

Sharing Our Values

UCONN Coach Jim Calhoun Stands with Us at Autism Advocacy Day



Members Joined by Friends, Family, and Clients to Stand for Quality Public Services for Autism with UCONN Basketball Coach Jim Calhoun

It was standing room-only in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol as our members were joined by families, community advocates, legislators, and UCONN Men's Basketball Coach Jim Calhoun. Reporters, photojournalists, and camera operators squeezed their way in to cover General Assembly Speaker Jim Amman's press conference to declare Wednesday, April 11, 2007 Autism Advocacy Day in Connecticut!

Coach Calhoun is lending his voice to our members' call for creation of a new public agency to serve children and adults with autism spectrum disorders. "To mobilize the public and legislators, having a famous messenger certainly helps" P-3B Council Member Joe Stachowiak observed of the flurry of media interest in Coach Calhoun's appearance at the event.

Our members opened the day's events with a legislative breakfast to honor community advocates and elected officials



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Responding to Our Opponents

Issue is Corporate Greed



Mark Lucey
 Correctional Lieutenant,
 CT Dept of Correction
 Vice-President,
 CSC Council

(Editor's note: this Letter was submitted to the Opinion Editor of the Journal Inquirer and published in their April 16 edition.)

Opponents of working families are at it again. The barrage of negative radio ads leading up to the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act in the U.S. House of Representatives is back now that the Senate is deliberating the legislation. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is launching another deceptive and misleading campaign to defeat the bill, which would protect the rights of workers to have a voice in workplaces across the country.

Most workers want a say when it comes to their working conditions, economic security, and retirement. But, in most workplaces, workers don't have a real voice because of censorship, intimidation, and fear of retaliation by employers.

The days of "Pinkertons" showing up on job sites and beating workers with axe handles - common a century ago - no longer exists. However, in some workplaces even mentioning the word "union" can get you a less desirable job assignment, a shift reassignment, or even fired. Just ask health-care workers who have been persecuted by Yale/New Haven Hospital management if there are barriers to workers uniting for a voice on the job. Clearly, the current system is broken and is in need of an upgrade.

U.S. Chamber Vice President of Labor, Immigration and Employee Benefits Randel Johnson wrote a letter to the Senate Committee hearing testimony on the bill. Among other false charges, Johnson claims that passage of the bill would force employers to "impose terms and work conditions which could

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

Council 400 Retiree Chapters' Meetings & Events



This information will also be posted at our website's "Events Calendar," at www.csea-ct.com/calendar. Logon and select the date and the meeting for further details, such as guest speaker, and the time, location, and Chapter's contact information.

COUNCIL 400 Delegates Meeting, Thursday, May 17, 10:00 a.m., CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Contact: Ed Daly at (860) 871-9482.

CHAPTER 401, Hartford area, Thursday, May 3 (PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE), 1:00 p.m. (light lunch served at 12:00 p.m.), CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Program: Retiree Health Fair (tentative, awaiting confirmation from the Comptroller's Office at press time -- see page #9 of this edition for more details). Contact: Katherine Goulet at (860) 675-4053.

CHAPTER 402, Danbury area, Wednesday, May 9, 10:00 a.m., United Methodist Church, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury. Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Contact: Dawn Gallagher at (203) 748-2018.

CHAPTER 403, Norwich area, Tuesday, May 8, 1:30 p.m. (meeting room not available until 1:00, refreshments prior to meeting), Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Dr., Norwich. Reservations for June 19 luncheon accepted (see page #10 of this edition) Program: Retiree Health Fair (see page #9 of this edition for more details). Contact: Norman Coutu at (860) 886-5937.

CHAPTER 404, Waterbury area, Tuesday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. (social, meeting follows), Elks Club, 758 Rubber Ave., Naugatuck. Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Contact: Armand Rosanelli at (203) 758-5122.

CHAPTER 405, New Haven area, Wednesday, May 9, 12:30 p.m. (social, meeting follows at 1:00 p.m.), American Legion, 20 Church Street, North Haven (PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE), Program: Retiree Health Fair (see page #9 of this edition for more details). Contact: Andy Gambardella at (203) 468-7376.

CHAPTER 406, Middletown area, Tuesday, May 8, 1:00 p.m., (social, meeting at 1:30 p.m.), American Legion Post 75, 58 Bernie O'Rouke Dr., Middletown. Speaker: Middlesex Community College Director of Academic Support Services Irod Lee on "For Seniors...It's Free." Door prizes. Members asked to donate non-perishable or canned food for local Amazing Grace Food Bank. Contact Elizabeth Harvey at (860) 917-3740.

CHAPTER 407, Bridgeport area, Wednesday, May 16; 12:15 p.m. (social, meeting at 1:00 p.m.), St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church, 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford (on Rt. 113 toward Sikorsky Airport). Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Contact: Celeste McGrath at (203) 378-4576.

CHAPTER 408, Willimantic area, Wednesday, May 9; 1:00 p.m. (coffee social, meeting at 1:30 p.m.), McSweeney Regional Senior Center, 47 Crescent St., Willimantic. Meeting open to the public. Program: Reservations for June 20 luncheon accepted (see page #10 of this edition), and election of Vice President and Treasurer. Contact: Donna Linkkila at (860) 455-0883.

CHAPTER 410, Windsor Locks area, Monday, May 14, 1:00 p.m., VFW Post 6123, 40 Fairview St., Windsor Locks. Speaker: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Education Coordinator David McCluskey on legislative session update and Retiree Health Fair (see page #9 of this edition for more details). Contact: Elaine Colson at (860) 623-8704.

CHAPTER 411, Rocky Hill area, Thursday, May 10, 1:00 p.m. (social follows meeting), William J. Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Speaker: CT Dept of Emergency Services representative on "homeland security in Connecticut." Contact: Florence Egan at (860) 666-0382.

CHAPTER 412, Putnam area, Tuesday, May 15, 1:30 p.m. (social follows meeting), Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., Putnam. Speaker: 51st district State Rep. Shawn Johnston on the current legislative session (tentative, and if unable to attend, CT Visiting Nurses Association representative Pat Bollinger on "in-home services for seniors"). Refreshments, door prizes. Meeting open to the public. Contact: Don Gladding at (860) 564-9092.

CHAPTER 414, Torrington area, Monday, May 21, 10:00 a.m., UCONN Torrington Agriculture Building, 855 University Dr., Torrington. Speaker: Reike Practitioner Reflexologist Reflexologist Beverly Goslee on "seniors' muscular health." Contact: Karen Pineman at (860) 354-6727.

CHAPTER 415, Manchester area, MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO HOLIDAY.

CHAPTER 416, New London area, Tuesday, May 8; 12:00 p.m. (refreshments, business meeting at 12:30 p.m., program at 1:15 p.m.), Waterford Public Library, 49 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford. Speaker: Waterford Police Dept. Detective John A. Davis "Identity Theft." Meeting open to the public. Contact: Les Shapiro at (860) 442-5256.

CHAPTER 417, Plainville area, Wednesday, May 9, 1:00 p.m. (social, meeting follows), Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church, 115 West Main St., Plainville. Speaker: Connecticut Center For Healthy Aging representative on "seniors and Depression." Contact: Nicholas D'Emanuelle at (860) 628-6675.

CHAPTER 418/4Cs, Thursday, May 10, 10:00 a.m., Congress of CT Community Colleges, 907 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford. Refreshments. Speaker: Council 400 Membership Committee Co-Chair Donna Linkkila on "membership recruitment." Contact: Aldo Sicuso at (860) 346-3550.

Attention
Chapter Secretaries and Program
Coordinators:
The deadline for submitting June meeting
information is Monday, May 14.

Our Actions...in Brief

Members' Current Issues, Meetings, & Events

» **Council 400 Members are Organizing:** While Retiree Coordinator Hollis Block is out on disability recovering from surgery, Lead Organizer Eda diBiccari will be working with our members in Council 400. As Council Membership Committee Co-Chair Donna Linkkila announced at the April Delegates meeting, "we are fortunate to be able to tap into Eda's organizing experience at a time when we need to grow!" She will be reaching out to many of us in the weeks ahead to apply the strategies developed in the focus groups we have held to increase membership recruitment. Eda can be reached at the Local hall at (800) 894-9479, extension 141.



