

Voices for Reform

Leadership, Not the Status Quo, for the DOT



P-4 Council Member Denise Eaton Discusses Workforce Shortages in the DOT on ABC-TV Channel 8's "News at Five" at the Q-Bridge in New Haven

When Governor M. Jodi Rell proposed dissolving the State Department of Transportation (DOT) and creating two or more separate agencies in its place in her address to the General Assembly on February 6, our members responded. Immediately following her annual "State of the State" speech, we began raising questions about the scheme with the capitol's press corps and took control of the public debate. By the day's end, our concerns had been carried in nearly a dozen print, radio, TV, and internet news reports on the proposal.

On WTIC-AM 1080's Mornings with Ray and Diane:



"Splitting the agency or consolidating the agency aren't bad ideas in and of themselves...leadership comes from the top, and it has to come from the Administration, so that our workers can do the quality work they want to do!"

Mike O'Brien

Supervising Sanitary Engineer,
 CT Dept. of Environmental Protection
 Executive Council President

Though we obviously share the Governor's goal of improving public transportation options and directing more resources to our members who work in rail and mass-transit, we questioned

(Continued on page 4)

Taking a Stand

Lawmakers Must Invest In Prison Work Force



Roland Bishop

State School Teacher,
 CT Dept. of Correction
 Steward, P-3B Council

(Editor's note: this Letter to the Editor was submitted to the New London Day in response to an Op-Ed attacking Connecticut's criminal justice educational and vocational workforce and was published in their Friday, February 1 edition)

Chris Powell's column attacking proposals for improving criminal justice in Connecticut was long on political propaganda and short on sensible solutions ("Even 1,000 felonies won't require life term," Jan. 14). Instead of ideas for how to accommodate a growing prison population while assuring the public's safety and security, he offered little more than empty, anti-public services ideology.

Everyone agrees on longer sentences for violent offenders. But Mr. Powell falsely characterizes the response to the tragedy in Cheshire as a choice between accepting the "premise that social work can solve everything" and adopting the model of prisons as merely warehouses for the incarcerated.

The reality is that due to economics, politics and the Constitution, most inmates will be released sometime. As a state school teacher in York Correctional Institution, I believe the public expects us do our best to prevent inmates from coming out of prison worse than when they went in.

That's why my fellow Department of Correction (DOC) education professionals in CESA/SEIU (the Connecticut state employees union), Local 2001, have been urging lawmakers to invest in our institutions' educational and vocational work force.

What our criminal justice system needs is to shift to a transitional model focused on results-based outcomes. Assessing the achievement of educational and vocational benchmarks before making the

(Continued on page 5)

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In this Edition:

Council 400 Retiree Chapter Meetings & Events	Page 2
Our Actions...in Brief	Page 2
Got a Great Idea? It Could Win You \$5,000	Page 3
Good News vs. Bad News	Page 3
Our Benefits	Page 4
Launching Our New & Improved Website!	Page 5
Social Activities	Page 6
Classified Advertising	Page 7
Deaths Reported	Page 8



Council 400 Retiree Chapters' Meetings & Events

This information will be posted at our website's "Events Calendar" as well. Select the date and the Chapter for further details, such as time, location, and contact information. Updated information and details for any chapters' events not available by our February 22 publication deadline for this edition will also be posted online.

CONNECTICUT EVENTS

COUNCIL 400 DELEGATES: Thursday, March 20, 10:00 a.m., CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Program: Reports from Council Committees. Contact: Ed Daly at (860) 871-9482.

CHAPTER 401 (Hartford area): Thursday, March 6, 1:00 p.m. (light lunch served at 12:00 p.m.), CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Speaker: Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Contact: Katherine Goulet at (860) 675-4053.

CHAPTER 402 (Danbury area): Wednesday, March 12, 10:00 a.m., (refreshments follow meeting), United Methodist Church, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury. Speaker: New York Life representative Mike Damon on long-term care insurance options. Contact: Dawn Gallagher at (203) 748-2018.

CHAPTER 403 (Norwich area): Tuesday, March 11, 1:30 p.m. (meeting room not available until 1:00, refreshments prior to meeting), Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Dr., Norwich. Speaker: Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc representative Stacey Jiminez on identity theft. Contact: Gail Carr at (860) 822-0788.

CHAPTER 404 (Waterbury area): Tuesday, March 11, 10:30 a.m. (social, meeting follows), Elks Club, 758 Rubber Ave., Naugatuck. Speaker: Bankers Life & Casualty Company representative Paul Ferle on Medicare/Medicaid and long-term care insurance. Door prizes. Contact: Armand Rosanelli at (203) 758-5122.

CHAPTER 405 (New Haven area): Wednesday, March 12, 12:30 p.m. (social, meeting follows at 1:00 p.m.), Smart Living Center at 297 Boston Post Rd., Orange. Speaker: Atlas Chiropractic's Dr. Adam Church on the benefits and dangers of fish oils and Omega-3 fatty acids. Contact: Chapter President Andy Gambardella at (203) 468-7376.

