

Legislative Wrap Up

By: Daniel I. Medress, Political Director

Former President and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, William Howard Taft

by legislation.” And, while we might understand the sentiment, CSEA members know the profound and lasting impacts of the legislative process. That’s why we fought hard during this year’s session of the Connecticut General Assembly, which came to a close at midnight on May 4, to advance our pro-worker agenda.

Over 60 CSEA members testified on numerous bills at dozens of public hearings and thousands more took action contacting General Assembly legislators, attending rallies, and writing letters to the editor. While we did not make progress on every issue, the involvement of members from throughout our union helped move critical pieces of legislation through committees, the House and Senate chambers, and to the Governor’s desk. And, despite the calls from some elected officials for cuts to public services, layoffs of public employees, and changes to collective bargaining, CSEA members were successful in protecting the jobs we do and

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60+ PIECES OF MEMBER TESTIMONY SUBMITTED

355 CALLS MADE TO LEGISLATORS

2,004 EMAILS SENT TO LEGISLATORS

\$2.2B FUNDS SECURED

Childcare Providers Make Some Noise

Los proveedores de cuidado infantil hacen algo de ruido

On May 9th Childcare Providers took to state capitols, state political conventions, and street corners throughout the nation to make their voice heard. Providers need support now!

Childcare Change Makers, a national organization, was so impressed with Connecticut’s provider action on March 15th that they were in-

spired to duplicate the effort nationwide. The Connecticut early education rally was led by Child Care For Connecticut’s Future a Coalition which was created by multiple organizations. CSEA is a leading partner and managed to organize over 1,400 parents, advocates, and provider groups across the state for an event dubbed “Morning Without Childcare.”

Because of the efforts by CSEA

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We Want to Hear from You: Communications Survey

As CSEA members continue to fight for greater worker power and better outcomes for members and their families, communications are a critical key to our collective success

Over the past year, we have taken strides to improve our communications program - we’ve doubled down on our efforts on social media using Twitter, Facebook and YouTube more than ever before, we’ve given our website an entire facelift and we’ve worked to update our email broadcast system.

But more work is necessary and we want to hear from you.

Take a few minutes to fill out our 2022 Communication survey and let us know your

thoughts on what you want to see in our communications program. What do you think of our CSEA News? Our email program? Our social media handles? Our website? Our texting program? What should we be trying?

This is your chance to tell us what you want to see!



CSEA Goes to NASHTU in DC

On Tuesday, May 17th CSEA members from our P-4 DOT Chapter joined transportation unions from across the country to speak with members of Congress and other key elected and appointed leaders about the importance of directing federal transportation dollars in a way that serves the best interest of the public.

Over a few days in mid-May, CSEA members will be met with the Connecticut delegation including Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy, Congresswoman DeLauro, Congressman Courtney, Congresswoman Hayes and Congressman Larson to discuss ways that federal dollars should be directed in

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

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CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

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CSEA Mourns the Loss of Former SJM President Mark O’Brien



Meetings And News

MEETING DATES

The Council 400 Delegates Meeting is always held on the third Thursday of the month. The June Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on

**Thursday, June 16th at 10am
at the CSEA Union Hall**

Chapter 401 (Hartford area):

****SPRING LUNCHEON****

Thursday, June 2nd, 11:30am - 2pm

USS Chowder Pot

165 Brainard Rd, Hartford, CT 06114

Sharon D. Mounds (860) 529-9885

(leave message)

Chapter 402 (Danbury area):

****SPRING LUNCHEON****

Wednesday, June 8th, at 12PM

Chuck's Steakhouse, Danbury - \$25 per person

20 Segar St, Danbury, CT 06810

June 3rd Deadline

Send checks to "CSEA Chapter 402"

to Krista L. Judson

475 Berkshire Rd. Southbury, CT

Chapter 403 (Norwich area):

****SPRING LUNCHEON****

Tuesday, June 21st at 11:30 a.m.

Montville Polish Club

85 Maple Ave. Uncasville, CT 06382

Buffet will be available including; Crudites,

Garden Salad, Beef

Tenderloin, Chicken, Meatballs, Glazed Carrots,

Pasta & Ice Cream.

