

Care4Kids Providers Fight for a Fair Contract

150 Supporters Highlight Childcare Crisis on the 55th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Assassination

On April 4th, 150 Care4Kids providers and our allies in Recovery For All called on Governor Lamont to offer a fair and honorable contract that will address their health-

care, wage and retirement concerns.

There is no question following the pandemic that qual-

ity, affordable and accessible childcare is at the very foundation of a strong economy. Simply continue onto page 5



ABOVE: Care4Kids childcare provider, Maria Amado, addresses the crowd to discuss the impact low pay and no healthcare has on her and her family.

Legislative Session Update

The countdown to the last day of the Legislative Session, June 6th, has begun and it seems everyone under the gold dome is rushing to push along their

legislative priorities before the clock strikes midnight.

This month, we saw the Appropriations Committee and the Finance, Revenue and Bonding

Committee respond to the Governor's proposed budget, approving their versions of the spending and revenue sides of the budget.

Our Political Education Director, Daniel I. Medress explains what members can expect to see next, "These bills form the basis of the budget negotiations that now will occur between the House, the Senate, the Governor, and the Caucuses. Due to the Constitutional spending cap, the budget surplus is a bit of an illusion. The surplus exists, but without a super majority vote in both chambers, the Constitutional spending cap prevents additional appropriations. Currently, discussions are under way about utilizing what's called a "revenue intercept" to capture money before it reaches the General Fund (the spending cap only applies to money spent

from the General Fund).

"With a revenue intercept, money that comes into the state is put into a dedicated fund, as opposed to the General Fund. Currently, this happens with certain federal dollars for health-care and transportation."

CSEA members and our allies were encouraged when Speaker Ritter and President Looney hinted at the idea of a revenue intercept plan in a joint statement they issued after the votes in Appropriations and Finance, "As we move forward, we will be looking at finding ways to bolster funding in a number of critical areas — including non-profits, public schools, higher education, health care and child care workers, paraprofessionals and group homes."

The specific mention of our child care workers and

continue onto page 6

Pandemic Pay Look-Up Tool for SEBAC Members

The State's Pandemic Pay Award Look-up Portal will be available on the morning of Monday, April 24th. This look-up tool is based upon the state's records and will provide members with their current risk designation and the amount of the pandemic pay award they will receive. This will allow members to review that information

and raise any concerns they have about the accuracy of the information presented. Remember that higher risk employees are first responders, employees who worked in congregate settings, and employees who worked in health care facilities during the relevant time period (March 20, 2020-March 27, 2021). Lower risk employees are any other employees who were required to report in-person during that time period. The portal will also include a link to a union form that will allow members to request review of their

pandemic pay award amount by their CSEA and SEBAC if they think it is incorrect.

We expect the state to issue the pandemic pay no later than the first pay period following June 7, 2023 except where there is dispute about the amount.

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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

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Meetings And News

MEETING DATES

The May Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, May 18th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall and via Zoom

Chapter 401 (Hartford area):

Spring Luncheon

Thursday, June 1st 11:30am

Trattoria Toscano

706 Hartford Rd., Manchester

Choice of Penne Vodka Parm,

Mustard Glazed Salmon,

Chicken Milanese,

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Served with Caesar Salad and

Tiramisu. RSVP by May 5th to

Sharon D. Mounds

53-C Brookwood Dr.,

Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Cost is \$40 per person

Questions? Call Sharon at

(860) 529-9885

Chapter 402 (Danbury area):

Wednesday, May 10th - 10am

Guest Speaker: Danbury Fire Dept.

United Methodist Church

5 Clapboard Ridge Rd. Danbury

Linda Albanese: (860) 354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area):

Tuesday, May 9th - 1:30pm

Guest Speaker: Kevin Sullivan

CSEA Council 400 Organizer

Rose City Senior Center

8 Mahan Drive., Norwich

Carol Burgess: (860) 859-3641

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area):

Tuesday, May 9th - 10am

Guest Speakers: Kevin Sullivan

CSEA Council 400 Organizer

Donald Gladding - McCusker Chair

Trinity Orthodox Church

937 Chase Parkway, Waterbury

John Quinn: (203) 804-0189

Chapter 405 (New Haven area):

Thursday, May 11th - 10:30am

Guest Speaker: Aetna Representative

Hamden Government Center Bldg

2750 Dixwell Ave, Hamden

Ron Osokow: (203) 671-7685

Chapter 406 (Middletown area):

Tuesday, May 9th - 1pm

Guest Speaker: Cigna Rep.