(Look for the Arrows Symbol » throughout this edition for more "Actions...In Brief")

» **Rally for Universal Health Care:** Bring the kids for this free event and deliver an important message; fixing our state's broken health care system is priceless!

*Join In on the Fun with Thousands
of Union Members and their Families
at Bushnell Park on May 5th!*



★ *Members-only prize give-away*
★ *Free rides on the Bushnell Carousel*
★ *Face painting*
★ *Live outdoor music and dancing*
★ *Food available for sale*

Come to our union hall in Hartford at 760 Capitol Ave. and we'll shuttle you to the rally site at Bushnell Park at 11:00 a.m. sharp. Go to our website at www.csea-ct.com/action/our_issues.cfm or call your union staff rep at (800) 894-9479, to sign-up to join us for this historic event!

Taking Our Message Direct to Hartford!

Members Call for Action at Labor Lobby Day



Our Members Were Joined by Hundreds of Connecticut Union Members in the Legislative Office Building on April 18

Our elected representatives have heard our voices over the past four months because we have actively participated in public hearings, in legislative forums, and in numerous one-on-one visits. We turned up the volume even further when dozens of our members descended on the Capitol on April 18 for Labor Lobby Day.

One of the primary motivators drawing our members from Fairfield, Thompson, Mansfield, New London, Tolland, Plainfield, New Haven, Cheshire, Willimantic, Baltic, and all points in between was the opportunity to join forces with the Labor for Universal Health Care coalition. Hundreds of additional public and private sector workers came to the Capitol to ask legislators where they stand on reforming our broken health care system!



General Assembly House Majority Leader Chris Donovan Joined by Legislators and Union Members at the Labor for Universal Health Care Press Conference

Several of our members shared their personal stories of how the health care crisis has impacted their lives with the news media during a press conference the coalition held to announce the day's events.



Council 760 Member Evelyn Vega Shares Her Belief that the Value of Universal Health Care Would be "Priceless" at the Press Conference

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Our President's Desk

Things Taken for Granted



Michael J. O'Brien
Supervising Sanitary Engineer, Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection
CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Executive Council President

We all take certain things that we have for granted. Late last week my wife and I moved in to our new home. Our only problem was that we had no heat because the furnace "black box" controller caused an electrical short and the circuit breaker to "kick out." A new one had to be ordered and would not arrive for several days.

No big deal. It wasn't going to be cold over that weekend. We used a portable electric space heater to keep the room we slept in nice and warm.

That worked well until the power went out that Sunday night when a spring Nor'easter hit. No power for almost 24 hours. The part to fix the furnace couldn't be installed because we needed electricity to run and test it. We complain

about the high utility rates but we take the convenience for granted!

I decided that I really didn't have much to complain about after hearing the true stories from some of our members who testified about their personal health problems at the Labor for Universal Health Care press conference you can read about in the article that begins on this same page.

I have been blessed with generally good health. Contributing to my good health has been my good employer-provided health insurance coverage. That's what allows me to take preventive measures to stay healthy or nip an illness in the bud.

I have good health care. Speaker Amann has good health care. Senator DeLuca has good health care. OPM Secretary Genuario has good health care. Governor Rell has good health care. President Bush and Vice-President Cheney have good health care.

Why shouldn't all of us -- the uninsured and the underinsured -- have this same right?

There are many pets (including my own) in this country who are provided preventive health care. Responsible pet owners,

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400 LAC ACTION

Council 400 Legislative Action Committee (LAC)

Reports from the Health Care Reform Front



Irv Schwartz

Co-Chair, Council 400 LAC
Member, Chapter 405



Al Tee

Member, Council 400 LAC
Member, Chapter 411



Stu Fishbone

Member, Council 400 LAC
Member, Chapter 416

As you know, the U.S. Center for Disease Control acts as a watchdog for our nation's health. They report that 80 percent of Americans 65 and older have at least one chronic disease that could lead to premature death and disability.

By the year 2030, 71 million Americans will be over 65, accounting for 20 percent of the U.S. population. That is why wellness and prevention programs are so very important. Smoking, poor diet, and physical inactivity caused about 35 percent of U.S. deaths in 2000. Those three behaviors often lead to the development of the nation's leading chronic diseases: heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. Health screenings showed that seniors in Hawaii ranked best in overall health and had the lowest percent of obesity. West Virginia ranked worst in overall health (ARA [Friday Alert](#), March 16, 2007).

It is business as usual in the White House as it disagrees with a major Health Care Report given to the US Senate by the Citizen's Health Care Working Group. After hearing from 6,500 people at 84 meetings, the Group urged creation of an independent, nonpartisan group to select certain guaranteed benefits for everyone. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt said, "The group chose an approach based on mandates and government intervention rather than an approach emphasizing consumer choice and options (ARA [Friday Alert](#), March 16, 2007)."

Be prepared to pay out more for your Medicare due to means testing. The dollar amount of the increase in Medicare premiums can go higher than the level of Social Security cost-of-living adjustments. That gap gets smaller and smaller so that eventually Medicare premiums will catch up to the Social Security increases, and perhaps even surpass them because means testing does not provide for any cap at inflation. In 12 years, your cost-of-living adjustment in Social Security may be wiped out by Part B premiums. In the past five years, Social Security cost-of-living adjustments have increased less than 14 percent, whereas Medicare Part B premiums have jumped 60 percent. (J. Stewart, [Costlier Medicare](#), *Hartford Courant*, Jan. 28, 2007)

Fortunately, for those of us who are retired from State service, Medicare Part B premiums are covered by our current retiree health insurance program. All the more reason for us to remain active in Council 400 and stay engaged in efforts to protect our

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Quality Services that Make Fiscal Sense

School Is Serving Its Purpose



Paula Dillon

State School Teacher,
CT Dept. of Children and
Families,
Chief Steward, P-3B Council



Darlene Guthrie

Youth Services Officer,
CT Dept. of Children and
Families,
Member, AFSCME Council 4

(Editor's note: this Opinion-Editorial was submitted to the Board of the Hartford Courant and published in as a Letter to the Editor in their April 7 edition)

There's no shortage of concern for what the future holds when it comes to providing safe and secure residential programming for adjudicated youths.

As front-line juvenile justice workers, we work with adjudicated children every day. We believe the state should increase and improve job training, support services and transitional programming to keep these children safe and help them succeed when they return to their communities. This is preferable to spending scarce state dollars building more facilities.

The Connecticut Juvenile Training School in Middletown has been vastly improved and is serving its intended purpose.

The plan that was proposed to close CJTS and open three or four new, smaller facilities has already run into trouble. Municipal leaders oppose siting them in their cities. And it will cost taxpayers tens of millions of bond-fund dollars to build them.



With healthy criticism by front-line workers, CJTS is improving. Vocational programs are now being emphasized, management is listening to workers with experience. Many things still need to improve. Staffing needs to match the population, programmatic commitments must be kept and effective transition for kids must be mandatory. We agree that the \$57 million facility, built by the administration of former Gov. John G. Rowland in a corrupt deal with a construction company owned by the Tomasso family, was the result of a monumental public policy failure. Our unions forewarned this failure, but nobody listened.

However, those who assume that the current facility should not be part of the solution are wrong. CJTS provides a good base for the adjudicated young men who are placed there.

If the state wisely decides to transfer 16- and 17-year-olds from the adult criminal system into the juvenile justice system, more safe and secure beds will be needed to provide programming, education and vocational training. We should plan for safe and secure state-run facilities instead of converting a needed and now-functioning school into office space.

Congratulations to the members of Connecticut's General Assembly for not overreacting to the governor's announcement that CJTS must be closed. They are acting with community, fiscal and programmatic responsibility.

Paraprofessionals Speak Out

On the Front Lines of the Growing Autism Crisis



Anne Kellner
Paraprofessional,
Thompson Bd of Education
President, Chapter 155,
Council 760

(Editor's note: this Opinion-Editorial was submitted to the Opinion Editor of the Hartford Courant and published in their March 24 edition)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released findings last month showing the number of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders has risen dramatically in recent years, to one in 150. Working as a public school paraprofessional in Thompson, I know firsthand that local boards of education across Connecticut are challenged to invest in critically needed resources for workers like me on the front lines of this emerging crisis.

