

All Seven CSEA State Bargaining Units Ratify Tentative Agreements

Next Step: General Assembly Approval

CSEA/SEIU Local 2001's 7 state bargaining units - P3A (Education Administrators), P3B (Education Professionals), P4 (Engineering, Scientific and Technical), Corrections Supervisors Council, NP-9 (State Police Captains & Lieutenants), Supervising Judicial Marshals and the DCJ Inspectors Council - all of which overwhelming ratified their Tentative Agreements today.

After over a year of negotiations, 12+ hour Zoom meetings missed holidays and weekends, and endless amounts of coffee, these 7 bargaining teams were triumphant in their mission to secure fair and honorable contracts that recognize the critical public services these 3,500 members provide.

Connecticut relies on the CSEA members who

design and inspect our roads and bridges, educate DOC inmates and children in DCF custody, provide day services for individuals with intellectual disabilities, supervise our correctional facilities, the judicial branch, and the state police, design and maintain the informational systems at all of our state agencies, provide

continue onto page 4

CSEA SEIU Local 2001 2021 TA Ratification Totals				
Bargaining Unit	Yes	No	Total	% Yes
CSC	331	2	333	99.40%
Inspectors	59	2	61	96.72%
NP-9	17	0	17	100.00%
P3-A	153	0	153	100.00%
P3-B	413	3	416	99.28%
P-4	1468	29	1497	98.06%
SJM	37	1	38	97.37%

2022 Legislative Session Update

Political Director, Danny Medress, Gives an Inside View on Page 6.

Council 400 Membership Drive: WE DID IT!

We have met and exceeded our goal of organizing 500 new members into Council 400... but that doesn't mean we are slowing down!

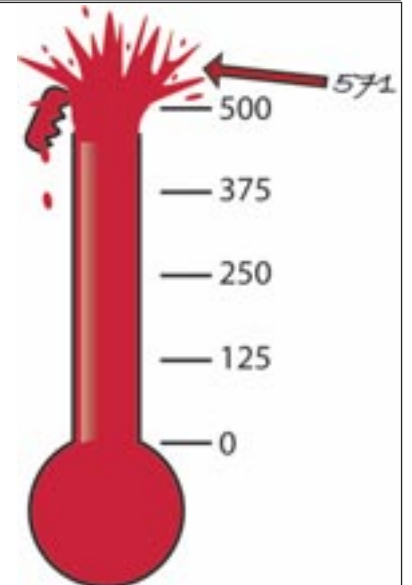
Thanks to our team of dedicated retiree activists our goal has been reached. We are continuing to organize retirees to make sure Council 400 remains the strongest and most active union fighting for the rights of retired State of Connecticut Employees!

These 500 members joined because they understand the strength of a union.

With your help we can continue to grow the council and ensure the benefits you've worked so hard to earn are secure throughout your retirement.

Ways YOU can help:

- Have your spouse sign a Spousal Membership card,



after all - they are using your retiree benefits too!

- Join us for one of our upcoming phone bank sessions at the Union Hall!

- Talk to your friends and former co-workers, ask them if they are ready to join the fight in protecting pensions and healthcare at home and Social Security and Medicare in Washington!

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



CSEA Members joined Recovery For All for a Prayer Circle on Pandemic Pay, listening to Pastor Rodney Wade send a message to legislators.

Pandemic Pay Prayer Circle

Activists Call for Pandemic Pay for ALL Workers

CSEA has joined Recovery for All in pushing for pandemic pay for ALL essential workers - public and private. We are pushing a bill that would provide full-time essential workers with a one-time payment of \$2,000. This legislative effort is in addition to our collective bargaining fight for state workers. -

On March 16th, Recovery for All activists met inside the Capitol rotunda to

hear from faith leaders and frontline essential workers about the need for pandemic pay.

"In a state flush with American rescue dollars and its own rainy-day fund, it is raining," Rev. Josh Pawelek of the Unitarian Universalist Society in Manchester said. "And for essential workers, it's not just been raining, it's been flooding."

