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CSEA Joins Congressman Larson to Save Social Security

On Monday, November 1st CSEA Council 400 members joined Congressman John Larson on the North Steps of the State Capitol for a press conference introducing the Congressman's newest bill "Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust" which would expand benefits and strengthen Social Security. This landmark bill already has 200 cosponsors and over 100 advocacy groups supporting its passage through Congress - including CSEA, and the CT Alliance for Retired

Americans.

This bill would greatly improve the structure and stability of Social Security, increasing benefits for seniors who need it now and preventing a 20% cut to benefits currently scheduled for 2034 - all paid for simply by having millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share. Currently, payroll taxes are not collected on wages over \$142,800 so this bill would apply the payroll tax to wages above \$400,000 affecting only the top 0.4% of wage earners.

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Congressman John Larson addresses the crowd at the State Capitol to announce his new bill "Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust" to protect and expand Social Security.

We Want to Hear from YOU

Visit bit.ly/csea-december-survey (case-sensitive) to help us plan for 2022!

Recount Confirms 8 Vote Victory in Stratford

CSEA Endorsed Candidate, Kaitlyn Shake, Announced as Town Council Member

Last month we reported the results from the 2021 municipal elections. Since then however there has been a recount requested in the City of Stratford. That recount reconfirmed that endorsed candidate Kaitlyn Shake was victorious in her bid for Town Council.

The recount showed no change in the results with Shake holding her lead by just 8 votes and a final vote count of 624-616.

This race serves as an important reminder that every vote counts and that everyone should exercise their right to



Kaitlyn Shake, City of Stratford Town Council Member

vote in federal, state and local elections each and every cycle. If any one of the 150 CSEA members in her district did not vote, the outcome could have looked much different.

SEIU & In the Public Interest Hosts Privatization Webinar

SEIU and In The Public Interest have launched a three-part webinar series on privatization efforts across the country where attendees heard from experts and labor leaders including our very own Travis Woodward. The first two webinars took place on September 30th and November 17th with the third webinar being held in early January - all members are wel-

come to attend and participate.

At the latest webinar, attendees heard from Randi DiAntonio, Vice President of the New York State Public Employees Federation, Seth Freeman, President of the Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges, and Dean Staffieri, President of the Maine Service Employees Association, in addition to CSEA's

President Travis Woodward. Each speaker addressed case studies in their state as it related to anti-privatization offensive strategies to push back against opponents who falsely tout the cost savings and improved quality of services that privatization claims to bring.

Privatization, as defined by In The Public Interest's Executive Director

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

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

Don't Miss Another Email! Update Your Information

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



Meetings And News

MEETING DATES

The Council 400 Delegates Meeting is always held on the third Thursday of the month at the CSEA Union Hall and over Zoom.

The January Delegates Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20th at 10:00AM 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, January 6th, 12:15PM lunch,
meeting at 12:45PM
CSEA Union Hall—
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT
Patrice Peterson: 860-523-1480

Chapter 402 (Danbury area):
Wednesday, January 12th at 10:00AM
Speaker: Probate Judge
United Methodist Church—
5 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury, CT
Linda Albanese: 860-354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area):
Tuesday, January 11th at 1:30PM
Speaker: Cigna Dental Representative
Rose City Senior Center—
8 Mahan Dr., Norwich, CT
Carol Burgess: 860-859-3641

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area):
Tuesday, January 11th 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):
Thursday, January 13th at 11:30AM
Hamden Town Office Building Third Floor—
2750 Dixwell Ave., Hamden
Ron Osokow: 203-671-7685

Chapter 406 (Middletown area):
Tuesday, January 11th at 1:00PM
American Legion Post 75—
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Middletown, CT
Joe Formica: 860-347-4532

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area):
Wednesday, January 19th at 1:00PM
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan CSEA Retiree Organizer
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, January 13th at 12:30PM
Speaker: Cigna Dental Representative
Mansfield Senior Center—
303 Maple St., Mansfield, CT
Marleen Dutra: 860-477-0858

