

### Leading for Quality

## A Public Solution for Criminal Justice Communications



**Larry Lunden**

Data Processing Technical Analyst, CT Dept. of Public Safety, Retired  
Member, Chapter 401, Council 400

Safety, I maintained the Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing (COLLECT) criminal database for 28 years until I retired in 2003. I was able to keep the system running and regularly updated to meet the requirements of the 15,000 law enforcement and criminal justice professionals who use it daily.

The same year I left state service, an overhaul of the COLLECT system was outsourced to MAXIMUS, an out-of-state IT services contractor. Last year, I joined with active members in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 to expose their complete failure to upgrade the system.

The Attorney General is suing MAXIMUS to recover at least \$6 million in taxpayers' losses, but we still don't have an upgraded COLLECT system to show for it. Because private corporation employees did the work, we don't have the knowledge they may have gained over the four years of the contract either.

Our elected officials should not miss this opportunity to act. Public IT professionals will craft a timely, upgraded system, whereas another tragedy like the one in Cheshire last summer could occur while we wait for another outside contractor to do the job.

*(Editor's note: this Letter to the Editor was submitted to Hartford Courant, in response to an editorial commending lawmakers and the Governor for reaching agreement on improving criminal justice communications, and at press time was under consideration for publication)*

I share the optimism of *The Courant's* editorial board that our elected officials have a unique opportunity to improve communications between the state's criminal justice and public safety agencies. I urge Governor Rell and lawmakers to use this "rare, quick agreement" on criminal justice reforms to make an investment in the State's public information technology (IT) workforce.

As an IT professional retired from the Department of Public

## Voices for Reform

### Missed Opportunities at the DOT



**P4 Council Member Jay Doody and Union Political Director Rick Melita Explain How the Final Report of the DOT Reform Panel Came Up Short on NBC-TV Channel 30's "Connecticut Newsmakers"**

When our members obtained an advance copy of the Commission to Reorganize the DOT's final report of recommendations for reform, we quickly issued a response that generated news headlines and impacted public policy. Our press release, headlined "Governor's Commission Misses Opportunity for Real Reform of DOT's 'Culture Of Fear,'" clearly played a role in the panel's last-minute decision to postpone the public release of its report the same day it met to adopt it.

We simply could not remain silent about the panel's proposals, which would do little to remake the DOT into an efficient, quality-first provider of public services that can meet Connecticut's 21st century transportation needs.

P-4 Council member and long-time DOT Reform "messenger" Jay Doody spearheaded the "leading for quality and our communities" response. In interviews with several newspaper, radio, and television reporters prior to and over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, Jay addressed many of our concerns with the report. Quoted in the *Hartford Courant*, he summed up the primary flaw, saying "the report states that 'a lack of leadership skills is behind many of ConnDOT's problems,' and we agree. But why did they wait until page eighteen to point that out?"

Although we recognized the panel for identifying many of the

*(Continued on page 5)*

Postmaster: Please forward address changes to:

CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

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## Council 400 Retiree Chapters' Meetings & Events

This information is posted at our website's "Events Calendar" as well. Visit [www.csea-ct.com/calendar](http://www.csea-ct.com/calendar) and 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 December 14 publication deadline for this edition will also be posted online.

