

Our Legislative Action Committee

Members Speak Out On Our Priority Issues at the General Assembly



P-4 Council Members Jay Doody, Oscar Gomez, and John Vitale Take Our Clean Contracting Message to the General Assembly's Labor and Public Employees Committee

Our members have spoken out on a wide variety of issues in front of key General Assembly committees over the past month, taking our message direct to the legislators whose votes in the current session will impact our working and personal lives. Our Legislative Action Committee (LAC) members have coordinated schedules for members to attend hearings and forums at the capitol, and our direct involvement is making the difference!

Our voices have also been amplified with numerous "letters to the editor" and "opinion editorials" published in regional and local newspapers over the past two months, and several television news and radio reports have taken our message public. Be sure to visit our website at www.csea-ct.com for links to current media coverage and published newspaper articles of, by, and for our members!



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School Paraprofessionals United

State Must Invest in its Paraprofessional Help



Halina Paskevicz
 Paraprofessional, Fairfield
 Board of Education
 Chapter I19 Co-President,
 Council 760



Julie Cinnamon
 Paraprofessional, Fairfield
 Board of Education
 Chapter I19 Vice-President,
 Council 760

(Editor's note: this Letter to the Editor was submitted to the Opinion Editor of the Connecticut Post and published in their Sunday, January 28 edition's "Letters" section – it was also submitted to the Managing Editor of the Fairfield Citizen-News and published in their Wednesday, January 31 edition)

As paraprofessionals with over 50 years of combined experience, we are disappointed by recent news reports about proposals in the General Assembly for new state laws to define our profession.

In a study released last month, the Assembly's Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee



Darlene Trupp
 Paraprofessional, Fairfield
 Board of Education
 Chapter I19 Vice-President,
 Council 760

recommended additional certification requirements. However the report does not address the need to improve

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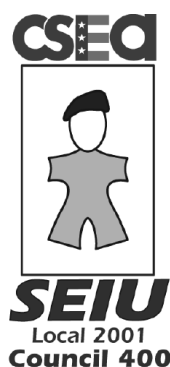
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 CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

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.

CONNECTICUT EVENTS

CHAPTER 401, Hartford area, Thursday, March 1, 1:00 p.m. (light lunch served at 12:00 p.m.), CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Speaker: Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz on new voting machines and AAA representative Bill Dostar. Contact: Katherine Goulet at (860) 675-4053.

CHAPTER 411, Rocky Hill area, Thursday, March 1 (**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE**), 1:00 p.m. (social follows meeting), William J. Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Speaker: chiropractor Dr. Michael Carucci, on "back pain." Contact: Florence Egan at (860) 666-0382.

CHAPTER 418/4Cs, Thursday, March 8, 10:00 a.m., Congress of CT Community Colleges, 907 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford. Refreshments. Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Contact: Aldo Sicuso at (860) 346-3550.

CHAPTER 410, Windsor Locks area, Monday, March 12, 1:00 p.m. (social, meeting follows), VFW Post 6123, 40 Fairview St., Windsor Locks. Speaker: Speaker: Bill Morrow, Senior Tax Specialist from the IRS on federal income tax issues. Contact: Elaine Colson at (860) 623-8704.

CHAPTER 403, Norwich area, Tuesday, March 13, 1:30 p.m. (meeting room not available until 1:00, refreshments prior to meeting), Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Dr., Norwich. Speaker: Primerica Financial Services representative Carol Burgess. Chapter Vice-President position open. Contact: Norman Coutu at (860) 886-5937 (meeting cancellation notice due to weather will be broadcast on WICH AM 1310, WCTY FM 97.7, and WNLC FM 98.7).

CHAPTER 404, Waterbury area, Tuesday, March 13, 10:30 a.m. (social, meeting follows), Elks Club, 758 Rubber Ave., Naugatuck. Speaker: Connecticut Light & Power representative Tam Hall energy conservation. Contact: Armand Rosanelli at (203) 758-5122.

CHAPTER 406, Middletown area, Tuesday, March 13 **MEETING CANCELLED** due to scheduling conflict. Contact: Elizabeth Harvey at (860) 917-3740.

CHAPTER 416, New London area, Tuesday, March 13; 12:00 p.m. (refreshments, business meeting at 12:30 p.m., program at 1:00 p.m.), Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Rd., Groton. Speaker: Medical Director of Lawrence Memorial Hospital Counseling center Center, Dr. Neal Price on "overcoming the blues," with question and answer session to follow. Meeting open to the public. Contact: Les Shapiro at (860) 442-5256.

CHAPTER 417, Plainville area, Wednesday, March 14, 1:00 p.m. (social, meeting follows), Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church, 115 West Main St., Plainville. Speaker: Plainville Senior Center Director Shawn Cohen on service available through the center. Contact: Nicholas D'Emanuelle at (860) 628-6675.

CHAPTER 405, New Haven area, Wednesday, March 14, 12:30 p.m. (social, meeting follows at 1:00 p.m.), Southern CT State University, Adanti Student Center (Building 14), 3rd Floor, Room 306, 501 Crescent St., New Haven. Program: St Rayfield's Representative Jennifer Carter on emergency lifeline response systems. Contact: Andy Gambardella at (203) 468-7376.

CHAPTER 402, Danbury area, Wednesday, March 14, 10:00 a.m., (refreshments follow meeting), United Methodist Church, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury. Speaker: Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz. Contact: Dawn Gallagher at (203) 748-2018.

CHAPTER 408, Willimantic area, Wednesday, March 14; 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. Speaker: McSweeney Sr. Center Executive Director Rose Fowler on the future move of the center. Contact: Donna Linkkila at (860) 455-0883.

COUNCIL 400 Delegates Meeting, Thursday, March 15, 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 414, Torrington area, Monday, March 19, 10:00 a.m., UCONN Torrington Agriculture Building, 855 University Dr., Torrington. Speaker: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Political Director Rick Melita on legislative issues at the General Assembly. Contact: Karen Pineman at (860) 354-6727.

CHAPTER 412, Putnam area, Tuesday, March 20, 1:30 p.m. (social follows meeting), Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., Putnam. Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Refreshments, door prizes. Meeting open to the public. Contact: Don Gladding at (860) 564-9092.

CHAPTER 407, Bridgeport area, Wednesday, March 21; 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 415, Manchester area, Monday, March 26, 1:15 p.m., Eighth Utility District Office, 18 Main St., Manchester. Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Contact: Ed Daly at (860) 871-9482.

"DAY AT THE MOHEGAN SUN," Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 a.m. bus pick-ups at 3 locations in the morning, including CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Cost: \$15 per person (includes bus transportation and gratuity for driver). Reservation deadline: April 17 (see flyer for reservation form). Contact: Katherine Goulet at (860) 675-4053.

FLORIDA & OTHER STATES' EVENTS

CHAPTER 421, Northeast Florida area, Thursday, April 5, 11:30 a.m. (luncheon meeting follows), Country Harvest Buffet, 2400 South Ridgewood Avenue (U.S. Rte 1), South Daytona, FL. Cost: members responsible for buffet (no reservations needed). Contact: Len Albert at (386) 615-6805.

NEW CAROLINAS AREA MEETING, Saturday, April 28, 11:00 a.m. (luncheon, meeting follows), Legends, 1500 Legends Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC. Cost: no cost for Council 400 members. Program: union and Council 400 leaders will share plans for establishing a new chapter for members living in the Carolinas, Virginia and Georgia. Contact: Nancy Driscoll at (860) 449-9301 or Donna Linkkila at (860) 455-0883.