Chapter 409 (State University Professors)
Friday, January 21st at 10:00AM
CSEA Union Hall—
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT
Dave Walsh: 860-684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor Locks area):
Monday, January 10th at 1:00PM
Suffield Senior Center—
145 Bridge St., Suffield, CT
Amelia Smith: 860-687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area):
Chapter 411 Meets Quarterly
Thursday, March 17th
Speaker: Cigna Dental Representative
Sebastian Puglisi: 860-529-8336

Chapter 412 (Putnam area):
Tuesday, January 18th at 1:30PM
Congregational Church of Putnam—
175 Main St., Putnam, CT
Don Gladding: 860-564-9092

Chapter 414 (Torrington area):
Monday, January 17th at 10:00AM
Cooperative Extension Service Building—
843 University Dr., Torrington, CT
Karen Pineman: 860-354-6727

Chapter 415 (Manchester area):
Monday, January 24th at 1:00PM
Speaker: Bernadette Conway
Elks Lodge—
30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT
Donna McElduff: 860-454-0480

Chapter 416 (New London area):
Tuesday, January 11th at 12:00PM
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,
CSEA Retiree Organizer
Groton Public Library—
52 Newtown Rd., Groton,
John Knaff: 860-857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area):
Chapter 417 Meetings have been
CANCELED until May 2022.
Wednesday, May 11th at 1:00PM
Speaker: Cigna Representative
Plainville Public Library—
56 East Main St., Plainville, CT
Cathy Toscano: 860-845-2927

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

February Florida Meeting Dates with Unitedhealthcare, Cigna and CSEA Reps

Details will be sent to chapter members

Chapter 421 (Daytona, FL Area):
Wednesday, February 9th 11:30AM Social,
12:00PM Lunch, Speakers to Follow
Halifax Plantation Club House
3400 Clubhouse Drive,
Ormond Beach, FL
Ruth Finizio: (860) 680-1860

Chapter 422 (Ocala, FL Area):
****NEW LOCATION****
Wednesday, February 2nd
11:30AM Social, 12:30PM Lunch
Francesco Ristorante
16770 South Highway (US-441) Suite 608,
Summerfield, FL

Chapter 423
(Highland Beach, FL Area):
Wednesday, February 16, 12:00PM
Renzo's Café and Pizzeria
6900 North Federal Highway, Boca Raton, FL
Ron Herzig (561) 994-6428

Chapter 424 (Sarasota, FL Area):
****New Location!****
Monday, February 7th
9:00AM- 11:00AM
Courtyard Marriott
8305 Tourist Center Dr.,
Sarasota, FL 34201
John Knaff (860) 857-4244

Chapter 425 (Dunedin, FL Area):
Friday, February 4th
11:00AM Social, 12:00PM Lunch
Tiffany's, 35000 US Highway 19,
Palm Harbor, FL
Hank and Ursula Bracker
(727) 848-0089

Chapter 426 (Ft. Myers, FL Area):
Monday, February 14th 11:00AM
Cape Coral Moose Lodge 2199
155 Santa Barbara Blvd. North, Cape Coral
Linda Benoit (239) 489-1787

Chapter 427
(Vero Beach, FL Area):
Friday, February 11th
11:30AM Social, 12:00PM Lunch,
Speakers & Door Prize Raffles
C J Cannon's
3414 Cherokee Dr. Vero Beach
(at the airport)
Estelle Caliendo (321) 452-7843

March South Carolina Meeting With Unitedhealthcare, Cigna and CSEA Reps

Details will be sent to chapter members

Chapter 431
(Myrtle Beach, SC Area):
Tuesday, March 22th 11:00AM-1:30PM
Golden Corral Restaurant
688 Oak Forest Lane,
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
John Yopp: 704-246-7195
Door Prize Raffles to Follow
C J Cannon's—
3414 Cherokee Dr. Vero Beach
(at the airport)

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: 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>



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.