CSEA members have been on the frontlines - from Board of Education members like paras and tutors and bus drivers and monitors to DOC, Judicial and State Police Captains and Lieutenants and Inspectors, and everyone in between. CSEA member sacrifices continue to fuel the fight for respectful pandemic pay.

Also in this Edition:

Page 2:

Council 400 May Chapter Meetings

Page 4:

SEBAC Filming Day

Page 5:

CSC Election Notice

Page 5:

SEBAC Press Conference

Page 6:

W-4s & 457 Plan

Page 7:

CSEA In the News

Page 7:

Biennial Convention Notice

Page 7:

Captive Audience Bill

Page 8:

Maryam Khan Elected to the House of Representatives

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



Meetings And News

MEETING DATES

The Council 400 Delegates Meeting is always held on the third Thursday of the month.

The May Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, May 19th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall.

Chapter 401 (Hartford area):
Thursday, May 5th, 12:15PM lunch,
meeting at 12:45PM
Guest Speaker: United Healthcare
Representative
CSEA Union Hall
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT
Patrice Peterson: (860) 416-0306

Chapter 402 (Danbury area):
Wednesday, May 11th, at 10:00AM
United Methodist Church
5 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury, CT
Linda Albanese: (860) 354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area):
Tuesday, May 10th, at 1:30PM
Guest Speaker: United Healthcare
Representative
Rose City Senior Center
8 Mahan Dr., Norwich, CT
Carol Burgess: (860) 859-3641 (h)
(860) 303-7267 (c)

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area):
Tuesday, May 10th, at 10:00AM
Holy Trinity Greek Community Center
937 Chase Parkway (exit 17 off I-84),
Waterbury
John Quinn: (203) 804-0189

Chapter 405 (New Haven area):
*To be held online and in-person
Hamden Town Hall (3rd Floor)
2750 Dixwell Ave, Hamden, CT
Thursday, April 14th, at 11:00AM
Guest Speaker: United Healthcare
Representative
Thursday, May 12th at 11:00AM
Guest Speaker: TBD
Ron Osokow: (203) 671-7685

Chapter 406 (Middletown area):
NO APRIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 10th at 1pm
American Legion Post 75
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Middletown, CT
Joe Formica: (860) 347-4532

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area):
Wednesday, April 20th, at 1:00PM -
lunch served
Guest Speaker for April: Judge Rosenberg
Probate judge of Stratford.
Wednesday, May 18th, at 1:00PM -
lunch served
Guest Speaker for May:
UnitedHealthcare Representative
St. Joseph's of Stratford National
Catholic Church
1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford (on Rt. 113
toward Sikorsky Airport)
Carol Donofrio: (203) 470-4833

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area):
Thursday, May 12th at 12:30PM food; 1PM
meeting
Guest Speaker: Joyce Gootkin -
Consumer Information Specialist
with Senior Resources - Agency on Aging
Mansfield Senior Center
303 Maple St., Mansfield, CT
Marleen Dutra: (860) 477-0858

Chapter 409 (State University
Professors)
Friday, April 22nd, at 10AM
Friday, May 20th, at 10AM
CSEA Union Hall
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT
Dave Walsh: (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor Locks area):
Monday, April 11th at 1:00PM
Geoffrey E. Carlson
Funeral Director / Pre-Planning Manager
- Carmon Community Funeral Home
Monday, May 9th at 1PM - TBD
Suffield Senior Center
145 Bridge St., Suffield, CT
Amelia Smith: (860) 687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area):
Thursday, June 16th 1:00PM
Location TBD
Sebastian Puglisi: (860) 529-8336

Chapter 412 (Putnam area):
NEW LOCATION
Tuesday, May 17th, at 1:30PM
Putnam Town Hall
200 School Street Putnam, CT
Don Gladding: (860) 933-9998
Chapter 414 (Torrington area):
Monday, May 16th, at 10:00AM
Guest Speaker: United Healthcare
Representative
UCONN Extension Service Building
843 University Dr., Torrington, CT
Karen Pineman: (860) 354-6727

Chapter 415 (Manchester area):
Monday, May 23rd, at 1:00PM
Guest Speaker: United Healthcare
Representative
Elks Lodge
30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT
Donna McElduff: (860) 454-0480