CHAPTER 406 (Middletown area): Tuesday, March 11, 1:00 p.m., (social, meeting at 1:30 p.m.), American Legion Post 75, 58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Middletown. Speaker: Middletown Probate Judge Joseph Marino. Members asked to donate non-perishable or canned food for Amazing Grace Food Pantry. Contact Elizabeth Harvey at (860) 917-3740.

CHAPTER 407 (Bridgeport area): Wednesday, March 19; 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). Speakers: Diane Fekete and Anna Nelson on in-home assistance for seniors and dementia. Contact: Celeste McGrath at (203) 378-4576.

CHAPTER 408 (Willimantic area): Wednesday, March 12; 1:00 p.m. (coffee, meeting at 1:30 p.m.), McSweeney Regional Senior Center, 47 Crescent St., Willimantic. Speaker: Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Meeting open to the public. Contact: Donna Linkkila at (860) 455-0883.

CHAPTER 410 (Windsor Locks area): Monday, March 10, 1:00 p.m., VFW Post 6123, 40 Fairview St., Windsor Locks. Speaker: Sovereign Bank mortgage specialists Linda Tucker and Dick McMillan on reverse mortgages. Tickets for Monday, April 14 "Corned Beef and Cabbage" dinner will be available for \$8/member. Contact: Elaine Colson at (860) 623-8704 for questions on program and Carm Wopschall at (860) 745-7017 for April event reservations only.

CHAPTER 411 (Rocky Hill area): Thursday, March 13, 1:00 p.m. (social follows meeting), William J. Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Speaker: CT Humane Society representative Vanessa Charette on the mission of the agency. Contact: Florence Egan at (860) 666-0382.

CHAPTER 412 (Putnam area): Tuesday, March 18, 1:30 p.m. (social follows meeting), Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., Putnam. Speaker: Northeast District Department of Health representative Linda Colangelo on NDDH's role in our communities. Refreshments, door prizes. Meeting open to the public. Contact: Don Gladding at (860) 564-9092.

CHAPTER 414 (Torrington area): Monday, March 17, 9:30 a.m. (coffee, meeting at 10:00 a.m.), UCONN Torrington Agriculture Building, 855 University Dr., Torrington. Speaker: Armen Abrahamian on Connecticut State Employee long-term care insurance offered by MetLife. Contact: President Karen Pineman (860) 354-6727.

CHAPTER 415 (Manchester area): Monday, March 24, 1:00 p.m., Elks Lodge, 30 Bissell St. Manchester. Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Refreshments will be served. Contact: Ed Daly at (860) 871-9482.

CHAPTER 416 (New London area): Tuesday, March 11, 12:00 p.m. (luncheon, business meeting at 12:30 p.m., program at 1:30 p.m.), Waterford Public Library Conference Room, 49 Rope Ferry Rd., Waterford, CT (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE). Speaker: Lawrence & Memorial Hospital dietician Mary Ann Nash on "healthy lifestyles" with q&a session to follow. Contact: Jean Thorsen at (860) 388-2788.

CHAPTER 417 (Plainville area): Wednesday, March 12, 1:00 p.m. (social, meeting follows), Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church, 115 West Main St., Plainville. Speaker: CT Commission on Aging representative Deb Migneault on COA's legislative priorities and projects. Contact: Nicholas D'Emanuelle at (860) 628-6675.

CHAPTER 418 (4Cs): Thursday, March 13, 10:00 a.m., Congress of CT Community Colleges, 907 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. Program: Plan for organizing recent 4Cs retirees into Chapter. Contact: Aldo Sicuso at (860) 346-3550.

FLORIDA & OTHER STATES' EVENTS

CHAPTER 421 (Northeast Florida), Thursday, April 3, 11:30 a.m. (luncheon, meeting follows), Country Harvest Buffet, 2400 S. Ridgewood Ave. (Rte 1), South Daytona, FL. Buffet (no reservations needed). All State of Connecticut retirees invited. Contact: Len Albert (386) 615-6805.

Chapter Secretaries and Program Coordinators:

The deadline for meeting information to be included in the April edition is Friday, March 21.

Our Actions...in Brief

Members' Current Issues, Meetings, & Events

Public Health Professionals Leading for Quality:

Our Chapter 848 Labor-Management Committee members recently concluded 15 months of negotiations with the City of Hartford to upgrade public health sanitarian positions. Changes to 40-year old job descriptions involved more than just the introduction of the computer era; industry and land-use has dramatically changed since the late 60's and overhauling language for job requirements was long overdue. Additional certification requirements and professional licensure have also been included in the new job descriptions, as well as a commitment on the City's part to professional development for its public health sanitarians. Chapter members working in the City's Department of Health and Human Services recently met (pictured here, in the front row from left to right, Jia Li, Elpidio Sanchez, and Kevin Mattia and in the back row, Carmen Franceschi, Nikitas Meleounis, Luigi Sartori, Elizabeth Kavanah) to

review the benefits of the reclassification. This long-awaited outcome is a "triple-win;" residents and the City win a more professional, highly



Council 760 Chapter 848 Public Health Sanitarians Working for the City of Hartford

trained workforce, and our members win a career ladder with more competitive wages, and greater access to the tools needed to better serve constituents.