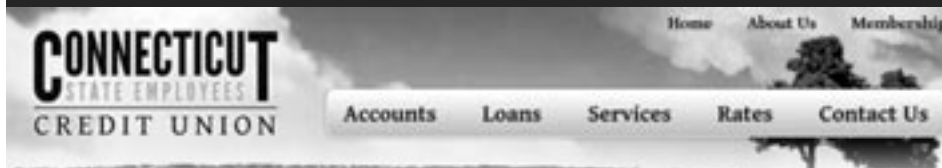
Auto Loan Anniversary Specials

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 Veterans Day - Thursday, November 11th
Closed Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 25th

Dividend Rates - Third 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, 8:30am-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.

Amarante, Frank	Gonzalez, Rita	Pulito, Anna
Arias, Domingo	Goralski, Brian	Rollin, Marian
Bilodeau, John	Griffin, Martha	Rovozzo, Rose
Brookhart, Lee	Jaczynski, Annadell	Rowe, Llewellyn
Burton, Barbara	Kelleher, Patricia	Santana, Jose
Buttinger, Mary	Larkin, William	Skouloudis, Alexander
Chuvala, Paul	Loughery, James	Stauffer, Thelma
Cocilovo, Vincenzo	Mack, Kristine	Stevens, Jane
Cocozza, Jennie	Mack, Michael	Sweet, Richard
Coletti, Andrew	Masaitis, Natalia	Tamburo, Mark
Cordelli, Elvira	Mcmonigal, Heath	Terry, Eugene
Craine, Timothy	Michaud, Robert	Wargo, Dorothy
Cuseo, Peter	O'Donnell, Richard	
Debrigit, Kathryn	O'Brien, Arlene	
De Primo, Giro	O'Brien, Robert	
Direnzo, Ronald	Parlapiano, Angelo	
Fay, George	Portelance, Paul	

Council 400 Virtual Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, December 15th at 4:00pm - Featuring Kevin Lembo

Emails will be sent out ahead of time with the Zoom link for the meeting, but if you would like to call in, dial:

1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 920 8071 2150

Put the date on your calendar! At the September meeting Rae-Ellen Roy, Assistant Director of the Health Policy and Benefits Division for the State of Connecticut and Anna Vita, Senior

Client Service Manager for United Healthcare attended and answered health coverage questions.

These virtual meetings have been a great way to keep in touch during the pandemic, and for many who have not been able to attend chapter meetings in person, a great way to get information. Do you have any suggestions for speakers or topics? Contact Kevin Sullivan to let him know at ksullivan@csea760.com.



CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees

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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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IT Optimization Update

The Lamont Administration continues to move forward with its "IT Optimization" project. While there are aspects of the project that sound promising, many members have expressed concern about where this train is going. **To date, the Administration has failed to work with the union or even the legislature to make sure that all key stakeholders are heard and invested. Without that work being done, "BITS" (which is the latest name for the proposed centralized IT entity) cannot effectively leave the station.** CSEA IT leaders continue to press the Administration toward a collaborative approach. Specifically, the CSEA IT Leadership Team has communicated some core issues that need to be addressed. These include:

-Training: Provide work time and access to relevant and self-directed training;
-BITS slotting: Work with the union to address challenges in the job mapping process. The parties would pledge to work together to seek the proper fit for every employee;

-IT titles: Work with the union to mod-

ernize IT titles to reflect 21st century IT work;

-Work Hours: Achieve equity by providing the forty hour workweek option for all IT staff;

-AWS: Expand Alternate Work Schedule opportunities thereby helping workers achieve the appropriate work/life balance; and

-Contracting out: Work with the union to reduce the State's reliance on expensive and ineffective consultants.

We have informed the State that these issues provide a solid basis for the parties to move forward in the collaborative way we all had originally hoped for. The union is now engaged in P4 Contract Negotiations and the aim is to conduct the IT related negotiations during this time. It is important to note that any agreement would have to go to the Connecticut General Assembly for necessary budget support.

As always member input is critical as we move forward. Please contact one of your Union Stewards or Union Representatives (jjames@csea760.com; odancy@csea760.com) should you have questions or ideas.