Chapter 416 (New London area):
Tuesday, May 10th at 12:00PM
Groton Public Library
52 Newtown Rd, Groton, CT
John Knaff: (860) 857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area):
Wednesday, May 11th at 1PM
Guest Speakers: United Healthcare
Representative
& CSEA Retiree Organizer: Kevin P.
Sullivan
Plainville Public Library
56 East Main St., Plainville, CT

Chapter 418 (Community College
Retirees):
Tuesday, May 3rd
Four C's Union Hall
907 Wethersfield Ave. Hartford, CT
Bill Searle: (860) 745-3692

Chapter 421 (Daytona Chapter)
Wednesday, April 13 at 11:00 am
Golden Corral, 907 Taylor Rd, Port
Orange, FL 32127
Chapter President: Ruth Finizio (860)
680-1860

Chapter 425 (Clearwater Chapter)
Wednesday, April 14 at 12pm
Philippe Park, 2525 Philippe Pkwy, Safety
Harbor, FL 34695
Chapter President: Cptn. Hank Bracker
(727) 848-0089

Important numbers to have on hand:

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528

Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537

Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533

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

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

UnitedHealthcare Dedicated Hearing Aid line: 1-855-523-8355

UnitedHealthcare: 1-888-803-9217

Caremark: 1-800-318-2572

Cigna: 1-800-244-6224

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

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



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www.CSECreditUnion.com

**Good Friday - April 15th
Closed**

Dividend Rates - First Quarter 2022

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	0.50%	0.50%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	0.25%	0.25%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	0.35%	0.35%

Minimum opening balance \$25.00. The annual percentage yield is accurate as of the last dividend declaration date. Rate may change after the account is opened. Fees or other conditions may reduce the earnings on the account.

7 Full Service Offices To Serve You

NORWICH Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich, CT 06306 (860) 889-7378	HARTFORD 84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 522-5388 (Savings) (860) 522-7147 (Loans)	NEW HAVEN 1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 (203) 397-2949
MIDDLETOWN Connecticut Valley Hospital P.O. Box 2485 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 Only): 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.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Adam, Debra | Kovacs, Emily |
| Anderson, Charlotte | Krakowiecki, Ambrose |
| Andrews, Fred | Lentz, Judith |
| Bedlack, Joseph | Lombardi, Anthony |
| Bombria, Shirley | Loughrey, David |
| Bonatsakis, Kallie | Lyons, Charles |
| Bourbeau, James | Mauro, Anthony |
| Cardini, Thomas | Maynard, Henry |
| Carver, Jacqueline | Moody, Donald |
| Ceresky, Joseph | Morse, Whitney |
| Chiarella, Laura | Mulla, Tehmi |
| Cseh, Harry | Orlando, Rocco |
| Delahanty, Jessie | Penikas, Vincent |
| Dragunoff, Lawrence | Peroni, Joseph |
| Drobnis, Robert | Podann, Barbara |
| Ewaskio, Ruth | Poulin, Ronald |
| Fedorowich Jr., Edward | Pratt, Josephine |
| Fortin, Camille | Rendell, Jill |
| Gaffney, Henry | Ruiz, Francisco |
| Gilbransen, Joan | Spencer, Cathy |
| Hibson, Paul | Testoni, Dennis |
| Hightower, Joann | Thurstan, Dale |
| Islam, Wali | Tucker, Chester |
| Jackson, Jowanne | |
| Jorge, Orlando | |



AUSTERITY

CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's
Public Service Employees & Retirees

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Published Monthly by:

CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION

Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW/CLC

- | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| Travis Woodward | | President |
| Milagros Brown | | Secretary/Treasurer |
| David Glidden | | Executive Director |
| Drew E. Stoner | | Communication Specialist |
| 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.

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CSEA Members Featured in Commercial

(From Left to Right: Les Tilman, Lauren Clark & Jeff Beckwith)
SEBAC hosted two filming days this month and three of our members participated in the commercial which

will air on ConnectedTV platforms and social media. Be sure to check out our website to view the entire commercial!