### CONNECTICUT EVENTS

- COUNCIL 400 DELEGATES:** Thursday, February 21, 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, February 7, 1:00 p.m. (light lunch served at 12:00 p.m.), CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Speaker: Dan Mercado on Connecticut State Employee long-term care insurance offered by MetLife, and an IRS representative on federal income tax issues was also scheduled at press time. Contact: Katherine Goulet at (860) 675-4053.
- CHAPTER 402** (Danbury area): Wednesday, February 13, 10:00 a.m., (refreshments follow meeting), United Methodist Church, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury. Speaker: Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Contact: Dawn Gallagher at (203) 748-2018.
- CHAPTER 403** (Norwich area): Tuesday, February 12, 1:30 p.m. (meeting room not available until 1:00, refreshments prior to meeting), Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Dr., Norwich. Speaker: "Seniors Helping Seniors" representative Karen Wasserman on in-home services for the elderly. Contact: Gail Carr at (860) 822-0788.
- CHAPTER 404** (Waterbury area): Tuesday, February 12, 10:30 a.m. (social, meeting follows), Elks Club, 758 Rubber Ave., Naugatuck. Speaker: Cardiology Specialist Dr. Henry Borkowski on cardiac health. Door prizes. Contact: Armand Rosanelli at (203) 758-5122.
- CHAPTER 405** (New Haven area): Wednesday, February 13, 12:30 p.m. (social, meeting follows at 1:00 p.m.), Smart Living Center at 297 Boston Post Rd., Orange (NOTE new meeting location approved by members at Jan. Chapter meeting). Speaker: Sheila McNamara on Connecticut State Employee long-term care insurance offered by MetLife. Contact: Chapter President Andy Gambardella at (203) 468-7376.
- CHAPTER 406** (Middletown area): Tuesday, February 12, 12:00 p.m., (NOTE time change for luncheon, meeting at 1:00 p.m.), American Legion Post 75, 58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Middletown. Cost: \$5 for Valentine's Day luncheon. Speaker: Council 400 Retiree Coordinator Hollis Block on union retiree advocacy. Door prizes with unsigned Valentine card to be provided to local convalescent home. 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, February 20; 12:15 p.m. (social, meeting at 1:00 p.m.), St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church, 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford (on Rt. 113 toward Sikorsky Airport). Program to be announced; check website "Events Calendar" for details. Contact: Celeste McGrath at (203) 378-4576.
- CHAPTER 408** (Willimantic area): Wednesday, February 13; 1:00 p.m. (coffee, meeting at 1:30 p.m.), McSweeney Regional Senior Center, 47 Crescent St., Willimantic. Speaker: Michael Halligan on Connecticut State Employee long-term care insurance offered by MetLife. Meeting open to the public. Contact: Donna Linkkila at (860) 455-0883.
- CHAPTER 410** (Windsor Locks area): Monday, February 11, 1:00 p.m., VFW Post 6123, 40 Fairview St., Windsor Locks. Speaker: Audiologists Christine DiRienzo and Debbie Burnham will lead seminar on hearing care and provide ear exams. Contact: Elaine Colson at (860) 623-8704.
- CHAPTER 411** (Rocky Hill area): Thursday, February 14, 1:00 p.m. (social follows meeting), William J. Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Speaker: Department of Social Services' Aging Services Division representative on services for the elderly. Contact: Florence Egan at (860) 666-0382.
- CHAPTER 412** (Putnam area): Tuesday, February 19, 1:30 p.m. (social follows meeting), Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., Putnam. Speaker: Lisa Krawczyk on Connecticut State Employee long-term care insurance offered by MetLife. Refreshments, door prizes. Meeting open to the public. Contact: Don Gladding at (860) 564-9092.
- CHAPTER 414** (Torrington area): Monday, February 18, 9:30 a.m. (coffee, meeting at 10:00 a.m.), UCONN Torrington Campus Classroom Building, 855 University Dr., Torrington. Program: SEIU CT State Council's film "CT Universal Health Care Project" and review of upcoming legislative session issues. Contact: President Karen Pineman (860) 354-6727.
- CHAPTER 415** (Manchester area): Monday, February 25, 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, February 12, 12:00 p.m. (luncheon, business meeting at 12:30 p.m., program at 1:30 p.m.), Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road (Route 117), Groton, CT (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE). Speaker: Lawrence & Memorial Hospital Audiologist Susan Casey on causes of hearing loss and what can be done about it. Contact: Les Shapiro at (860) 442-5256.
- CHAPTER 417** (Plainville area): Wednesday, February 13, 1:00 p.m. (social, meeting follows), Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church, 115 West Main St., Plainville. Speaker: Office of Connecticut Comptroller's Retirement Division representative on major benefits available to retired State employees. Contact: Nicholas D'Emanuelle at (860) 628-6675.
- CHAPTER 418** (4Cs): Thursday, February 14, 10:00 a.m., Congress of CT Community Colleges, 907 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. Program: Plan for organizing recent 4Cs retirees into Chapter. Refreshments. Contact: Aldo Sicuso at (860) 346-3550.

(Florida & Other States' Events continued on page 6)

### Chapter Secretaries and Program Coordinators:

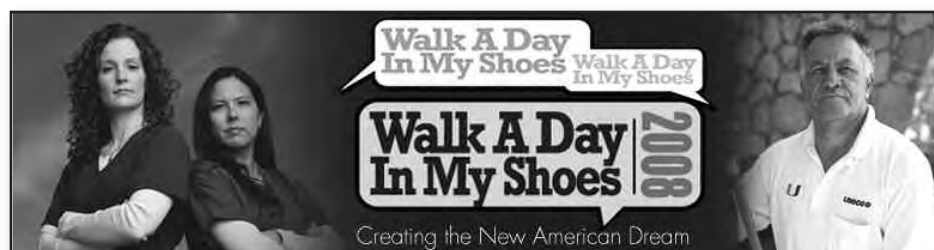
The deadline for meeting information to be included in the March edition is Friday, February 22.

## Our Actions...in Brief

### Members' Current Issues, Meetings, & Events



Local LAC Co-Chair Lynn Coda-Klein interviewed John Edwards on His Candidacy at SEIU's MPAC in Washington, DC



### Members Must Still Make the Choice on

**February 5:** Like so much of the nation, our members have been split on the decision of a single candidate to rally behind in Connecticut's Presidential Primary Election. Our SEIU State Council, which represents 55,000 active and retired members in seven affiliated unions, met again in January to determine if results in the early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire had helped our elected leaders reach consensus. The required majority support for a single candidate had still not materialized, leaving individual members to make their individual choice at the polls on February 5. Learn more about how SEIU members across the country are making their choice for our next president at the "Walk a Day in My Shoes 2008" website at [www.walkadayinmyshoes2008.com](http://www.walkadayinmyshoes2008.com), which is also linked at our website's home page.