Coffee bar, Cash bar and Raffle will be available as well

RSVP by June 14th to: Gail Carr

14 Forge Ln. Franklin, CT 06254

The cost is \$15 for members and \$18 for

guests

Make checks payable to "CSEA Chapter 403"

Gail Carr: (860) 822-0788

(860) 377-8198

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area):

****SPRING LUNCHEON****

Tuesday, June 14th, at 12:00pm

We are having a catered meal from D'Amelio

Holy Trinity Greek Community Center

937 Chase Parkway (exit 17 off I-84),

Waterbury

Please RSVP to: Linda Mazzaferro

(203) 573-1598

Chapter 405 (New Haven area):

Thursday, June 9th at 11:00AM

Hamden Town Hall (3rd Floor)

2750 Dixwell Ave, Hamden, CT

Ron Osokow: (203) 671-7685

Chapter 406 (Middletown area):

Athenian Diner

Tuesday, June 14th at 11am

American Legion Post 75

58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Middletown, CT

Joe Formica: (860) 347-4532

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area):

SPRING LUNCHEON

Wednesday, June 8th, at 12:30PM

Cost: FREE to members & \$18.95 for guests

Meal options: Roast Sirloin of Beef au jus,

Chicken Parmigiana

Stuffed Filet of Sole, Golden Fried Bay Scallops

All Entrees Served With: Home Made Bread &

Butter,

Fresh Garden Salad with House Dressing,

Potato Du Jour,

Vegetable Du Jour, Dessert & Coffee or Tea.

Blue Goose Restaurant

326 Ferry Blvd. Stratford, CT 06615

RSVP to: Marge Bepko (203) 878-2934

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area):

****SPRING LUNCHEON****

Thursday, June 9th at 11:30am to 3:00pm

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Includes: BBQ Chicken, Hotdogs, Hamburgers,

Ziti w/ Marinara Sauce

Pasta Salad, Potato Salad, Fruit Salad, Cookies &

Cash Bar

Franco American Civic & Social Club

116 Club Road, Windham, CT

Make checks payable to CSEA Chapter 408 and

mail with your payment to:

Christine Ashe, 141 Love Lane, Coventry, CT

06238

Questions/dietary concerns call Christine Ashe

at (860) 742-0667

Chapter 409 (State University Professors)

Friday, June 17th at 10AM

CSEA Union Hall

760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT

Dave Walsh: (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor Locks area):

Monday, June 13th at 1PM

Suffield Senior Center

145 Bridge St., Suffield, CT

Amelia Smith: (860) 687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area):

Thursday, June 16th

12:30pm Lunch Served 1:00pm Meeting

Guest Speaker: United Healthcare

Representative

This will be a hybrid meeting

Chapter Elections will be taking place

CSEA Union Hall

760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT

Sebastian Puglisi: (860) 529-8336

Chapter 412 (Putnam area):

NEW LOCATION

Tuesday, June 21st at 1:30pm

Putnam Town Hall

200 School Street Putnam, CT

Don Gladding: (860) 933-9998

Chapter 414 (Torrington area):

***SPRING LUNCHEON** to be held after a short meeting*

Luncheon will be catered.

Cost: Free to Members and \$12 for Guests

Monday, June 20th, at 10:00AM

UCONN Extension Service Building

843 University Dr., Torrington, CT

Please RSVP to Peaches Miller (860) 830-0632

Make checks payable to "CSEA Chapter 414"

Send to: 93 West Avon Rd. Avon, CT 06001

Chapter 415 (Manchester area):

Monday, June 27th at 1:00PM

June Guest Speaker: TBD

Elks Lodge

30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT

Stuart Clark: (860) 205-0657 (c)

(860) 454-4818 (h)

Chapter 416 (New London area):

****JUNE LUNCHEON****

Thursday, June 9th at 12 pm

Par 4 Restaurant at the Shennecossett Golf

Course

93 Plant St. Groton, CT 06340

Cost: \$15.00 per member & \$30.00 for

non-members

Includes: Baked Chicken, Roast Beef, Garlic

Potatoes,

Tossed Salad, Bread, Strawberry ShortCake

Make checks payable to "CSEA Chapter 416"

and mail with your payment to:

Mr. John Knaff, 191 Rogers Rd. Groton, CT

06340

Questions? Call John Knaff (860) 857-4244 or

email knaffj@gmail.com

Chapter 417 (Plainville area):

Wednesday, September 14th

Plainville Public Library

56 East Main St., Plainville, CT

Chapter 418 (Community College Retirees):

****SPRING GATHERING****

Tuesday, June 14 at 11:00am

Gillette Castle State Park

Contact Bill Searle at sacobills@aol.com or

(860) 745-3692 for more information

CSEA's Quarterly Virtual Meeting

(all retirees are invited to join)

June 22nd at 5pm via Zoom

Guest Speaker: Micheal Barry

Campaign Coordinator

Connecticut Coalition for Retirement Security

Important numbers to have on hand:

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528

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

Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537

UnitedHealthcare: 1-888-803-9217

Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533

Caremark: 1-800-318-2572

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

Cigna: 1-800-244-6224

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

HEP Care Management Solutions: 1-877-687-1448 or visit them at their portal:
<https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx>



Are You Overwhelmed by Bills?