Social Security COLA Increases Almost 6%; Highest Since 1983

The Social Security COLA for 2022 is the highest increase since 1983 at 5.9%, or an average of \$91.04 per month. The Social Security COLA is based on the average Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which takes into account the average spending of a wage earning household - not a retiree household.

Congressman John Larson's Social Security 2100 - A Sacred Trust Act, im-

proves the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) formula to better reflect the costs incurred by seniors through adopting a CPI for the Elderly (CPI-E) formula. This provision will help seniors who spend a greater portion of their income on healthcare and other necessities. Improved inflation protection will especially help older retirees and widows who are more likely to rely on Social Security benefits as they age.



12TH ANNUAL ANALEH HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE 2021

Together we bring Christmas Joy to Children in our Community!

SUGGESTED DONATION:

A Gift Card for Teenagers or an Unwrapped toy for children ages 5 - 12 years.

Thanks to your continuous generosity, the children served by these organizations will receive your donation of toys and gifts cards:

Community Renewal Team (CRT), Hartford
Prudence Crandall, New Britain
Family Strides, Torrington
Windham Regional Community Council, Willimantic
Square One, Springfield

We're all in this together! Invite your friends, family and colleagues to bring a toy, gift card or make a donation through the United Way donation site.
<https://app.mobilecause.com/form/S7XD3A?vid=n0ank>

Looking forward to seeing you at the 12th Annual Holiday Drive-Thru Toy Drive.

For more information:
analehtvshow@gmail.com or 860-881-6088

DRIVE-THRU TOY COLLECTION

Saturday, December 4, 12pm to 4pm
Sunday, December 5, 12pm to 4pm

Each day from 2:00pm to 3:30pm
enjoy Holiday Music,
Youth Mariachi Group,
Santa Claus
and Live Stream coverage
on Social Media.

DRIVE-THRU TOY COLLECTION LOCATION:

The Hispanic Health Council,
175 Main Street, Hartford.



Meet Our Members: Elisa Tuozzoli

Inspector's Council Treasurer & Worker's Compensation Inspector

Elisa works with cases from a variety of insurance companies, third party administrators and law firms where there are suspected instances of worker's compensation fraud. These cases include information on fraudulent claims for benefits in the form of audits,

medical records, depositions, medical bills and insurance filings and are very labor-intensive and time consuming.

A single case can go on for months or even years as the inspector waits for requested forms, depositions and other information. Elisa

must lean heavily on her investigative and organizing skills to ensure this information is properly sifted through. After conducting these lengthy investigations, Elisa and her fellow inspectors pursue criminal charges on the claimants.

The unit recently expanded and launched a website for worker's compensation tips from the public with new tips coming in daily. One of their goals is to ensure public awareness of the problem of workers' compensation fraud.



PICTURED ABOVE: Elisa Tuozzoli taking a break from the Annual Inspector's Council Summer Picnic.

SEIU & In the Public Interest Privatization Webinar

CSEA President Travis Woodward Serves as a Panelist

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Donald Cohen, is the "transfer of control over public goods into private hands" and is sometimes referred to as "outsourcing", "contracting out" or "public-private partnerships (3Ps)". Cohen founded In the Public Interest, an Oakland, California-based national research and policy center that studies public goods and services, over a decade ago. His opinion pieces and articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Reuters*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the *New Republic*, among others. His newly-released book, *The Privatization of Everything* (The New Press),

connects the dots across a broad spectrum of issues and raises larger questions about who controls the public things we all rely on, exposing the hidden crisis of privatization that has been slowly unfolding over the last fifty years and giving us a road map for taking our country back.

Over the next month, CSEA will be sitting down with Cohen to discuss his new book and will be scheduling a meeting with him to speak with members directly about the risk

privatization holds in Connecticut. Visit our website at csea-ct.com for a link to order his

book and to sign up for a notification for this upcoming meeting.



PICTURED ABOVE: The speakers are introduced to the webinar attendees.

