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Members Rally at State Capitol for Fair Contracts

Over 400 State Employees Stand Together for Good Faith Negotiations from Governor Lamont

On Tuesday, July 13th, SEBAC members from all 15 unions filled the North Steps of the State Capitol to emphasize the need to protect vital public services as we demanded fair contracts and good faith negotiations from the Lamont Administration.

Hundreds of members marched and chanted around the Capitol to Governor Lamont's empty parking space to bring attention to the power that the Governor holds to lift up working families across the state - public and private.

This event was about much more than just raises, but instead was about demanding that Governor Lamont recognize the sacrifice and commitment of state employees and begin to see us as partners, rather than opponents. CSEA's very own Bianca Beland, an

Environmental Analyst I with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protections (DEEP) spoke at the press conference and brought attention to the growing need for Connecticut to be a leader in environmental protections, "I am here today to remind the community of the dangers we are faced with as a state, country and world as it relates to climate change and the overwhelming reliance we have on our natural resources.

"Just last week we experienced the heightened impacts from Tropical Storm Elsa, and throughout this summer we've experienced record breaking heat waves - and that's just in the last few weeks. This has impacted our drinking water, our air quality, forests and natural species, our bodies of water for recreation and so much more.

"The mission of DEEP, as stated on their website, is to conserve, improve and protect the natural resources and the environment of our state as well as making cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy available for the people and businesses of the state. The agency is also committed to playing a positive role in rebuilding Connecticut's

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PICTURED ABOVE: Members from all 15 SEBAC unions joined together at the State Capitol to demand fair contracts from the Lamont Administration.

New Britain HRA Members Celebrate Win

After a Summer of Solidarity, Members Celebrate Huge Win



PICTURED ABOVE: Members from the Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc celebrate their win.

This month, members of the Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRA) chapter are celebrating a huge win after weeks of member organizing and solidarity.

The mission of the Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. is to "improve the quality of life by helping people achieve their economic and social potential; responding to the causes and conditions of poverty; and building stronger individuals, families and the communities we serve." But achieving this

mission is only possible with the team of dedicated professionals working tirelessly to help some of the most vulnerable, at-risk communities. This group of predominantly women of color deserve to be treated with respect and paid liveable wages that honor the important work they provide.

These workers banded together to demand better and refused to accept poverty-level wages. Their organizing efforts started with a petition in which 73 of the 77 members

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Jon Lender: Friend or Foe?

By: Robert Rinker, Former Executive Director

Jon Lender, a Hartford Courant reporter for 48 years and the columnist for the Government Watch for the past 12 years, retired on June 27th after penning his last column. To all of those that worked in state government or were elected to a political position, you always hoped that his Sunday's column was not about you: you need not worry anymore.

Lender was not a Chris Powell. Powell was the former managing editor of the Journal Inquirer in Manchester and

now a columnist for local newspapers. Powell's editorials have always been about taking cheap shots at state employees and retirees with a blatant disregard for the facts. When a meeting was set up last year between Powell and Chapter 409 President, Dave Walsh and I to discuss his 10 years of factual errors in his writings, Powell at the last moment decided not to attend the meeting. Instead, he penned a letter saying he was entitled to his facts as we are entitled to our facts. You are entitled to your

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Don't Miss Another Email!
Update Your Information

Please visit bit.ly/UpdateCSEA TODAY to update your contact information for our database!

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

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



Meetings And News

The Council 400 Delegates Meeting is always held on the third Thursday of the month, however the September meeting will be held on September 23rd due to Yom Kippur.

The next Delegates Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23rd at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall

All meetings are subject to change/cancellation depending on the state of the global pandemic

Chapter 401 (Hartford area):
Thursday, September 2nd, 12:15 lunch, meeting at 12:45pm

Speaker: Senator Derek Slapp
CSEA Union Hall—
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT
Patrice Peterson: 860-523-1480

Chapter 402 (Danbury area):
Wednesday, September 8th at 10:00 AM
Speaker: TBA

United Methodist Church—
5 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury, CT
Linda Albanese: 860-354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area):
Tuesday, September 14th at 1:30 PM
Speaker: TBA

Rose City Senior Center—
8 Mahan Dr., Norwich, CT
Carol Burgess: 860-859-3641

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area):
Tuesday, September 14th at 10:00 AM
Speaker: Subby Puglisi, Regional Vice President of Council 400