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

# Our President's Desk

## Bonuses Cry Out for Implementing Clean-Contracting Law



**Michael J. O'Brien**  
Supervising Sanitary Engineer,  
CT Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Executive Council President

*(Editor's note: this Letter to the Editor was published in the January 5 edition of the Waterbury Republican-American, in response to an article reporting on the State DOT's new policy of offering bonuses to private contractors)*

As a 30-year state public-service worker, I was outraged to learn the Department of Transportation is offering bonuses to private contractors repairing the problem-plagued project along Interstate 84 in Waterbury (Dec. 20 article, "I-84 repairs going smoothly").

As a state taxpayer, I believe we should expect the deficient drains on Connecticut's "Little Dig" to be replaced on budget and on time without having to resort to what amounts to bribery.

Our members in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 have called for Gov. M. Jodi Rell to appoint front-line workers in the agency to play an active role in reforming the agency since she announced her Commission to Reorganize the DOT in May. The first recommendation in our "5-Point 'Safety, Security and Savings Plan,'" presented last summer, was to reform the way transportation projects are contracted.

The good news is the governor signed clean-contracting legislation in October, though its implementation is delayed

until 2009. Paying bonuses to private contractors shows DOT management has no intention of performing the cost-benefit analyses or applying the tougher contractor review standards the law will require any sooner.

If we are going to remake the DOT into an efficient, quality-first provider of public services, what we really need is for the clean-contracting bill to be implemented now. We can't afford to wait another year while DOT wastes more of our tax dollars bribing private contractors into delivering quality services for taxpayers.

My preceding letter to the editor of the *Waterbury Republican-American* was actually prompted by the article's first line, which reads:

*"Repairs to Interstate 84 are going so well that the state recently gave the company leading the project a \$150,000 bonus."*

How do you like that story line? I was shocked at first but it really isn't all that surprising.

I started several months back via this column to introduce our union's initiative for a 20-year vision plan for the future of the delivery of public services. The public perception that the DOT is in free-fall is perhaps the best example of why we must create opportunities as union members to be agents of change.

After all, so many of our members are skeptical that the Governor and the DOT are really even committed to changing the infamous "culture of fear" hanging over the agency. The Governor refused to appoint any front-line workers to her Commission to Reorganize the DOT. The Commission refused to

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Urging Congress to Invest in Quality Child Care:

We issued an e-mail Action Alert in mid-January to members and child care providers united in our Kids First efforts with a letter they can send their US House Representative and both of Connecticut's Senators urging they sponsor and support the Quality Child Care for America Act. New Haven's own Representative Rosa DeLauro sponsored the House version of the bill, and we are uniting behind this legislation because it increases federal investment into child care for working families across the country. If you didn't receive the Alert in your in-box, visit our website's "Action Center" at [www.seiuaction.org/Seiu760/home.html](http://www.seiuaction.org/Seiu760/home.html) and send your letter with the quick, easy-to-use online tool today!



**Early Education Providers of the Child Care Resources of Central CT and Several of the Children they Serve in the Bristol Area**

## Standing Up for Retirement Equity:

Since May, Council 400 members have urged Congress to repeal provisions that have unfairly penalized workers across the country for more than two decades whose public service employment did not provide Social Security. Retired New Haven Public Schools teacher and Chapter 405 member Thelma Schwartz (pictured, right), observed that "with new leadership in Congress and the support of other public sector unions, NOW is our best chance to pass these reforms." We are collecting stories from retirees in the State teacher retirement system whose benefits are being unfairly penalized by the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision (GPO/WEP) for working another job in the private sector. "Comment Forms" we will share with Congressional sponsors of the Social Security Fairness Act are available at our union hall and online at our website's "Issues Important to CT's Working Families" page at [www.csea-ct.com/action/our\\_issues.cfm](http://www.csea-ct.com/action/our_issues.cfm).



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INSERTION DEADLINE: 1st of prior month.  
MAILING ADDRESS: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106; PHONES: (860) 951-6614, toll-free in Connecticut: (800) 894-9479, toll-free in Florida: (800) 437-5630; FAX: (860) 951-3526; INTERNET: [www.csea-ct.com](http://www.csea-ct.com).

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Recycled Paper



# 400 LAC ACTION

Council 400 Legislative Action Committee

## Healthcare in Crisis: Employer-Provided Insurance



**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

A shrinking number of Connecticut residents are covered by employer-sponsored health insurance plans, according to a study by Connecticut Voices for Children in New Haven and the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. In 2005 and 2006, 72.3 percent of the state's population aged 65 and younger were covered by employer-provided health insurance, down from 77.1 percent who were covered in 2000 and 2001 (Cara Baruzzi, *Fewer Covered*, *New Haven Register*, Nov. 1, 2007).