Chapter Secretaries and Program Coordinators:
**The Deadline for March Meeting Information is
Monday, March 12.**

Our Actions...in Brief

Members' Current Issues, Meetings, & Events

Our CSC Council Members are Moving Forward:

"Our union is the best thing that's ever happened to us" Lt. Dorothy Rucker said as arbitration hearings on our efforts negotiate our first contract that would include captains and lieutenants working in State's Department of Correction finished up in January. The arbitration decision is expected by late-Spring, and in the meantime, efforts to train worksite stewards move forward. Though still under construction, the CSC Council webpage is regularly updated with news and information on issues important to our members, so check www.csea-ct.com/csc/index.cfm regularly to see what's new!

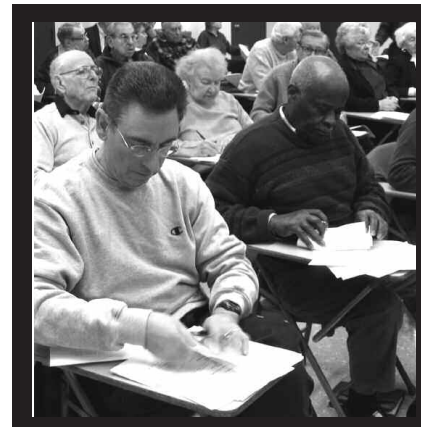


Making Medicare Work for Retired State Workers:

As we reported in last month's CSEA News, recent changes in how Medicare Part B premiums are being calculated may impact our Council 400 members. We worked with our partners in SEBAC to enforce our contracts and ensure State reimbursement of the difference.

Members who received letters from Social Security indicating their recalculated premium would be more than \$93.50 need to send a copy of the letter to the State Comptroller, Retirement Division, Health Unit, 55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106. Call our Council 400 Coordinator Hollis Block at the Local hall at (800) 894-9479, extension 130, with any questions or concerns on this vital issue.

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



Serving Our Communities

Developing Quality Services for Families with Autism



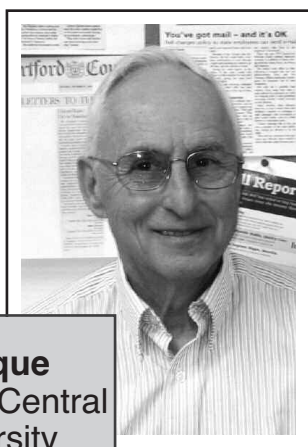
Council 400 Members Norman and Florence Bourques's Daughter and Son-in-Law with their Three Boys on Vacation

Among the priorities of the new 2007 legislative session now underway is developing a new autism-specific state agency to professionalize the service workforce and provide families of adults and children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) the best care and education possible. Though it may seem a bold new initiative, our efforts are actually a significant component of our long-running "clean contracting" campaign, by reforming the policy of outsourcing vital early intervention and special education development services to the private sector, and rebuilding our State education workforce.

A decade ago, before the Rowland Administration began contracting-out these services to low-bid, unaccountable private contractors, Connecticut's state-run Birth-to-Three services were a model for the nation. 120 of our members worked as certified Special Education Teachers, and provided unparalleled expertise in diagnosing mental health and developmental disorders.

Earlier this month, the Centers for Disease Control released the results of their most recent study of the national autism crisis, and shocked everyone except the families of children and adults with ASD. The rates were found to have gone from 1 in 166 to 1 in 150 children and adults living with ASD, placing the estimate for the number in Connecticut alone at more than 22,000.

"I could have guessed the numbers were higher" Council 400 member Norman Bourque observed after the CDC's findings made national news headlines. A grandparent of three boys with ASD, he added "we meet families all the time that have an adult or child with ASD, and more and more often, not just a single child."



Norman Bourque
Retired Professor, Central CT State University
Member, Chapter 401,
Council 400



Florence Bourque
Retired Teacher, Marlborough Public School District
Member, Chapter 401,
Council 400

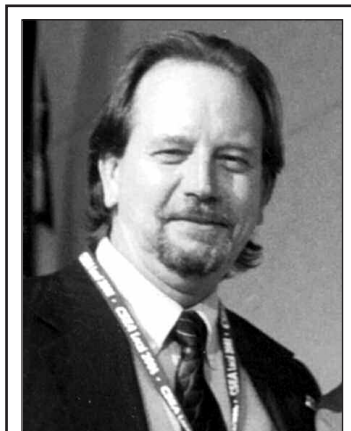
After reading Council P-3B member Matt Parenti's front-page article in last month's CSEA News on his family's struggle to secure appropriate services for his son with ASD, Norman and his wife Florence signed-up to support organizing a new state ASD services agency. "When I read Matt's article, and saw that it had also been published in several newspapers, I wanted to talk to him and find

out more about his family's experiences and how we could support the plan he talked about" Florence explained.

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Our President's Desk

Universal Healthcare Revisited



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

A lot has gone on since last month's column. The president delivered his State of the Union address, the governor unveiled her budget proposals, and the new 110th Congress convened and pushed through its "First-100 Hour" agenda. I attended an SEIU International Executive Board meeting and a Public Service Division meeting in Washington, DC, a new coalition dedicated to solving the health care crisis in the U.S. was formed with some unlikely allies, and the situation in Iraq is deteriorating while a war with neighboring Iran is threatened.

This is one of those months where there is no lack of subject matter to talk about.

Any one of these events has

enough material for its own column, which presents another problem: do I pick one of the above subjects and concentrate the whole column on it or take a more broad brush approach and touch on all or most of them?

I decided on the latter course.

Last month I devoted the entire column to the benefits for our members of a universal health care program. Health care will also be a central theme this month because it's a component of all the possible topics I listed above.

In his state of the union address, President Bush did talk about more than his proposed troop surge in Iraq. He talked about healthcare, but rather than proposing a comprehensive solution like expanding the Medicare program to all, he chose to tinker around the edges by proposing a tax deduction for the cost of your insurance premiums, which he claims will help more people afford it. Of course, for those of us with health insurance provided by our employers, the cost will also likely be counted as income.

In her budget address, Governor Rell chose to unleash a bold plan to increase

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Speaking Out for the Gains We've Made

Put Health Insurance in Everyone's Reach



Bill Buhler

Pupil Services Specialist,
Connecticut Dept. of
Children and Families
Member, Legislative Action
Committee, P-3B Council

the fat out of our bloated health care system.

First, we could overturn the law preventing importation of less expensive drugs. Second, we could insist that the federal government bargain with US companies for lower drug prices. Both these laws were sweetheart deals passed to assure huge profits for pharmaceutical companies. You can see what good use Pfizer makes of its profits: the board of directors recently thought it appropriate to give CEO Henry McKinnell a \$180 million retirement package.

We need to advocate for change in a system that makes a mockery of free market competition. In the meantime, I take some comfort knowing that the Governor and the Legislature are working on ways to increase health insurance enrollment for Connecticut residents. There is a current state surplus of over 500 million dollars, and proposals have been put forth to allocate part of this for future health insurance costs.

Members united in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 share the same concern for sound government accounting as the public we serve. We will speak out when opponents of decent public services try to create hysteria with new bookkeeping methods, and we will support the efforts of elected officials to put health insurance within everyone's reach.