(Look for the Arrows Symbol >>> for more "Actions...In Brief")

Our President's Desk

Good News vs. Bad News



Michael J. O'Brien

Supervising Sanitary Engineer,
CT Dept. of Environmental
Protection
Executive Council President

business, if you have bad news to release, you put it out on a Friday afternoon. The theory is that reporters are looking forward to the weekend and, besides, who reads the paper on Saturdays?

That was the case at the end of January when the U.S. Department of Labor released statistics showing the number of workers belonging to a union had increased for the first time in three decades. In this case, the Bush administration was releasing what they see as "bad" news on a weekend hoping it wouldn't get much play. It worked. The only major market news coverage it received was a *New York Times* editorial that ran about a week later, reprinted here:

In this case, the news is either good or bad, depending on your perspective.

I have come to learn over the years that in the political news

A Hopeful Year for Unions

By virtually every indicator, 2007 was a dismal year for American workers. Job growth slowed, unemployment jumped and wages lost what little ground they had gained against inflation since 2003. There is one sliver of good news: the percentage of American workers who belong to a union rose for the first time in three decades.

The Labor Department reported that the number of workers belonging to a union grew by 311,000 to 15.7 million. That means union members increased from 12 percent of the American work force in 2006 to 12.1 percent last year. In the private sector, unions' share of workers inched ahead from 7.4 percent to 7.46 percent. While the rebound is tiny, and might yet prove to be a statistical mirage, it is the first recorded increase in organized labor's ranks since the 1970s, when almost one in four workers belonged to a union.

There is little doubt that American workers need unions. Wages today are almost 10 percent lower than they were in 1973, after accounting for inflation. The share of national income devoted to workers' wages and benefits is at its lowest since the late-1960s, while the share going to profits has surged. The decline in unionization has been a big part of the reason that workers have lost so much ground.

The future of organized labor is not cause for great optimism. Employers have become more aggressive about keeping unions out. Competitive pressures from globalization, deregulation and technological change have resulted in the loss of many union jobs.

Indeed, unionization rose last year partly because of the slow pace of job creation in nonunionized sectors of the labor market. The jump in unionization rates in the construction industry, for example, was partly attributed to the steep decline in residential construction, where there are fewer unions, while the more heavily unionized commercial construction sector remained strong.

Still, the uptick offers hope that the renewed emphasis on organizing workers by some of the nation's largest unions — like the service employees' union, the Teamsters and others that split off from the A.F.L.-C.I.O. to form the Change to Win coalition — might start paying dividends despite the difficult odds.

A bill that would have made it easier for unions to organize workers died in the Senate last June. Congress should take up this issue again to stop companies from using threats and other aggressive tactics to keep organized labor out, and to help win workers their rightful share of the economic pie.

(Continued on page 6)

Got a great idea?

It could win you \$5,000.

SEIU members have a lot of smart ideas for improving public services. When we're able to run with them, it benefits the public, helps our employers, and improves our jobs. Everybody wins.

Do you have a new idea you think will really improve the quality of public services? Or a great idea you already brought to life that could work in other places?

If so, please enter your idea in the "Everybody Wins" contest. Top winners will receive cash prizes and recognition at the SEIU 2008 Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico. If your idea wins first prize, your SEIU Public Services Division local will receive a \$20,000 prize it can use to help bring the idea to life.



For an entry form, eligibility requirements, and Official Rules, contact "Everybody Wins" at 866-562-1459 or go to www.PublicDivisionVision.org/Everybody_Wins

»» **Long-Term Care - "Where's the Relief?"** The rising cost of long-term care (LTC) insurance, the overwhelming preference to allow the elderly to receive care in their homes, and the lack of resources available to traditional facilities is making headlines and moving politicians. At a January legislative briefing, the Connecticut Commission on Aging (COA) released the first long-term care needs assessment in 20 years, and nearly a dozen of our Council 400 members were there. The report, which calls for investing in more in-home and community long-term care services for Connecticut's graying population, is available online at www.cga.ct.gov/coa/. Contact our Communications Director Matt O'Connor at (800) 894-9479, ext. 129, to sign-up as a "long-term care messenger" and add your voice to the call in the current legislative session!



Council 400 LAC Members at the Legislative Briefing on Long-Term Care Issues



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Our Benefits

Updates on Unique Membership Benefits & Opportunities

★ SEIU's Investment in Our Families: When our International released the names of individuals awarded SEIU scholarships last year, one of our own member's children had made the list! Ridgefield School Lunch Program Food Service Worker Lynn Zavory was proud when her daughter Aerin received news she had been selected to receive a \$1,000 renewable award to cover her tuition costs at Southern Connecticut State University.



Council 760 Chapter 743 Member Lynn Zavory with Daughters Meghan and Aerin, Husband John, and Family Pet Thelma Louise

The application period for the four scholarship programs currently available through our affiliation with SEIU for the 2008 – 2009 academic year ends **MARCH 1**. Go to the "Benefits" section at our current website and select the "SEIU Scholarships" from the index for application forms and instructions **TODAY!**

»» Standing-Up for Whistleblower Protections in the DOC:

The day after the *Hartford Courant* reported that two of our members working in the State Dept. of Correction (DOC) had filed complaints over punitive transfers, we challenged agency leaders and the Administration of M. Jodi Rell to address management's tactics to silence our union voice. Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and State Senate leaders invited us to raise our concerns at a January 25 news briefing at the capitol to announce proposed legislation that will strengthen "whistleblower" protections for public service workers. The event provided an opportunity to expose the retaliation against our members who had spoken out against a manager's racially insensitive workplace remarks as a symptom of the anti-worker atmosphere perpetuated by some managers in the DOC's Central Office.