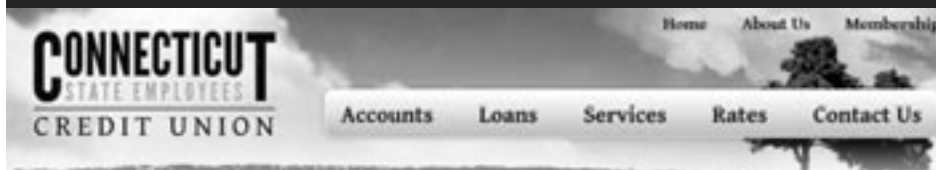
A CSE Credit Union Debt Consolidation Loan Can Help!

Loans up to \$25,000 are available
7.99% APR* fixed rate
One bill to pay each month

Applications must be received by September 1, 2022.

*Annual Percentage Rate. Not available to pay off CSE loans, including CSE VISA cards. Total CSE unsecured debt limit (excluding CSE VISA) not to exceed \$25,000. Rate may change without notice. Terms up to 5 years are available.

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

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

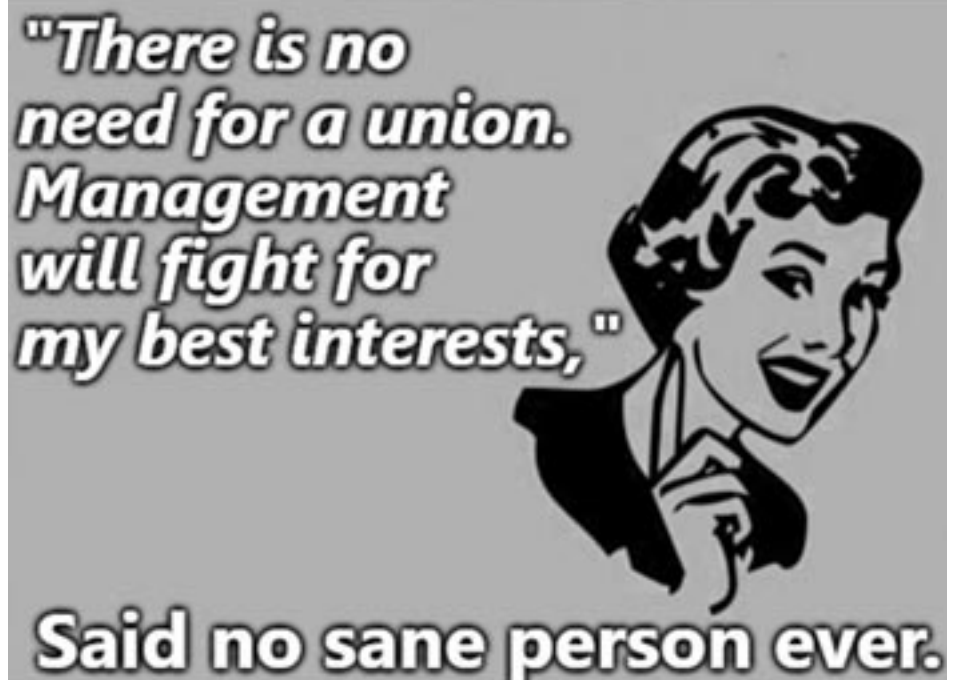
NORWICH Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich, CT 06306 (860) 889-7378	HARTFORD 84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 522-5388 (Savings) (860) 522-7147 (Loans)	NEW HAVEN 1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 (203) 397-2949
MIDDLETOWN Connecticut Valley Hospital P.O. Box 2485 Middletown,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

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Alves, Henry | Holland, Marjorie |
| Anderson, Joseph | Juraska, Alice |
| Beaumier, Steven | Kalandyk, John |
| Brown, David | Kalwat, Katherine |
| Burlison, Eileen | Karpf, John |
| Carney, Joyce | Kobus, Julia |
| Chernovetz, Pamela | Lavoy, Ann |
| Clinch, Robert | Lebrun, Ann |
| Connelly, Paul | Martin, Robert |
| Craffey, Gretchen | Martin, Sharon |
| Crosier, Douglas | Napolitano, Lena |
| Daly, Kenneth | Neville, William |
| Desanto, Lewis | Parker, Edward |
| Desmarais, Robert | Peloso, John |
| Donovan, Daniel | Pringle, Ronald |
| Duby, Charmaine | Silva, Maximo |
| Elnor, George | Sims, Katie |
| Espinosa, Cynthia | Stott, Frances |
| Ford, Richard | Sutton, Yvonne |
| Ganem, Joseph | Thornton, Albert |
| Gavura, Anthony | Wadowski, Edward |
| Gostyla, Lea | Watson, Marcia |
| Grace, Thomas | Weik, David |
| Haines, David | Wynkoop, Edgar |
| Haras, Peter | |



CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's
Public Service Employees & Retirees

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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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P3B Celebrates Earth Week in Hartford

DDS Employees Give Back & Enjoy the Outdoors

By: Pamela Armstrong, P-3B
Council Leader

The P3-B Disability Determination Services employees located in Hartford celebrated Earth Week every day during lunch from 4/25/22-4/29/2022. Employees spent time together outside, planting flowers in front of the office building while raising money to support Knox Inc. This urban forestry, education, and jobs training non-profit uses horticulture as a catalyst for community engagement. They forge partnerships between Hartford residents, businesses, and government and act as a conduit to build greener, stronger, healthier, and more beautiful neighborhoods throughout Hartford.

The event was garden-themed, with lawn games, a raffle drawing, garden gift baskets, and flower cupcakes. People who have never tried gardening before were excited to get to dig in the dirt for the first time. Together, our staff planted over 240 flowers which will help our pollinator population in Hartford as we quickly approach summer. People from every part of the office

participated: Disability Examiners, Supervisors, Hearings Officers, Clerical, Scheduling, Finance, Quality Control, Security, Medical and Psychological Consultants, and Managers. A special thank you goes out to the head of our agency Kim Williams, who is an avid gardener, and Dianne Bryd in our medical processing unit; both ladies planted extra flowers on the final day of the event to assist with filling in the circle of flowers.

The event was organized by Pamela Armstrong and Amy Corvino. As a result of the event, our office staff raised \$440 to donate to Knox Inc. who will deliver 2 outdoor city planters full of flowers to the building in June.

It was wonderful to see so many faces throughout the week and the joy we shared will last throughout the summer while the flowers bloom adding color and greenery to our daily lives.

This event was sponsored by P3 B and Disability Determination Services through the Quality of Work Life Fund.



Top Left (Clockwise): Amy Corvino poses with cupcakes from the day; Jessica Waite, Christopher McLaughlin, and Kim Williams plant some flowers in the circle; Sasha Hibbert and Keyona Washington pause for a minute to take a photo; Pam Armstrong and Amy Corvino pose with their festive glasses.

CT Retirees Receive Accelerated Tax Break

CSEA has long understood that many of our retirees in Connecticut are on a tight budget—and with the increased cost of living, handling expenses while aging can be difficult. During the 2018 legislative session, CSEA advocated for a bill aimed at making that tight budget a little easier to deal with.

The bill became effective in 2019, and increased the threshold for Social Security income exemptions as well as implemented a new exemption for State of Connecticut residents who receive a State of Connecticut pension, starting at 14% and increasing progressively until it reaches 100% in 2025.

This legislative session, CSEA pushed for a new bill (§ 414 — PENSION

AND ANNUITY TAX EXEMPTION ACCELERATION) to speed up the process. Under the new bill, pension and annuity income is fully tax exempt starting with the 2022 tax year.

By law, taxpayers are eligible for this exemption only if their federal AGI is below (1) \$75,000 for single filers, married people filing separately, or heads of households and (2) \$100,000 for married people filing jointly. If your Federal AGI is at or above this amount (either as a single or joint filer) you will not be eligible for any exemption. The legislation also increases the threshold for 100% exemption for income taxes on Social Security from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for singles and \$60,000 to \$100,000 for couples.

PRIVACY ALERT: YOUR INFORMATION IS AT RISK ✕

Billionaire-Funded, Anti-Worker Group the "Freedom Foundation" is Harvesting your Personal Information



Who is the Freedom Foundation?

They are a special-interest group dedicated to destroying unions and working class benefits.

Why Do They Want Your Personal Information?

They want your email, phone number, even your home address to come and trick you into leaving your union.

How Do we Stop Them?

They know that we stand in the way of their goal to destroy workers. So when they use your personal information to contact you, tell them you're sticking with your union!

The so-called "Freedom Foundation" is a "State Policy Network" off-shoot, which receives its funding from sources like the Koch Brothers, Donors Trust, and the DeVos Foundation.

CSEA Heads to DC For NASHTU Conference

P-4 DOT Members Talk with Federal Delegation about Transportation Funding

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Connecticut.