During my 17-year tenure, I have worked with several students with diagnoses on the autism spectrum. Working together with thousands of school paraprofessionals in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, we are supporting new legislation that would provide local districts

access to resources for providing additional training needed to serve children with autism.

The General Assembly is proposing a plan to develop a new autism-specific agency to provide families the best care and education possible by professionalizing the autism service workforce. When I was first assigned to work with a child with autism, my training was far from adequate. Many school systems do not have access to resources for the training we need. I learned a lot on my own and am fortunate that working with different students comes easy for me. Unfortunately, this is not the case for some. State-funded in-service training for working with special-needs students is especially critical for our newer paraprofessionals.

I believe we also need to develop quality services for families of adults with autism spectrum disorders. As students get older, parents face continuing challenges. With too few scattered resources available, parents and their adult children with these disorders fall too easily through the cracks.

It's not enough to go through the motions and pass special-needs students without preparing them to contribute back to our communities. We must be able to provide permanent, seamless education and development services, which would allow adults with autism to gain independent living skills and lift the burden on their families.

»» We Brought United Health Care to the

Table: Following a three-week whirlwind tour of our seven Florida Chapters, Council 400 Membership Committee Co-Chair Nancy Driscoll brought representatives of the State Retirement Division and United Health Care Dental to the table to discuss concerns with the current retiree plan. Nancy shared stories of delayed reimbursements, lack of access to local dentists, and poor customer service on simple matters such as requesting directories. Nancy, along with Council 400 President Ed Daly and Union Coordinator Hollis Block, developed a proactive plan of action. United Dental has begun reaching out to our members in Florida to discuss how best to improve the level of service they offer!



»» **Our Paraprofessionals Mobilized:** Members working as paraeducators from all over the state came together for regional meetings on Saturday, March 31 to review the progress of our plan to raise economic standards for all paraprofessionals! Several members who had testified and submitted written statements in public hearings at the Capitol on legislation impacting paras shared their experiences, and prepared for organizing more members to urge their legislators to make needed improvements before the bill was passed. Our members' voices were heard, and at press time, the Appropriations Committee had voted to remove costly credentialing requirements, as well as to provide for future professional development. The legislation is a "work in progress," and because it falls short on upgrading the status of our paraeducators, we must continue building for the next steps!



Members Defining Ourselves

Media Should Focus on Political Appointees, Not State Employees



John Fasolo
Property Agent 3,
CT Dept. of Transportation
Member, Chapter 224,
P-4 Council

(Editor's note: this Letter was submitted to the Editor of the New Britain Herald and was published in their April 3 edition)

The Governor's shifting of numerous State agency commissioners over the past four months should have been an opportunity to bring public attention to a system of political patronage that is used to reward top-level State administrators. Instead, the majority of news reports since the Governor's request for the resignation of all agency heads in December have focused on the salary and retirement health coverage of civil servants.

The pension and retiree health care protections at the center of much of recent reporting were negotiated by and for rank-and-file

public service workers and their families.

During the past two decades of my public service career with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and my active membership in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, I have benefited from the negotiations between the state and its organized workforce.

I believe the gains I have realized are essential for the stabilization of Connecticut's unstable middle class, and should be the standard that all workers in our state have the opportunity to achieve.

Unionized public service employees have had a positive impact on delivering vital services to our citizens, and we strive to further improve our proven cost-effective performance for all taxpayers.

Instead of inviting criticism of the economic standards that should be available to all workers, news reporters and their editors should be asking questions about the qualifications of the Governor's nominees to head the agencies to which they are appointed.

If the reward of health care in retirement is the primary reason a political patron is chosen to head a public services agency, then the real problem is a broken appointment process.

Sharing Our Values...

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supporting two legislative proposals we are backing. The first of the bills, which would expand a pilot program for home and community-based individualized support services for adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), received a joint favorable vote in the Human Services Committee in late-March.

We received positive news the week before Autism Advocacy Day, when the Government Administration and Election Committee voted favorably on the second bill, sending it to the Legislative Commissioners' Office for the next critical phase. Both bills have been included in the Appropriations Committee budget for the State that was voted out of Committee on April 12.

"Our objective is to move lawmakers to recognize that we can provide critical services that would reduce the costs of incomplete and poor quality care for those affected" Secretary-Treasurer Patrice Peterson observed of our members' efforts. "And we want the public to know we are on the front line of the autism crisis, committed to providing families with ASD seamless, permanent services, beginning with early diagnosis, and through childhood and adulthood" she continued in comments for a press release we issued in March.



Following the breakfast, Speaker Amman opened the press conference, and was joined at the podium by Senator Judith Freedman, and Representatives Cathy Abercrombie and Chris Donovan, who each pledged their support for both legislative initiatives. Dozens of additional members of the General Assembly stood behind Amman and the other speakers throughout the event.



Reporters and Cameras Packed the Room for Speaker Jim Amman's Autism Advocacy Day Press Conference

Autism community advocates from all over the state joined us for the day's events. Speaking during the press conference, Lois Rosenwald, Co-Director of the Connecticut Autism Spectrum Resource Center, shared her hopes for the many underserved families her organization reaches out to every day. "I know the tremendous sense of relief families will feel when services are finally in place" she said of the prospects for passing both bills in the current session.



New Britain Board of Education Member Sharon Beloin-Saavedra Shares His Families Story During the Speaker's Autism Advocacy Day Press Conference

The most emotional moments of the press conference came when Sharon Beloin-Saavedra, who serves on the New Britain Board of Education, shared her families' struggle raising two children with ASD. "There are two experiences in my life that have redefined who I am as a person. That first was when I gave birth to my children, and all the hope and joy, and dreams, that being a parent brings" she said, smiling. "The second most important experience that I had in my life was the day that dream died" she said of learning the first of her two children had been diagnosed with autism.

"I have two children with autism, and I also serve on a local school board, so I have seen both sides of the battle for adequate resources and quality services," Beloin-Saavedra said of the service crisis in Connecticut. "Families and advocates are already fragmented and there shouldn't be a competition for the education and development our children need to succeed" she continued.

The crowd rose to their feet as Beloin-Saavedra thanked our members for their tireless advocacy for families with autism. She went on to thank the legislators who had pledged to support the initiatives we are advocating.

Coach Calhoun took the podium and shared his family's experiences, which lead to his decision to begin speaking out for improved services for children and adults with autism. He has two grandchildren with ASD, including 4-year old Reese, who was placed in the Coach's arms as he spoke.



UCONN Basketball Coach Jim Calhoun with Granddaughter Reese Calls on State Lawmakers to Pass Legislation Improve Services for Families with Autism

"This is going to be a tough fight" Calhoun told the crowd in the packed Old Judiciary Room. "And we're going to win!" he announced, bringing everyone to their feet in cheers and applause.

»» West Hartford Town Workers are Stronger Together:

Members in six bargaining units have joined forces for greater strength and unity in contract negotiations with the Town of West Hartford. A joint Bargaining Team of sixteen members was elected and began meeting in February to develop a plan for winning on our members' priority issues. "We're focused on negotiating fair, equitable wage increases, and believe we can protect our current standard of health care" Town Public Works employee and President of the combined Bargaining Team Steve Schunder said as meetings with Town representatives began in March. An update on contract talks will be included in the June edition of the CSEA News.





**P-3B Council President Bob Adriani
Sharing Our Hopes for Improving
Education and Development Services on
Camera**

Our members delivered our "Quality Services for Autism" message throughout the morning of the event, speaking with the press who had been drawn to cover the issue and Coach Calhoun. In what Capitol observers described as the "most reporters they had seen crammed in a room since Rowland announced his resignation," our call to action was carried by dozens of print, radio, television, and Internet news sources.

Members have driven much of the media interest in services for autism with several high profile media appearances over the past month. Council 760 member Kim Shirk, a Paraprofessional with the Stafford Springs Board of Education, and P-3B Council member Matt Parenti, a State School Teacher whose 9-year old son has autism, both appeared on Sunday morning talk shows to deliver our message. Speaking out on FOX-TV Channel 61's "Beyond the Headlines" the week before Autism Advocacy Day and CBS-TV Channel 3's "Face the State" the week after, our members made sure the public and decision-makers alike know that we have a plan to resolve Connecticut's ASD services crisis.