CSC Council President Cathy Osten Speaks to the Media at a Capitol News Briefing on Attorney General's Proposed Whistleblower Protection Legislation

Contact our Communications Director Matt O'Connor at (800) 894-9479, ext. 129 to sign-up as a "whistleblower messenger" and join us in urging lawmakers pass this important legislation and empower more public service workers to raise their voices!

(Editor's note: read the full press release with our response to the *Hartford Courant's* article that broke the story on DOC management retaliation against our members at our website)

Leadership, Not the Status Quo...

(Continued from page 1)

whether the plan to dissolve the DOT was really in taxpayers' best interests. Our message was simple; the Governor's proposal offers few solutions for poor leadership in the department and creates additional bureaucracies that could impede delivery of quality services.

On NBC-TV Channel 30's Connecticut Newsmakers:

"The Governor's 'blue ribbon' commission - and the Governor - agree we have a lack of leadership in the DOT, and splitting up the agency into two agencies doesn't solve the problem!"

Travis Woodward

Transportation Engineer,
CT Dept. of Transportation
Steward, Chapter 88, P-4 Council



Our DOT reform "messengers" – members working as engineers, inspectors, designers, and planners in the department – led our public relations efforts in the days following the announcement, calling for leadership to develop a coherent vision for a 21st century transportation policy that would spur economic development. While we raised our issues in public, our SEIU State Council Director and Legislative Liaison worked behind the scenes to deliver a clear message to state lawmakers; the fundamental solution DOT needs is leadership that promotes and embraces quality public service.

(Editor's note: links to print, radio, TV, and internet news coverage featuring our members' reaction to the Governor's plan are available in the "News Media Coverage" section of our current website's "Ending the DOT's 'Culture of Fear' page, and will be moved to the new format after it has launched on March 3)

Quoted in the Hartford Courant:



"Inter-modal - working together to solve transportation problems by integration of rails, ships, highways and airports - is the best mode to work in."

Jay Doody

Principal Transportation Engineer,
CT Dept. of Transportation
Member, Chapter 88, P-4 Council

We greeted the Governor's announcement that her budget would include resources for recruiting additional engineers and inspectors for the DOT with approval. However, the department has lost four hundred engineers, inspectors, and planners – positions that impact public safety – statewide since 1995, a point our members drove home in interviews for a "Team 8

»» **Charting Our Growth for New Members:** "New Members Reference" packets, which are mailed to new members when their membership applications are received at our Local hall, have been recently updated with new materials. Our "Membership Card" has been redesigned, and all of "Our Union Family" charts have been revised.

Additional Councils were added and membership changes have been made to the "CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Leadership Structure" chart, and both the Council 400 and 760 Chapters charts are now available. Complete an online request form at the "Our Local"



Investigates" report on the Q-Bridge in New Haven that aired on WTNH ABC-TV the week before the Governor's address, further elevating the debate about appropriate State workforce levels.

Quoted in the Connecticut Post:

"Our members have been urging the governor to look to the experience and perspective we can offer to reform the department, but she refused."

John Vitale
Property Agent,
CT Dept. of Transportation
President, P-4 Council



After speaking out about the DOT's over-reliance on costly private sector consultants while allowing the workforce to shrink for more than a decade, we have reason to be concerned. And if we are to be the union that leads for quality, then we cannot remain silent about a costly scheme that does nothing to stop management and political appointees from rewarding special interests with lucrative construction contracts.

On CBS-TV Channel 3's Eyewitness News:



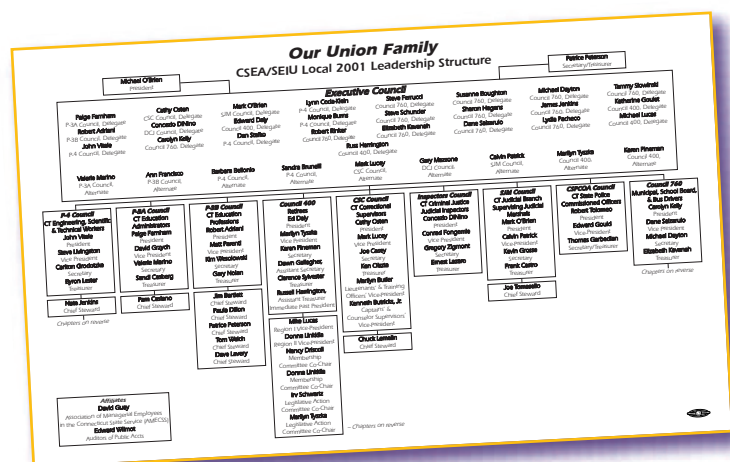
"Two agencies would create needless bureaucracy and wouldn't tackle the issue of fixing a non-working leadership structure."