American Legion Post 75

58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr. Middletown

Joe Formica: (860) 347-4532

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area):

Wednesday, May 17th - 1pm

Guest Speaker: Sebastian Puglisi,

CSEA Regional Vice President West

St. Josephs of Stratford Catholic Church

1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford (on Rt. 113)

Joan Matzonkai: (203) 751-0300

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area):

Thursday, May 11th - 12:30pm

Mansfield Senior Center

303 Maple Road. Mansfield

Doug Racicot: (860) 234-2537

Chapter 409 (State University Professors)

Friday, May 19th - 10am

CSEA Union Hall & via Zoom

760 Capitol Ave., Hartford

Dave Walsh: (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor Locks area):

Monday, May 8th - 1pm

Guest Speaker: Adele Cyr

Program Manager at AmplifyCT

Suffield Senior Center

145 Bridge St., Suffield

Amelia Smith: (860) 687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area):

Next Meeting: June Luncheon

Location: TBD

Subby Puglisi: (860) 836-4009

Chapter 412 (Putnam area):

Tuesday, May 16th - 1:30pm

Putnam Town Hall

200 School St., Putnam

Don Gladding: (860) 933-9998

Chapter 414 (Torrington area):

Monday, May 15th - 10am

Guest Speaker: Cigna Representative

Cooperative Service Extension Bldg

843 University Dr, Torrington

Karen Pineman: (860) 354-6727

Chapter 415 (Manchester area):

Monday, May 22nd - 1pm

Guest Speaker: Diana Dean

from The Agency of Aging

Manchester Elks Lodge

30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT

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

(860) 454-4818 (h)

Chapter 416 (New London area):

Tuesday, May 9th - 12pm

Groton Public Library

52 Newtown Rd., Groton

John Knaff (860) 857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area):

Wednesday, May 10th - 1pm

Plainville Public Library - Auditorium

56 East Main St., Plainville

Mark Kirschner: (860) 882-2717

Chapter 418 (Community College Retirees):

Tuesday, May 2nd - 10am

Guest Speaker: CT Comptroller, Sean Scanlon

4C's Union Hall & via Zoom

907 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford

Bill Searle (860) 745-3692

A Note for State Retirees with State Retiree Spouses:

If you and your spouse are both State of Connecticut Retirees, then you may want to consider who holds your Health Insurance benefit in order to save cash at the pharmacy.

Your date of hire dictates your tier, whereas your retirement date dictates your group—both are important in determining your health and pension benefit, but the group determines your prescription drug co-pay. And since co-pays are based on the insurance holder, not the patient, you may want to consider having the person with the lowest group number (that is the person who retired first most often) hold the insurance for the both of you.

Important numbers to have on hand:

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528

Aetna Customer Service: 1-855-648-0391

Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537

Caremark: 1-800-318-2572

Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533

Cigna: 1-800-244-6224

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

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>



Car Dealers Know Cars but We Know Financing

Our auto loan puts you in the driver's seat. Take control at the dealership and apply through CSE for a better rate.

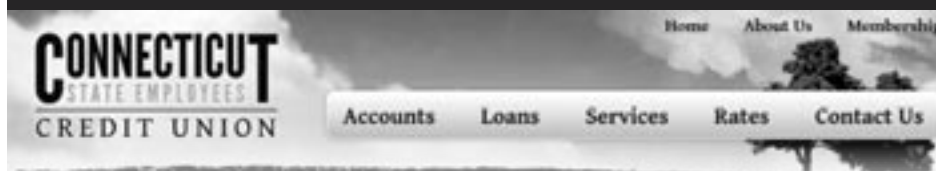
New Car Rate 3.49% APR* | **Used Car Rate 3.99% APR**

*Annual Percentage Rate. Certain restrictions apply. Cannot be applied toward existing car loans. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Rate is subject to change at any time.

Terms available up to 7 years!*Annual Percentage Rate. Certain restrictions apply. Cannot be applied toward existing car loans. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Rate is subject to change at any time.

QUICK TIP: Join our email list to be notified of credit union news and rate changes. To sign up, visit: www.CSECreditUnion.com and scroll down to the Email Alerts section at the bottom of the homepage.