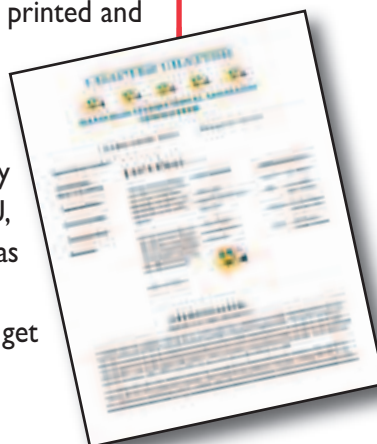


**Council 760 Member Kim Shirk and P-3B Council
Member Matt Parenti on FOX-TV Channel 61's
"Beyond the Headlines" with Representative
Andrew Fleischmann**

(Editor's note: news coverage available online is linked to our "Media Coverage of Services for Families with Autism" page at our website at www.csea-ct.com/action/asd_media.cfm).

Add your voice to our efforts! Not only are we pushing for strong, middle-class jobs, we are advocating public policy that will benefit thousands of children and adults with ASD and their families. Visit our website's "Autism Services" section at the Action Center's "Our Issues" page, at www.csea-ct.com/action/our_issues.cfm and complete an easy online sign-up form to add your voice to our campaign.

» **Organizing at the Chapter Level:** Leaders of Council 760's Chapter 1112 are applying grassroots strategies for engaging members at the worksite level! A first-ever newsletter, "Chapter Chatter," was printed and distributed in late-March to our members working as paraprofessionals in the Mansfield Board of Education's four schools. Chapter President Janette Smith and Vice-President Sharon Hagans announced in the introduction, "There are so many exciting things happening in our schools, our local chapter of SEIU, and nationally that we want to share with you!" The newsletter has information on legislative initiatives impacting paraeducators, membership meeting announcements, and suggestions on how to get more involved in building power for working families!



Responding to Our Opponents...

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eliminate their flexibility and ability to be competitive in an unrelenting global marketplace." He seems to be referring to the outsourcing of jobs to cheaper, overseas markets. But what Johnson fails to mention is the executive compensation that is driving much of this so-called "competition."

The only real purpose for outsourcing is to drive up profits. In the process, American workers have lost middle-class jobs and their retirement security while CEOs have received multimillion dollar incentives, in

addition to multimillion dollar salaries for making their companies more "globally competitive."

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the average CEO in the United States earned 262 times the pay of the average worker in 2005. With such an imbalance in executive compensation, does the U.S. Chamber of Commerce really expect us to believe the national economy somehow can't sustain the middle-class incomes union members believe every American family should have the opportunity to earn?

Our Benefits

Updates on Our Unique Membership Benefits & Opportunities

★ **Towards a New Record in June!** After announcing we had raised \$8,000.00 for our Bernard H. McCusker Memorial Scholarship Fund in the April edition of the CSEA News, our members have really stepped it up! At press time, \$10,825.00 in additional commitments had been received, bringing the total to nearly \$19,000.00!

Our Trustees want to thank each and every one of you whose support was pledged since we printed the initial list of donors last month:

- **LAC Co-Chair Lynn Coda-Klien, Member P-4 Council: \$25.00 in memory of Joan Reviczky**
- **CSC Council President Cathy Osten: \$50.00**
- **P-4 Council, Chapter 119: \$250.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 405: \$500.00**
- **Police Inspectors Council: \$750.00**
- **AMECSS: \$750.000**
- **CSC Council: \$1,500.00**
- **P-3A Council: \$2,000.00**
- **Council 400: \$5,000.00**



"The pledge my husband and I made in February was in memory of Council 400 member Sid Cohen, who we lost last year. We all have the opportunity to carry on the legacy of public service for fellow members who have passed away by supporting our McCusker Scholarship Fund in their name."

Fran Messenger

Member, Council 400

Vice-Chair, Social Activities Committee

Visit "Our McCusker Memorial Scholarship" page at our website at www.csea-ct.com/benefits/#MMSF for a link to a simple online form where you pledge your individual or chapter's financial support. Or just mail your donation direct to our union hall at 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.

Your donation can help working families fulfill their dreams!

Taking Our Message...

(Continued from page 3)

Council 760 member Evelyn Vega, a school bus driver for Hartford's Public Schools with Laidlaw Transit, drew gasps from the audience as she revealed she had recently suffered a mini-stroke on the job. She further stunned the gathered crowd when she explained she had returned to work before she fully recovered because the medication she was prescribed was not covered by her employer-provided health insurance.



"I plan to speak to my elected representatives today and tell them my story" Vega, standing with co-workers and fellow members, told the crowd. "They need to know that workers are making decisions like I did; between their health and their jobs" she announced.



Council 760 Members Ruby Reilly and Judy Thomas Call on Legislators to Make Universal Health Care Law at the Press Conference

Evelyn's story illustrated the crisis under-insured working families like hers face each and every day. She was followed by two of our members without medical coverage, who told their stories. Council 760 members Ruby Reilly and Judy Thomas, school bus drivers for the Plainfield Board of Education, provided evidence to refute opposition claims that Connecticut's 400,000 uninsured are mostly unemployed.

"I have no insurance right now and neither one of my jobs offers it for a reasonable price" Reilly told the crowd. She described her many responsibilities as a school bus driver, the president of our Plainfield BOE Bus Drivers Chapter, and most importantly, as a mother, and exclaimed "I can't afford to get sick!"



"We're considered 'part-time,' so the Board of Ed doesn't even offer the opportunity to pay for their expensive health care plan until we've worked there at least five years" Thomas explained. As she continued, describing the financial strain her husband's medical condition has placed on their family, Thomas made clear that the cost of failing to reform our broken health care system was simply too high.

In addition to universal health care, our members met with their elected officials on a wide range of public policy issues throughout Labor Lobby Day. From delivering quality services for children and adults with autism to resolving Connecticut's child care crisis, we asked legislators to support initiatives that would empower greater numbers of working families. We also asked our elected officials to commit to needed reforms, such as establishing clean contracting standards in procuring State services and setting higher economic standards for public school paraprofessionals.

"Working Families Scorecard" Our Members Completed During Visits with Elected Officials to Track their Positions on Our Issues at Labor Lobby Day

Working Families Issues Scorecard
Labor Lobby Day April 18, 2007
 Council/Chapter: _____
 Member: _____ Worksite: _____ Sign-Up at Action Center:
 Employer: _____ Home E-mail Address: _____
 Home Phone: _____
 Local House District/Representative: # _____
 Local State Senate District/Senator: # _____
 Key Committees/Chairs: _____

Priority Issue - Bills	Position
1. Single-Payer Universal Health Care - SB 1371 "Can we count on you to reform our broken health care system and support single-payer universal health care?"	YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED: <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Clean Contracting Reforms - HB 7128 & SB 41: "Can we count on you to support reforming in the state's contracting-out process and establish the safety and health protections our members have been advocating for?"	YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED: <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Resolving the Child Care Crisis - HB 7302 & SB 1382: "Can we count on you to put Connecticut's kids first and support improving reimbursement rates, raising professional standards, and stabilizing the child care provider workforce?"	YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED: <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Services for Children and Adults with Autism - HB 7144 & HB 7280: "Can we count on you to support legislation that would provide individuals with autism services beginning with early diagnosis, through childhood, and as adults?"	YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED: <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Investing in Our School Paraprofessionals - HB 7357: "Can we count on you to improve the current legislation so it directs state resources for improved economic security, access to health care, in-service training, and development needed for all paraprofessionals?"	YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED: <input type="checkbox"/>
6. _____ "Can we count on you to _____"	YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED: <input type="checkbox"/>

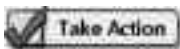
760 Capital Avenue - Hartford, CT 06110
 860.951.6814 - www.cseact.com

The General Assembly's Appropriations Committee met during Labor Lobby Day and was scheduled to cast critical votes on many bills that would impact our members and their families' lives the very next day.