Let us examine how good or bad these employer plans are for the working person.

One of the companies that stands out for its emphasis on wellness and prevention programs is Stamford-based Pitney-Bowes Corporation, famous for its postage meters. In 2002, the company began to have employees with diabetes, asthma, or hypertension pay only 10 percent of the cost of each prescription to treat those diseases. They went ahead and expanded the program to statins, which are cholesterol-lowering drugs, making them free for diabetics and those with heart disease. Co-insurance was lowered to 10 percent on drugs to treat osteoporosis and osteopenia (low bone density); anti-clotting drugs such as Plavix to protect against heart attack and stroke; and certain medications used to help people stop smoking.

As a result, costs for these illnesses were reduced, since

fewer people were going to the hospital. At Pitney-Bowes, routine physicals, mammograms, and PSA screenings are free. It deposits \$75 into an employee's "flex" health spending account. It also provides facilities for exercising, with on-site screenings for body mass index. This is called their "value-based benefits design," and it could be expanded to dental work (Diane Levick, *Healthier Health Plans*, *Hartford Courant*, Oct. 7, 2007).

At the other end of the scale, we have Wal-Mart, which earned \$11 billion last year and follows a corporate philosophy that demands low costs to ensure low prices. Until recently, the corporation provided little or no health benefits for the majority of its part-time workforce, directing them to seek taxpayer-subsidized help from public agencies.

However, there are signs of improvement. Criticism of its poor health care record was hurting Wal-Mart's reputation and ability to expand. They say

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## Our Benefits

### Updates on Our Unique Membership Benefits & Opportunities



**2007 McCusker Scholarship Recipients Ryan Bielenda and Kelby Zimmerman were Joined by their Families at Our Union Hall for Last Year's Awards Night**

★ **February is "McCusker" Month:** Thanks to the generosity of our members, last year we were able to award \$1,000.00 scholarships to 41 of our members' children and grandchildren for their college educations. Be part of increasing that number in 2008 by mailing your check, payable to the "McCusker Memorial Scholarship Fund" to CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT, 06016 before the end of February. You can also fill out a pledge form for Council, Chapter, or individual member donations and estate gifts at "Our McCusker Memorial Scholarship" page at [www.csea-ct.com/mccusker\\_scholarship/](http://www.csea-ct.com/mccusker_scholarship/).

**A SEIU Union Plus Brochure with Members-Only Discounts is Available at Our Union Hall and Online at "Our Membership Benefits" Page at [www.csea-ct.com/benefits/](http://www.csea-ct.com/benefits/)**



» **Planning Our Next Steps Together:** Leaders of our Connecticut State Police Commissioned Officer Association (CSPCOA) Council spent much of December meeting with key legislative leaders in order to build support for pressuring the Administration to abide by the Labor Board's ruling to begin contract talks. At press time, a pre-trial hearing in the Office of Policy and Management's Appeal of the ruling was set for January 29, the results of which will be reviewed at our Council's next membership meeting. The agenda also includes voting on proposed by-laws for the Council and electing a successor to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of current President Bob Tolomeo at the end of January. Be sure join us Tuesday, 2/19 at 5:30 P.M. at our Local hall in Hartford.



**CSPCOA Council Members Dale Hourigan, Ed Gould, and Tom Garbedian Meeting with State Representative Kevin Ryan at the Capitol**

## In Our Communities

### Highlights of Our Members' Local Involvement

► **Good Works for Our Military Families:** Thanks to the organizing efforts of P-4 Council leaders John Vitale and Seby Puglisi, our Good Works Committee presented a \$1,000.00 donation to the Connecticut National Guard Foundation the week before the Christmas holiday. Combining P-4's \$500.00 contribution with a matching gift approved by our Executive Council, our members' support was put to work assisting the families of Connecticut's "citizen soldiers" serving in the Army and Air National Guards. Foundation Executive Director Tom Thomas and Family Assistance Center Coordinator Melissa Tetro (pictured below) were on hand at the State Armory in Hartford to welcome our union into the "President's Circle" of donors. Go to our website's "In Our Communities" page, at [www.csea-ct.com/good\\_works](http://www.csea-ct.com/good_works), for a link to the Foundation's website and learn how this valued "community partner" is serving Connecticut's working families.