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Community Center—
937 Chase Parkway (exit 17 off I-84), Waterbury
John Quinn: 203-804-0189

Chapter 405 (New Haven area):
NOTE LOCATION FOR 2021
Thursday, September 9th at 11:30 AM
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan, Retiree Organizer - CSEA
Hamden Town Office Building,
2750 Dixwell Ave, Third Floor
Ron Osokow: 203-671-7685

Chapter 406 (Middletown area):
Tuesday, September 14th at 1:00PM
Speaker: TBA
American Legion Post 75—
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Middletown, CT
Joe Formica: 860-347-4532

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area):
Wednesday, September 15th at 1:00 PM
Speaker: TBA
St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic
Church—1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford (on Rt.
113 toward Sikorsky Airport)
Carol Donofrio: 203-888-2920

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area):
Thursday, September 9th at 12:30 PM
Speaker: Sarah Taylor, Mansfield Senior Center
Supervisor
Mansfield Senior Center—
303 Maple St., Mansfield, CT
Marleen Dutra: 860-477-0858

Chapter 409 (State University Professors)
Friday, September 17th at 10:00 AM
Speaker: Cigna Representative
CSEA Union Hall—
760 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT
Dave Walsh: 860-684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor Locks area):
Monday, September 13th at 1:00 PM
Speaker: Dave Glidden, CSEA Executive
Director
Suffield Senior Center—
145 Bridge St., Suffield, CT
Amelia Smith: 860-687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area):
Chapter 411 meets quarterly
Thursday, September 16th (Lunch will be at
12:30 – Meeting will begin at 1:00PM)
Speaker: TBA
Location: Bertucci's Restaurant on the Berlin
Tpke, Newington
Sebastian Puglisi: 860-529-8336

Chapter 412 (Putnam area):
Tuesday, September 21st at 1:30 PM
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan, Retiree Organizer -
CSEA
Congregational Church of Putnam—
175 Main St., Putnam, CT
Don Gladding: 860-564-9092

Chapter 414 (Torrington area):
Monday, September 20th at 10:00 AM
Speaker: Cigna Representative
Cooperative Extension Service Building, 843
University Dr., Torrington, CT
Karen Pineman: 860-354-6727

Chapter 415 (Manchester area):
Monday, September 27th at 1:00 PM
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan, Retiree Organizer -
CSEA
Elks Lodge—30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT
Donna McElduff: 860-454-0480

Chapter 416 (New London area):
Tuesday, September 14th at 12:00 PM
Waterford Public Library
49 Rope Ferry Rd., Waterford
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan, Retiree Organizer -
CSEA
John Knaff: 860-857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area):
NEW MEETING SCHEDULE
Chapter 417 Meetings in March, May, October
and November ONLY.
Wednesday, October 13th at 1:00 PM
Speaker: TBA
Plainville Public Library —
56 East Main St., Plainville, CT
Cathy Toscano: 860-845-2927

Chapter 418 (4C's):
Tuesday, September 7th at 10:00AM
Speaker: TBA
4 C's— 907 Wethersfield Ave. Hartford
Bill Searle: 860-745-3692

Chapter 421 (Daytona, FL Area):
Wednesday, November 17th 11:00am Lunch,
Speakers to Follow
The Golden Corral—
907 Taylor Rd, Port Orange, FL 32127

Chapter 441 (Cape Cod, MA Area) **DATE
TENTATIVE**
Wednesday, September 29th at 10:00am
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan, Retiree Organizer -
CSEA
Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, 688 Main St
(off Route 134) South Dennis, MA
**Check next month's CSEA News & look out
for a postcard in the mail**

FEBRUARY FLORIDA MEETING DATES WITH UNITEDHEALTHCARE, CIGNA AND CSEA REPRESENTATIVES

****Details will be sent to
chapter members****

Chapter 421 (Daytona, FL Area):
Wednesday, February 12th 11:30am Social,
12:00pm Lunch, Speakers to Follow
Halifax Plantation ClubHouse, 3400 Clubhouse
Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Chapter 422 (Ocala, FL Area):
Friday, February 21st 11:00am Social, 12:30pm
Lunch
Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club—
505 East Hartford St., Hernando, FL 34442

Chapter 423 (Highland Beach, FL Area):
Friday, February 14th 12:00pm
Renzo's Café and Pizzeria, 6900 North Federal
Highway, Boca Raton, FL

Chapter 424 (Sarasota, FL Area):
Monday, February 10th 9:30am- 11:00am
Sandcastle Resort, Candlelight Restaurant, Lido
Beach, 1540 Benjamin Franklin Dr., Sarasota

Chapter 425 (Dunedin, FL Area):
Wednesday, February 19th 11:00am Social,
12:00pm Lunch
Tiffany's,—
35000 US Highway 19, Palm Harbor, FL.