It reflects well on all of us that in two branches of state government, planning ahead for the common good is given high priority.

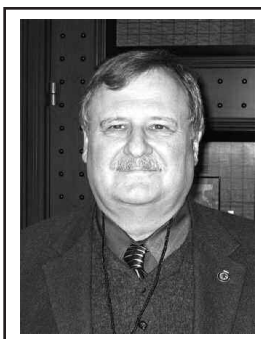
(Editor's note: this article was submitted to the Opinion Page editor of the New London Day in response to an editorial by a staffer from the Yankee Institute, an anti-public service and anti-worker think tank, entitled "The Burden Of Feeding The State's Unions," and was printed in their Thursday, February 22 edition's "Letters to the Editor" section)

After 27 years as a state worker, I am annoyed when I read D. Dowd Muska's editorial whining about the future cost of medical insurance for public service workers. As the wealthiest per capita state in the nation, what is wrong is not that some people have health insurance, but that there are 407,000 residents without it.

Instead of depriving people of health care, we should be doing something to make it more affordable for everyone. Health care costs in the US are twice those in Canada, Australia, Great Britain and France. This should be a red flag for us to start cutting

»» Dignity and Respect for State Police Captains and Lieutenants:

"Today is a great day for the State of Connecticut and the dedicated public safety professionals working for the State Police and the communities we serve" Cpt. Bob Tolomeo said when the Labor Board certified the results of last July's election by captains and lieutenants in the agency to unite in our union. The Labor Board's decision followed a long process of hearings involving the Office of Labor Relations, and rejected claims by the State that these valued public servants do not qualify for the same rights to negotiate working conditions and economic issues as thousands of their co-workers in the Department of Public Safety (DPS). This historic victory now paves the way for first-ever contract negotiations!



400 LAC ACTION

Council 400 Legislative Action Committee (LAC)

The Perils Of Privatization



Zoe Leibowitz

Member, Council 400 LAC
Member, Chapter 408

implying that we should have had inspectors inspecting the inspectors?

The problem is that the government privatized yet another traditional state function. Can *The Courant* give me one example where such a function has been privatized with stellar, or even acceptable, results? Privatizing the state's computer systems and the Hartford Public Schools come to mind as complete failures.

(Editor's note: this article was submitted to the Editorial Board of the *Hartford Courant* and was published in their Sunday, January 28 edition's "Letters" section)

In the Jan. 26 editorial "DOT Can Do Better," *The Hartford Courant* chastised the state Department of Transportation for not monitoring the progress of drain installations that went along with an I-84 building project. Is *The Courant*

Had we had DOT inspectors on the job, either this shoddy laying of the drains would not have been allowed or we would at least have someone to hold accountable. The private contractor, L.G. DeFelice Inc., went out of business.

The headline should have been "DOT Can Do It Better." Let's stop privatizing such important and expensive functions.

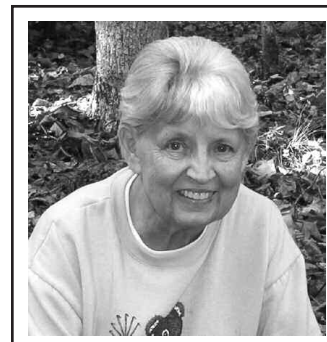
»» Newtown Town Hall Employees' Victory through Strength:

Following a long process of negotiations that lead to mediation, impasse, and a call for binding arbitration, members of Council 760's Chapter 140 working for the town of Newtown took what Bargaining Team member Karen Pratt described as "one last shot" at addressing unresolved issues. When the full membership rejected the town's Last Best Offer, primarily due to a 7% increase on health insurance costs, our Bargaining Team members went back to the table and came back with a strong agreement that kept medical co-pays at their current level, included equity adjustments for workers taking on additional duties, and won wage increases for each of the three years of the new contract. Congratulations to our brothers and sisters in Newtown for showing strength and unity!



»» Forming a New Council 400 Chapter in the Carolinas:

Members living in the Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia are working to establish a new chapter in the area to keep up to date on issues in Hartford that impact their retirement, receive timely information on the State health plan (which is up for renegotiation in less than 10 years), and socialize with other members in the region. Cathy Toscano will be among the Council 400 members living in the area who will attend our first meeting to plan this newest chapter at the Legends in Myrtle Beach on Saturday, April 28 at 11:00 a.m. Contact Council 400 Coordinator Hollis Block to RSVP at (800) 437-5630, if out of state, or (800) 894-9479, if in Connecticut. Join us for lunch and learn how we can build greater strength for retired public sector workers!



The Fight for Medicare



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 the battle lines are being drawn in the new Congress, one of the important issues for seniors is our Medicare health benefits. The law has to be changed in at least three ways, short of revamping it altogether:

- (a) Medicare should be allowed to negotiate drug prices;
- (b) The doughnut hole has to be eliminated; and
- (c) Cheaper drugs should be imported from countries with proper safeguards.

Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, is in favor of allowing the government to negotiate lower drug prices. The new Congressional majority leadership says that if Medicare negotiated prices in bulk, it could save as much as \$60 billion over ten years ([ARA Friday Alert](#), Dec. 15, 2006).

However, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Senate Minority leader, says he would oppose these proposals. Why should he do this? You will recall that the pharmaceutical industry pumps millions of dollars into the political arena.

When the Kaiser Foundation conducted a survey about this question, eighty five percent of adults were in favor of such negotiations, and they included Republicans, Democrats and Independents. This issue cuts across political lines. Call, write and e-mail your lawmakers that you want the law corrected. They need your advice on this subject.

Everyone is interested in cutting drug costs, and possibly medical treatment. Now, Medicare will pay a bonus to those doctors who report data on the quality of their care by standards set by the government. It is supposed to be a

pay-for-performance system, but is it really? How about the professional autonomy of doctors who have the understanding, knowledge and training on how best to provide for their own patients?

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), and former Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke in favor of the idea. "Medicare now pays the same amount regardless of quality", he said. Then there are others who are apprehensive. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) said, "I am very skeptical of pay-for-performance. I'm not sure we can measure quality and performance that well." Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health said, "The entire concept of pay-for-performance is offensive." He indicated that doctors are supposed to provide "quality care" and should not be paid extra for doing so (R. Pear, [Medicare Links Doctors' Pay](#), *New York Times*, Dec. 12, 2006).

The regimented pay-for-performance program might break down into a pay-for-compliance program, with governmental administration control over the practice of medicine.

When the private plans were

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Our Strength in Retirement

Creating Solutions to the Long Term Care Crisis

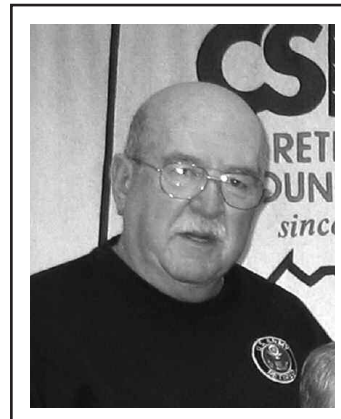


Hollis Block
Council 400 Coordinator

The cost of long-term health care and long term expenses are becoming more unreachable for each of us, especially as we age. This year in the Connecticut General Assembly, a number of bills that would address the rising costs of care have been proposed, and several of our Council 400 members have testified at public hearings. Some younger, some older, and all concerned about quality care in retirement, our members have taken on the long term care crisis as one of our legislative priorities!