**Local President Mike O'Brien, Joined by Secretary-Treasurer Patrice Peterson and P-4 Council President John Vitale, Treasurer Byron Lester and Steward Seby Puglisi, Presents Our Good Works Donation to the Connecticut National Guard Foundation**

►► **Building Our Newest Council:** Members of Council 760 Chapters with public school paraprofessionals met again on January 12 to take the next steps in establishing a new Council for our union's thousands of paraeducators. Proposed By-Laws were amended at the meeting, and mailed to the Presidents of each of the thirty-four Chapters that would comprise the new Council. A ballot was included so each Chapter could meet and vote on approval of the new by-laws, which then must be returned to our union hall by February 22. If approved by the majority of Chapters, the by-laws will be presented to the CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Executive Council for final approval! Members with questions about the proposed by-laws or their adoption are encouraged to contact their union staff rep or Political Director Rick Melita at the Local hall at (800) 894-9479, ext. 111.



**Members Working as Paraprofessionals in Avon, Danbury, Mansfield, Plainville, Thompson, and Wethersfield in Our New Council Organizing Committee and their Union Staff Reps at Our Local Hall**

### Missed Opportunities...

(Continued from page 1)

agency's leadership deficiencies, our response addressed several additional shortcomings in the panel's report, including:

- Undue influence of the state's leading anti-public services interest group, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, in shutting front-line workers out of the panel's reform efforts;
- False impressions of significant participation by union members in frequent references to the workforce survey issued last fall whose full results the panel has refused to make public;
- Failure to recognize the layers of private sector consultants providing oversight without accountability on contracted-out projects;
- Misplaced responsibility for the agency's "culture of fear" on the workforce's lack of conflict-management skills, rather than on incompetent leadership; and
- Opposition to the transparency and results-based accountability required by the new clean contracting legislation the Governor signed into law last fall.

### Quoted in the Connecticut Post:



"It was certainly a slap in the face to read the words 'unethical' and 'pockets of corruption,' when it was among some top managers who were corrupt under the Rowland regime."

#### Jay Doody

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

News articles and clips featuring our members and staff available online are linked to the "News Media Coverage" section of our website's "Ending the DOT's 'Culture of Fear'" page at [www.csea-ct.com/p4/dot\\_reform.cfm](http://www.csea-ct.com/p4/dot_reform.cfm).

This resounding success in broadcasting our message means we must now demonstrate just how the panel would have benefited from engaging the front-line workforce in the process of reform. We must remain mobilized, and press the panel on the unresolved issues we have raised. Contact our Communications Director Matt O'Connor at (800) 894-9479, ext. 129, to add your voice to our efforts to be the "union that stands for quality in the DOT" today!

### ►► Raising the Profile of Our Paraprofessionals:

Our union is co-hosting this year's National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals (NRCP) Conference, which is coming to Hartford from April 16 through 19. Our Executive Council voted to sponsor the event and cover registration and travel costs for at least one member from each Council 760 Chapter representing paraprofessionals to attend. Registration forms were mailed to Chapter presidents and online versions are linked to the "Our Education and Development" section of "Our School Paraprofessionals" page at [www.csea-ct.com/local\\_760/paraprofessionals.cfm](http://www.csea-ct.com/local_760/paraprofessionals.cfm). Registration forms must be submitted to our Education Coordinator Dave McCluskey at the Local hall by February 22 to qualify, so Chapter Presidents are urged to choose their representative and sign them up today!



# Social Activities

## Dublin's Traditional Irish Cabaret



NOTE: use RSVP form below to select meal choices

**Tuesday, Mar. 11**

Cost: \$65 per person

Reservation deadline: February 11

**Includes:** Deluxe motorcoach to Venus De Milo's in Swansea, MA, meal with choice of corned beef & cabbage or baked haddock, and entertainment featuring comedian Noel V. Ginnity, singer Paul Hennessy, and traditional Irish dancers

## Celebrate '08

### 3 Days in the Lehigh Valley!

**Mon., Mar. 31 – Wed., Apr. 2**

Cost: \$417 per person twin/triple or \$507 per person single

Reservation deadline: Final payment due Feb. 11

**Includes:** Deluxe motorcoach, 2 nights hotel, 6 meals, sightseeing & admissions as per itinerary & tour host

Departs: East Hartford



## Canada Cruise Saint John, New Brunswick & Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Mon., Sep. 1 – Sat., Sep. 6**

Cost: from \$679 per person

Reservation deadline: Check Availability TODAY - 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, & and array of daily activities

## UPCOMING TRIPS and ACTIVITIES

### Boston Duck Tour

Sat., May 31

Reservation deadline: Apr. 18

\$62 per person includes travel and duck vehicle tour

### Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum

Mon., Jun. 2 – Tue., Jun. 3

Reservation deadline: Mar. 10

\$243 includes travel, admission, and accommodations

### 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 West 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's SAC Page at [www.csea-ct.com/benefits](http://www.csea-ct.com/benefits) 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	
Pick-up Place		Traveling with	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Smoking	CSEA Chapter # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member	

## Council 400 Retiree Chapter Meetings & Events...

(Continued from page 2)

### FLORIDA & OTHER STATES' EVENTS

**CHAPTER 421** (Northeast Florida), Thursday, February 7, 11:30 a.m. (luncheon, meeting follows), Country Harvest Buffet, 2400 S. Ridgewood Ave. (Rte 1); South Daytona, FL. Buffet (no reservations needed). Cost: \$6/Chapter 421 members (with meeting postcard), \$9/guests & other chapters' members (all attendees must provide payment, per restaurant). Program: election of officers for 2008 – 2010, Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll, and State health plan carriers Anthem, CVS/Caremark, UnitedHealth Care Dental/Oxford Medical Plans representatives. Contact: Len Albert (386) 615-6805.