Chapter 426 (Ft. Myers, FL Area):
Monday, February 17th 11:00am
Cape Coral Moose Lodge 2199, 155 Santa Bar-
bara Blvd. North, Cape Coral

Chapter 427 (Vero Beach, FL Area):
Friday, February 7th 11:30am Social, 12:00pm
Lunch, Speakers & Door Prize Raffles to Follow
C J Cannon's 3414 Cherokee Dr. Vero Beach (at
the airport)

MARCH SOUTH CAROLINA MEETING WITH UNITEDHEALTHCARE, CIGNA AND CSEA REPRESENTATIVES

****Details will be sent to
chapter members****

Chapter 431 (Myrtle Beach, SC Area):
Tuesday, March 15th 11:00am-1:30pm
Golden Corral Restaurant—
688 Oak Forest Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
John Yopp: 704-246-7195

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

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: 1-888-803-9217

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>



Celebrating Our Diamond Anniversary (1946-2021)



CSE Credit Union is proud to celebrate 75 years of service! Many things have changed since 1946, but our commitment to serving our members remains the same. As we look back, we want to give back. In honor of our anniversary, we're offering two incredible loan promotions. Hurry - these offers are only available during our anniversary celebration and will expire on December 31, 2021.

VISA Credit Card Rate 7.50% APR*

Through the end of 2021, all CSE VISA Credit Card holders will receive a rate reduction from 12.4% APR to 7.50% APR on existing balances and new charges.

Apply today! 7.50% APR applies to new cards too.

No-fee Balance Transfer - Transfer your high-rate balance from another credit card to your CSE card.

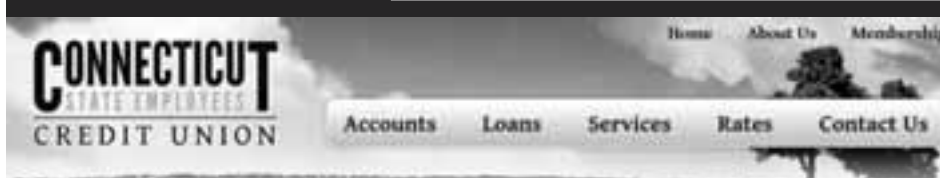
Auto Loan Anniversary Specials

Now is a great time to purchase a new car or refinance your current car loan. Finance up to 125% of the selling price including Tax, Title, Warranty and Conveyance Fee.

New Car – 1.75% APR* Used Car – 2.75% APR

*Annual Percentage Rate. 7.50% VISA Credit Card rate in effect for 6 billing cycles (July 14, 2021-January 13, 2022). Certain restrictions apply. Cannot be applied toward existing CSE car loans. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Rate is subject to change at any time.

Visit Our Website: www.CSECreditUnion.com



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

**Closed Labor Day
Monday, September 6, 2021**

Dividend Rates - Second Quarter 2021

	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, 8:30 am-4pm; Paydays Open Until 5pm

Thank you Nancy Driscoll!

"I would like to extend a special thank you to Nancy Driscoll, our long time Chair of the Membership Committee! Recently she was co-chair with equally fantastic Tom Welch, who will continue as Chair of the Membership Committee now that she is stepping down.

"I began my career at CSEA 15 years ago and Nancy was the Co-Chair of the Membership Committee back then, although she worked on that committee many years before that. She volunteered daily in one capacity or other to recruit, help, and inform retiree members. She received many calls during that time from retirees with health insurance questions and always did everything she could to help resolve their issues. I don't have a way to quantify how many members Nancy has recruited as

Council 400 members over the years, but I don't think I would be exaggerating if I said she is responsible for many thousands of our membership.

"Nancy is also extremely involved in her town's Democratic Town Committee, where she has worked tirelessly for many years to elect politicians that believe the benefits you worked so hard for as state employees should be protected.