The National Association of State Highway and Transportation Unions (NASHTU) is dedicated to ensuring that federal transportation dollars are spent on cost-effective, safe projects that serve the public interest. NASHTU is comprised of 38 unions and associations representing hundreds of thousands of state and locally employed transportation engineers, construction managers and inspectors, technical workers and related public servants from throughout the United States.

The annual NASHTU

Conference provides an important opportunity for transportation unions to come together and strategize how to best serve our members and deliver safe, cost-effective transportation projects for taxpayers.

NASHTU has become an important voice in Washington D.C. speaking on behalf of public sector transportation unions and workers. We have won important legislative victories by working together to stop wasteful outsourcing mandates and incentives in the federal transportation authorization and other transportation-related legislation.



ABOVE (From Left to Right): W. Dunn Mallard, Dan Stafko, Amber Berry, Travis Woodward and Otis Dancy prepare for a day of lobbying with Connecticut's federal delegation.



ABOVE: The NASHTU conference kicked off in DC on May 17th.



ABOVE (From Left to Right): W. Dunn Mallard, Otis Dancy, Congressman John Larson, Amber Berry, Travis Woodward and Dan Stafko after a productive meeting about the transportation funding coming into CT.

Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

Childcare Providers Make Some Noise

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members and coalition partners providers were able to secure \$185 million in new funding for the Office of Early Childhood. A historic and overdue amount.

In the beginning of session the idea of more money was laughed at but through advocacy money prevailed. The new funding will not fix the on going crisis but it will help providers keep their doors open one more year. It also secure that parents aren't scrambling to find care. The original ask of \$700 million will be attempted once more by the advocacy group next year!

Los proveedores de cuidado infantil hacen algo de ruido

El 9 de mayo, los proveedores de cuidado infantil tomaron los capitolios estatales, las convenciones políticas estatales y las esquinas de las calles de todo el país para hacer oír su voz. ¡Los proveedores necesitan apoyo ahora!

Childcare Change Makers, una organización nacional, quedó tan impresionada con la acción de los proveedores de Connecticut el 15 de marzo que se sintieron inspirados para duplicar el esfuerzo en todo el país. La manifestación de educación temprana de Connecticut dirigida por Child Care For Connecticut's Future, una coalición creada por varias organizaciones, un socio líder CSEA logró organizar más de 1,400 grupos de padres, defensores y

proveedores en todo el estado para un evento denominado Morning

Without Childcare. Gracias a los esfuerzos de los miembros de nuestro sindicato y los socios de la coalición, los proveedores pudieron obtener \$185 millones en nuevos fondos para la Oficina de la Primera Infancia. Una cantidad histórica y atrasada. Al comienzo de la sesión, se rieron de la idea de más dinero, pero a través de la promoción prevaleció el dinero. La nueva financiación no solucionará la crisis actual, pero ayudará a los proveedores a mantener sus puertas abiertas un año más. También asegura que los padres no se apresuren a encontrar atención. ¡El grupo de defensa intentará una vez más la solicitud original de \$ 700 millones el próximo año!



Child care providers, parents, and advocates from across the country joined together to call for funding to address the child care crisis.

2022 Legislative Session Wrap Up

By: Daniel I. Medress, Political Director

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the pay and benefits we have earned.

As we wait for Governor Ned Lamont to sign or veto the bills before him, here's what happened with CSEA's 2022 legislative agenda:

CSEA's 2022 Legislative Agenda - Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreements for State Employees.

The seven state bargaining units represented by CSEA, as well as the 27 others represented by different unions, negotiated contracts with the State that were approved by both chambers of the General Assembly. The votes in the chambers followed months of negotiations and were ultimately successful due to the work done by members to move Representatives and Senators to vote Yes on the contracts. Although each state bargaining unit has their own contract, the General Assembly chose to vote on the contracts as a part of a single package. And, while the contracts were put up for a vote in each chamber, they did not take the form of a bill, but rather a resolution. So, the House approved one resolution (H.R. No. 11) and the Senate approved another (S.R. No. 12). Since resolutions do not need to be signed by the Governor, the contracts were formally approved with their passage through each chamber.

SEBAC Legislative Proposals.

The unions that make up the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition proposed several pieces of legislation to address a range of important issues

Senate Bill 419: An Act Establishing a State Training Account for State Service Career Development.

CSEA members have long talked about the need for a properly staffed and trained state workforce. SB 419 had the potential to be an important part of achieving that goal by establishing a training fund for state employees that could be used to reimburse workers or pay for things like certifications, training, and conferences. Supporting the career development of state employees will help enhance the quality of services provided while reducing the state's reliance on costly outside consultants.

Senate Bill 420: An Act Concerning the State Workforce and Discrimination and Retaliation in the Workplace.