In written testimony she submitted to two general Assembly Committees, Chapter 410 member Fran Chevrette, shared the financial strain of tending her ill husband, who she now cares for in their home. "I wasn't able to leave him in the rehab facility where he was doing so well because we do not have long-term care insurance" she informed the Committees reviewing two bills that, if passed, would allow deductions from state income tax obligations for long-term care expenses. "Long term care insurance is a real necessity" she stressed in her written statement.

We have been working with the State of Connecticut for several years to find affordable long-term care coverage for our members. This coverage can be very costly. For example, the Connecticut Partnership for Long-Term Care provides an example of the cost of premiums for long-term care, purchased at age 55, being approximately \$2,510 annually (\$210 a month) and \$9,930 a year (\$827.50 a month) if purchased by a 75-year old.



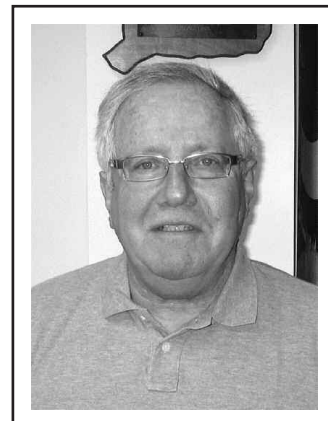
"Being on a cruise liner all year long is cheaper than being in a nursing home. Though, when you die, they just dump you over the side – at no charge!"

Chet Morgan
Retired, Legislative Liaison,
CT Dept. of Public Utility Control
Vice-President, Chapter 415,
Council 400

For many individuals and families these premiums are not affordable. You know this if you have children who are college bound, are two adults in need of coverage, your mortgages still need to be paid, or you have had jobs in which you weren't earning a living wage, or presently survive on a fixed income!

"A deduction directly from the state income tax obligation will help make long-term care more affordable. Costs for live-in companions, adult day care and skilled visiting nursing are very expensive."

Stu Mahler
Retired Local Government Program
Supervisor, CT Office of Policy and
Management
Member, Legislative Action Committee.
Council 400



According to a report prepared by the Connecticut Partnership in a Survey of Home and Community Based Provider Rates, the average private pay daily rate for skilled/intermediate combined nursing home care is \$284 (effective 1/1/06). Based on this figure, the average annual cost of care is \$103,700 a year! How many of us can afford this if one of our loved ones needs this level of care?

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Our Legislative Action Committee...

(Continued from page 1)

Our Members in Action at the State Capitol



P-4 Council Member Stephen Gonzales Interviewed by WTNH-TV Channel 8 at the Capitol on Our "Clean Contracting" Initiative for a Special Report on the Cost of Outsourcing Public Services

On Clean Contracting:

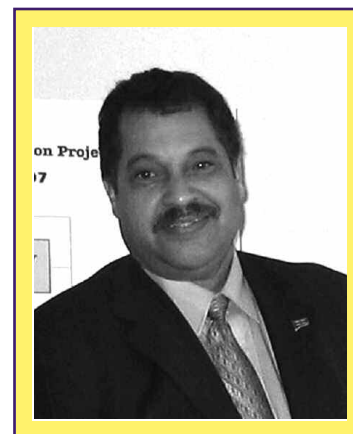


"8 years ago, the Office of the State Comptroller used State employees to upgrade their systems to be Y2K compliant. The bid received to use private consultants was \$6 million. It was done in-house for \$600,000, and on-time. This is a striking example of how State resources can serve the public in the best way possible."

Lynn Coda-Klein
Systems Developer,
CT Dept. of Information Technology
Co-Chair, LAC, P-4 Council

"In our efforts to protect public privacy during Gov. Rowland's IT outsourcing scheme, our members exposed the way private contractors used the procurement system to get paid for work that was not delivered, not timely as promised, and for systems that never worked. We are calling for the same type of accountability and consequences on private contractors, that the public can expect from public employees."

Oscar Gomez
Systems Developer, CT Dept. of Social Services
President, Chapter 33, P-4 Council



On Universal Health Care:



"I need to think of my own health, too, because I don't have insurance, and if I cannot work I cannot fulfill my obligations to these kids. I know that parents need us so they can work themselves. In fact, the mothers of all the children I care for are single and work. They must constantly worry about how they would keep their jobs if I became ill and could not care for their kids!"

Daisy Carrasco
Home Based Early Education Provider
Member, Child Care Providers Organizing Committee



Council 760 Member Julie Cinnamon Testifying in Opposition to Additional Credentialing Requirements for Paraprofessionals at the Capitol



Home-Based Child Care Provider Naomi Mitchell Testifying in Support of Increased Resources for Early Childhood Education at the Capitol

On Investing in Our School Paraprofessionals:

"The General Assembly's recent study into the duties of school paraprofessionals should be viewed as an opening to a dialogue. Please do not add another layer to an already overburdened issue. Instead invest in our state's future – invest in higher standards for paraprofessionals' wages and health care."

Sharon Hagans
Instructional Assistant, Mansfield School Dist.
Executive Board Member,
CSEA/SEIU Local 2001



Our voices are being heard, and we are moving forward because of direct member involvement. The difference between our efforts and those of countless other special interest groups who are scrambling to have their views aired at the capitol is that our members, not just paid, professional lobbyists, are carrying our message!

Even other labor organizations whose members share our values are finding their messages not getting through because they are relying on staff and lobbyists to connect to legislators. Though they can serve a valuable purpose, they are no substitute for the firsthand knowledge and experience public service workers can bring to an issue.

School Paraprofessionals...

(Continued from page 1)

recruitment and increase retention of as many as 12,000 paraprofessionals across Connecticut.

The committee's primary recommendation to lawmakers is for the state Department of Education to develop a state-

issued credential for paraprofessionals. However, the committee's report leaves open the question of funding the additional requirements, and many districts already pass current costs, such as for the Parapro Test, onto their paraprofessionals. Without also providing resources to local

Boards of Education, the state may inadvertently further drive down staffing levels.

This was the result in many school districts across the state last year when the federal No Child Left Behind Act requirements were implemented. The failure to make needed resources available to local schools boards to enable their

paraprofessionals to meet the laws standards has led to staffing shortfalls and unfilled vacancies.

Local testing requirements have had a similar impact in many districts in which paraprofessionals were not provided access to improved economic security.

Paraprofessionals are uniting in

On Mental Health Services in Corrections:



“Inmates with certain mental illnesses used to be diverted by the courts to the hospitals that are now closed. Their closing, along with the downsizing of Connecticut Valley Hospital, has created a crisis where we do not have enough beds for inmates whose condition required the treatment of medical professionals.”

Cathy Osten

Correctional Lt., CT Dept. of Correction
Co-Chair, LAC, CSC Council



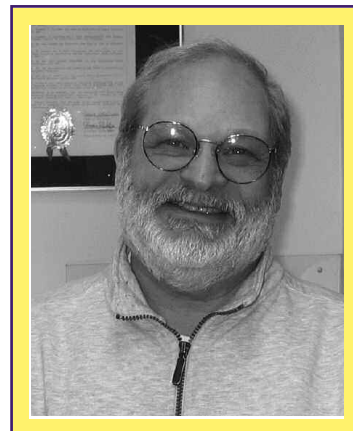
CSC Council President Cathy Osten Interviewed by a New Haven Advocate Reporter on Need to Staff DOC Facilities with Mental Health Professionals at the Capitol

On Updating the Social Security Retirement Age:

“To me this is just a matter of fairness. We are seeking simply to change wording in the state statute to conform with currently existing Federal law that would reduce pensions at the age at which a retiree is actually eligible for full Social Security.”