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 - Memorial Day
Monday, May 29th**

Dividend Rates - First Quarter 2022

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	2.25%	2.28%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	1.00%	1.01%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	1.50%	1.51%

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.

Ausburger, Patricia
Barnett, Arlene
Basile, Frank
Bohara, Richard
Boylin, William
Budryk, M Elinor
Calderon, Jose
Colello, Joseph
Conway, John
Cybulski, Stella
Dubovik, Diane C.
Ertl, Robert
Fleming, Carl
Fortson, Josephine
Gaud, Ramonita
Gaudio, Rita
Grady, Rayford
Grady, Yvonne
Greenblatt, Robert
Haddad, Elaine
Hennessey, Gail
Holmes, Barbara
Howard, James
Joaquim, Mary
Kennedy, Jessie
Lagan, Irene

Lewin, Michael
Lockwood, Eleanor
Lucia, Joseph
Luh, Peter
Mccue, Martin
Mcguinness, Paul
Milesi, Robert
Moulton, Carol
Murphy, Miriam
O'neil, Peter
Oldershaw, Mary
Orlowski, Mark
Ottiano, Robert
Pacenti, Gail
Palumbo, Joan
Ropiak, Michael
Ross, Gretchen
Serrano, Miguel
Sharifuddin, Dawud
Smith, Carol
Strittmatter, Philipp
Tedford, Kenneth
Thankappan, Kunjathan
Tyson, Nellie
West, James



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 WoodwardPresident
- Beverly LeeSecretary/Treasurer
- David GliddenExecutive Director
- Drew E. StonerCommunication Specialist
- Jason P. WebsterGraphic/ 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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SATURDAY, MAY 6TH 12:00PM

GOVERNOR'S MANSION
990 PROSPECT AVE HARTFORD

Don't forget to get your professional headshot (and other fun photos), some good food and your swag bag at the Union Hall too!

CSEA Union Hall
760 Capitol Ave.
Hartford
10:00AM-11:30AM
1:00PM-3:00PM



QUESTIONS? DREW STONER | 508-404-7515 |

Get Involved!

There's No Union Without "U!"

The legislative session is heating up and as you may know, Connecticut is facing a multibillion-dollar surplus and a crisis of unmet need - but the budget spending cap is threatening to block progress. Working families are tired. We cannot wait another year for these critical investments. CSEA members and our allies in SEBAC, the Para Coalition, the Childcare Coalition and Recovery For All are all coming together to ensure that the General Assembly hears our demands for a more equitable Connecticut. From fighting for a living wage and healthcare for paraeducators and childcare providers to demanding solutions to the chronic short staffing in our state agencies and everywhere in between. CSEA members have big fights and we must show up to build the momentum we need to be

successful.

Your support in battling harmful cuts and lack of public investment is critical. We need you to join us for two key rallies in May: Saturday, May 6th at the CSEA Union Hall (shuttles will be available to bring you to the Governor's Mansion for 12PM) and Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00PM at the State Capitol. On Saturday, May 6th, CSEA will have a professional production team at the union hall to take your headshots between 10-11:30AM and 1:00PM-4:00PM and to get professional video of you and your co-workers. Be sure to register to secure your swag bag (full of tshirts, megaphones, buttons and more!) by scanning the QR code on the flyer. Connecticut has the resources to help build a more equitable future, and this can only be done with your help.

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 2023 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 to-

wards 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 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/CSEA-WebsiteInput (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).

EQUITY CAN'T WAIT RALLY FOR A MORAL BUDGET

**WEDNESDAY
MAY 17, 2023**

**REGISTER ASAP
bit.ly/may17-rally**

**6PM
TO 7PM**



**TAKE ACTION NOW, CALL ON
LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT A MORAL
BUDGET THAT MEETS PEOPLE'S NEEDS**

**RECOVERY
FOR ALL**

**CT STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD CT**

Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

Fight for Healthcare Continues for Childcare Providers

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do not have childcare, they cannot be participatory in our workforce, and in most cases

put, when families do not have childcare, they cannot be participatory in our workforce, and in most cases this results in a mass exodus of women leaving the workforce. Care4Kids is an aspirational state-funded program targeted at the childcare costs for low-to-moderate income



families through a partnership with the State, families in the program and providers (as well as the federal monies that cover about 85% of the program costs). The Care4Kids workforce is predominantly women of color and this program offers them an opportunity to work when they may not otherwise be able to due to their own childcare needs.