**CHAPTER 422** (Ocala area): Tuesday, February 19, 11:00 a.m. (meeting, lunch at 12:00 p.m.), Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club, 505 E. Hartford St. Hernando, FL. Cost: lunch \$7.50/Chapter 422 members (with meeting notice postcard), \$12.50/guests. Choice: sliced roast pork, chicken Marsala, and baked Tilapia almandine – served with garden salad, vegetable of the day, parsley steamed red bliss potatoes, warm rolls, dessert, coffee, and tea. Reservation deadline: February 5 (see postcard for mailing address).

Program: election of officers for 2008 – 2010, Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll, and State health plan carriers Anthem, CVS/Caremark, UnitedHealth Care Dental/Oxford Medical Plans representatives. "50/50" drawing. Contact: Jim Carper at (352) 726-3545.

**CHAPTER 423** (East Coast FL area): Monday, February 11, 11:30 a.m. (luncheon, meeting follows), Holiday Inn, 2809 Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, FL. Cost: lunch \$15/Chapter 423 member, \$18/Guests (incl. tax/tip). Choice: chicken Françoise, London broil or poached salmon. Reservation deadline: February 1 (see postcard for mailing address). Program: election of officers for 2008 – 2010, Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll, and State health plan carriers Anthem, CVS/Caremark, UnitedHealth Care Dental/Oxford Medical Plans representatives. Contact: Richard Archambault at (561) 272-0263.

**CHAPTER 424** (Sarasota area): Thursday, February 14, 9:30 a.m. (breakfast, meeting follows), Helmsley Sandcastle Hotel, 1540 Ben Franklin Drive, Sarasota, FL. Cost: \$10 per person (incl. tax/tip). Continental breakfast. Reservation deadline: February 7 (see postcard for mailing address). Program: election of officers for 2008 – 2010, Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll and State health plan carriers Anthem, CVS/Caremark, UnitedHealth Care Dental/Oxford Medical Plans representatives. Contact: John Kirker, Sr. at (941) 388-1024.

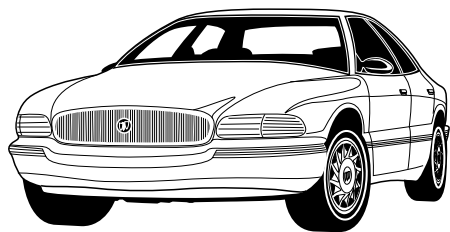
**CHAPTER 425** (Sun Coast/St. Petersburg area): Wednesday, February 20, 11:00 a.m. (social and cash bar, luncheon & meeting at 12:00 p.m.), Sam Seltzer's Steakhouse, 18409 US Highway 19 North, Clearwater, FL. Cost: luncheon \$17.99 per person (incl. tax/tip). Choice: 8 oz. prime rib, 6 oz. broiled salmon, 6 oz. NY strip steak, double grilled chicken breast – served with salad, baked potato, fresh baked rolls, green vegetable, Napoleon, coffee, tea or soda. Reservation deadline: January 31 (see postcard for mailing address). Program: election of officers for 2008 – 2010, Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll, and State health plan carriers Anthem, CVS/Caremark, UnitedHealth Care Dental/Oxford Medical Plans representatives. Contact: Hank Bracker at (727) 848-0089.

**CHAPTER 426** (Southwest FL area): Wednesday, February 13, 11:30 a.m., Cape Coral Italian American Club, 4725 Vincennes Blvd., Cape Coral, FL. Cost: \$12.00 per person. Lunch buffet. Reservation deadline: February 6 (mail payment, payable to "CSEA Chapter 426," with meal selection to Tom McMullen, 1288 Vermeer Drive, Nokomis, FL 34275). Program: election of officers for 2008 – 2010, Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll, and State health plan carriers Anthem, CVS/Caremark, UnitedHealth Care Dental/Oxford Medical Plans representatives. Contact: Tom McMullen at (941) 480-1946.