Win Heimer

Retired Communications Specialist,
CT Dept. of Public Health
Member, LAC, Council 400



Council 760 Member Richard O'Hara Meeting with Education Committee Co-Chair Senator Thomas Gaffey Prior to Hearing on School Bus Safety Issues

On Driving Up Standards for School Bus Drivers:



“Increasing pay for drivers would attract more people from the local community, people who are already neighbors to students and their families, instead of strangers from two towns over. It's not an easy job. It's not a hard job. But it's a job that takes special people to do.”

James Jenkins

Bus Driver, Hartford Public Schools,
Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc.
President, Chapter 196, Council 760



Secretary-Treasurer Patrice Peterson Interviewed on FOX-TV Channel 61 on Need to Empower School Bus Drivers at Legislative Public Informational Forum



Sign-up to be a part of our advocacy team by visiting our website's Action Center online. Logon today at www.csea-ct.com/action/ where you can complete an easy form at the “Member Political Organizers” section, or call our LAC Chairs Cathy Osten or Lynn-Coda Klein at the Local hall in Hartford at (800) 894-9479.

Watch these pages over the next several editions for more of our members in action at the State Capitol!

On Collective Bargaining Rights for Child Care Providers:



“Nothing should be more important to us than the health, well-being and development of our children, and we all need to work together to make sure they get the care and education they need. Granting us the freedom to bargain collectively is the best way to ensure that the voices of providers are heard and that childcare standards are improved in the State of Connecticut.”

Terry Forde

Home Based Early Education Provider
Member, Child Care Providers Organizing Committee

CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 to gain a greater voice on the job for setting education goals and objectives, and to educate state legislators of the true nature of the instructional support we all provide in schools across Connecticut. The Assembly committee brought attention to a fundamental lack of recognition for paraprofessionals, though we

believe its study does not propose needed solutions to improve recruitment and increase retention.

Our members play a critical role in the lives of the students we serve, providing academic and social education as well as one-on-one instruction for special needs students. We believe that the state should fully invest in

ongoing training and development of current paraprofessionals, as they do for certified teachers. Additional unfunded certification requirements are not the way to attract and keep the highest quality, and most experienced professionals in our schools.

We should not allow state lawmakers to miss an

opportunity to have a greater impact on public education. Our members are committed to establishing attainable and consistent education requirements for paraprofessionals, and believe that begins with investing in these valued workers.

Visit Our Web Site for More on Our Initiatives for School Paraprofessionals:
www.csea-ct.com

Serving Our Communities...

(Continued from page 3)

"We may be retired from public service" Florence, also an active Council 400 member, continued. "I can tell you that helping our daughter and her husband with three boys, all with diagnoses on the autism spectrum, is like we never retired at all" she added, referring to their help in caring for ten-year old Ryan, Justin, aged six, and Kevin, who just turned three last June.

"This has been very emotional for us as grandparents" Norman said of the anxiety and strain of living with ASD. "Our greatest hope is that our children would have better lives than we did, and that their children's lives would be better still" he continued. "Now we have to worry about our own health and well-being so we can be sure we're around to help with the boys."

"I was disturbed at the maze of barriers that stand in the way of parents getting information on services for their children with autism" Florence said in reference to the limited options for early intervention and special needs development. "And as a public school music teacher for 28 years, I can tell you that the State is overwhelmed by the growing need for credentialed teachers and the services they can provide" she added. "The fact is that many local school districts are finding it difficult to provide federally mandated services to special needs students, and that leaves too many families to look to the private sector."

Norman spoke of the opportunity he believed we had to make a positive difference in the lives of thousands of Connecticut families just like his. "Parents, and grandparents, of children and adults with autism have to search and seek out options, and those without access to resources are being left behind. As teachers for over 30 years, Florence and I weren't trained in diagnosing and treating autism. But we know how important it is for children with autism to be taught by skilled professionals with real expertise in education and development in order to have a shot at a more normal life" he added.

Florence added, "our daughter and son-in law are fortunate to live in a community with a district that provides services for students with autism," referring to the public schools all three of her grandkids are enrolled in. "In the Newtown school district, the boys have received the one-on-one attention and specialized development all kids with ASD need."

"In fact, the youngest was just transferred from State-provided Birth-to-Three services this past June" Florence continued. "However, their parents had to research available options and be advocates for the children in asking for these services" she added.

"The paraprofessionals that all three boys have had working side-by-side

with them in Newtown's schools have been so important to their progress" Norman continued. "They are the bridge between the parents and the teacher...and the children and the world around them. Without paraprofessionals in the classroom, these kids would be left stuck on an island of neglect."

Florence added, "the State Department of Education should provide ongoing, in-service training for all local school paraprofessionals," referring to the need to invest in these valued education workers. "My daughter's family has been fortunate to have classroom teachers and paraprofessionals that were concerned enough to avail themselves for additional training in dealing with students with ASD" she added.

While our local public schools are struggling with the growing demands for special education, State agencies with education professionals that could deal with this growing crisis are suffering shortfalls. We are down to just 45 certified State Special Education Teachers in the DMR's Birth-to-Three program, and most of the services our members should be providing to a population that is estimated to be more than 22,000 in Connecticut alone have been contracted-out to a handful of private non-profit providers.

With Governor M. Jodi Rell's budget proposal for increased investment in public education, and particularly in early intervention services, our members are seizing this opportunity to provide permanent services for adults, and seamless services for children of all ages.

Our plan is to reach individuals with autism spectrum disorders so they can grow, thrive, and live independently while contributing to the communities in which they live. That is why we are committed to develop a new agency, modeled after the Board of Education Services for the Blind (BESB) to serve the needs of this community.

This new agency could be a central repository of information on services available to families of children and adults with autism. By investing in our State education professionals, we will also bring the oversight needed so local schools can deliver high quality specialized education and development for children with ASD. The return on our investment can save Connecticut's taxpayers by providing individuals with autism spectrum disorders the opportunity to grow, thrive, and live independently while contributing to the communities in which they live and work

Our greatest strength is our collective voice, and we have the opportunity to put our state public service workers back in the lead, positively impacting the lives of thousands of children and their families. Visit our website's "Autism Services" page at our Action Center's "Our Issues" section, at www.csea-ct.com/action/our_issues.cfm and complete an easy online sign-up form to be part of this historic effort.

Supervising Judicial Marshals Win with

Unity: Our 1st contract negotiated by our members working as Supervising Judicial Marshals for the State Department of Justice was reviewed in a public hearing held by the General Assembly Appropriations Committee in late-January. The 3-year agreement, which was negotiated directly with the branch and not decided in arbitration hearings, became effective February 18 and is retroactive back to July 1, 2005. Standard union rights such as grievance procedure, rights to representation, just cause standards in discipline, and seniority rights are now in force for the first time for our members, who provide critical public safety functions. Logon to www.csea-ct.com/onthejob/ for the "On The

Job" main page and select the SJM Council link from the "Our Councils" index to access a downloadable version of the contract.