Unfortunately, providers receive \$0 in healthcare benefits, despite working in a state-funded program, and with an effective hourly rate of just \$8.50, this often means providers are going without the necessary medical care.

You can help by scanning the QR

code and taking 3 clicks to send an email to Governor Lamont to demand a contract that addresses their healthcare, wage and retirement concerns.



ABOVE: Over 100 people rallied in front of the Governor's Mansion to demand healthcare for Care4Kids providers.



ABOVE: Katherine posed in front of the President's podium before he came out to sign the Executive Order.

Childcare Council President Goes to Washington, D.C.

Katherine Lantigua Attends President Biden's Signing of the Executive Order Supporting Childcare

Childcare Council President, Katherine Lantigua, was invited by SEIU to attend the Care Workers Can't Wait Summit in Washington, D.C. During her time there President Joe Biden declared April #CareWorkersRecognitionMonth and Katherine was lucky enough to attend the signing of President Biden's Executive Order. During his second State of the Union address, President Biden renewed his commitment to investing in our families and our ability to care for one another. This is a vital step towards creating a stronger care economy.

As CSEA members know, care workers are doing the often invisible work that keeps this country running, and we're so

excited to celebrate that work this coming month alongside the White House!

But back at home Governor Ned Lamont has not responded to the childcare crisis. Katherine is one of 4,000 childcare providers without healthcare from their employer, despite working full time for the Care4Kids state funded program.

Together, let's rise as a union and fight for the compensation and benefits care workers need to support themselves and their work. Care workers are pillars in our economy and in our lives and this recognition is long overdue!

Honoring Ms. Linda Afrazi's 35 years of Service to HRA Head Start, New Britain & CSEA!



ABOVE: Ms. Linda Afrazi celebrates her last day with the children and staff she has been working with over the last several years.

Ms. Linda Afrazi celebrated her last day at work at HRA after 35 Years of dedicated service to young children in New Britain. Since 1987, Ms. Linda has been teaching in the Head Start program for children ages 3-5 helping to shape young minds and nurturing children's growth and development.

She leaves a legacy of hard work and commitment to New Britain's children that will be hard to match!

In addition to being a wonderful teacher, Linda has been a strong union leader too. For

many years, she served as the president of her CSEA chapter and has constantly led members in the fight for fair treatment and fair union contracts. We salute you Linda Afrazi and we thank you for your dedication to children and to your union co-workers.

Let us all wish Ms. Linda a heartfelt congratulations on all the hard work she put in leading up to this retirement.

Your CSEA family thanks you for your 35 years of service and wishes you a happy retirement!

Update of the 2023 Legislative Session

The Time is Now to Contact Your Legislators!

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paraprofessionals is a direct result of the ongoing pressure campaign that our members have been waging at the State Capitol. From emails and calls to legislators, to sharing social media posts and attending press conferences and rallies, to testifying and submitting op-eds to local news sources, members have been raising their collective voices to demand more from our elected leaders.

Throughout the month of May, CSEA members will be rallying with our allies to turn up the heat on decision makers. Don't miss two important rallies on Saturday, May 6th at 12:00PM at the Governor's Mansion (shuttles, swag bags, headshots

and more available at the Union Hall starting at 10AM) and Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00PM at the State Capitol. If you have any questions, please contact Drew Stoner at DStoner@csea760.com or 508-404-7515.

Below is an update from Daniel Medress on several pieces of legislation that CSEA members are pushing at the Capitol:

School Paraeducator Advisory Council Legislative Proposal:

House Bill 6881: AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES RELATED TO EDUCATOR COMPENSATION AND PARAEDUCATORS was

not called for a vote in the Appropriations Committee prior to the committee's Joint Favorable deadline. While this is frustrating, lobbyists have been having positive conversations with House and Senate leadership and the Governor's office about passing significant paraeducator legislation this session.

As a reminder, none of the legislative progress made over the past several sessions happened as a result of a bill being introduced and making it to the Governor's desk. But rather, because ideas in bills that died were placed into other pieces of legislation that were ultimately signed into law.