Members Testify at Public Hearings

Dawn McKay, Travis Woodward & Cynthia Ross-Zweig Amongst Members Testifying via Zoom



All 7 CSEA Bargaining Units Ratify Tentative Agreements

Next Step: Approval from the General Assembly

education leadership, investigate major crimes, protect our environment and so much more!

We are not done though. We NEED the General Assembly to vote in favor of the Contract.

We need to call our legislators, tell our story, write letters to the editor and make sure that everyone in the State Capitol understands the importance of protecting public services through fair and honorable contracts.

Take a moment now to sign up to donate to make a Political Action Contribution (PAC) to CSEA SEIU Local 2001's Fund that is dedicated to helping our endorsed candidates make it into office. As a reminder, all candidates go through a questionnaire and interview

process through our Legislative Action Committee before endorsements are voted on by the Executive Council.

The PAC is a critical way that you can help get SEBAC contracts approved by the General Assembly - each and every elected state official in the Governor's Office and General Assembly have a say about your future. Shouldn't you have a say in theirs?

We must work together to ensure the Legislature passes this contract, and come November ensure that pro-worker candidates are elected into the General Assembly.

THE FACES BEHIND PUBLIC SERVICES

"The State of CT is providing a comprehensive and well-rounded contract and, in doing so, it extends the opportunity to continue providing secured employment for Supervising Judicial Marshalls. In turn, enhancing the focus on providing more effective & efficient services to the people of CT."
-Lieutenant Bobby Perez, President of the Supervising Judicial Marshalls Council, CSEA SEIU Local 2001

#FundOurFutureCT

THE FACES BEHIND PUBLIC SERVICES

"Effective collective involvement and organization empowers, uplifts and protects the dedicated public servants and the services we provide. We are stronger together!"
Adrian Wood, President of P-3A, CSEA SEIU Local 2001

#FundOurFutureCT

THE FACES BEHIND PUBLIC SERVICES

SEIU
Stronger Together
Service Employees International Union

"These contracts are more than deserving for the work our members did alone during Covid. Our members were considered critical infrastructure personnel who went into known congregate settings where Covid existed and performed our daily duties without hesitation."
-Millie Brown, CSC President, CSEA SEIU Local 2001

#FundOurFutureCT

It's election time for CSC!

The election will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

Nominations will be accepted for all positions. Nominations will be open from Monday, February 28, 2022 (8:00am) through Friday, April 22, 2022 (4:00pm). Nominations should be submitted via email to Jason Webster @ JPWebster@csea760.com.

Press Conference Calling for Racial Justice Bills

Dr. Regina Hopkins, CSEA Member, Addresses the Press

On March 1st, SEBAC hosted a press conference to highlight our legislative agenda items that are aimed at addressing the systemic racism that is prevalent through state government and our state as a whole.

Working families from all backgrounds continue to be left behind in our increasingly unequal economy. State agencies, which are underfunded and understaffed, not only provide critically needed services to all of our communities – particularly those of color – a pathway to the working class.

SEBAC called on Governor Lamont and legislative leaders of both parties to publicly commit to protecting and expanding (not shrinking and privatizing) state services by filling the thousands of current vacancies, automatically refilling positions that will open due to

retirements, and increasing funding for programs and services which build equity for working families.

The SEBAC legislative agenda includes three racial justice bills:

- HB5445: An Act Concerning State Staffing Levels, which would require automatic refills of vacancies and continuous recruitment of all positions;
- SB419: An Act Establishing A State Training Account For State Service Career Development, which would create a career development fund within state service to cover the cost of training, seminars and conferences that assist participating employees in upward mobility or promotional opportunities and;
- SB420: An Act Concerning The State Workforce and Discrimination and Retaliation in the Workplace.

Dr. Regina Hopkins, CSEA SEIU Local 2001 member and Education

Consultant at the State Department of Education spoke at the press conference, "State employees are generally more diverse than the workforce of some of the state's private sector counterparts. Nevertheless, racial disparities in employment opportunities and salaries exist statewide. Racial inequities in state hiring and promotional opportunities and outcomes create race-based economic disparities."