"Council 400 owes a huge debt of gratitude to Nancy for her dedication and hard work for CSEA. I have learned so much from Nancy, not just about Council 400 and recruitment, but what a wonderful, kind and amazing person she is. Thank you Nancy!"

- Bernadette Conway



PICTURED ABOVE: Nancy Driscoll, longtime Co-Chair of the Membership Committee, poses in her cubicle while making calls to potential members.



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Roland Bishop.....Secretary/Treasurer
David Glidden.....Executive Director
Drew E. Phelan.....Communications 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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Contract Negotiations Heat Up

CSEA Joins with Other SEBAC Unions for Press Conferences in Middletown and Hartford

CSEA & SEBAC Members Hold Press Conference at Connecticut Valley Hospital Members Demand Fair Contracts from Lamont

On Tuesday, June 29th, SEBAC members in and around Middletown joined together at the Connecticut Valley Hospital for an informational picket to demand that Governor Lamont and his Administration offer fair contracts that protect public services and the people who provide them. The primary demands are the expansion of vital services for Connecticut's constituents, collaboration on developing racial justice policies and practices, and job security and fair compensation as SEBAC unions negotiate new contracts with the Lamont administration. Members from labor unions from across the state accompanied CVH employees along with many community leaders including Senator Matt Lesser, Representative

Quentin Phipps and Mayor Ben Florsheim.

Members joined in chants and listened to a strong speaking program including CSEA's very own P-4 President, Travis Woodward, "Our members hold a broad range of institutional knowledge that allows our State to keep our IT infrastructure safe, secure and updated. Therefore it is crucial that the State maintains this critically underfunded and understaffed group. Connecticut must step up to be a model employer by offering fair contracts -- not only for our members, but to ensure that we can offer quality public services."

This administration has

drifted too far from understanding the lives and livelihoods of Connecticut's working families, public and private. We need to do more to expand services and provide good jobs in Connecticut's cities and in working class communities across our state. We need to do more to recognize the sacrifices of frontline workers, public and private, in carrying our state through the pandemic. The state needs to be a model employer, providing fair

union contracts to its employees, and leading other employers in providing a safe and equitable workplace for all of its employees.

Travis also spoke with reporters from the Middletown Press, "Lamont didn't live up to his end of the bargain when we got him elected," he said. "He's not bargaining fairly with contracts. ... He should be expanding services around the state and, instead, he's shrinking them."



PICTURED ABOVE: Travis Woodward, P-4 Council President addresses the crowd at Connecticut Valley Hospital.

Members Rally at State Capitol for Fair Contracts

Over 400 State Employees Stand Together for Good Faith Negotiations from Governor Lamont

Continued from Page 1
economy and creating jobs – and to fostering a sustainable and prosperous economic future for the state.

"But right now we can't do that.

"Just one example of the negative impacts of understaffing and underfunding is when we are hit with major rain events, such as Tropical Storm Elsa. Outdated municipal sewage and stormwater systems can overflow wastewater into our rivers and harbors. These events are required to be reported, but without proper funding and staff to help upgrade low capacity municipal wastewater systems, these events will continue and force us to close rivers and beaches in already underserved communities to protect public health.

"Connecticut relies on state workers in DEEP to perform many crucial functions so that our bod-

ies of water stay clean, our forests stay healthy and protected, our air stays breathable, and our drinking water stays safe. But DEEP remains understaffed and underfunded, which forces these critical programs to be left behind risking the clean water we drink, the clean air we breathe and the clean environment we enjoy.

"The Governor must do more to ensure that the appropriate level of funding is allocated to state agencies like DEEP to ensure

conservation of our natural resources. If this administration wants to truly fight climate change, it needs to stop fighting against the employees of the department who work every day to protect and improve the environment of Connecticut."

Shannon Smith, a P-3B member at the State Disability Social Security Office, was also interviewed about the success of telework, "We need to look at the impact that telework

has made. Not only is it environmentally impacting our state but it cuts down the cost [of state government]."

This event was just the second in a series of upcoming events scheduled throughout the summer and fall to increase the pressure on the Lamont Administration to offer fair contracts and collaborate on developing racial and economic justice policies and practices, job security and fair compensation.

The next event will take place in August and as details are solidified members will be notified by email - be sure your database file is updated in our system by visiting bit.ly/UpdateCSEA.