CSEA Joins Congressman Larson to Save Social Security

Social Security 2021 Bill Could Save Dwindling Trust Fund

During the press conference, Congressman John Larson personally thanked several individual CSEA members for their work on this bill including Council 400 President Michael O'Brien and Chapter 418 member and CTARA President Bette Marafino who travelled down to

Washington D.C. to personally testify in support of the bill. He also thanked Chapter 409 member Kevin Lynch and Chapter 401 member Win Heimer.

Congressman John Larson has a deep understanding of the importance of Social Security as a safety net to our communities, "The pandemic

has only underscored what we already knew and has exacerbated systemic inequities -- current benefits are not enough! 5 million seniors are living in poverty due to longstanding discrimination in the labor force that affects mostly people of color and women. These are our sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles,

and neighbors. For too long, Congress has forsaken its duty to enhance benefits. With 10,000 Baby Boomers a day becoming eligible, and with Millennials needing Social Security more than any generation, the time for Congress to act is now."

Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal, who was also in attendance at the press conference, has been an ardent supporter as well, "Social Security is a sacred commitment made to all Americans and a promise

that must be fulfilled. As seniors and individuals with disabilities struggle to afford the costs of food, housing, and prescription drugs, this bill expands benefits and protections for millions of Americans. The Social Security 2100 Act will keep this vital lifeline solvent and ensure our nation's bedrock social insurance program provides current and future beneficiaries with a quality standard of living."



CSEA members pose with Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congressman John Larson after the press conference.



CSEA members gather at the State Capitol to hear from Congressman John Larson about his new Social Security 2100 bill.

Members in the News:

Bill Buhler, Council 400

We are always encouraging our members to address critical policy issues in local and statewide newspapers so that the general public hear from the everyday worker. Bill Buhler, Chapter 409 member, is frequently published, his latest op-ed on tax changes was featured in the *Connecticut Mirror* on October 22nd.

Did Connecticut's 1991 tax changes magnify inequality?

Should everyone share the rewards in a growing economy? Connecticut policymakers guided by that belief changed course in 1979 and began to dismantle protections that ensured worker's pay would grow with company productivity. Since then the gap between company productivity and worker's pay widened, eventually undermining Connecticut's robust economy.

So far that economy has not returned to the robust level it sustained in the decades prior to 1991, and state revenue growth remains at less than half of what it used to be. While there have been numerous changes to the state's tax code, the combined tax burden still falls most heavily on those least able to pay. A recovery for Connecticut's economy should begin with an equitable rebalancing of state and local taxes.

State revenue began to fall in 1989 and by 1991 tax changes were necessary to offset a large budget deficit. Those tax changes — the best known of which was the passage of the Connecticut's first income tax — had a highly positive effect on the economy of Fairfield County; during the 10 years after their passage they saw a 66% increase in employed residents along with a boom in the financial services industry. Unfortunately no such growth occurred elsewhere in Connecticut. During the 90's decade there was a statewide 3% drop in the number of people employed.

By 2013 the pay and productivity gap in Connecticut grew to where those in the 1% were capturing 80% of all income growth. The state's economy contracted by .5% during this decade even though the U.S. economy expanded by 19%. This should have been cause for great concern.

Income gains captured by the well-off are often saved as personal investments which have no stimulative impact on the real economy. There's no need for entrepreneurs to build factories and hire workers to make a profit because in today's economy investments in the stock market yield faster returns.

Income gains of wage earners

are often spent, creating waves of economic expansion as money changes hands. That spending is the main source of economic growth, but due to stagnating wages, consumer spending power is no higher today than it was in 1980.

Adding to the problem of lagging consumer spending power, Connecticut's regressive tax code burdens families in the lowest 10% with combined taxes that consume nearly 24% of their income. As of 2014 such families comprised nearly half the households in the state. Those in the top 10% pay less than 7%. The state tax code itself is an engine of inequality which further reduces consumer spending power.

In the 50's, 60's, 70's and through most of the 80's Connecticut had a robust economy which rewarded residents with a rising standard of living. State revenue grew at an average rate over 10% per year and surplus revenue was often carried forward. Most people expected good times to continue, but those carefree days began to slip away as the decade of the 80's came to an end.