Ned Statchen
Transportation Engineer,
CT Dept. of Transportation
Member, Chapter 9, P-4 Council

The first hearings on the Governor's proposal were held the following week, and we mobilized members to testify on its financial impact to the General Assembly's Appropriations Committee. We made a simple argument that resonated with the lawmakers whose votes decide which initiatives are worthy of taxpayers' dollars; rather than blow up the place and spend millions to rebuild it, why doesn't the Governor engage DOT's professional workforce in a shared vision for achieving our 21st century transportation goals?

Our next opportunity to speak to lawmakers is Monday, March 3 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The event is a joint public hearing of the Transportation and Government and Administration Committees, and we are mobilizing "messengers" to participate. Contact our Communications Director Matt O'Connor at (800) 894-9479, ext. 129 to sign-up to attend, submit testimony, or speak to the press about our issues.

page at our website (both the current and new version, set to launch March 3), or call Membership Coordinator Bernadette Conway at (800) 894-9479, ext. 114, to request copies of the charts or complete packets.



Lawmakers Must Invest...

(Continued from page 1)

critical decision to return an inmate to the community is just one of many benefits of such a shift.

This reform will require a comprehensive approach that brings criminal justice agencies and community transitional-service providers together to achieve common goals. For example, DOC educators must

be empowered to communicate directly with neighborhood-level counselors who will deal with inmates after their release.

Opinion makers like Chris Powell must recognize that criminal justice reform is not about bricks and mortar; it's about people who will make it work more efficiently and competently.



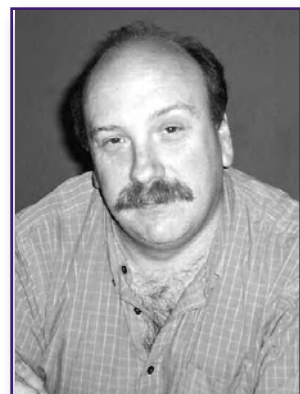
Roland and CSC Council President Cathy Osten Meeting with State Representative Michael Lawlor on Criminal Justice Reforms at the Capitol

Launching Our New & Improved Website!

We are moving to a new, easier to use web platform on Monday, March 3! Log on to www.seiu2001.org to check out our new look! Please be patient as we move all of our current website's information and material to the new format over the weeks ahead – send suggestions for content to Communications Director Matt O'Connor at moconnor@csea760.com and ideas for access and layout to Graphic/Technical Designer Jason Webster at jpwebster@csea760.com.



Patience & Perseverance Pays Off: Members of the last of our six Council 760 chapters representing West Hartford Town workers have reached a tentative agreement on a new contract. Chapter 983's Bargaining Team won several important gains for our members working as ERC dispatchers, including new shift schedules that mirror the rest of the Police Department's workforce, wage increases comparable to those previously won by our members in five of the Town's bargaining units, and reductions in employee pension contributions. Bargaining Team member Ted Hanson (pictured here) observed, "this is a good agreement, and one which both sides had to reach a little to come to." This welcome news comes as this edition of the CSEA News goes to press, and ten months after negotiations on the first of our contracts with the Town began. A ratification vote is scheduled for Thursday, March 6 at 3:30 PM at the West Hartford Police Department, and an announcement celebrating the collective efforts of the Town's public service workers to "lead for the community" over the past year will follow.



Social Activities

LAKE COMPOUNCE
NEW ENGLAND'S FAMILY THEME PARK

**Discounted Tickets for
Our Members!**

Regular Admission Tickets are Available for \$28.00 (regularly \$33.95)
Each Ticket Includes a Contribution to Our McCusker Scholarship Fund!

A downloadable leaflet with details is available at our website online – or call our union Hall toll-free at (800) 894-9479 to request a copy!



Boston Duck Tour

The City's Most Exciting Land & Water Attraction!

Saturday, May 31

Cost: \$62 per person

Reservation deadline: Payment due April 18

Includes: Roundtrip motorcoach to Boston, duck vehicle tour of the city and the Charles River, and time for shopping and dining at Quincy Market

BASEBALL HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

HOWE CAVERNS & THE OMMEGANG BREWERY

Monday, Jun. 2 – Tuesday, Jun. 3

Cost: \$243 per person twin/triple or \$293 per person single

Reservation deadline: \$75 per person due March 10 & final payment due April 14

Includes: Admission to the National Baseball Hall Of Fame, Howe Caverns (plus boat ride on the underground Lake of Venus), and to Brewery Ommegang (plus beer sampling), 1 night accommodations, breakfast & dinner, and deluxe motorcoach



Canada Cruise

Saint John, New Brunswick &

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Mon., Sep. 1 – Sat., Sep. 6

Cost: from \$549 per person

Reservation deadline: Final payment due Jun. 15

Includes: Roundtrip motorcoach to NY Pier, 6 nights accommodations aboard the Carnival's Victory, all meals on board, 24-hr room service, spectacular nightly entertainment, & array of daily activities

UPCOMING TRIPS and ACTIVITIES

Ellis Island & Statue of Liberty Tour

Sat., Jun. 14

Reservation deadline: May 14

\$54 includes travel, ferry, and admission

Glorious Estates of the South

Wed., Sep. 10 – Thu., Sep. 18

Reservation deadline: May 7

\$1,285 per person includes travel, accommodations, and sightseeing

6-Day Tour of the Ireland Coast

Thu., Nov. 6 – Tue., Nov. 11

Reservation deadline: Jun. 2

From \$1,059 per person includes motorcoach, airfare, accommodations and sightseeing

Visit our website for more details and access to flyers you can download and print for scheduled events.