These events are crucial

to upping the pressure on the Lamont Administration and garnering the support from the public who benefits from the services we provide. A strong showing of CSEA members is paramount to a successful event and reminds Governor Lamont that state service is the key to the working class.

Three major news sources covered the event - WTNH Channel 8, the *Hartford Courant* and the *CT Mirror*, and by visiting our website at CSEA-CT.com you can view all of these stories and learn more about our upcoming events.

Continue onto Page 5



PICTURED ABOVE: P-4 member Bianca Beland speaks to the press about the need to protect our environment through investment in public services.



PICTURED ABOVE: CSEA members march around the Capitol with our purple CSEA banner along with the 14 other SEBAC unions.

A Notice from Council 400 President Mike O'Brien

is clearly behind the times in making it more convenient and safe for its citizens to exercise their constitutional right.

I want to thank the Council 400 Nominating Committee and the Council 400 Delegates for having the confidence in me to elect me as President of Council 400 for the coming year. With former President Ed Daly's decision not to run for re-election there are big shoes to fill.

For those members who don't know me, I will give you a brief bio. I retired from State service in 2009 after 35 years +/- with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), now known as the Department of Energy and Environmental Protections (DEEP). I truly enjoyed my career working with the dedicated professionals at DEP to make Connecticut a cleaner place to live and raise a family in.

Outside a few brief stints to go to college and graduate school, I have lived in Connecticut all my life. Sometimes I wonder how much longer Connecticut can move along as the 'Land of Steady Habits'.

We are seeing restrictive voting laws crop up across the country, but that being said, many of these states that are restricting their voting rights will still end up with less restrictive voting rights than we currently have here in Connecticut believe it or not. The 'Land of Steady Habits'

It is only a matter of time until we have a big snow storm on the first Tuesday in November that disrupts everything. We have had two such storms in late October in the last decade so it is a matter of when and not if. Early voting and no-excuse absentee balloting are proven measures that increase voter participation while continuing to protect the sanctity of our election security.

Enough of that for now and back to more local Union matters. There is prior precedent for me to follow in Ed Daly's footsteps. When Ed retired from State service in 1992, he had to step down from his office as Union President. I succeeded him as President of CSEA at that time. Up to that point I had been serving as President of the P-4 Engineering, Scientific and Technical Council.

There is a whole generation of retirees who have never met Ed that have benefitted in some way from his tireless leadership as President of CSEA and again as President of Council 400. We at CSEA have been lucky to have him and owe him a great debt of gratitude.

I personally want to thank Ed for all his advice and mentoring over the years but most of all for his friendship.



PICTURED ABOVE: Mike O'Brien introduced Congressman Joe Courtney at our Social Security 2100 Meeting in 2019.

Although the officers of Council 400 have changed a bit, our mission has not. That is to strive to protect and improve our Social Security and Medicare benefits at the federal level, our hard-earned pension and health care benefits at the state level and to work to improve the quality of our members' lives. As long as I am President, I pledge to work hard to fulfill that mission.

In Solidarity,
Michael J. O'Brien

Quarterly Virtual Council 400 Meeting - September 22nd 4:00PM

During the pandemic, we learned many new ways to stay in touch with our members even though we couldn't meet in person. Most of us learned how to ZOOM and video conference, and were able to stay informed. The Retiree Team held monthly virtual meetings and many of our members appreciated them! Even though we're able to meet in person now, we will continue our virtual meetings on a quarterly basis.

Our first guest speakers at our September meeting will be our ever popular speakers:

Anna Vita, Senior Client Service Manager, UnitedHealthcare Retiree Solutions, and Rae-Ellen Roy, Assistant Director of the Health Policy and Benefits Division

Both Anna and Rae-Ellen are experts in your health insurance benefits and are able to answer your questions.

An email will be sent out in advance of the Quarterly Virtual meeting with the link to the meeting, or you can call 1- 929- 205- 6099, then enter Meeting ID: 920 8071 2150

CSC Member Action Results in Major Win!

On June 30th, CSEA NP-8 members along with AFSCME NP-4 members rallied at the State Capitol to demand that Governor Lamont address the safety issues that were apparent in SB 1059.

Members helped increase the pressure on Governor Lamont leading up to the event by sharing on social media, reaching out to the Governor and planning for a big turn-out at the rally. By the time members showed up for the rally, they were greeted with the news that Governor Lamont had vetoed the bill due to the increased pressure from members.