Council 760 Members Linda Binheimer, Anne Feeney, Janette Smith, Sharon Hagans, and Steve Ferrucci Met with Senator Edith Prague to Urge She Vote to Improve Legislation Impacting Paraprofessionals

One of the easiest ways to stay informed and take quick, easy action on legislative issues at the Capitol is to sign-up to receive periodic alerts at your home e-mail address through our website. Our "Action Center" alerts are set up so that with a single click, you can send a letter to your elected officials on issues that matter to all of us!



Logon to our "Action Center" at www.csea-ct.com/action/ today and select the "Taking Action and Making a Difference" link from the index. Then follow the simple online instructions so you can take action before the end of the current legislative session in June!



Our President's Desk...

(Continued from page 3)

after all, provide proper veterinary care for their animals. Look at the millions of dollars spent on Barbaro, the horse that won the Kentucky Derby. The horse's owners had the financial means to spend large sums of money to try to save his life.

Now look at the thousands of people around Connecticut and the millions around the country that aren't able to do that for their children.

Just because someone doesn't have the financial means to afford quality health care,

should they do without and gamble on good health? The odds on Barbaro were better than that!

The *Hartford Courant* recently published an article citing the cost of Universal Health Care coverage for all Connecticut citizens would be \$18 billion. The article was misleading for a variety of reasons, including the implication the reporter made that the cost is more than the total State budget. Doing so, he played into the hands of the CBIA and opponents of real reform, who are trying to prematurely stop Universal Health Care in this state.

The reporter also failed to note that \$15 to \$22 billion is currently being spent annually to cover the 70% of Connecticut residents who are insured. If the lower number were correct, \$18 billion to cover everyone would be a bargain. If the higher number were correct, \$18 billion would be a steal.

For years I took for granted that the elected leaders of our country and their key appointees worked for the good of all citizens in our great country. As I'm writing this column, President Bush's Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is testifying that he

believes he can still function effectively. Of course, the definition of "functioning effectively" in this administration is relative. The bar has been set so low that Gonzales probably can meet this performance objective, which is no doubt why nearly everyone, except the president, believes he must resign.

The simple truth is that with incompetent leadership in our highest levels of government, we who work in the public service must not take anything for granted. We must rise up, in spite of those who may stand in our way, and demand the quality public services we all deserve.

State Health Care Plans Open Enrollment Fairs

The Office of the State Comptroller is conducting its annual Health Insurance Open Enrollment for active and retired State Employees from May 7 through June 1, 2007.

This is the one time during the year when State Employees and retirees may make changes in their health coverage, such as switching medical and/or dental plans, and adding or removing a spouse, dependent or domestic partner. If you do NOT want to change your medical or dental carrier, you do not have to do anything. Your coverage will continue as it has this past year. Any changes made will take effect July 1, 2006.

There are no changes in the carriers. PharmaCare for prescription drugs; Anthem, Health Net, Oxford for medical coverage; and Aetna and UnitedHealth Care Basic and Enhanced Plans for dental care.

At press time, the Comptroller's Office had not yet mailed the "Health

Care Options Planners" which provide a comparison of the carriers and applicable premiums. If you do not receive a Planner by the beginning of the open-enrollment period, please contact the Retirement & Benefit Services Division, Health Care Unit by phone at (860) 702-3533.

For more information and links to the Comptroller's and our health and dental providers' web sites, visit our website at www.csea-ct.com and select "Health Care Providers" from the home page's "Quick Links" section.

Council 400 Hosted Health Fairs

We have arranged the Retirement Division and our medical, dental, and health plan providers to have representatives attend four of our Council 400 Chapters' Open Enrollment fairs, noted on page #2 of this edition.

State Hosted Health Fairs

The schedule of state-sponsored Open Enrollment Health Fairs is reprinted here (active employee health fairs also are open to retirees):