All was not well on January 9, 1991 as newly elected Gov. Lowell Weicker Jr. was sworn in. The real estate bubble had burst and thousands of jobs were disappearing as the banking and defense industries contracted. There was a huge budget deficit and forceful action was necessary to raise new revenue. In the midst of this turmoil the new Governor from Greenwich would push through an array of tax changes that resolved the budget shortfall but did little to restrain the growing income gap.

As Governor Weicker looked for revenue options, he noted that Connecticut's 8% sales tax was already the highest in the nation, so he turned elsewhere. After consulting with the Office of Policy and Management he saw no way to avoid the necessity of an income tax. He envisioned it as a broad based 6% tax on earned income with some offsetting corporate and sales tax cuts. Taxes on interest, dividends and income gains from the sale of stocks, bonds and real estate would be lowered to the rate for earned income.

The existing tax on capital gains was 7% and the tax on interest and dividends was at 14% for those with high incomes. So at the first public hearing New Haven State Rep. Irving Stolberg asked colleagues to admit the tax proposal wasn't progressive enough and benefitted those in the highest brackets. Residents earning under

\$40,000 would bear the brunt of the tax, he asserted, when income, sales and property taxes were combined.

After a June 30 vote stuck down the Governor's proposal, infighting and wrangling stretched into the hot summer of 1991. Continuing resolutions allowed the state government to stay open after the close of the fiscal year. Negotiations continued seven days a week and were described as "the closest thing to combat..." State Sen. William DiBella worked on deal making and got Sens. William Nickerson from Greenwich and Lawrence Bettencourt from Waterford to support a bill that would include reductions in capital gains, interest and dividend taxes,

tax cuts they believed would benefit many of their constituents. On Friday, August 23, the final version of Public Act 91-3 was passed with the thinnest of margins, a tie breaking vote by Lt. Gov. Eunice Groark.

The final version of Public Act 91-3 included a flat 4.5% income tax which fell heaviest on middle and upper middle income families. Offsetting the income tax were substantial tax cuts: Sales taxes were reduced from 8 to 6%. Capital Gains taxes were dropped from 7 to 4.5%. Interest and Dividend taxes, formerly at 14% for those with high incomes, were reduced to 4.5%, and there was also a 12% cut in corporate taxes. The bill benefitted *Continue onto Page 7*

From the President's Desk:

First I would like to start off by wishing everyone a joyous holiday season. I hope that this year you will all be able to spend time with family and friends to make up for lost time over the past year and a half.



Over the past month our members across the union have been busy fighting for various causes. I attended a press conference at the North Steps of the State Capitol with Council 400 members to hear from Congressman John Larson about his bill to protect and expand Social Security. I met with representatives from our state division bargaining teams to discuss on-going negotiations with the Lamont Administration on contracts and telework. I joined hundreds for a Zoom meeting with early childhood education leaders from across the state to learn about efforts to ensure access to affordable and reliable childcare services in Connecticut and attended a meeting with representatives from SEIU International to discuss the implications that the Build Back Better initiative would have on family childcare. I also continued to hear from members throughout our union about the hopes they hold for the new year and ways we can work collaboratively to achieve them (as a reminder, I can always be reached by email at TWoodward@csea760.com).

This month I'm looking

forward to attending the virtual and in-person holiday chapter meetings taking place throughout CSEA. These are a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues, learn about efforts within your chapter and council while kicking the holiday season off right. Chapters will send out information about these meetings either by mail or email so keep your eye out or reach out to your staff representative or steward for more information.

As we move into 2022 our union will be faced with new challenges and opportunities and I am reminded of what has made us resilient in the past - our voices working collectively in unison and active participation from our membership. To that end, there are always opportunities to get involved with your union. Join a chapter or council meeting, forward an email to your legislators for important bills, or better yet, join us at our various labor actions. We are stronger together. Make your New Year's Resolution to get more involved in the union, because you can't spell union without U-N-I.