Southeast Area School Bus Drivers Building Our Union:

Congratulations to our new leaders of Council 760's Chapter 1103 who have been elected to lead efforts to

"Drive Up Standards" at Laidlaw's Southeast school bus yards! Our new leadership includes President Sheri Burgess and New London yard steward Maria Rodriguez, pictured here, as well as Vice-President Anthony Bax and Waterford yard steward Patty Kovalik. Elections for our East Lyme yard steward were not yet scheduled at press time, and, as we first reported in the November, 2006 edition of the CSEA News, our chapter has now grown to include school bus aides and monitors. Logon to www.csea-ct.com/bus_drivers.cfm for "Our School Bus Drivers" page to learn more about how our members are coming together for a greater voice on the job in providing safe, reliable school bus transportation for Connecticut's school children!



Our President's Desk...

(Continued from page 3)

investment in the much-neglected area of public education. This was quite a shock because she gave no hint of this plan during the election campaign. Although her education proposal was new, the Governor stuck with the same lackluster health insurance reform plan she had previewed before the speech. I would have liked to see bold action in this critical area, too.

Last month, I announced that SEIU had joined a coalition with the AARP and the Business Roundtable to address the need to solve our healthcare crisis in this country, in order to help our businesses complete in the global economy.

I also mentioned that there was a lot of "buzz" around the universal health care debate. Well, it has continued to generate interest and enthusiasm.

As you should know, universal health care coverage has been a major goal of our international union's membership for many years. Last July, SEIU President Andy Stern published an op-ed piece in the business-friendly *Wall Street Journal* challenging corporate leaders to work with organized labor to fundamentally reform health

care. He sent a letter to the CEO of every Fortune 500 company asking each of them to work together for change. Apparently some of them decided to take him up on the challenge.

On February 7th, standing with CEOs and national labor and civic leaders, SEIU launched a historic, new cooperative effort with the goal of fundamentally changing the nation's broken health care system. The founding members of the new partnership, which was announced at a Washington, DC, press conference are SEIU and Wal-Mart; the largest public service union and the largest private corporation in America; AT&T and the Communications Workers of America; Intel; Kelly Services, Inc.; the Center for American Progress; the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy; and the Committee for Economic Development.

The new coalition, known as Better Health Care Together, will mobilize business, labor, and political leaders as well as individuals in a growing movement to overhaul the national health care system. Together, the founders pledged to recruit 50 additional partners, seek support from lawmakers, and launch innovative public education campaigns to rally consumers and workers alike.

The coalition also released a set of four shared principles to guide the overhaul of our health care system, committing to bring about fundamental change by the year 2012 (I hope they are successful because that is halfway between now and the expiration in 2017 of the pension and healthcare agreement for state workers and retirees).

A new report by the government's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services predicts a doubling in health spending in this country in the next 10 years, to over \$4 trillion in 2016. Even more disturbing is the fact that the United States spends far more than other advanced countries, with no measurable better results. We rank something like 28th in the world for infant mortality. Why are our costs so much higher than other countries like England and Germany? It is mainly due to higher administrative expenses, drug prices, doctor's incomes, and the cost of providing critical care to the uninsured and under-insured, who lack access to preventive care.

If costs double in the next ten years, a rate much higher than the rates of inflation and economic growth. It will not bode well for the renegotiation of our State employees and retirees' healthcare agreement in 2017, nor will it be good for our municipal and school district members who have to

renegotiate health care coverage during every contract cycle.

Working to solve big problems like this that affect all working families is the reason we invest resources into organizing new members. We have recognized that until organized labor and working families gain a stronger voice in the workplace and in the voting booth, our benefits will continue to come under attack from the likes of the Yankee Institute and their corporate backers, and the right-wing talk show hosts who spew their anti-worker message over the airwaves.

I'll close this month's column where I opened it, with the President's State of the Union address and health care. Spending for veterans' medical treatment has been rising as more of our nation's brave soldiers return home from Iraq and Afghanistan physically or mentally wounded. As he asks Congress for \$245 billion to prosecute a war that more and more Americans oppose, the President has proposed cutting the Veterans Administration budget in 2009 and 2010, hurting the very troops that all Americans support.

Let us as Connecticut's public service workers and retirees lead the way in restoring common sense and good judgment to government by establishing health care for all in our state.

Our Strength in Retirement...

(Continued from page 5)

The report indicates annual increases in rates of inflation up to 8%. It is obvious that these costs will continue to increase. In this survey, they also reference the average cost of in-home services such as skilled nursing visits at \$118 each, and home and community-based services, such as homemaker services, at \$18 an hour. For our most of our members, these costs are unaffordable, especially if needed over a long time and paid out of pocket, rather than through affordable insurance coverage.

In order to obtain needed services, we know of too many stories of selling-off assets, or enrolling in Medicaid. Many times, those who need long-term care do without critical services, further endangering their lives and health.

With thousands of baby boomers approaching the age at which these services are most needed, it is important to think of the potential cost to the individual, family and state in financial and personal terms. Our members make critical choices based on their economic situation.

We see continued reliance on Medicaid as THE only practical long-term care coverage option because families of retired workers simply cannot

afford the costs of care or the exorbitant premiums.

We believe that long-term care coverage should be affordable and comprehensive. Coverage should provide the option for services in the home, in assisted living, or in a skilled nursing facility. In addition, we believe that allowing for deductions for long-term care expenses and long-term care premiums directly from the personal state income tax will keep people in their homes, which for most of us is preferable to prolonged, and often unnecessary placement in a skilled nursing facility.

We further believe that more people would buy long-term care coverage to prepare for the potential need for long-term care expenses if it allowed a direct deduction from their personal state income tax obligation. This, in turn, would decrease the dependence on Medicaid.

To learn more about how to improve our access to long term care, contact me at the union hall at (800) 894-9479, extension 130. More importantly, contact your local House Representative or Senator and urge their support for HB 6480, SB 103, and SB 752! Visit our "Reaching Elected Officials" section at our website's Action Center at www.csea-ct.com/action/, which has links to useful tools and informative resources, including a search feature to identify your local representatives, as well as their contact info, Joint General Assembly Committee members, and Majority and Minority party leaders.

The Fight for Medicare...

(Continued from page 5)

introduced into Medicare, the thought was that privatization would be more cost-efficient, with the government paying subsidies to induce participation. In fact, the plans cost the government much more money, showing again that the private sector's claims that they can deliver services "cheaper, better, and faster" should not be taken at face value.

It is interesting to note that among those seniors that have to enroll in the new Medicare plans, (thankfully, not our retired State employees) almost three in four (73%) say that the drug benefit is still way too complicated. About four in 10 seniors (39%) say that there are too many plans available to people with Medicare.

Nevertheless, seniors are living healthier and longer because of better health practices. A study by the National Institute on Aging found that the percentage of individuals over 65 who have heart disease, arthritis, hypertension or other chronic health conditions dropped from 27% in 1982 to 19% in 2005 (ARA Friday Alert, Dec. 21, 2006).

About \$235 billion is spent on prescriptions each year. Those medications you get from the

drugstore are supplied by pharmacy benefit managers, who are the middlemen between drug companies and employers that offer drug subsidies to their workers. The four largest prescription benefit managers are Caremark Rx, Medco Health Solutions, Wellpoint and Express Scripts. Both the CVS drugstore chain and Express Scripts have made hostile bids to take over Caremark Rx. The bigger a benefits manager is, the more clout they have when negotiating prices with drug makers, which in turn could lead to lower drug prices. Think how much greater power to lower prices can be created if the government were allowed to negotiate (A. Sorokin, *Drug Middlemen*, *New York Times*, Dec. 18, 2006).