Paid Sick Days Expansion:

Senate Bill 1178: AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT PAID SICK DAYS is on the Senate calendar awaiting further action.

State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB)

Senate Bill 1223: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD is on the Senate calendar awaiting further action.

FOIA Address Exemption Bill.

Senate Bill 1157: AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AGENCIES is on the Senate calendar awaiting further action.



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“There is no question that our schools are in crisis. Our students are in crisis. Our paraeducators are in crisis. The fight for adequate staffing and a living wage for paraeducators is far from over. We will no longer be overlooked.”

“There is also no question that H.B. 6881 is part of the solution we need in order to address the 1,300 paraeducator vacancies statewide - a staffing shortage that is directly impacting the learning outcomes of our children.

“Finally, there is no question that Connecticut can afford it. We have a historic surplus in the billions and the political handcuffs that is the constitutional spending cap should not prevent us from making the necessary investments we need for our students.”

ABOVE: Cynthia Ross-Zweig, Para Council President, released the following statement following the news of the Appropriations Committee failing to pass HB6881 out of committee.

Early Voting Implementation and No-Excuse Absentee Voting Constitutional Amendment.

House Bill 5004: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING, Senate Bill 1057: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE AND EARLY VOTING, Senate Bill 1064: AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY VOTING, Senate Joint Resolution No. 29: RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING, and House Joint Resolution No. 1: RESOLUTION APPROVING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING are on the calendars in their respective chambers and are awaiting further action.

Collective Bargaining Rights for Probate Court Workers.

Senate Bill 912: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUS OF PROBATE COURT SYSTEM EMPLOYEES is on the Senate calendar awaiting further action.

Pandemic Pay Look-Up Tool Portal for SEBAC Members

Check to see how much you can expect to receive!

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Retirees who worked during the covered period, should see payment no later than December 29, 2023. Please be sure to review your pandemic pay well in advance of this date since it is more efficient to make corrections in advance of paychecks being issued.

Scan this QR code for the link to the Pandemic Pay Loop-up Portal for State Employees on the Office of State Comptroller website.



**In the News:
Win Heimer,
Council 400
Chapter 401**

The following letter to the editor was published in the Hartford Courant on Saturday, April 22nd:

As executive director of the Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans, I write on behalf of the 50,000 members of the CT Alliance. We are in strong support of 14-day early voting as presented in General Assembly Committee Bill 5004.


According to the National Alliance for Retired Americans, early ballots accounted for 41.3 percent of primary ballots last year, up 2 percentage points from 2006. In all, up to 70 percent of voters nationally have some access to early voting under state laws that permit voters to cast ballots before Election Day for any reason.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, four states — Alabama, Connecticut, Mississippi, and New Hampshire — do not offer pre-Election Day in-person voting options for all voters.

Connecticut has some of the most restrictive voter laws in the nation and, unlike many of its neighbors in New England, has been slow to adopt changes designed to make voting easier, particularly for working people, the elderly and communities of color. It's high time that we leave the company of Alabama, Mississippi and New Hampshire and join the 46 states that have allowed early voting. We strongly urge support of Committee Bill 5004.

Win Heimer, West Hartford (Council 400 Chapter 401).

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- ◆ Dinner Cruise on Beautiful Lake Champlain with Entertainment
- ◆ Admission to Shelburne Museum
- ◆ Visit to Cold Hollow Cider Mill
- ◆ Tour of Rock of Ages Granite Quarry
- ◆ Visit to The Vermont Country Store

and much more

\$455*

3 Days 2 Nights

*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY


(Tue - Thu)
Jul 18 - 20
2023

Departure: Commuter Lot, Exit 38 off of I-91, Windsor, CT@8 am


Day 1: Board your spacious, video and restroom equipped Motorcoach and set off for beautiful Vermont! This afternoon, you'll visit the Shelburne Museum. NOT your typical museum, this OUTDOOR museum spans 45 acres with 39 antique buildings. It has a collection of 150,000 items including circus pieces, toys, carriages, vehicles, furniture, and more. The buildings are arranged to welcome visitors and tell informal stories. The buildings include houses, a schoolhouse, a jail, lighthouse, railroad station, barns, and 220 foot steamboat. This evening, enjoy a scenic Dinner Cruise on beautiful Lake Champlain, complete with entertainment and dance floor. Then check into your hotel for a two night stay.