Discrimination has no place at any worksite. SB 420 would have ensured that state managers and supervisors cannot retaliate or discriminate against an employee who alleges discrimination. Imagine going to your manager in good faith, to talk about the discrimination you are facing at work and, instead of being heard and your experience respected, you're retaliated against or told to be quiet. The bill called for a Racial Justice

Ombudsperson who would be responsible for fostering a workplace where managerial authorities are accountable to lead and model antiracist practices, and make changes needed to ensure an antiracist, equitable workplace for all. Our Nation's work towards "a more perfect Union" continues, and SB 420 would have provided all state workers with the protections against discriminatory and retaliatory behavior that no one should have to deal with when they are just trying to do their job.

House Bill 5441: An Act Adopting the Recommendations of the Task Force to Study the State Workforce and Retiring Employees.

The coming wave of retirements of state employees is certainly a challenge, but we are not powerless when it comes to making sure that Connecticut is ready. HB 5441 was a proactive response that prioritized planning and data over panic to deal with the so-called "Silver Tsunami." The bill would have empowered key stakeholders such as state employees, commissioners, the Comptroller, and policymakers to use data and planning to help make educated decisions when it comes to the large number of retirements expected this year.

House Bill 5445: An Act Concerning State Staffing Levels.

The state employee staffing issues we are facing are not by accident. Connecticut has a history of staffing up drastically and then ignoring staffing levels until it is too late. The most famous case of this was in the early 1980's after the Mianis River Bridge collapse in Greenwich. The hiring that followed in the late 1990's is a major contributor to the "Silver Tsunami" that we are having this year. Instead of level hiring since the late 1990's, the state workforce has been neglected and slowly starved to the brink. HB 5445 would have required state agencies to fill vacancies and engage in continuous recruitment for open positions.

As the legislative session went on, all of these bills were eventually merged together into one legislative vehicle. This is a not uncommon practice that helps streamline the legislative process. Unfortunately, as the time of the legislative session drew to a close, we were unable to move these legislative proposals forward.

Funding and staffing the State Contracting Standards Board.

The State Contracting Standards Board was established in 2007 after 15 years of advocacy to bring real oversight and transparency to state contracting. The Board's formation came on the heels of the I-84 storm drain fiasco. Private consulting inspection forces failed to notice that the construction company did not complete drainage runs during the

construction of I-84 heading West into Waterbury. A DOT engineer from CSEA discovered this \$24 million dollar error that would have eventually led to the highway washing out, causing catastrophic damage and possibly loss of life.

This session was a mixed bag for the Board. On the plus side, for the first time in its history, the Board will be properly funded. The state budget, House Bill 5506, provides the Board with the financial resources it needs to do its work. However, CSEA members and our allies in SEBAC, were fighting all session long to make additional improvements that would have protected the Board's funding and enhanced its abilities to deliver for Connecticut residents. The best piece of legislation to do that was Senate Bill 473. That bill would have protected the Board's funding from future budget cuts, in the same way that the budget for state agencies like the State Elections Enforcement Commission is protected, while improving and expanding its contract analysis work. Despite SB 473 passing unanimously out of the Government Administration and Elections Committee and the Senate, there was too much pushback from state agencies to get this bill called in the House.

Recovery for All Legislative Proposals.

CSEA members helped form the Recovery for All coalition because we know that every working person is an ally in the battle to create an economy that works for everyone. Recovery for All is a statewide coalition of labor, community, and faith organizations representing hundreds of thousands of people united in a long-term mission to eliminate systemic inequalities and rebuild a better Connecticut. CSEA and our partners in the Coalition advocated throughout session for the creation of a truly equitable state tax system, protecting funding for public services and jobs, and establishing racial and economic justice. Despite rallies, press conferences, phone calls, op-eds, letters to the editor, advertisements, emails, and social media actions - to say nothing of record gains for the uber-rich and a historic budget surplus, the General Assembly failed to make meaningful progress in addressing the inequities that continue to exist in our tax system.

Paraeducator Legislation from the School Paraeducator Advisory Council.