- Travis Woodward
President

Members in the News:

Bill Buhler, Council 400

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those at the top, particularly those with significant investment income and owners of capital.

Executives and hedge fund managers living in Fairfield County but employed in New York were paying over 7% in New York income taxes and saw an opportunity to profit with the new tax system; PA 91-3 incentivized them to relocate their businesses to where they lived and pay only 4.5%.

In an unintended display of asymmetry, PA 91-3 was also held to “benefit” those at the bottom due to the sales tax cut and the exclusion of the first \$24,000 of income for married

couples, tax cuts which applied to all income levels.

Death threats and protests ensued after the passage of the bill. Bettencourt was run off the road by someone driving a pickup truck. One house was struck by gunfire. Legislators were encouraged to remove identifying license plates.

Former Sen. Tom Scott organized a “Taxpayers Committee Rally” at the Capitol to revoke the bill. It drew 40,000 residents, the largest protest at the Capitol in state history. The Governor came out to address the mass and commented that many of the protesters probably

did not earn much over the amount of income excluded from the tax. Nevertheless, repeal efforts continued for three days of public hearings in late November. The House voted for repeal but not in sufficient numbers to override the veto of the unwavering Governor.

Having reached an impasse, the exhausted legislators sensed it was fruitless to continue fighting and voted 80 to 68 to go home. The passage of Public Act 91-3 established a new tax structure, one which brought in new revenue and would redefine the winners and losers in the years ahead.

Flu Season is Here!

Get Your Vaccine Questions Answered

Where Can I Get Vaccinated?

Last year some of our members experienced issues obtaining their Flu Vaccine so the Retiree Team has been working with UnitedHealthcare to ensure ample access to vaccines beyond our Prescription Drug Network. This year, in addition to your doctor’s office, you can also receive the vaccine at one of the covered pharmacies where you pick up your prescriptions, at \$0 co-pay.

When you get a Flu Vaccine at your doctor’s office or pharmacy it is covered under your state-sponsored health insurance—both resulting in \$0 co-pay for you. Co-pay will result, however, if you attend a local pop-up clinic put on by the Visiting Nurses Association and you will not be eligible for reimbursement. Attending a VNA clinic might require you to pay out of pocket so, for your convenience, please get vaccinated

through your provider or one of the covered pharmacies.

COVERED PHARMACIES FOR THE FLU VACCINE

- Albertsons Pharmacy
- CVS Pharmacies
- Giant (D.C., DE, MD, VA)
- Giant Eagle
- Hannaford
- Harris Teeter
- H-E-B
- Hy-Vee (IA, IL, KS, MN, MO, NE, SD, WI)
- Kmart Pharmacy
- The Kroger Company

- Meijer Pharmacy
- New Albertsons (Acme Sav-on, Jewel-Osco, Star Markets, Shaws Osco, Safeway)
- Publix (AL, LA, GA, NC, SC, TN)
- Rite Aid Pharmacy
- Safeway Pharmacy (Safeway, Carrs, Pavilions, Randalls, Tom Thumb, Vons)
- Sam’s Club
- Stop & Shop (CT, MA, NJ, NY, RI)
- Walgreens Pharmacy (Walgreens, Duane Reade, Jim Myers, Parkway Drugs, Super D Drug, USA Drug)
- Walmart Stores Inc.
- Wegmans

Medicare Part B

Don’t Miss Out on Your Reimbursement!

Many of you have begun to receive your end of year Social Security statements regarding how much you will be paying for your Medicare Part B (and Part D and any IRMAA costs if applicable) for 2022.

The monthly basic amount for Medicare Part B for 2022 will be \$170.10 which is what most retirees will be paying.

If that is the amount listed on your Social Security statement, there is no need for you to do anything further, the

Comptroller’s Office will automatically make that adjustment and your reimbursement will be increased in your January pension check.