Day 2: Today, you'll have a Continental Breakfast followed by a Guided Tour of the spectacular Rock of Ages Granite Quarry - the world's largest granite quarry. The scenery at this attraction is stunning! At the Craftsmen Center, you will watch talented sculptors transform granite into lifelike statuary. Then visit Montpelier, the State Capitol of Vermont. Upon arrival, you'll enjoy a visit to the Vermont History Museum. This afternoon you'll enjoy a fun tour of the Morse Farm Sugar Works. With operations dating back 200 years and spanning eight generations, see how real Vermont Maple Syrup is made from the tree to your table. Your visit also includes its "Sugar on Snow" experience! This evening you'll enjoy a dinner.


Day 3: After enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you'll take a scenic drive to the Cold Hollow Cider Mill, one of the leading New England producers of fresh apple cider. Today, the mill produces more than one million gallons of cider every year. Later, you will enjoy a visit to The Vermont Country Store for some free time and shopping. Then, you'll depart for home... a time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you've done and where your next group trip will take you.




Rock of Ages Granite Quarry



Dinner Cruise on beautiful Lake Champlain



COLD HOLLOW CIDER MILL
Cold-Hollow Cider Mill




Beautiful Vermont Scenery

ADD PEACE OF MIND TO YOUR TRIP...
With Diamond Tours Exclusive Travel Confident Protection Plan. See separate advertisement...

\$75 Due Upon Signing. *Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$140 for single occupancy. Final Payment Due: 5/12/2023

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Stu Clark @ (860) 205-0657



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WM

Tour#: 1995227

**CUT OFF & SUBMIT THIS
REGISTRATION FORM TO ATTEND**

CSEA COUNCIL 400 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
REGISTRATION FORM

BUS TOUR: BEAUTIFUL VERMONT JULY 18 20, 2023
\$455.00 pp/do

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CSEA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
C/O MS. FRANCES PAQUIN
29 SCARBOROUGH RD.
WINDHAM, CONNECTICUT 06280

CSEA Good Works Committee Seeking Donations for 2023!

The CSEA SEIU Local 2001 Good Works Committee is accepting donations! It is always a good time to do good work for our members! If you are able to contribute to help fellow members, you can make a check to GOOD WORKS COMMITTEE and send it to CSEA, 760 Capitol

Ave., Hartford, CT 06106. The Good Works Committee has provided Thanksgiving meals to thousands of members over the years, as well as support to students in need of school supplies and snacks. Please consider making a donation to this great cause!

Who is Council 400? By: Kevin Sullivan, Retiree Organizer

With so many State of Connecticut employees retiring, we have been getting a lot of questions! Two of the most common questions are: "Who is Council 400?" and "Why do I need a union once I am retired?" As the Council 400 Retiree Organizer, I thought it would be appropriate to answer these questions!

Council 400 is a CSEA council made up of approximately 12,000 retired State of Connecticut Employees. They could have worked for any State Agency or been a member of any union. Some members were never even given the opportunity to join a union until they retired! Whether they worked as a behavioral specialist at one of our training schools, community college employee, an engineer at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, a member of the Connecticut Leg-

islature, or any other position with the State - they are eligible to join Council 400. And many of them do!

So, why do retired people need a union? A union is much more than an insurance policy that keeps you from getting unnecessarily disciplined at work. A union is a collection of members who work together to accomplish a common goal. In our case, Council 400 holds regular meetings at each of our 27 different chapters, we have social activities, and a variety of committees. Our members attend rallies, testify on legislation, write letters and make phone calls - they fight to protect the retirement benefits you have worked so hard to earn!

We keep our Council 400 members notified of changes to the healthcare plan, legislative alerts, committee opportunities, social

events, etc. through our CSEA News, email updates, and our chapter meetings.

Members of Council 400 also gain access to our retiree team. We help with insurance or prescription issues and have direct access to agents at Aetna, Anthem and Cigna and can help resolve issues quickly. Our members have worked all over the State, in hundreds of different positions and agencies, under different union contracts. But they are all united under CSEA's Council 400. As our Council 400 members often say, "We are retired AND we are active!"

Council 400 union membership dues are only \$5 per month and may be taken directly out of your pension check - if you'd like. Stay active, stay informed, stay with CSEA & Council 400!

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