PICTURED ABOVE: CSEA & AFSCME Council 4 members celebrate Governor Lamont vetoing S.B. 1059 just minutes before the rally was slated to begin.



PICTURED ABOVE: CSEA members Isreal Rodriguez, Tara Keaton and Johnson pose after learning of the win! #RespectThoseWhoProtect

Members in action are imperative to wins like these and we can't stop now!

CSEA Members Join SEBAC to Rally at the State Capitol for Fair Contracts



PICTURED ABOVE: CSEA members pose after a successful rally on the North Steps of the State Capitol.



PICTURED ABOVE: News cameras film the event's speaking program and crowd's march.



PICTURED ABOVE: P-3B member Shannon Smith appears in an interview on Channel 8 about the success of teleworking.

Jon Lender: Friend or Foe?

Long-time Hartford Courant Contributor Retires

Continued from Page 1 opinion, but not to your own facts.

Lender was obsessed with the facts. Although he had one quirk in his writing style, he thought it was important to report the state official's or state employee's annual salary. Contrary to Powell, Lender also gave the subject/target of his column the opportunity to respond to it prior to publication. His final column on State Treasurer Shaun Wooden was an example of giving the subject such an opportunity. In two columns he wrote about Treasurer Wooden, he wanted to know if the kids in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET)

commercials were his own kids that were in his 2018 political ads when Wooden ran to succeed Denise Nappier as State Treasurer. Treasurer Wooden would not respond. Was it a big story to use child actors in the CHET ads? No. Was it a big story that it was child actors pretending to be his children? Maybe. Was it a big story to decline comment on the subject entirely? Yes, for Lender, he believed in full transparency of government officials and state agencies.

So friend or foe for public employees? I would cringe when he called the CSEA office when I was the Executive Director looking for comment on an upcoming

story. I deflected his calls to then Communications Director, Matt O'Connor to do battle with him. And at times, Matt would come up to my office and say that I needed to talk with Lender. It was always a spirited conversation with Lender, but as opposed to Powell, he mostly had the facts right, but he was still trying to get the best spin on the story.

After I retired, he became interested in the State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB) which I am a member of. His interest was heightened when Larry Fox became the chair and the Board began to dive deeper into state procurement and contracting.

Lender would attend meetings in-person and over the past 16 months he would listen in on the Board's meetings. He viewed the Board as the most transparent state agency overseeing the billions of dollars that the State spends on goods and services each year.

He once told me that the activist volunteer Board was unafraid to tackle big issues with its only staff person, its Executive Director, David Guay. He continued by saying to me that every month following the Board's meeting, you could write a column based upon the Board's work. I guess that is why in some of his final reporting, he wrote about the new State budget and the five new positions for the Board, only to have those five positions to be taken away a week later by

the Governor. He reported that the Governor had committed to fully staffing and funding in a campaign promise to CSEA in 2018. Lender let the Governor's spokesperson in his column spew forth falsehoods about the Board and he then refuted those falsehoods and showed the hypocrisy of his statements.

The real story is not whether Lender was a friend or foe of state employees, but whether his retirement means the end of holding public officials accountable for their actions or non-actions. The Washington Post's slogan is "Democracy Dies in Darkness." At the Hartford Courant with the retirement of Jon Lender, the Courant has literally and figuratively turned off the lights. Say goodnight Irene.

Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

CSEA Congratulates all of the newly elected Childcare Leaders. Elections were June 30th and we are excited to welcome our Childcare Council leadership team:

President - Queen Freelove
Treasurer - Jaqueline Ulloa
Secretary - Iris Velázquez
Delegate for State Council -
Maria Amado
Alternate Delegate -
LaVeda Brooks
Alternate Delegate - Noemi Pérez
CSEA Convention Delegates -
Iraida Crespo
Tashieanna O'Connor
Marcia Iannacone

Bridgeport:

Kamara Moodie-Vice President
Norma Stenett- Lead Organizer
Katherine Lantigua- Organizer

Hartford:

Naomi Mitchell - Vice President
Dorotheia Barnett -
Lead Organizer
Joanne Johnson - Organizer

New Haven:

Shelta Wilson -
Regional Vice President
Jeannine Lewis -
Lead Organizer
Gamila Al Bashir - Organizer

Waterbury:

Maria Reyes -
Regional Vice President
Fanny Rodriguez - Lead Organizer
Felicia Diaz - Organizer

Thank you all who participated during Childcare Council Elections and the many candidates, we value your service and commitment.