When you consider how the pharmaceuticals can manipulate prices without any controls according to what the traffic will bear, it should make more sense for the Congress to devise methods to rein in those costs. We must advise our lawmakers of our views on this very important subject.

(Editor's note: Our website has contact info for our Congressional representatives at the "Reaching Elected Officials" section of the Action Center page, at www.csea-ct.com/action/)

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Fortunately, you don't have to travel far to find quality auto insurance. With METPAY, a voluntary benefit for active and retired State of Connecticut employees, quality auto insurance is right around the corner. METPAY advantages include:

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For more information about METPAY and a free, no-obligation premium quote on your auto insurance, call the METPAY Hotline at:

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Please have your current policy on hand when you call for a quote.

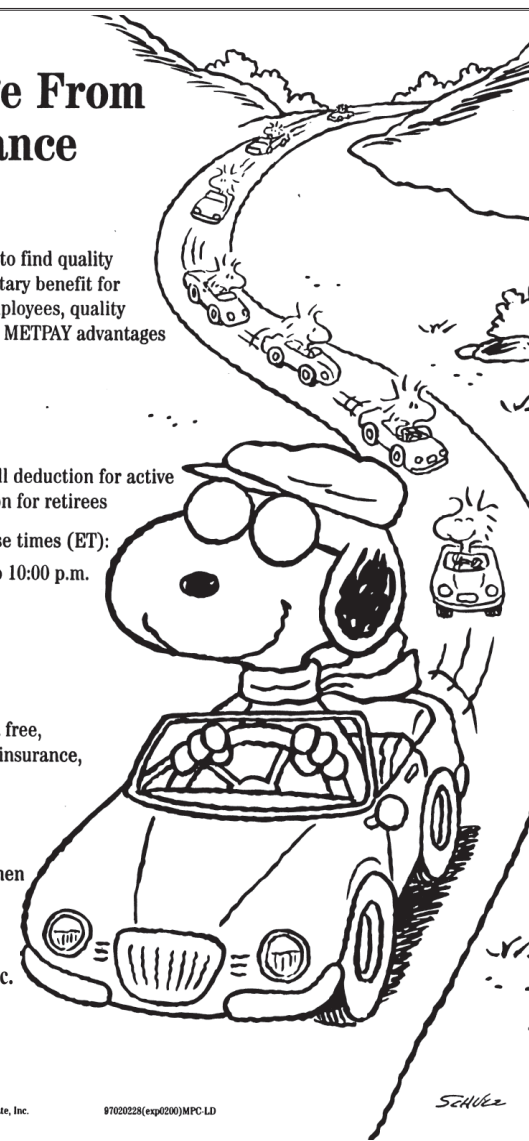
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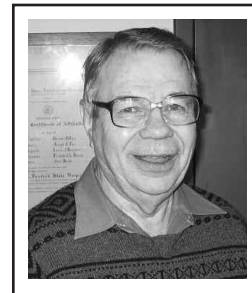
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Protecting Our Assets in Retirement:

Council 400 members are making our collective voices heard to reverse mean-spirited changes to Medicaid under the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act. Chapter 414 member Bill Barber signed three of the nearly 200 personal letters prepared for Connecticut's Congressional delegation at our January Delegates meeting urging action to rescind the changes, which would impose additional record-keeping requirements on seniors and create penalties that could prevent access to nursing home care. Contact our Council 400 Legislative Action Committee Co-Chairs at (800) 894-9479 to request a "Transfer of Assets" template letter you can sign and mail to your US House Representative and Senators today!



STRONG Social Activities CSEA/SEIU



A Day In New York

Sat., April 21st To Do As You Please
\$35 per person includes round-trip transportation; all taxes & gratuities, including driver.
PAYMENT DUE MARCH 20



7:00 a.m.—depart Hartford at State Office Building;
7:30 a.m.—depart Meriden at Burger King;
8:00 a.m.—depart North Haven at Commuter Parking Lot Off Rt 40;
8:30 a.m.—depart Stratford at Exit 30 Ramada Inn;
6:00 p.m.—depart NYC (arrive in Hartford at approx. 9:00 p.m.)

HUDSON VALLEY TOAST West Point Tour * Hudson River Cruise

Sunday, May 6

\$92 per person (full payment by April 5)
Includes: Guided tour of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; Champagne Brunch at the Hotel Thayer; afternoon Hudson River cruise aboard the River Rose, an authentic New Orleans paddle wheeler; gratuities for guide and driver.



Bus pick-ups:

Hartford, State Office Building, 7:30 A.M.;
Waterbury, Hamilton Ave. Commuter Parking Lot, 8:15 A.M.;
Danbury, I-84, Exit 1 Commuter Lot, 8:45 AM.

UPCOMING TRIPS and ACTIVITIES for 2007:

The Golden Treasures of King Tut (Philadelphia, PA): Sep. 8 - 9
SIGN UP EARLY FOR THIS POPULAR TRIP!

Deposit deadline: June 15

(\$50 deposit - admission ticket - is non-refundable.)

Final payment due: July 15.

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

AND MORE! Watch these page for announcements.

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 _____
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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Number of Tickets _____ Amount Enclosed _____ Cancellation Insurance Yes No
Pick-up Place _____ Traveling with _____
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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.

www.CSECreditUnion.com



Invite someone to
JOIN
the Credit Union!

Dividend Rates – 4th Quarter 2006

	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.

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DRIVE-UP TELLER (Hartford only): Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Paydays open until 5:00 p.m.

Classified Advertising

Please Note: Classified Ads which are not renewed within 2 months of the date originally requested will be removed after 3rd consecutive month of publication to allow more of our members to utilize the service offered by this limited space. Contact CSEA News editor Matt O'Connor at the Union Hall in Hartford at (860) 951-6614, extension 129 or by sending e-mail to moconnor@csea760.com, to place or renew your ad.

FOR SALE

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 April. \$149,900.00 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. 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.

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ORIENTAL RUG. Kashan 11' x 19' with red background. Hartford (860) 247-4390.

SINGER SEWING MACHINES, Treadle \$135, Electric Portable \$25. New dishes, service for 8, \$55. Kranich and Bach baby grand piano and bench; Grandfather's clock, handmade case; mantel chime clocks; pitcher and bowl; special Tiffany type table lamps; black velvet prom coat; assorted bric-a-brac, all best offers. Hartford (860) 232-1743.

SOLID OAK DINING TABLE, 3 12-inch leaves and 6 chairs; barely-used Kitchen-Aid Food Processor; barely-used Braun blender and Farberware waffle iron, all best offers. N Franklin (860) 642-7054.

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

ORMOND BEACH, FL. Ocean-Front Time-share-one condo adjacent to Daytona Beach, 1 BR, sleeps 4. available 4/21- 4/18. \$450.00

Port Orange, FL (386) 788-1749 or send e-mail to sambruceh@aol.com

NAPLES, FL PENTHOUSE.

Annual rental, 2400 sq ft 7th floor mid-rise, minutes from beach, pool, tennis, workout room, bike trails, boardwalk thru the nature preserve, fishing, canoeing. \$1,900.00 per month. Coventry (860) 742-5220.