2007 Open Enrollment Fairs								
E/R	CITY	DATE	START	END	AGENCY	LOCATION	CONTACT	PHONE
E	Willimantic	Monday, May 07, 2007	8:00 AM	12:00PM	Eastern Connecticut State University	Paul E. Johnson Rm, J. Eugene Smith Library	LaShawn McBride	860-465-5220
E	New Britain	Monday, May 07, 2007	9:00 AM	5:00PM	Central Connecticut State University	Founders Hall, Lawrence Davidson Building	Mary Narciso	860-832-1856
E	Waterbury	Monday, May 07, 2007	2:00PM	4:00PM	Naugatuck Valley Community College	Cafeteria West	Jacqui Swanson	203-575-8043
E	Hartford	Tuesday, May 08, 2007	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	Office of the State Comptroller	55 Elm Street, Room 208	Tamara Henry	860-702-3329
R	Norwich	Tuesday, May 08, 2007	1:30PM	3:30PM	Council 400 Regional Meeting	Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Dr.	Hollis Block	860-951-6614
E	Danbury	Tuesday, May 08, 2007	9:00AM	2:00PM	Western Connecticut State University	Student Center Room 202	Lisa Lengel	203-837-8666
E	Norwalk	Wednesday, May 09, 2007	9:00 AM	12:00PM	Norwalk Community College	East Campus Atrium	Patty Lemone	203-857-7138
R	North Haven	Wednesday, May 09, 2007	1:00PM	3:00PM	Council 400 Regional Meeting	American Legion, 20 Church Street	Hollis Block	860-951-6614
E	Middletown	Wednesday, May 09, 2007	8:00AM	12:00PM	DMHAS	Lee Auditorium, Merritt Hall	Denise Tyburski	860-262-5867
E	Stamford	Thursday, May 10, 2007	1:30PM	3:30PM	Stamford Judicial District Courthouse	123 Hoyt St., Court Services Center	Kathleen Geinsheimer	860-282-6588
E	Farmington	Thursday, May 10, 2007	8:00AM	4:00PM	Uconn Health Center	Keller Auditorium Lobby	Brian Eaton	860-679-2204
E	New Haven	Thursday, May 10, 2007	8:00AM	12:00PM	Gateway Community College	Long Wharf Campus, Rm. 160	Christie Piscitelli	203-285-2113
E	Torrington	Friday, May 11, 2007	2:00 PM	5:00PM	DMHAS - NorthWest Mental Health Authority	249 Winsted Rd., Charter Oak Room	Steve Bistran	860-496-3707
E	Norwich	Friday, May 11, 2007	1:30PM	4:00PM	Dept. of Transportation - District 2	171 Salem Turnpike, Classroom	Cathe Brown	860-823-3235
E	Thomaston	Friday, May 11, 2007	8:00AM	1:00PM	Dept. of Transportation - District 4	359 S. Main Street, Large Conf. Room	Nancy Ainsworth	860-585-2719
E	Hartford	Monday, May 14, 2007	8:00 AM	11:30AM	Banking Insurance/Capitol Comm College	153 Market St., Room 701	Patricia Tiberio	860-297-3932
E	Newington	Monday, May 14, 2007	9:00 PM	4:00PM	Dept. of Transportation - Central Office	2800 Berlin Tpk., Conf. Rm. A	Barbara Cohen	860-594-2352
R	Windsor Locks	Monday, May 14, 2007	1:00PM	3:00PM	Council 400 Regional Meeting	VFV Post 6123, 40 Fairview Street	Hollis Block	860-951-6614
E	Wethersfield	Tuesday, May 15, 2007	9:00AM	3:00PM	Dept. of Labor	200 Follybrook Blvd., Cafeteria	Neil Griffen	860-263-6895
E	New Haven	Tuesday, May 15, 2007	9:00PM	12:00PM	Dept. of Transportation - District 3	140 Pond Lily Ave., Large Conference Room	Michelle Joyce	203-389-3050
E	New Haven	Wednesday, May 16, 2007	1:30PM	4:30PM	Southern Connecticut State University	Michael J. Adanti, Student Center	Jackie Patton	203-392-5572
E	Hartford	Wednesday, May 16, 2007	9:00AM	12:00PM	Legislative Management - Legislators & Staff ONLY	LOB 2nd Fl. Breakout Area,	Lisa Cummings	860-240-0100
E	Storrs	Wednesday, May 16, 2007	9:00AM	4:00 PM	Uconn Storrs	Gampel Pavillion	Vicki Fry	860 486-0411
E	East Hartford	Thursday, May 17, 2007	1:00PM	4:00PM	DMR North Region	Founders Plaza, 255 Pitkin St., Conf. Rm 3A	Linda Ward	860-263-2610
E	Storrs	Thursday, May 17, 2007	9:00AM	4:00PM	Uconn Storrs	Gampel Pavillion	Vicki Fry	860-486-0411
E	Newington	Friday, May 18, 2007	1:00PM	4:00PM	DMHAS - Cedarcrest Hospital	525 Russell Rd., Chadwick Room	Cheryl Thompson	860-666-7621
E	Hartford	Friday, May 18, 2007	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	DMHAS - Blue Hills Hospital/Capitol Mental Health	500 Vine St., Auditorium	Amisha Desai	860-297-0905
E	Hartford	Friday, May 18, 2007	8:00AM	12:00PM	Dept. of Public Health, OPM	470 Capitol Ave., Conference Room C	Theresa Ferguson	860-509-7173
E	Hartford	Friday, May 18, 2007	9:00AM	12:00PM	Dept. of Children & Families	505 Hudson Street, Hartford, AV Room	Sharon Corey	860-550-6518
E/R	Middletown	Monday, May 21, 2007	1:00PM	4:30PM	Conn Employees Union Independent (CEUI)	110 Randolph Rd	Ron McClellan	860-343-8718
E	Wethersfield	Monday, May 21, 2007	9:00AM	3:00PM	Dept. of Corrections - Central Office	24 Wolcott Hill Road, Lobby	Pam Connelly	860-692-6842
E	Cheshire	Tuesday, May 22, 2007	8:00AM	4:00PM	Dept. of Corrections - Maloney	275 Jarvis Street, Gym	Lt. Mario Bufalini	203-271-5128
E	Manchester	Tuesday, May 22, 2007	8:00AM	12:00PM	Manchester Community College	Lowe Building Lobby	Desreen Petgrave	860-512-3615
E	Waterbury	Wednesday, May 23, 2007	1:30PM	4:00PM	DMV, DAP, DMHAS - Rowland Government Ctr.	55 West Main Street, 1st Fl. Conference Rm.	Anthony Webb	203-805-6251
E	East Hartford	Wednesday, May 23, 2007	9:00AM	12:00PM	Dept. of Information Technology	101 E. River Dr., Rm. 1002 A & B	Anne Marie Arnold	860-622-2508
E	Hartford	Wednesday, May 23, 2007	9:00AM	12:00 PM	DAS	165 Capitol Ave., Rooms G38 A&B	Mary Gugliemino	860-713-5174
E	Hartford	Thursday, May 24, 2007	1:00PM	4:00PM	Dept. Social Svcs./Dept. Revenue Svcs.	25 Sigourney St., Cafeteria	Audrey Horan	860-424-5161
E	Middletown	Thursday, May 24, 2007	3:00PM	5:00PM	DMHAS	Lee Auditorium, Merritt Hall	Denise Tyburski	860-262-5867
E	Bridgeport	Thursday, May 24, 2007	9:00AM	12:00PM	Housatonic Community College	Community Services Room, A101	Theresa Eisenbach	203-332-5013
E	Wethersfield	Thursday, May 24, 2007	9:00PM	12:00PM	Dept. of Motor Vehicles	60 State St. Commissioner's Conference Rm	Anthony Webb	860-805-6251
E	Niantic	Friday, May 25, 2007	8:00AM	4:00PM	Dept. of Corrections - York	201 W. Main Street, East Gym	Neena Beckwith	860-691-6712
E	Southbury	Friday, May 25, 2007	9:00AM	3:00PM	DMR West Region	Southbury Training School, Moser Library	Wendy Hartley-Morris	203-586-2427
R	Newington	Tuesday, May 29, 2007	10:00AM	12:00PM	A&R Retirees	705 N. Mountain Rd., Suite A211	Connie Spada	860-347-3451
E	New Haven	Tuesday, May 29, 2007	2:00PM	5:00 PM	DMHAS	34 Park St., Ct. Mental Health Center	Miriam Augustine	203-974-7634
E	Enfield	Tuesday, May 29, 2007	8:00AM	4:00PM	Dept. of Corrections - Robinson	285 Shaker Rd., Visiting Center	Yoke Twarosch	860-763-6307
R	New Britain	Wednesday, May 30, 2007	10:00AM	12:30PM	AFSCME, Council 4	444 E. Main St	Bill Tyszka	860-658-6198
E	Winsted	Wednesday, May 30, 2007	9:00AM	12:30PM	Northwest Community College	Founders Hall, Room 201	Alice Joyce	860-738-6324
E	Bridgeport	Thursday, May 31, 2007	8:00AM	4:00PM	Dept. of Corrections - Bridgeport	1054 North Ave., VNA Building	Mike Steeves	860-692-6845
E	Waterbury	Friday, June 01, 2007	9:00 AM	11:30 AM	DMHAS - Gtr Waterbury Mental Health Authority	95 Thomaston Ave	Clara Moriarty	203-805-5347
E	Rocky Hill	Friday, June 01, 2007	1:00PM	4:00PM	Division of Criminal Justice	300 Corporate Place, Training Center	Karen Auger	860-258-5835
E	Norwich	Friday, June 01, 2007	2:00PM	5:00PM	DMHAS SouthEast	401 W. Thames, Bldg 301, Lobby	Lucy Halkins	860-859-4653
E	Norwich	Friday, June 01, 2007	7:30AM	10:00AM	DMHAS SouthEast	401 W. Thames, Bldg 301, Lobby	Lucy Halkins	860-859-4651

STRONGER
CSEA
SEIU
Local 2001
TOGETHER

Social Activities



2 RED SOX Games One Great Weekend

Friday, August 10 - Sunday, August 12

\$499 per person for twin accommodations OR

\$699 per person for single accommodation

(full payment by May 7)

Includes: 2 reserved tickets for RED SOX vs. ORIOLES

Fri. & Sat. games at Camden Yards in Baltimore, MD; pre-game dinners both games; breakfast Sat. & Sun.; admission to Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards; motorcoach travel & driver gratuity.

Bus pick-ups:

East Hartford, Sheraton Hotel, East River Dr.;

Watertown, Griffin School; parking lot.



TALL SHIPS of Newport, RI

Saturday, June 30

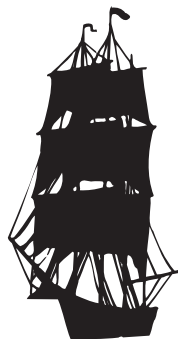
\$81 per person (full payment by May 15)

Includes: motorcoach travel & driver gratuity to Quonset point, RI with stop in Mystic Village; 2-hour narrated cruise to tall ships, light houses, landmarks, & more; full course Italian restaurant lunch.

Bus pick-ups:

East Hartford, Sheraton Hotel, East River Dr.;

Meriden & New haven departures may be available.



WEEKEND FIT FOR A KING 2-DAY PHILADELPHIA TOUR WITH THE GOLDEN TREASURES OF KING TUT

Saturday, September 8 & Sunday, September 9

Deposit deadline: June 15 (\$50 deposit - admission ticket is non-refundable)

Final payment due: July 15.

\$279.00 per single accommodation;

\$209.00 per person for double accommodations;

\$189.00 per person for triple accommodations.

Trip cancellation insurance is available at \$15 per person and must be purchased at time of deposit.

Bus pick-ups in
Glastonbury, Meriden,
North Haven, &
Stratford!

Includes: Bus travel to and from city; hotel accommodations at the Holiday Inn Express; guided tour of Philadelphia's historic sights; breakfast Sunday morning at the hotel; King Tut's Golden Exhibition at the Franklin Institute; gratuities for guides and driver.