If you are interested in getting more involved with union leadership as a facilitator or represent Providers during our October 15th CSEA convention let us know! We are looking for dedicated Providers this month in preparation for our meeting this August and upcoming Provider Orientations. Email: ebermudez@csea760.com

Other important Updates:

House Bill 6558 passed! This means Providers will soon be able to attend school or medical appointments freely once more.

Provider bonuses are on the way, OEC is delayed in paying our CBA July 1st 2022 bonus.

\$900 C4K Licensed Providers \$300 C4K Un-Licensed Providers

The childcare team is currently investigating as to why they are delayed but have been assured that the OEC team is working hard to rectify their error and pay out the bonus this month.

CSEA felicita a todos los líderes de cuidado infantil recién elegidos. Las elecciones fueron el 30 de junio y estamos emocionados de dar la bienvenida a nuestro equipo de liderazgo del Consejo de Cuidado Infantil:

Presidente - Queen Freelove
Tesorero - Jaqueline Ulloa
Secretario - Iris Velázquez
Delegado del Consejo de Estado -
Maria amado
Alt. Delegar- LaVeda Brooks
Alt. Delegar - Noemi Pérez
Delegados de la Convención CSEA -
Iraida Crespo
Tashieanna O'Connor
Marcia Iannacone

Bridgeport:

Kamara Moodie-Vicepresidente
Norma Stenett - Organizadora Principal
Katherine Lantigua- Organizadora

Hartford:

Naomi Mitchell - Vicepresidenta
Dorotheia Barnett - Organizadora principal
Joanne Johnson- Organizadora

New Haven:

Shelta Wilson - Vicepresidente regional
Jeannine Lewis - Organizadora Principal
Gamila Al Bashir - Organizador

Waterbury:

Maria Reyes - Vicepresidenta Regional
Fanny Rodriguez - Organizador principal

Felicia Diaz - Organizadora
Gracias a todos los que participaron durante las Elecciones del Consejo de Cuidado de Niños y a los muchos candidatos, valoramos su servicio y compromiso.

Si está interesado en involucrarse más con el liderazgo del sindicato como facilitador o representar a proveedores durante nuestra convención de CSEA del 15 de octubre, ¡háganoslo saber! Estamos buscando proveedores dedicados este mes en preparación para nuestra reunión de agosto y las próximas orientaciones para proveedores. Correo electrónico: ebermudez@csea760.com

Otras actualizaciones importantes:

¡Se aprobó el Proyecto de Ley 6558 de la Cámara! Esto significa que los proveedores pronto podrán asistir a la escuela o a las citas médicas libremente una vez más.

Los bonos de proveedor están en camino, OEC se retrasa en el pago de nuestro bono CBA del 1 de julio de 2022.

Proveedores con licencia C4K de \$ 900

Proveedores sin licencia de \$ 300 C4K

El equipo de cuidado infantil está investigando por qué se retrasan, pero se les ha asegurado que el equipo de la OEC está trabajando arduamente para rectificar su error y pagar la bonificación este mes.

Retiree Corner: Cyber Security

By: Kevin Sullivan, Retiree Organizer

2020 and most of 2021 had most of us trapped in our homes due to the global pandemic. For some of us, learning new technology became vital to keeping in touch with our family, friends and allowed us to work from home. With so many new people using computers, tablets and smartphones on a regular basis - cyber criminals jumped at the opportunity to take advantage of unsuspecting novices.

Below are some tips to keep yourself protected and safe from scammers. Practicing cyber safety can go a long way toward protecting your identity and sensitive

personal information. Cyber security is about risk reduction. It's difficult to achieve perfect security. But you can work to make yourself a more difficult target.

Create passwords and make them strong. Lock all of your devices including computer, tablet and smartphone with secure passwords. That will keep prying eyes out and add a line of defense in case your devices are lost or stolen. A strong password is at least 12 characters long. Strong password tips include the use of a mix of letters, numbers and symbols, and try not to include personal information.

Secure access to your accounts. Since passwords can be stolen, adding two-step authentication to accounts provides a second layer of protection. Many online services, including apps and

websites, offer free options that could help you protect your information and ensure it's actually you trying to access your account – not just someone with your password.

