodge in Manchester  
30 Bissell Street  
Stu Clark: (860) 205-0657

Chapter 415 (Manchester)  
\*Spring Luncheon\*  
Mon., June 22nd - 1pm  
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,  
CSEA Retiree Organizer  
Elks Lodge in Manchester  
30 Bissell Street  
Buffet to include: Sandwich  
platters, assorted salads, chips  
cookies, and soft drinks.  
Cost: \$10 for Ch.415 members  
\$15 for non-members  
RSVP by June 12th  
Send checks to Bill Dorn  
848 Center Street  
Manchester, CT 06040  
Bill Dorn - (860) 840-1688

Chapter 416 (New London)  
Tues. May 12th at 12pm  
\*Chapter Elections\*  
Groton Public Library  
52 Newtown Rd., Groton  
John Knaff: 860-857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area)  
Wed., May 13th - 1pm  
Speaker: Bernadette Conway,  
CSEA Retiree Coordinator  
\*Chapter Elections\*  
Plainville Public Library  
56 East Main St., Plainville  
Mark Kirschner  
(860) 882-2717

Chapter 418  
(Community College Retirees)  
Tues., May 12th - 10am  
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,  
CSEA Retiree Organizer  
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  
\*Biennial Chapter Elections\*  
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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:bconway@csea760.com).**

## 2026 Council 400 Picnic

The Farmington Polo Club  
162 Town Farm Rd, Farmington, CT 06032  
Wednesday, August 19, 2026 11AM - 4PM

RSVP by Aug 12<sup>th</sup>      RSVP by Aug 12<sup>th</sup>

Reserve Now No Walk-ins      Buffet hours: 12Noon - 2:30PM      Reserve Now No Walk-ins

Hamburgers	Chili con Carne	Grilled Pineapple Salad
Veggie Burgers	Sausage & Peppers	Tossed Salad
Hotdogs	Corn on the cob	Watermelon
Huli Huli Chicken	Coconut Rice	Cake by Bernadette
NE Clam Chowder	Hawaiian slaw	Soft Serve Ice Cream

Non-Alcohol beverages served ALL DAY (Cash Bar Available)

Entertainment: Olympic size swimming pool, horseshoes, bocce, basketball, fishing, Trivia & Bingo

Tropical Attire suggested

Mail completed coupon and check payable to:  
"CSEA Council 400"  
c/o Tina Franco  
45 Peach Orchard Rd  
Prospect, CT 06712-1052

NO PETS ALLOWED  
SERVICE DOGS ARE WELCOME

\$18 - Members - WOW!  
\$25 - Non-Member Spouse  
\$38 - Guests

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

Questions: StuClark(860-205-0657)      Tina Franco (203-721-4382)

### Social Activities Committee Adds More Trips!

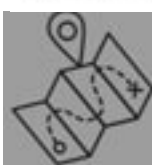
**Day Trips**

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 learn 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](mailto:txfranco@gmail.com).



## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (SAC)

Review the latest trip offerings on our website or contact SAC at [CSEATrips@gmail.com](mailto:CSEATrips@gmail.com)



Scan me



# Citizens United, Political Power & Wealth Inequality

Before the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision in 2010, billionaire money played a relatively small role in federal elections. Since the decision, wealthy donors, including billionaires, have gained the ability to spend unlimited amounts through Super PACs and other independent groups, dramatically increasing their influence in elections.

Billionaires now make up roughly 20% of federal political donations - up from almost nothing before the ruling. So that means 0.01% of Americans are now influencing 20% of political spending.

That shift didn't happen overnight. And it didn't happen in isolation.

*Citizens United* opened the door for unlimited independent political spending, allowing corporations and wealthy individuals to pour massive amounts of money into elections.

Supporters of the decision argued it was about free speech, but in practice, it created a system where the loudest voices are often the ones with the most money. And that has real consequences because political spending doesn't just influence elections—it shapes the decisions that come after.

When a small group of extremely wealthy donors can contribute unlimited amounts, it changes the incentives for elected officials. It shifts who they're listening to and

what gets prioritized.

And over time, it shifts policy. We've seen that play out in a number of ways with tax systems that continue to favor the wealthy, a broad underinvestment in public services and overall resistance to policies that would redistribute wealth or strengthen worker protections.

It doesn't mean every policy decision is bought and paid for, but it does mean that the people with the most resources have more opportunities to influence the outcome.

And that imbalance adds up.

At the same time that political spending by billionaires has increased, wealth inequality in the United States has also grown significantly.

Again, correlation isn't the same as causation, but the relationship is hard to ignore. When wealth becomes more concentrated, so does political influence. And when political influence becomes more concentrated, it becomes harder to pass policies that would reduce inequality.

It creates a feedback loop where more wealth leads to more political power; more political power protects that wealth and then the cycle continues.

For working families, this is not a theory, this is what we are seeing play out in real time. It shows up when lawmakers argue

there isn't enough money for public services, contracts face political opposition despite clear workforce needs and policies that would ease financial pressure on working families stall.

At the same time, there's often no shortage of political will when it comes to protecting corporate interests or maintaining tax advantages for the wealthy. That disconnect isn't accidental, it reflects who has influence—and who doesn't.

But while money has influence, so do organized people. And that's what makes union density a strong driver against wealth inequality. We see that every time workers win contracts, coalitions push policy forward and members show up and force issues into the spotlight.

The reality is, there are far more working people than there are billionaires, but that only matters if people organize and act together.

This isn't just about one court case or one election cycle, but instead about the kind of system we want to live in - one where decisions are shaped by a small group with outsized influence? Or one where working people have a real voice?

## Sponsored Content

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