The fight continued on March 15th at the Labor & Public Employees Committee where these three

bills had a public hearing. Several members submitted written testimony or testified via Zoom in support of these bills and we are hopeful they will be voted out of committee. Stay tuned!



SEBAC members, including Dr. Regina Hopkins, CSEA member, address the press.

All 7 CSEA Bargaining Units Ratify Tentative Agreements

Next Step: Approval from the General Assembly

THE FACES BEHIND PUBLIC SERVICES

"This contract is critical to protecting the welfare of our state employees and the public we serve. I'm glad the Governor was able to reach fair and honorable contracts with us."
- David Sydnor, President of the Inspectors Council, CSEA SEIU Local 2001

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THE FACES BEHIND PUBLIC SERVICES

"The P3B Council provides direct services to the aged, disabled and disenfranchised. Our work makes it possible for the most vulnerable residents in the state to be independent, with a sense of self-worth and purpose. Without this contract, all of these services are at risk and could disrupt the lives of so many."
- Stephaine Darden-Smith, President of the P3B Council, CSEA SEIU Local 2001

#FundOurFutureCT

THE FACES BEHIND PUBLIC SERVICES

"The State Police are an integral part of our public safety, but when we don't have adequate staffing or funding, the public we serve are at risk. Failing to appoint good leaders in key positions can have catastrophic effects. In order to be successful in our mission, we need talented and diverse Commanders to lead this agency into the future. Having graduated from the FBI National Academy, I have a much broader understanding of global law enforcement issues and a greater awareness of what it takes to be a respected leader. The Connecticut State Police need these types of leaders to move us into the future. The only way to do this is to expeditiously refill any vacancies in order to continuously lead Connecticut's finest and keep our treasured communities safe."
Captain Kenneth Cain, President of NP-9, CSEA SEIU Local 2001

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THE FACES BEHIND PUBLIC SERVICES

"When it comes to designing, overseeing construction & inspecting our highways & bridges, state employees do it better, faster and for less. Fair & honorable contracts ensure we retain and recruit a talented workforce who can continue this important work."
Travis Woodward, CSEA SEIU Local 2001 President & DOT Supervising Engineer

#FundOurFutureCT

2022 Legislative Session Update from Danny

Political Director, Danny Medress, Gives an Inside View of the Legislature

This year we had several members testify via Zoom and submit written testimony through the public hearing portion of the

2022 Legislative Session. While public hearings are just about wrapping up, there are still plenty of opportunities to get

involved. We expect that the state contracts will be filed any day now so please scan the QR code to the right to be brought to our CSEA website where you can read my full report on the Legislative Session and learn about ways you can help us push our bills through the legislature.

SCAN QR Code!



MetLife RetireWise Seminars

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one to learn.

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- Creating & Managing Wealth
- Establishing Your Retirement Income Stream
- Making the Most of What You Have

Join your colleagues for the

complimentary Retirewise workshop series. Still on the fence? Visit bcove.video/3DriUYv for a sneak peek of what to expect. Spouses and partners are welcome!

Reserve Your Spot at: bit.ly/3ldCYzj (case-sensitive)

Workshop details

Session 1: Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Session 2: Tuesday, April 26, 2022
Time: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm EST

If asked for company name, enter CSEA SEIU 2001

Can't attend but still need help with financial questions? You can still sign up for a free personal consultation.

For more information at metlifepiansmart.com/website/24112/

CSEA Members Win Arbitration in Simsbury

Defined Benefit Pension Remains

Just as the CSEA News is going to print, a contract arbitration award in an important CSEA fight was issued. In Simsbury, one of the more affluent communities in Connecticut, the Board of Selectmen has been attacking the cornerstone benefit of defined benefit pension. The union bargaining team fought back and, after a three year battle, prevailed when Arbitrator Dennis Murphy sided with the union on this critical issue.

As many towns and boards of education continue to attack pensions and healthcare, this victory in Simsbury will serve as a beacon for many. The union was able to demonstrate that the benefit is far superior to the defined contribution plan that the employer was advocating. Further, the union showed that members have gone to significant lengths to protect the benefit by agreeing during previous negotiations to increased pension contributions. In rendering his

decision, Arbitrator Murphy opined that it would be unjust to eliminate the pension in light of members' responsible stewardship of the benefit.