Think before you act. Emails and telephone calls that create a sense of urgency such as a problem with your bank account or taxes is likely a scam. Trust your instincts. If you feel like something isn't right - it probably isn't! Ask callers to send you something in the mail if you are unsure.

When in doubt, throw it out. Clicking on links in emails is often how scammers get access to personal information. If an email looks unusual, even if you know the person who sent it, it's best to delete it. Remember that scammers can commandeer friends' email addresses and send you messages

posing as them.

Use security software. Install security software on your devices from a reliable source and keep it updated. It is best to run the antivirus and anti-spyware software regularly. Be wary of security updates from pop-up ads or emails. They may actually be malware that could infect your computer.

Log out. Remember to log out of apps and websites when you are done using them. Leaving them open on your computer screen could make you vulnerable to security and privacy risks.

Consider support. If you live alone or spend a lot of time by yourself, consider a trusted source to serve as a second set of eyes and ears. Adult family members and grandchildren who are computer savvy may be willing to help.

New Britain HRA Members Win Tentative Agreement

After a Summer of Solidarity, Members Celebrate Huge Win

continued from page 1

signed:

"We, the dedicated workers of the New Britain HRA program, are united together in our service to our communities and families. We love and take our work seriously, and believe in the empowerment of our communities. We take care of some of some of the most at risk children, and ensure that they receive all the services and tools they need to succeed in their future endeavors. However, we must also be able to supply the same stability and support to our own families. We must go forward in these negotiations, because we cannot afford not to.

Please settle a fair contract with livable wages, so that we may continue to do our important work."

Their member organizing didn't stop there though. Throughout the summer they have been standing together at negotiations to bring

the majority of workers to the table and sharing stories with the employer about living paycheck-to-paycheck and having to choose between food on the table or a roof over their heads. This wasn't just about getting raises, this was about honoring their work to help disadvantaged children and families with liveable wages.

Members were elated when all of their efforts finally came to fruition with a monumental offer from the employer which included a 3.25% wage increase (or a bump up to \$14/hour, whichever was greater for the individual member) a \$650 retention bonus and significant movement in a secure retirement plan - just in the first year. In the second year, they won a 2.75% wage increase and a \$800 retention bonus and a 2.00% increase in the third year. These pro-

posals dwarfed the minimal increases and hard zeroes the members were previously offered.

The members look forward to voting on this tentative agreement in the coming days and celebrating the ratification after a summer of hard work and solidarity.

Great work New Britain HRA, your fellow CSEA members congratulate you on your member organizing!

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.

Brown, Edward
Catlett, Celia
Cernan, John
Dejesus, Jose
Dennis, Lisa
Falconeri, Dolores
Fasano, Roland
Fitzgerald, Harry

Haigh, Charles
Karas, Beverly
Kosovic, Zoran
Lapierre, Jacqueline
Mangual, Francisco
Meyer, Michael
Peacock, Audrey
Pelletier, Jean
Richmond, Charles
Russell, Grace
Russell, Vincent
Vallee, Arthur
Voyer, Dorothy
Wall, Richard
Ward, Robert
Weiss, Judith

Biennial Convention

Friday, October 15, 2021

The 80th Biennial Convention of the Connecticut State Employees Association, SEIU Local 2001 will convene on **Friday, October 15, 2021** 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, October 1st 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.

Going Green Has Never Been Easier!

With a New Website and E-Newsletter, Consider Going Green with CSEA

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?

“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 hardcopy 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 (case sensitive) 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/CSEAWebSiteInput (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).

P-4 Council Host Virtual Summer Picnic

For the Second Year, the P-4 Picnic Moves Online

On Friday, July 16th the P-4 Council hosted their annual summer picnic and for the second year in a row, hosted it virtually. Members enjoyed a few hours off from work in order to attend the picnic, heard from union and council leadership

on important updates and enjoyed some games and music from Rockin’ Ron at Fun Tower Radio.

We hope that next year’s P-4 Summer Picnic will be back to in-person along with so many other events we’ve had to alter due to COVID-19.



PICTURED ABOVE: P-4 Council Members enjoy an afternoon virtual picnic with updates from union and council leadership as well as some games and music from Fun Tower Radio’s Rockin’ Ron!

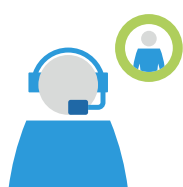
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- Save more when you drive claim-free
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