WANTED

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.

In Our Communities

Highlights of Our Members Involvement in Our Local Neighborhoods

(Look for the Pointer Symbol throughout this edition for more stories "In Our Communities")

Recognition of a Record-Setting Achievement:

P3-B Council Member Jeff Beiler was recently honored for his record-setting achievement as Enfield's Fermi High School Wrestling Team coach. When he was able to add 172 wins as coach to his long list of accomplishments, Jeff was recognized by the school and featured in the *Journal-Inquirer's* "Sports" section. Congratulations to this busy DOC Correctional Recreation Supervisor, union steward, and father of three, whose commitment to his local community is an inspiration to us all!



DEATHS REPORTED

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

(Editor's note: Due to an oversight in designing the completed edition, the February CSEA News included a reprinted list of members' deaths reported from the January edition. The following list includes the names left out of the February edition in error)

Bernice Aborn of chapter 420 died 10/8/06

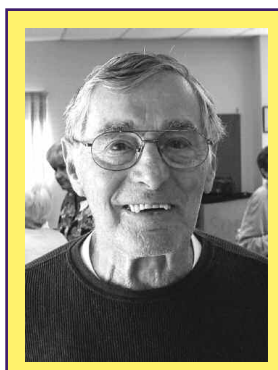
Anna Adamcik, 408, 12/10/06
Joseph Augelli, 420, 11/27/06
George Avery, 405, 9/10/06
Emma Bombero, 407, 12/02/06
Joseph Borack, 405, 12/13/06
Grace Brewin, 420, 11/22/06
Mary Burke, 405, 11/20/06
Evelyn Burn, 404, 11/21/06
Josephine Carabillo, 401, 1/13/07
Kathleen Carruthers, 415, 12/10/06
William Clark, 420, 1/06/07
Dorothy Cote, 404, 12/11/06
Rose Cuomo, 405, 5/25/06
Hilda Davidson, 401, 1/2/07
Georgette Dee, 405, 12/12/06
George Desmarais, 412, 12/05/06
Lillian Dibner, 405, 12/24/06
Elida Draghi, 410, 1/1/07
William Dynon, 403, 11/26/06
William Ellis, 401, 12/18/06
James Fitzgerald, 401, 11/9/06
Dorothy Fogarty, 420, 11/9/06
Roy Fuller, 408, 12/6/06
Evelyn Garofolo, 411, 12/22/06
John Gerken, 405, 12/17/06
Dora Gendreau, 425, 12/04/06
Robert Goldman, 410, 11/16/06
Judy Graddick, 420, 12/19/06
Helen Green, 406, 12/22/06
Harold Griffin, Jr., 408, 12/26/06

Mildred Hall, 408, 11/5/06
Wilfred Hall, 410, 12/29/06
Leroy Hamblin, 401, 11/24/06
Theodore Hatcher, 404, 11/23/06
Julia Hayes, 420, 11/9/06
Kenneth Hiscock, 412, 1/9/07
Frank Ippolito, Jr., 404, 12/15/06
Joseph Jankot, 412, 10/23/06
Richard Kaszycki, 401, 1/10/07
Tsong Kao, 420, 10/28/06
Paul Kershenbaum, 423, 12/22/06
Robert Keller, 407, 12/17/06
Mary Klapatch, 411, 12/19/06
Herbert Klockner, 406, 1/06/07
Leo Kodurand, 412, 12/27/06
Alfreda Kozlowski, 406, 1/15/07
Loretta Lamoine, 403, 11/06/06
Sarah Laporte, 401, 11/24/06
Marion Larned, 408, 11/23/06
Martha Lewis, 401, 11/10/06
Nicolina Licitra, 416, 12/01/06
George MacGregor, 416, 12/25/06
Salvatore Magnano, Sr., 406, 10/31/06
Lena Margnelli, 406, 12/01/06
Fred Matts, 406, 12/06/06
Charles Moon, Sr., 404, 9/05/06
John F. Nelson, 420, 9/9/06
Mildred Niemczyk, 415, 12/22/06
Charles Nisotis, 410, 1/11/07
Hortense Nolan, 420, 11/22/06
Charles O'Connell, 403, 1/03/07
Florence Otka, 408, 11/28/06
Irma Page, 404, 11/23/06
Robert Pagnam, 410, 12/08/06
Elio Perotti, 414, 11/3/06
Florence Potish, 423, 1/11/07
Olivia Resto, 401, 12/06/06
Rosetta Rezendes, 401, 11/24/06
Kenneth Robinson, 420, 11/28/06
Barbara Rowe, 410, 12/16/06
Gladys Rush, 423, 12/12/06
Marion Semrau, 405, 9/12/06
Albert Seretny, 420, 12/15/06
Philip Shaw, 401, 10/01/06
Frederick Slocum, 416, 1/06/07
William Stewart, 410, 12/22/06
George Townes, Sr., 411, 10/30/06
Sophie Trojanowski, 403, 1/14/07
Irene Vengruskas, 415, 1/4/07
Dorothy Watt, 401, 11/3/06
Harold Wood, Jr., 401, 11/27/06
Edward Wuori, 414, 12/13/06
Peter Wyckoff, 420, 12/02/06
Adelai Yamin, 402, 11/5/06
William Zanawich, 410, 1/7/07
Michael Zezima, 420, 12/27/06

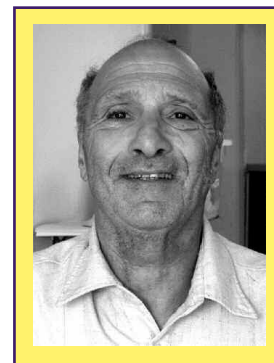
Our Thoughts Remain with Our Troops and their Families



► **Honors for Public Service:** Council 400 Members Stu Fishbone and Les Shapiro were among the 2nd Congressional District area Election Day poll workers honored by Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz in Clinton in January. The *New London Day* was on

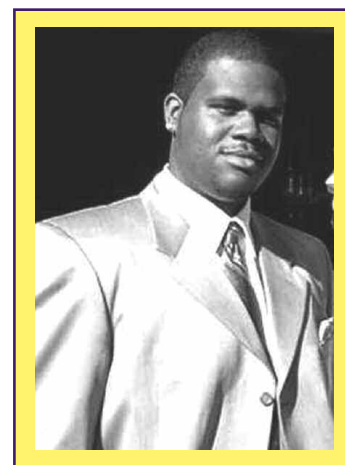


hand to document the event, which included awards of recognition for 745 area volunteers who have worked as polling location moderators and machine tenders for more than five years. Stu and Les are appreciated for their valuable community service, which keeps our political process working for all of at Election Time!



► Our Passion Can Benefit Our Community:

P-4 Council Member Fredrena DeGraffenreidt was a proud mother when she saw her son Keith's band Tenet recognized for playing several area charity events during the holidays in the pages of her local *East Hartford Gazette*. 2006 was a banner year for the band, which Keith manages when he's not serving Connecticut's residents as a Judicial Marshall, and saw the release of their first album as well as their selection as winners of the local Grand Band Slam competition. Keep us the great work, Keith!



CSEA/SEIU Local 2001's Good Works Committee Can of the Month Is

BEANS



Please drop off items with Chapter Presidents, Stewards, or Committee members at your workplace, union meetings, or our CSEA/SEIU Local Hall in Hartford.

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