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 No

Pick-up Place _____ Traveling with _____

Non-Smoking CSEA Chapter # _____ Non-member

Our President's Desk...

(Continued from page 3)

(Editor's note: the preceding copyrighted New York Times editorial was published in their February 5 edition and is re-printed here by permission of PARS International)

I had heard about it because I was at an SEIU Executive Board meeting the same day the "good" news was announced. Naturally, this growth was greeted with enthusiasm at the meeting because of the 311,000 workers who joined unions last year, 114,000 were the result of successful organizing campaigns SEIU lead around the country.

The Bush administration considers this to be "bad" news for one of the same reasons that we consider it to be "good" news; an increase in union members will mean more votes and political action for working family-friendly candidates in November's national elections.

Not all unions are on the same page when it comes to endorsing a candidate for President. Some of the larger unions in the AFL-CIO, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), endorsed Senator Clinton early on. SEIU and our Change to Win partners, including the United Food and Commercial Workers and the Teamsters, have only recently endorsed Senator Obama.

The Hartford Courant recently carried a commentary by syndicated columnist David Broder titled "Unions Stand Divided." By focusing on labor's current split over Senators Clinton and Obama, Broder is ignoring the tremendous energy and hope this historic campaign has sparked. Millions of Americans, union members and unorganized workers alike, are casting their votes in this primary election season. They are being joined at the polls by thousands of newly registered voters who are tired of the same old.

(Editor's note: Mike authored a Letter to the Editor of the Hartford Courant in response to Broder's commentary which at press times is under consideration, and will be posted at our website if published)

Clearly we are in the midst of the most exciting presidential campaign in a generation. The "good" news is that candidates with strong records on issues important to working families are generating the overwhelming majority of energy and hope in this election season.

Let's face it. Either one of these candidates will be better on issues affecting workers and their families than the current administration we have had to endure for nearly eight years. When the primary selection process finally sorts itself out, I am quite confident that our labor movement will be united.



More than One Hundred Members of Affiliated SEIU Locals in Connecticut Met at Our Hall in January to Discuss the Presidential Elections

And, of course, our Local union has still not yet voted to join with our International in the national endorsement, though as I write this column, we are awaiting a recommendation from our Legislative Action Committee (LAC) to our Executive Council.

Perhaps early next year, news of an additional increase in union membership will be released as "good" news by a new Labor Department under the direction of a new Administration in Washington, DC. That is something we can all look forward to.

CSE CREDIT UNION NEWS

Share Your Credit Union Membership!

As a credit union member, you're already aware of the savings and convenience we have to offer...But did you know your family members and co-workers could also join?

If you have eligible family members or co-workers who are tired of paying the high fees, interest rates, and service charges at banks, ask them to call or stop by the credit union for information on how to join.

When they compare our financial products and services with what they have been paying, they'll wonder why they didn't join sooner and will thank you for telling them about us.

Visit Our Web Site

to 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.



Good Friay Friday, March 21

**Invite someone to
JOIN
the Credit Union!**



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 – 4th Quarter 2007

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SAVINGS	5.00%	5.13%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	2.75%	2.79%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	3.75%	3.82%

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	HARTFORD	NEW HAVEN
Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich CT 06360 (860) 889-7378	84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 522-5388 (Savings) (860) 522-7147 (Loans)	1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 (203) 397-2949
MIDDLETOWN	STORRS	SOUTHBURY
P.O. Box 2485 Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 347-0479	1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 (860) 429-9306	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. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Branches: Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
DRIVE-UP TELLER (Hartford only): Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Paydays open until 5:00 p.m.

Classified Advertising

Classified Ads which are not renewed within 2 months of date placed will be removed after 3rd consecutive month of publication. To place or renew your ad, which is free to active and retired members, send the text to CSEA News editor Matt O'Connor by mail to our Union Hall in Hartford or by e-mail to moconnor@csea760.com, and include "Classified Advertising" in the subject line.

FOR SALE

NAPLES, FLORIDA, manufactured home, age-restricted gated community, great lake views; 1,340 sq ft w/laminate flrs throughout, split bedroom design, master bd on lake with sliders to lanai, guest bd in front w/priv hall & BA; den w/French doors, kit and DR have lake views; large living room, all new kitchen appliances and water heater, updated baths, new roof in 2005, a 400 sq. ft. lanai w/lake views & front porch; many amenities, 2 pools, 2 club houses, active social calendar beach-close. Reduced from \$84,900 to \$65,000 OBO due to illness. Naples, FL (239) 598-4259 or e-mail tfmacmd@embarqmail.com.