If your Social Security statement shows that you are paying an amount different from \$170.10 (higher or lower), or that you are paying an amount for Part D, then you will need to submit a copy of your Social Security statement to be reimbursed the correct amount. You should make a copy of the front

page showing the amounts you pay and write your State Employee ID number above your name (you can find your state employee ID number on your pension pay stub).

You can submit it two ways, by sending it in the mail or by email. To send it by mail, send it to:

**UnitedHealthcare
Benefits Services
PO Box 740221
Atlanta, GA 30374-0221**

It is a good idea to send it certified so you have proof that you sent it and the date you sent it. You can also send it as an attachment by email

to DirectBill_KYOperations@uhc.com. Sending it by email is also proof of when you sent it. You can call to confirm they received it at 1-866-747-0048 Monday-Friday 8am-8pm.

If you send it to them by February 28, 2021, it will be retroactive to January 1st of 2021. If it is received after that date, it will be adjusted after they receive it.

It is always a good idea to check your advice (what the Comptroller’s Office refers to as your pay stub) regularly so you know the amount you are being reimbursed. Since they no

longer send out monthly advices, you will need to go online to review it at the Retiree Portal at <https://retirees.ct.gov>, or you can call them to have one sent to you at 860-702-3480, which will bring you to a menu - press “7” to leave a message to request a copy of the retiree direct deposit advice.

The Comptroller’s Office will be sending this notification to you in the mail, which you should receive at the beginning of December. Remember to always check for the Comptroller’s stamp on any letters you receive from the State of CT!

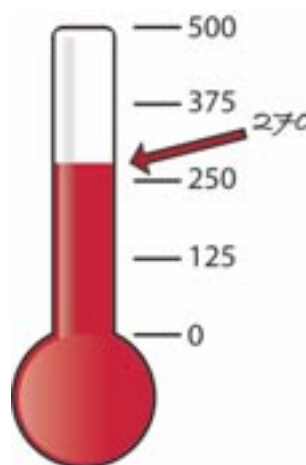
Council 400 Quarterly Membership Drive

Although the weather outside might be getting cooler... Council 400 has turned up the heat on Organizing New Members!!

We have seen a huge increase in State of Connecticut Employees

interested in Retiree Membership and decided it was time to stoke that fire!

We have set a goal of 500 new members signing up for Council 400 during the next fiscal year. Help grow our membership during this Quarterly Membership Drive to ensure Council 400 continues to be the largest and strongest Retiree Union in Connecticut!



Ways YOU can help:

- Talk to your friends/former co-workers, ask them if they are interested in joining us in the fight to protect pensions and healthcare!
- Have your spouse sign a Spousal Membership card!
- Volunteer to make calls to your former co-workers!

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/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).

CSEA Wins: ACA Expansion in Connecticut

CSEA Fights for ACA Expansion for Dental & Vision Coverage for those Under 26

Since the beginning of CSEA's history, our members have fought to lift up all working families, not just those lucky enough to be a part of a union. That tradition has continued to this day, most recently with our fight to expand the Affordable Care Act (ACA) coverage to include dental and vision for young adults under the age of 26 in Connecticut.

CSEA has been a proud member of the Health Care Cost Containment Committee (HCCC)

with the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) for several years. Our advocacy for expanding and protecting health benefits and it is through this committee that our leadership was able to advocate for the expansion of these vital services.

When the ACA originally went into effect, young adults were able to stay on their parent's medical insurance until they turned 26 years old. Before, young adults were kicked off their parent's

medical, dental and vision plans at 19 (or 23 if they were full-time college students). However, the ACA implementation in Connecticut only impacted health insurance, young adults still lost coverage for their dental and vision care at 19.

It doesn't take much convincing to understand that dental and vision coverage are essential health benefits, and that a lack of insurance coverage can easily make access to these crucial services

impossible. Without a mandate from the State however, fully insured policies had no requirement to treat vision and dental coverage like health coverage under ACA.

Throughout the 2021 Legislative Session, CSEA and SEBAC fought to expand this critical coverage and starting January 1, 2022, young adults can breathe a sigh of relief and remain on their parent's dental and vision plan until they turn 26, just like their medical insurance.

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