Last session, CSEA members helped pass House Bill 6621: An Act Concerning Assorted Revisions and Additions to the Education Statutes which included language directing the School Paraeducator Advisory Council to put together a study and legislative recommendations regarding improving para career development, professional training, pay, and benefits. The Council formed a task force that included CSEA members, which submitted the study and recommendations that formed the basis of House Bill 5321: An Act Implementing Certain Recommendations of the School Paraeducator Advisory Council during 2022 legislative

session. HB 5321 would have required the State Department of Education to conduct an annual review of healthcare plans and compare them to the Connecticut Partnership Plan to find savings; allowed paraeducators to attend Planning and Placement Team meetings and view student Individual Education Plans; directed the State Department of Education Commissioner to create a working group to explore a paraeducator certification program; established clear professional development plans for paraeducators; and directed local or regional boards of education to collect information on the number of paraeducators employed within each district and a number of data points on wages and healthcare costs. As often happens during session, after passing unanimously out of the Education and Appropriations Committees, this bill did not move forward. But, due to the tireless efforts of CSEA paraeducators as well as members of other unions representing paras, several parts of HB 5321 were put into other pieces of legislation that are now on the Governor's desk. Senate Bill 9 includes money for paraeducator professional development programs, House Bill 5506 includes the language creating a system of paraeducator career development, and House Bill 5466 includes the language that will allow paras to attend PPT meetings and view IEPs. There is more work to do, but this represents a major step forward for Connecticut's paraeducators.

Family Child Care Providers.

This session, CSEA family child care providers supported a bill that would "clarify and enforce protections for licensed group child care homes and licensed family child care homes and prevent landlords from placing restrictions on the operation of such homes." The bill, Senate Bill 291: An Act Concerning Certain Protections for Group and Family Child Care Homes, made it through the committee process, but did not receive a final vote in the Senate. And, while this bill did not make it all the way this year, providers helped pass several major pieces of legislation that will have positive and far reaching impacts. Senate Bill 1: An Act Concerning Childhood Mental and Physical Health Services in Schools, Senate Bill 2: An Act Expanding Preschool and Mental and Behavioral Services for Children, and House Bill 5001: An Act Concerning Children's Mental Health are all focused on the continued well-being of our state's children. Child care providers, like many other CSEA members, never stopped working during the ongoing, deadly COVID-19 pandemic. And, they know firsthand what a major impact it had and continues to have on kids. These three bills are a commitment to our youngest residents and an example of the type of legislation that we wish we didn't need to pass, but know we have to. And, as part of the budget, providers helped secure a \$150 million investment in the Office of Early Childhood. This money will

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2022 Legislative Session Wrap Up

By: Daniel I. Medress, Political Director

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go towards fixing long standing problems in the early child care system, such as improving mental health programs as well as hiring and retaining child care workers. And, in addition to wage supplements that providers will receive, this funding will help add 13,000 infant and toddler spots in state funded child care programs, while at the same time increasing workforce training.

Indoor Air Quality in Schools. As we have in past legislative sessions, CSEA joined with a wide range of other unions and organizations to support a bill to improve indoor air quality in schools, Senate Bill 423: An Act Improving Indoor Air Quality in Public School Classrooms. Although this bill did not make it to the Governor's desk, major parts of it were

included in the budget: such as \$75 million for a school HVAC grant program over the next two years (with the possibility of an additional \$100 million in bonding); in-depth HVAC assessments for all schools to be completed by certified technicians by July 2024 and every five years afterward; and the creation of a special working group to identify and develop optimal indoor humidity and temperature ranges, emergency school closure criteria, protocols to be used by school districts to receive, investigate, and address complaints or evidence of mold, pest infestation, hazardous odors or chemicals, and poor indoor air-quality, as well as a number of other important issues regarding indoor air quality in schools.

Probate Court Collective Bargaining. For the past several

sessions, CSEA has been working to pass a bill that will give employees in Connecticut's probate court system collective bargaining rights and the ability to join a union if they want. This session, the bill was Senate Bill 209: An Act Concerning the Status of Probate Court System Employees. SB 209 passed out of the Labor and Public Employees and Appropriations Committees, but it was not called for a vote in the Senate. Even with this legislative setback, the struggle to win respect and dignity for all workers will continue. No worker should be denied the basic and fundamental rights of collective bargaining. CSEA stands with our fellow workers in the probate court system and will always support legislation that expands a worker's right to choose to join a union.

As we await the Governor's signing pen or veto stamp and reflect on the advances we made, we're mindful of the many challenges and threats that lie ahead. As the labor leader Samuel Gompers said so many years ago and is still true today, "Our movement is of the working people, for the working people, by the working people.... There is not a right too long denied to which we do not aspire in order to achieve; there is not a wrong too long endured that we are not determined to abolish." While the 2022 legislative session might have come to an end, we will be ready for 2023 with a determination to achieve for our members and all workers.

2022 Call for Constitutional Amendments

CSEA SEIU Local 2001 will hold its 81st Anniversary Biennial convention on Friday, October 14, 2022 at The Aquaturf Club, 256 Mullberry St., Plantsville, CT 06479.