POCONOS, PA TIMESHARE UNIT, Shawnee Mt. 5-Star resort, sleeps 6 or more, full kitchen, fireplace, 2-1/2 BA, Jacuzzi, amenities include 27-hole golf, indoor and outdoor pools, rec center, skiing, ice skating rink, restaurants. Quarter share (13 wks) for use, rent, or trade. RCI and II. \$32,000 for all 13 weeks. Hebron (860) 228-3146.

THE VILLAGES, FL VILLA, 2 BR/2 BA, exc. condition, prime location. \$149,000/unfurnished, \$152,900/furnished. The Villages, FL (352)750-0399 or e-mail to villager506@aol.com.

BOYNTON BEACH, FL CONDO, 55+ gated community, 2 BR/2 BA, LR, DR, FL room, marble floors throughout, 1 car garage, patio, end unit near club house & pool. \$250/mo Asso fees. Middlefield (860) 349-8089.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL TIME SHARE, Sheraton Vistana Resort, 2 BR/2 BA, 1st flr, exc location, close to Disney, wk 42 (Oct). \$1,500 OBO. Lady Lake, FL (352) 430-0664.

FREE TIMESHARE w/purchase of 1/2 acre land in Lehigh Acres, FL. Waterbury (203) 757-2751.

1996 SATURN SL1, gold, 4DR sedan, 1.9L engine, cassette & AM/FM radio, great on gas, great cond. With new brakes and battery, 85K mi. \$2,200 OBO. Farmington (860) 674-9556.

1987 EL CAMINO, silver-gray, burgundy cloth interior, Leer Cap, V-8 eng, 89k mi, one owner, always kept under cover, \$5,000 after March 15. Willington (860) 429-4771.

HAMMOND ORGAN, walnut finish, like new, never a minute of trouble, see to appreciate (evenings). New Milford (860) 350-0783.

BEDROOM SET, tan laminate construction, 1 6-drawer dresser, 1-headboard & frame, 2 3-drawer night stands, 1 mirror, 1 armoire, great condition. \$1500 OBO. Manchester (860) 508-6051.

ORIENTAL RUG, Artloom Wilton Carpet, 9' x 12' 100% wool, maroon background, exc. condition. \$100. Middletown (860) 344-8997.

24K GOLD ELECTROPLATE TEA SET, incl. tray, coffee pot, covered sugar, & creamer, original box; 24K gold plated candlesticks; 24K gold plated serving pieces; 24K International Silver gold plated napkin rings. Portland (860) 342-3434.

2 SMALL PANASONIC CLOCK RADIOS, AM/FM, alarm, snooze button, great for bedside. \$15/both. Farmington (860) 677-4220.

ARIENS SNOW BLOWER, 6 hp motor, not working – use for parts. \$125. Enfield (860) 741-2950.

KEROSENE HEATERS, Aladdin, heats approx 19' x 20' area, \$30; Corona, \$30. East Hartford (860) 289-0059.

4 HITCHCOCK CHAIRS; electric stove; dining room table with 6 chairs; several serving pieces of sterling silver; 12-piece China serving set. Farmington (860) 673-4504.

COUCH, 2-yrs old, camel, microfiber with 2 recliners and lounge attached, excellent cond., was \$1599, selling \$600; Sanyo 32" TV, cable ready, barely used, excellent cond., \$250; Hotpoint apartment size refrigerator with freezer, \$50; Kenmore full size upright Freezer, excellent cond. \$200. Enfield (860) 749-1784.

HENRIETTA HAM children's books, \$15.85/each; T-Shirts, \$13.95 (youth), \$15.95 (adult); frisbees, \$4.19/each. Hebron (860) 228-2138 or send e-mail to DRaheb21@sbcglobal.net.

BABY LEOPARD GECKOS, healthy and thriving. \$30/each. Middletown (860) 710-0300.

FOR RENT

OTIS, ME LAKEFRONT COTTAGE, next to Elisworth – the "Gateway to Acadia" and near Bar Harbor and Bangor, on Beech Hill Pond (5 mi long, 1 mi wide, 115' deep) with dock and small sandy beach, 200' from public boat launch, pets welcome. \$1,000/wk Jul. and Aug., \$850/wk Jun., Sep. – Oct. Windsor Locks (860) 690-4856.

ARUBA TIMESHARE, La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, ground flr overlooks pool area and beach, 1 BR unit, sleeps four, avail Apr. 19 – 26. \$500 for week. North Haven (203) 671-5496 or send e-mail to JKAL48@AOL.COM.

OCEAN REEF YACHT CLUB & RESORT, Freeport, Bahamas. 2 BR units sleep 6, fully equipped. \$900/unit/weekly. Photos avail at www.oryc.com. Hartford (860) 841-3107.

JUPITER, FL BLUFFS TOWNHOUSE, 2 BR/3 BA, walking distance to ocean, pool, tennis, restaurants, groceries, salons. Avail Mar., 2008 Delray Beach, FL (561) 276-8946.

VERO BEACH FL CONDO, 2/2, third (top) flr/w elevator, beautiful courtyard w/pool, newly decorated, close to everything, 55+ and 3-month min, \$900/month. Vero Beach, FL (772) 234-7070.

WANTED

COMPANION for mobile 90-year old female in CT Shoreline home, caregiver will be expected to do some cooking and light housekeeping.