Dwight Carlson, President of the CSEA Administrative and Professional Chapter commented, "After a long three year battle with the Town of Simsbury, I am pleased that we have a contract. I would like to thank the CSEA negotiating team for their support and guidance through this lengthy process which threatened several crucial benefits within our contract. I was impressed with the aggressive approach with which the CSEA negotiating team defended our contract and ultimately preserved the fundamental components of the contract for our members."

State Division

W-4 WITHHOLDINGS & 457 CONTRIBUTIONS

OSC has confirmed that you will be able to change your withholdings on your W-4 before the lump sums are distributed (& then change it back afterward) in order to mitigate any tax liability.

You can go online to the 457 vendor (Prudential) website to make changes to your contributions at any time. You should have received an email from Prudential with a link to this website.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT YOUR DEDICATED COUNCIL WEBSITE FOR OTHER INFORMATION!



Council 400 Members: Time for Spring Cleaning!

Update your Contact Information with CSEA

As everyone is getting ready for Spring Cleaning, we are too! We need our Council 400 Members to have correct contact

information in our database to get important information to you. Please go to our website at www.CSEA-CT.com, then

scroll down to the purple "UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION" and click on that. If you have moved, changed your cell phone number, removed your landline number, or have a new email address... We want to know!

We see changes every year to the Medicare reimbursement amount, changes to your

medical and dental plans, and important information about legislation that affects our Retirees. We need your correct information to be able to inform you of all of these changes! You may also visit: bit.ly/UpdateCSEA (case sensitive) to update your information.

Council 400 Quarterly Virtual Meeting March Meeting is a Success!

Last month we had Attorney Daniel Tully joined us for our quarterly virtual meeting to present information about Elder Law, Medicaid Title XIX, and Total Care

Planning for long-term medical needs affecting the elderly. As with many of our quarterly meetings, this was widely attended by Council 400 members from

across the country with over 130 members tuning in. Keep an eye out for our June Quarterly Meeting announcement!

CSEA Members in the News!

This month, members were featured in multiple news stories talking about telework, state contracts, and racial justice while also participating in filming days to create a SEBAC commercial in support of our contracts.

Telework is a critical issue for many state workers, and it has been important for CSEA members to stand up for our arbitration award and remind the public of the benefits of telework for our state. When the *Wall Street Journal* called to ask how the agreement was going, we knew we wanted a DEEP member interviewed to highlight the environmental impact telework is having, and while they did not print the majority of his interview, Keith Hill, CSEA P4 Chap-

ter 24 President, did a great job controlling the narrative against any unnecessarily negative press, "Keith Hill, a supervisor in the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, said he is now generally in his office in Hartford two days a week instead of the previous five."

CSEA President Travis Woodward was interviewed by *Hearst Media* regarding telework. In response to DOT's 'All Hands Wednesdays' policy, Woodward commented, "That's not in line with the arbitration award that we got for the final agreement. A lot of people feel side-winded about the commissioner's decision."

Woodward was also interviewed by WTIC 1080 radio, to

discuss the Tentative Agreements that have been reached, and now, ratified by CSEA members. He discussed how this was a fair and honorable contract and how necessary it is for retention and recruitment purposes while pushing back against our opponent's narrative that state workers are undeserving and these contracts are overly generous.

Dr. Regina Hopkins, an Educational Consultant at the State Department of Education and P3B leader also spoke at a SEBAC press conference about the racial justice demands that are part of our legislative agenda. Keith Phanuef of the *CT Mirror* picked up some of her remarks, "The state is neither an equal nor an equitable

employer. State employee unions are calling for Lamont and the legislature not just to refill positions open to retirement but also to create an 'ombudsperson' tasked with ensuring agencies continue working to eliminate systemic racism."

Every corner of our union should be highlighting the staffing crisis, the fights for fair and equitable wages and benefits, the need for safe working conditions, and all of the battles our members are involved in. If you have a story or event that we should elevate to the press, please reach out to your staff representative or union steward.