According to the CSEA SEIU Local 2001 Constitution, Article 9 - Constitutional Amendments, Section 9.1 - Regular Procedure:

9.1 Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by any member of the association and shall be submitted, in writing, to the secretary/treasurer of the association at

least sixty (60) days in advance of the annual or special convention and thereafter submitted by the secretary/treasurer to the chapters at least thirty (30) days in advance of such convention. The secretary/treasurer shall refer said proposals to the constitution and by-laws committee for its recommendations to convention delegates.

9.2 These proposed amendments shall be voted upon at the convention.

Any proposed constitutional amendments must be received at CSEA

Headquarters, 760 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106 no later than close of business on Friday, August 12, 2022.

All chapters must conduct their elections and report results to their staff representatives. If you have not yet conducted elections for your chapter delegates to attend the convention, please contact your staff representative for the number of delegates your chapter is eligible to elect.

Biennial Convention Friday, October 14, 2022

The **81st Anniversary Biennial Convention of the CSEA 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."

CSEA Mourns the Loss of Former SJM President Mark O'Brien

Mark O'Brien, former President of the Supervising Judicial Marshals Council (SJM), passed away at the age of 67. Until his retirement in January of this year, Mark was the first and only President of his Council. During his nearly twenty years as President, Mark would often say "we went from the outhouse to the penthouse," when talking about the pay, benefits, and working conditions of his members. Mark credited the SJM members and officers for this transformation.

Mark started his career as a Deputy Sheriff in the old county sheriff system that provided courthouse security. He worked at the busiest courthouse in Connecticut, the criminal court on Lafayette Street in Hartford, and later transferred to the Appellate Court.

Before the deputy sheriffs were officially brought into state service, deputy sheriffs were amongst the lowest paid full-time employees without any benefits providing state services. Deputy sheriffs only received a small per diem for keeping our courthouses safe for the public. Deputy sheriffs had no pensions, no health insurance, no vacation time, no sick leave, no longevity payments, no "just cause" for discipline, no transfer rights, no holiday pay, and no predictable work schedules. The deputy sheriffs worked at the whim of the County's High Sheriff.

Once they were brought into state service, initially in the Executive Branch, and then in the Judicial Branch, they

received some statutory benefits, but not the type of benefits and rights enjoyed by other unionized state employees.

The road to unionization led by Mark and other leaders was fraught with danger. Mark was told that if they did not succeed in unionization, he would be transferred from Hartford to Bridgeport, a 90-minute commute on a good day. Mark and the others took that risk knowing that unionizing would improve the lives of all of the SJM members.

On July 27, 2004, CSEA filed a petition for a union election. The Judicial Branch objected to the petition and objected to holding the union election in any of the courthouses. This was intended to make voting as inconvenient as possible. Instead, the union election was held at union halls around the state, for the first time in Connecticut Labor Board history. Mark and his leadership team turned out the vote and the Union won, but it was not over. The Judicial branch filed objections to the election and certification of CSEA as the union. On February 3, 2005, the State Board of Labor Relations certified the union to represent the Supervising Judicial Marshals. The long journey was over and contract negotiations began for their first contract.

One of the first issues addressed by the Supervising Judicial Marshal Council even before they were certified as a union was the retirement system that they were placed in. The marshals and

supervisors were placed into the non-hazardous duty pension system even though they had responsibility for processing arrested individuals at arraignments and those individuals incarcerated in our state prisons that were appearing in court proceedings. They were also responsible for the 24-hour lockups in Hartford and New Haven. The marshals and supervising marshals were able to win the right to a hazardous duty retirement before the SEBAC Pension Grievance Committee. Next came the struggle to recognize their service as deputy sheriffs as state service for purposes of pension credit. In 2017, after years of lobbying at the Legislature and the Governor, the State agreed to recognize up to three years of deputy sheriff service as state service. Mark led the fights so the most senior members could retire with dignity.

According to CSEA Executive Director, Dave Glidden, "Mark was a force of nature always advocating for the members either collectively or individually. He will be greatly missed by all CSEA members. It is a tragedy that he will not be able to enjoy the fruits of his own labor in retirement that he fought so far for his members."

"Mark was not only an inspirational union leader but an aspirational human,"



said Thomas Gordecki, former Vice President of SJM, "He led his life in such a way that others always came before him. It was his life experience overcoming addiction that propelled him into living this way. Whether he got a call at work, at home, at night, during the day, or on vacation, he always answered the call for someone in crisis. He never shied away from talking about his recovery, knowing that all too often it was those conversations that helped others get the help they needed. His loss is a crushing one to not only CSEA, not only the men and women he mentored through recovery but each and every person who ever had the opportunity to meet him."

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