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FREE HOUSE CALLS
(860) 528-8508

BJ's WHOLESALE CLUB Our Members Recieve \$10 Off an Annual Membership PLUS 3 Additional Months!
Discounted 15-Month Membership is Just \$35.00

A downloadable leaflet with details is available at our website online – call our union Hall toll-free at (800) 894-9479 to request a CSEA BJ's Application form today!

DEATHS REPORTED

We regret to learn of the deaths of the following retired CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 members, as reported by the State Retirement Division:

Evelyn Ahlberg of chapter 411 died on 1/7/08

Jeanne Brown, 416, 1/22/07
James Brunetti, 407, 12/29/07
George Bunnell, 420, 12/10/07
Theresa Burton, 424, 11/11/07
Harry Cafrella, 408, 12/23/07
Emma Carnes, 416, 12/16/07
Henrietta Clark, 421, 12/20/07
Mary Clarke, 420, 1/2/08
Rudolph Corsini, 408, 12/21/07
Raymond Coyle, 416, 1/9/08
Alejandro Crespo, 420, 12/31/07
Rene Dubreuil, 414, 1/12/08

Kenneth Faust, 422, 12/14/07
Eugene Fields, 411, 12/22/07
Luis Figueroa, 420, 12/12/07
Dolores Fratoni, 403, 1/13/08
Sally Golden, 420, 1/1/08
Selma Gosselin, 420, 12/22/07
Arnold Hansen, 420, 12/12/07
Norma Hice-Bechter, 408, 1/4/08
Robert Hurney, 425, 12/2/07
Catherine Kornas, 411, 12/24/07
Milton Kramer, 423, 12/30/07
Frank Kuslik, 407, 1/1/08
Donald Leavenworth, 404, 12/28/07
Gertrude Lundie, 405, 1/16/08
Alice Miklus, 407, 1/2/08
Robert Morrison, 427, 1/3/08
Elizabeth Perry, 415, 1/15/08
Margaret Sabatino, 420, 1/11/08
Mary Sweeney, 404, 1/9/08
Alexander Taylor, 408, 12/21/07
Joan Toth, 416, 12/18/07
Lucille Waldron, 403, 12/23/07
Annie Wheeler, 421, 12/27/02
Richard Zavalko, 405, 12/17/07
Matthew Zawacki, 424, 1/4/08
Raymond Zimmerman, 420, 12/22/07

» **2008 is a Time for New Leadership:** And not just in the White House -- all Council 400 Executive and Chapter officers are up for re-election this year, too! Our Nominating Committee, which is made up of seventeen current members, met on February 21 to begin the process of reviewing candidates for leadership positions at the Council level. Contact your Chapter's delegate to the Committee to sign-up or nominate a fellow member to serve today!



Newly Elected Officers in Council 400's Chapter 427 Take the Oath of Office at the Vero Beach Yacht Club

Chapter level officers are up for election this year, too. Retirees in the Vero Beach, FL area, elected leaders to serve Chapter 427's members through 2010 at their annual meeting in February (pictured, from left, Secretary Sheila Clancy, President Bob Mercier, Vice-President Eleanor Lockwood, and Treasurer Bill Egan), a process we will have completed for all twenty-four Council 400 chapters by the time our Biennial Convention is held this fall. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for office, regardless of the length of membership, so contact your Chapter President to declare your candidacy today!

» **Lebanon Educational Secretaries are Building Unity:** Our members in Council 760's Chapter 125 have been organizing since late last year for contract negotiations with the Lebanon Board of Education. Priority proposals for clerk typists, secretaries and administrative assistants serving Lebanon's Public Schools focus on improvements that would improve economic stability and increase retirement security. Chapter President and Bargaining Team member Diana Wentworth (pictured here) observed, "we believe we have made progress since starting negotiations with the Board. We've laid out clear goals for our new contract; maintaining our health insurance and increasing the Board's contribution to our premiums, increasing the Board's investment in our TSA retirement accounts, and achieving a fair wage increase." To win, given the challenges of bargaining in the face of a national recession, our members need to unite behind a clear message; when workers have what they need to do a job they can be proud of AND achieve a better future for themselves and their families, we ALL win!



» **Building Our Strength in the Field:** P-4 Council's Chapter 24 leaders are meeting with members working in the State Dept. of Environmental Protection's (DEP) field facilities to address a variety of workplace issues. Council and Chapter officers toured several Western District worksites in late-January to hear from forestry, fisheries, parks, and wildlife professionals on a wide range of concerns, from repairing aging field facilities, to closing gaps between job classes, to improving outreach and communications for newer members. Though many of our members working out of the field offices in Litchfield, Thomaston, Harwinton, and Pleasant Valley provide specialized environmental, conservation, and recreational public services, they face many of the same challenges impacting all of our Council members.



P-4 Council, Chapter 24 Leaders and Members Meeting at the DEP's Sessions Woods Conservation Center in Burlington

Contact Political Director Rick Melita at (800) 894-9479, ext. 111, to share your ideas on how to empower our members in the DEP to "lead for quality" in the face of service cuts, outsourcing, and short-staffing.

*Our Thoughts Remain
with the Troops Overseas
and their Families*



State of Connecticut Employees and Retirees!



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