UPCOMING TRIPS and ACTIVITIES for 2007 - 08:

The Cheesecake Factory (Boston, MA): Jul. 14

Reservation deadline: June 15

(\$69 per person includes Charles River Cruise and dinner)

Take Me Out to the Ball Game (New York, NY): Aug. 19

Deposit deadline: July 1

(\$109 per person includes admission ticket to Yankees-Tigers game)

7-Day Great Smoky Mountains Tour (Pigeon Forge, TN): Oct. 7-13

\$100.00 Deposit deadline: June 20

(\$809.00 per person for includes bus travel and double accommodations for 6 nights)

12-Day Hawaii Cruise (Honolulu, HI): Oct. 10 - 21

Reservation deadline: July 13 (deposit recommended by May 20)

(\$1,1799 per person twin includes airfare, all meals, accommodations on board)

6-Day Ireland Tour: Nov. 8-13

Deposit (\$600 per person) deadline: June 1 (final due: Aug. 8)

(\$939 per person includes roundtrip motorcoach to airport, 4 dinners, 4 breakfasts, motorcoach tour of Ireland)

Riches of Fortune Caribbean Cruise (6 Ports of Call): Jan. 5-16

\$50.00 per Person Deposit deadline: May 31

Final payment deadline: Oct. 15

(Various rates for cabin location includes bus travel, meals and accommodations aboard ship for 12 days)

Visit our website's SAC Page at www.csea-ct.com/benefits for more details and access to flyers you can download and print for scheduled events.

Council 400 Retiree Summer Luncheons



Some of our Retiree Chapters mail flyers for summer luncheons to members, and the full list be included in the June edition. Since that publication may arrive after some reservation deadlines, we have included those available at press time.

This information is posted at our website's "Events Calendar" as well. Visit www.csea-ct.com/calendar and select the date and the Chapter for further details, such as time, location, and contact information.

CHAPTER 403, Norwich area, Tuesday, June 19 (PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE FROM REGULAR MEETING DAY), Montville Polish Club, 85 Maple Ave., Uncasville. Social (cash bar), 11:30 a.m. (cheese, pepperoni, and crackers, veggies and dip, and fresh fruit platters); Luncheon, 12:30 P.M. Cost: Members: \$20; Guests: \$26. Choice: sliced roast sirloin aujus, chicken cordon bleu, seafood stuffed filet of sole – served with fresh garden salad, green bean almandine, red bliss potatoes, rolls/butter, vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce, coffee. Reservation deadline: June 3 (see flyer for reservation form). Contact: Co-chair Gail Carr at (860) 822-0788.

CHAPTER 405, New Haven area, Wednesday, June 20, 12:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M., Italian-American Club, 85 Chase Ln., West Haven (wheelchair accessible). Social (cash bar), 12:00 P.M. (cheese and crackers); Luncheon, 12:30 P.M. Cost: Members: \$5; Guests: \$10. Choices: veal and peppers, eggplant parmesan, oven-baked chicken with potatoes – served with salad, cavaatelli, antipasto, bread, dessert, coffee. Reservation deadline: June 12 (see flyer for reservation form). Contact: Treasurer Jan Smith at (203) 287-0617.

CHAPTER 408, Willimantic area, Wednesday, June 21 (rain or shine), 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 P.M. (cash bar), Fin, Fur & Feather Club, 213 Chewink Rd., Chaplin. Cost: Members: \$10; Guests: \$13. Menu: clam chowder, hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta salad, potato salad, corn-on-the-cob, watermelon, potato chips, cookies, coffee/tea (hot/iced), soda. Reservation deadline: June 14 (see flyer for reservation form). Contact: Clarence Sylvester at (860) 423-2954.

CHAPTER 411, Rocky Hill area, Thursday, June 8, Hawthorne Inn, 2421 Wilbur Cross Hwy, Berlin. Social: (cash bar, hors doeuvres), 11:30; Luncheon: 12:30. Choice/cost: roast prime rib of beef (\$24 member, \$34 guest), baked scrod (\$17 member, \$27 guest) chicken Marsala (\$17 member, \$27 guest) – served with tossed salad, pasta, oven-roasted potatoes, vegetable of the day, ice cream nut roll w/fudge sauce, coffee/tea. Door prizes. Reservation deadline: June 8 (see flyer for reservation form). Contact: Chairperson Doris Roche at (860) 828-4615.

CHAPTER 416, Groton/Waterford area, Tuesday, June 12, 12:00 P.M., Groton Inn & Suites, 99 Gold Star Hwy, Groton. Cost: Members: \$5; Guests: \$10. Choices: stuffed chicken, baked scrod, top sirloin – served with salad, red bliss potatoes, vegetable medley, rolls/butter, hot apple crisp, coffee/tea. Reservation deadline: June 7 (see flyer for reservation form). Contact: Chairperson Marion Lowe at (860) 536-2968.

CHAPTER 417, Plainville area, Wednesday, June 13, 11:45 a.m., Church of our Savior Episcopal Church, 115 West Main St., Plainville. Cost: \$8 members and guests. Reservation deadline: June 7 (see flyer for reservation form or sign up at May 9 Chapter meeting). Contact: John Lessor at (860) 628-0021.

Call phone number below for a flyer with full details on any trip.

Trips sponsored by CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Social Activities Committee. For more information call the Local hall in Hartford at (860) 951-6614, or toll-free at (800) 894-9479.

Make checks payable to CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Social Activities Committee and mail with reservation form below to the committee at: 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.

Please call for availability after deadline. No refunds on cancellations on and after deadline. Travel insurance (cancellation waivers) available on some trips (see flyer) due with initial reservation.

Reservations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

DISCLAIMER:
CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 is not responsible in whole or in part for any loss, damage, injury, financial loss, or whatever to persons or property, however caused, during or in connection with any tour, trip or activity.

CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Social Activities RESERVATION FORM

Name of Trip	Date of Trip	
Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Work Phone	
Number of Tickets	Amount Enclosed	Cancellation Insurance Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Pick-up Place	Traveling with	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Smoking	CSEA Chapter # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member

CSE CREDIT UNION NEWS

Spring Into Savings With low mortgage rates that make cents



Mortgage rates might be on the rise elsewhere, but at CSE we've just lowered our first mortgage refinance rates even further.

There's no better time to refinance your first mortgage loan. You can refinance up to 80% of the appraised value, up to \$250,000.†

At CSE Credit Union there are no closing costs, no points and no application fees.

*Annual Percentage Rate. Approval, title search and recording fees do apply. †Higher loan levels available. All rates are subject to change without notice.

The Credit Union will be **CLOSED**

Memorial DayMonday, May 28

JUST A REMINDER

Please use our 24-hour Home Teller Service or your CSECU ATM Card to access your Savings or checking accounts when we're closed for the weekend or in observance of legal holidays.

Dividend Rates – 2nd Quarter 2007

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SAVINGS	4.50%	4.60%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	2.50%	2.53%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	3.50%	3.56%

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

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MIDDLETOWN 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

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FOR SALE

F11' DELRAY CAMPER, self-contained, good condition, cabover converts to lounge, not smoked in. \$1,500 firm.

Bridgeport (203) 335-3951.
1969 MERCEDES 280 SE SEDAN, blue, blue leather, PS, PW, PB, 145k mi., cream puff. Hartford (860) 956-6861.

KISSIMMEE, FL TIME SHARE. Week 29. 5-star Parkway Int'l Island One Resort. Sleeps 6, Lock off unit. \$3,000 or best offer. Milford (203) 414-8081.

FORD 1996 WIND STAR. 107,000 miles. Wheelchair passenger accessible, rear-loading minivan. 24" Maximum wheelchair width. \$10,000 or best offer. Mansfield (860) 429-0791.

VERMONT 6.58 ACRES 24'x 30' HOUSE. Open Floor Plan, 1 BD (can be 2)/1 BA, artesian well, septic, electric, telephone, gas heat, VT Castings woodstove, gas hot water, gas range, ceiling fans, ceramic + wood floors, fully furnished, plus all appliances. 14' x 30' x 16' garage, perfect for boat or camper. 40' storage/workshop container with 50 amp service. Small pond/brook. 5 Miles from I-89, 3 hrs. from Hartford. Can be viewed in May. \$149,900.00

Randolph, VT (802) 728-3851 or Spring Hill, FL (352) 684-0724.

STAFFORD SPRINGS, 1995 TRAILER PARK HOME. Roaring Brook Campground, site ww38, fully furnished 12' X 35' home, queen bed, full sized bathroom, cathedral ceilings. 10' x 30' deck with roof, shed. Land included. \$35,000.