**CHAPTER 427** (East Central Florida), Saturday, February 16, Vero Beach Yacht Club, 3601 Rio Vista Blvd., Vero Beach, FL. Social: 12:00 p.m., luncheon: 1:00 p.m. Cost: \$15 (incl. tax/tip) for all CT State retirees and their guests. Choice: sliced London broil, chicken potpie, broiled Tilapia with boiled red potatoes. Served with: vegetable, rolls, tossed salad, rhubarb pie, and coffee or tea. Reservation deadline: February 11 (mail payment, payable to "CSEA Chapter 427," with meal selection to William Egan, 5150 9th St., Vero Beach, FL 32966). Program: election of officers for 2008 – 2010, Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll, and State health plan carriers Anthem, CVS/Caremark, UnitedHealth Care Dental/Oxford Medical Plans representatives. Contact: William Egan at (772) 569-5568 or Bob Mercier at (772) 563-4962.

**CHAPTER 431** (Carolinas area), Tuesday, February 26, 10:00 a.m., (full buffet brunch, meeting at 11:30 a.m.), Alisa Pub at The Legends Resort, 1500 Legends Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC - call hotel for directions and reservations for overnight room reservations at (800) 299-6187. Cost: \$10/person for brunch (check payable to Lyle Chichester, Treasurer Ch 431, 209 Chestnut Springs Way, Williamston, SC 29697). Brunch reservation and payment deadline: February 1. Program: election of officers for 2008 – 2010, Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll, and State health plan carriers Anthem, CVS/Caremark, UnitedHealth Care Dental/Oxford Medical Plans representatives. Contact: Treasurer Lyle Chichester at (864) 328-9419 for brunch reservations only - Nominating Chair Lara Petiss at (803) 419-7824 for members interested in running for office/serving on committees.

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Lincoln's Birthday ..... Tuesday, February 12

Washington's Birthday ..... Monday, February 18

## 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%

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## 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](mailto: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 [ffmacmd@embarqmail.com](mailto:ffmacmd@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. \$149,00/unfurnished, \$152,900/furnished. The Villages, FL (352)750-0399 or e-mail to [villager506@aol.com](mailto: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.

**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.

**1996 BUICK CENTURY**, 4 dr. sedan, original owner, clean title, 117k mi, no rust, exc. exterior, v. gd interior, professionally maintained, needs minor mechanicals, dependable transportation. \$1,400 OBO. Bristol (860) 583-3422.

**FREE TIMESHARE** w/purchase of 1/2 acre land in Lehigh Acres, FL; 44" x 28" x 77" solid wood oak armoire, like new, \$175; Broan whole house ventilator attic fan with shutter, new, in box, \$100; unfinished oak fireplace mantel with insert for propane or electric heating stove, \$100; ventless propane gas heating, \$100. Waterbury (203) 520-3220.

**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.

**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 e-mail to [DRahcb21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DRahcb21@sbcglobal.net).

**BASEBALL CARDS**, complete sets from 1986 to present, single cards 1970 – 1995, new wax boxes of all sports, late 70s – early 80s complete Sporting News. Southington (860) 621-3131.

**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 e-mail to [JKAL48@AOL.COM](mailto: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](http://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.  
**NEWPORT RI REFURBISHED CONDO**, first floor for rent in renovated historic house, 1 BR/1 BA with Jacuzzi, 2 fireplaces, marble and wood floors, French doors to porch, kitchen appliances, W/D in unit; 11' ceilings, central gas heat and A/C, lots of parking and basement storage, walk to beach, in Historic District. Avail 12/01/07, yrly rental. \$1,200/mo including h.w. Vero Beach, FL (772) 388-1463.

**DAYTONA BEACH, FL, winter rental, 2BR** fully furnished condo directly on Intracoastal Waterway, 5-min walk to Atlantic Ocean, "Best Beach in the World", and shopping, \$1,100/mo includes utilities (not phone), cable, avail Nov- Apr, three month minimum, photos available.

Daytona Beach, FL (386) 672-0398.  
**NAPLES, FL LAKE FRONT RENTAL**, 2 BR, 2 BA, den, new furniture, great mattresses, minutes from Gulf. \$1,500 to \$2,000/month plus tax, depending on dates, pick now and let's make a deal. Plantsville (860) 621-1377.

**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, \$1,495 Jan. - Apr. Vero Beach, FL (772) 234-7070.

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# DEATHS REPORTED

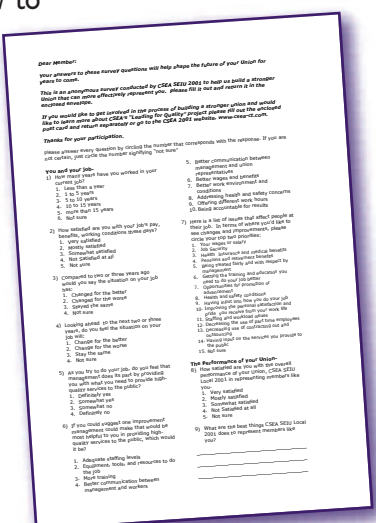
We regret to learn of the deaths of the following retired CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 members, as reported by the State Retirement Division:

- Raymond Archambault of chapter 412 died 5/30/07
- Genevieve Balisano, 408, 12/7/07
- Marlene Bohn, 417, 8/27/07
- Clarence Bruninga, 416, 11/15/07
- Jean Cabelus, 411, 11/9/07
- John Cacciola, 427, 10/30/07
- Edward Carberry, 405, 11/27/07
- Robert Dancosse, 408, 11/25/07
- Evelyn Deforest, 402, 11/22/07
- Paul Derosier, 403, 11/6/07
- William Doolittle, 406, 11/5/07
- Mahlon Farrow, 425, 11/15/07
- Laura Fierravanti, 411, 12/5/07
- Elizabeth Green, 414, 8/25/07

- H. J. Greenwald, 402, 10/2/07
- Vinton Haas, Jr., 408, 11/20/07
- Rolf Hanson, 425, 10/14/07
- Edward Hnidziejko, 410, 11/24/07
- Margaret Kelly, 401, 12/02/07
- Jeanette King, 414, 11/4/07
- Robert Lewis, Jr., 410, 11/1/07
- Frank Madar, 425, 12/13/07
- Stella Mathena, 401, 11/14/07
- Barbara McEwen, 404, 10/18/07
- Charles McSheffery, Jr., 411, 11/17/07
- Ruth Moberg, 402, 7/28/07
- Anastacia Pelligrinelli, 415, 11/7/07
- Dennis Purcell, 406, 11/12/07
- Vivian Reid, 420, 6/19/07
- Dean Reilein, 408, 11/18/07
- Clayton Rogers, 414, 12/3/07
- Mary Rybinski, 404, 11/14/07
- Marie Salamon, 410, 12/4/07
- Norman Solanch, 407, 10/4/07
- Adelard Soucy, 404, 11/26/07
- Everett Stratton, 404, 10/29/07
- Joseph Toth, 408, 11/15/07
- William Vanwie, 405, 11/25/07
- Martha Wahl, 402, 11/9/07
- Edward Williams, II, 411, 11/14/07
- Robert Wojciechowski, 402, 12/14/07
- Madeline Young, 404, 10/28/07

## How Can We Become the Union that Leads for Quality?

Tell us by completing our "Leading for Quality Survey" today! All of our currently employed members were mailed a survey form to complete and return by mail in late-January, and our website has a downloadable version at the "Our Purpose" section of "Our Local" page. Go to [www.csea-ct.com/ourlocal/](http://www.csea-ct.com/ourlocal/) to complete the online form. Did you miss the Public Services webcast in December that joined SEIU public sector members in a national conversation about how to lead for quality? Watch video of the meeting and weigh-in on the online polls today! Access an archive video file at the same section of our website's "Our Local" page. Now is the time to share our ideas for improving public services here in Connecticut and across the country!



# Healthcare in Crisis...

(Continued from page 4)

they are offering better coverage to a greater number of workers. 100,000 more workers are covered than three years ago, and recently the wait time for part-timers to qualify for health coverage was cut. Now nearly half of Wal-Mart's part-time workers are eligible.

Andrew Stern, President of our International union, said of Wal-Mart's progress, "there is clearly a focus on covering more people."

Wal-Mart has introduced a plan costing employees \$11 a month. It has provided new programs promoting healthy living such as smoking cessation, weight-loss clinics, exercise and a 24-hour medical hotline from the Mayo Clinic. The price of 2,400 generic prescriptions has been reduced to \$4 a month for employees.

For a company whose mantra was to pinch every penny, the

improvements took a lot of persuading. CEO H. Lee Scott Jr. said, "we were spending a lot of energy, and we weren't making any headway." He appears to have finally realized that health benefits are an investment in the workforce rather than a cost. "If workers are healthy, they will do a better job at work, they'll be happier, nicer to our customers."

Late in 2006, Mr. Stern and Mr. Scott joined together to work out a public agreement to seek universal healthcare (Michael Barbaro and Reed Abelson, Health Plan for Wal-Mart: Less Stinginess, *New York Times*, Nov. 13, 2007).

This type of partnership is just what the doctor ordered to cure the misguided philosophy of too many political and business leaders who have buried their head in the sand. Every American deserves the right to decent healthcare!

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



# Our President's Desk...

(Continued from page 3)

publicize last fall's employee survey, in which 77% of respondents said they did not believe the results would bring about change at the DOT.

The recent release of the reform panel's preliminary report didn't produce any shocking revelations given the makeup of the panel. One of the report's major recommendations is for DOT to use more – not less – private sector consultants on publicly funded projects. If I didn't know any better I would think the

current Governor had snuck the former Governor into their deliberations!

Clearly, the change Connecticut residents expect of the DOT cannot happen without our members being engaged in the process. That is why we must stand ready to seize the initiative and continue to show the public what we would do to restore quality, competence, and accountability at the DOT.



**Last July, Mike Told Viewers of FOX-TV Channel 61's "Beyond the Headlines" Why Union Members in the DOT Should Be Engaged in the Reform Process**

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