Biennial Convention

Friday, October 14, 2022

The **81st Biennial Convention of the Connecticut State Employees Association, SEIU Local 2001** will convene on **Friday, October 14, 2022** at the Aquaturf Club in Plantsville, CT.

SAVE THE DATE!

Registration will open at 8:00 am.

The convention will convene promptly at 9:00 am.

- Elect President and Secretary/Treasurer
- Vote on any Constitutional Amendments
- Guest Speakers

CSEA Chapters and Councils should be conducting their elections in the coming months. Please contact your staff representative at (860) 951-6614 for information about chapter/council officer and delegate elections.

The CSEA SEIU Local 2001 main office must receive the results of your chapter elections not later than Friday, September 30th in order to properly register and furnish credentials for elected delegates. Only elected delegates and elected alternate delegates are eligible to attend.

Any elected delegate who attends the convention will be compensated for travel, parking and any lost wages.

Protect Workers Seeking to Form a Union: Pass SB163

In 2018, half of nonunion workers said they would join a union if given the opportunity to do so. Following the Great Resignation, that number is likely much higher, as workers across the country, including scores of them in Connecticut, are currently attempting to organize unions.

Yet workers still struggle to form unions. Our labor laws are badly broken. The penalties employers face for violating the law

are so weak that many write them off as the cost of doing business to disempower workers.

Organizing workers are also subjected to captive audience meetings. These are mandatory, closed-door meetings during work hours where workers are often threatened and harassed about their union support. Workers can be disciplined or fired if they don't attend.

One nurse was put in a hospital

supply closet with the manager's back to the door. Another worker was threatened that the company may close their store if they join a union. Management will surveil workers and implement other strategies to attempt to scare workers.

In Connecticut, we have an opportunity to protect workers who seek to form a union.

Senate Bill 163 will give a worker the right – when the subject of a

meeting is about the employer's position on politics (including union organizing) or religion – to stop listening and return to work without fear of being disciplined or terminated.

Urge your legislators to support SB 163, which will protect organizing workers from coercive captive audience meetings.

CSEA Endorsed Candidate Wins Election with 75% of the Vote

CSEA endorsed Maryam Khan of Windsor in her special election to the 5th House District of Windsor and Hartford. We are happy to report that she has won her election, with nearly 75% of the vote, and has become the first Muslim elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives.

As a former special education teacher at the A.I. Prince Technical High School and proud AFT CT member, she

is an ally for CSEA in the legislature.

Members in her district made a real difference in this election - from turning out to the polls and phone banking to posting on Facebook and urging their neighbors to vote for Khan. The 2022 elections are around the corner and we need every member to get involved in making sure labor-friendly voices are elected to the General Assembly.



PICTURED ABOVE: State Representative Maryam Khan celebrates on the day of her swearing in with the women who helped get her elected.

Go Green!

Opt-In to our Digital CSEA News

Did you know that the average person in the US uses more than 700 pounds of paper per year? Or that despite global digitalization, paper usage has actually grown 126% in the last 20 years in the US?

The CSEA News has been an integral part of our communications program for decades, but it is 2021 and we have a host of resources to reduce our carbon footprint and "Go Green." The most effective way for our members to "Go Green" is to request that the CSEA News be sent digitally rather than a hardcopy in the mail!

"Going Green" not only helps decrease the amount of paper waste in our landfills, but it also reduces ink waste and the carbon emissions from delivery. Many of our CSEA members have been interested in decreasing their carbon footprint and opting into the digital E-Newsletter is a great way to take a small

step towards a greener future! Every month you will receive this digital paper in your email inbox - all of the same information, just a lot less waste! To opt into the Go Green E-Newsletter, simply visit bit.ly/GoGreenCSEA and fill out the form.

To make your communications experience even easier, we've launched a BRAND NEW WEBSITE! Visit CSEA-CT.com or SEIU2001.org and let us know what you think - give us feedback on what you like, don't like and what you want improved by visiting bit.ly/CSEASiteInput (case sensitive). If CSEA has your email address, then you've already received this survey in your inbox, but if we don't then it is also a good opportunity for you to update your contact information by visiting bit.ly/UpdateCSEA (case sensitive).

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