Hudson, FL (727) 857-0128.

2001 TIFFIN ALLEGRO BUS 40-ft freightliner chassis. Excellent condition, Cummins 350-hp diesel engine, Corian counter tops, walnut cabinets, full kitchen, 3-burner stove and oven, conv. microwave, side by side fridge w/ice maker. Ceramic floors, carpet. Shower/tub, outside shower, split bath. Skylight, magic bed sofa sleeper, queen island bed, sleeps 4. Captain chair, 2 recliners, table w/4 chairs, computer desk. Manual satellite dish, 2 TVs, VCR/DVD, 8-disc CD changer, sound system. Diesel generator, inverter, ducted AC/heat, 2 roof ACs, 2 furnaces, fantastic fan. Back up camera, monitor panel. CB radio, HWH leveling, Jake brake. Awnings, day/night shades. Basement storage, electric step, add room that snaps on to awning w/screen and weather panel. Washer/dryer, dual heat pumps, 10-gal hot water tank electric/propane.

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Hudson, FL (727) 857-0128.

Driver's side door w/electric window. All new tires, raised rail. Air bags, fiberglass roof, stabilizer arm, chrome mirrors, spotlight, cruise control. Trailer hitch, rear bottom rock shield, mirrored dining room wall, pantry pack, carpeted ceiling. Original owner, non-smoker, no pets, all owner manuals, all maintenance records. \$120,000 OBO.

Cheshire (203) 699-1122 or send e-mail to pweston@cox.net.

MOBILE HOME. 2003 14' x 60' 2BR, central A/C, propane heat, deck and shed, stove, refrigerator. \$39,000.

E Hartford (860) 568-8088.

ARIENS 5520 SNOWBLOWER. 5.5 hp, 2-years old, hardly used, like new. \$500 or best offer.

Uncasville (860) 848-6978 and ask for Tim.

FOR RENT

OSANIBEL ISLAND, FL. Tortuga Beach Club - Ocean front rental, avail. Labor Day Week 8/31 to 9/7, sleeps 8, fully equipped. \$1500/wk. Ft. Myers, FL (239) 433-4688 or e-mail Hibiscus764@aol.com.

HIGHLAND LAKE SUMMER COTTAGE, Winsted (Litchfield Hills), 2 BR, shorefront/dock, immaculate.

Newington (860) 666-9524.

WANTED

HOUSE SIT OR RENT IN GLASTONBURY. Older FL couple in surrounding area for portion of the summer. Naples, FL (239) 348-0028.

FLORIDA ART. Florida subject art or art by Florida painters. East Hartford (860) 528-8508.

NORWICH MEMORABILIA. Norwich State Hospital photos, World War II submarine pictures. Norwich (860) 887-7566.

HELP DESK – UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT. Part-time position, maximum 19 hours/wk, four hour shifts (hours to be determined). \$14 to \$18 hourly, depending on experience. Knowledge of Microsoft products required. Experience in a technical or business related area in a customer service environment in a large organization preferred. Excellent communication and customer service skills also required. Send letter of application, resume, and three references to: Jennifer Caputo, CCSU, Information Technology Services, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050 or caputojen@ccsu.edu.

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Health Care Reform Front...

(Continued from page 4)

retirement security!

When we think of how to provide medical coverage to 47 million uninsured Americans, it is logical to start with the country's nine million uninsured children. The successful States Children's Health Insurance Program, or S-Chip, is up for reauthorization. This program cares for children whose family income is too high to qualify for Medicaid, but too low to pay for private coverage.

Once again, the Bush Administration is going in exactly the opposite direction proposing to cut the Federal contributions to the states. Yes, it may cost billions to insure 9 million children, but consider this: we are pouring \$200 billion a year into the war in Iraq. How about eliminating the large overpayments to private health plans to participate in Medicare? That alone could save \$65 billion over 5 years (Editorial, *New York Times*, March 12, 2007).

Many elderly people would prefer to stay at home as long as they can, rather than spend years in a

nursing home. Agencies can supply home health care aides who are bonded, insured and certified, but such help could cost \$150,000 a year and exhaust a family's savings. Therefore, a "gray market" has arisen consisting of a network of women, frequently untrained, unscreened and unsupervised, charging lower hourly fees. You also would have to assume the risk should an accident happen. There are 4.2 million Americans over 85. This number is expected to grow to 5.9 million by 2014.

Our international union, SEIU, has been at the cutting edge of creating a more stable pool of

home care workers. In New York, Local 1199 unionized 60,000 home-care employees. Unionized aides, many of them former welfare recipients, have won a full array of benefits, rare in this industry, and opportunities to master English, study nursing or learn computer skills (J. Gross, *New Options*, *New York Times*, March 1, 2007).

Log on to our Issues Important to Working Families page and select the "Affordable Health Care" link to sign-up to be a messenger in our health care reform efforts!



*This Memorial Day, We
Extend Our Deepest
Sympathies to the
Families of All Our
Veterans Who Made the
Ultimate Sacrifice*

In Our Communities

Highlights of Our Members Involvement in Our Local Neighborhoods

► **Standing Up for Fellow Veterans:** Chapter 417 President and retired State DMV employee Nick D'Emanuelle has long advocated for veterans living in his hometown of

Southington, and his efforts were recently featured in a *Meriden Record-Journal* article. After bringing the names of fourteen veterans left off a memorial on the Town Green to a Town Council meeting, Nick was tapped to coordinate efforts to resolve the issue. In addition to helping to secure funding in the budget to add the missing names, Nick has also been assisting Town veterans with meeting qualifications for property tax documents. Let's recognize Nick for the dignity and respect he has asked his Town officials to show those who have served our country!



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DEATHS REPORTED

We regret to learn of the death of the following retired CSEA members, as reported by the State Retirement Division.

Robert Alquesta of Chapter 414 died 3/6/07
Richard Batchelder, 410, 3/3/07
Eugenia Bileski, 403, 2/6/07
Edward Binke, 406, 2/23/07
Thomas Borelli, 411, 3/10/07
Genevieve Brown, 406, 2/26/07
Audrey Chapin, 401, 2/16/07
Nettie Clemons, 401, 2/5/07
Donald Clerkin, 401, 2/23/07
Rodolphe Cloutier, 427, 2/12/07
Mary Corcoran, 408, 2/14/07
Vincent Corrado, 411, 2/5/07
Jacqueline Coughlin, 411, 2/24/07
Lillian Coughlin, 401, 2/27/07
Beatrice Dower, 420, 1/26/07
Ruby Edelstein, 423, 2/14/07
Marie Fortier, 420, 2/5/07
Martha Gibson, 406, 2/16/07
Margaret Guerra, 407, 2/10/07
Carlene Heil, 406, 3/14/07

Arthur Heubner, 401, 3/8/07
Clifford Jenkins, 410, 3/7/07
Elias Kaplan, 407, 2/16/07
Robert Keeney, 420, 2/14/07
Rose Kogan, 423, 2/18/07
Eleanor Kosick, 407, 2/23/07
Angeline Kuchle, 406, 2/13/07
Gertrude Lindell, 420, 2/17/07
Roslyn Macnish, 411, 2/21/07
Frances Mantie, 415, 1/18/07
Adelaide Masser, 415, 1/30/07
Edward McCormick, 416, 3/4/07
May McGill, 401, 2/28/07
George Morrison, 408, 2/7/07
William O'Brien, 406, 2/25/07
James O'Neil, 404, 3/7/07
Edward Oldham, 406, 3/9/07
Margaret Pearson, 405, 2/15/07
Ernest Pollard, 416, 3/8/07
James Potter, 401, 3/4/07
Carl Rohrberg, 416, 2/21/07
Abraham Rubin, 401, 2/22/07
Joseph Schop, 420, 1/15/07
Leroy Schrupp, 412, 2/26/07
Albert Semmler, 405, 2/12/07
Rocco Serafino, 417, 1/28/07
Amanda Suldon, 420, 2/15/07
Russell Sutton, 420, 2/28/07
Ronald Tidmarsh, 416, 1/24/07
Ronald Voglesong, 401, 3/4/07
Dale Ward, 407, 2/23/07
William White, 425, 2/21/07
Chester Zinewicz, 403, 2/23/07