

## Member Activism at Work

### One Member's Action Brings Policy Change for All



*Council P-3B Member  
Sheila Chunis' Call to  
Reform the State's  
Burdensome E-mail  
Policy is Recorded  
for NBC-TV Channel  
30's "CT News at 11"*

We first shared the story of Bureau of Rehabilitation Vocational Counselor Sheila Chunis' struggle to move the State to lift heavy-handed

restrictions on e-mail communications to family members in the military in our October, 2006 edition of the CSEA News. Despite moving the State to recognize the issue was negotiable under our collective bargaining agreement, and eventually filing a "prohibited practice charge" before the Board of Labor Relations, change didn't come until Sheila shared her story with the public through the local news media.

We issued a Press Release announcing Sheila's situation and our advocacy on the issue the week before Veteran's Day to dozens of the state's print, radio, and television news media. When the *Journal-Inquirer* published a full account in their November 11 edition, the story was picked up by the Associated Press and began to appear in newspapers all over the state, region, and, within a few days, the nation.

"I couldn't believe how far the story would reach when we decided to 'go public'" Sheila said of the attention the issue generated so quickly. "My local representative found out about the press release and asked me to meet him for coffee to discuss how he could help fix this. And this was before any of the news accounts were published!" she added.

Five days after the *Jl's* article, the Governor's office ordered the e-mail policy restricting State workers from sending and receiving e-mail communications from family members serving in the military

*(Continued on page 6)*

*This Holiday Season, our  
Thoughts are with the  
Troops and their Families*



## Turning Vision into Action

### Improving Our Quality of Worklife



**Robert Adriani**  
"Connect to Work Center"  
Community Work Incentive  
Coordinator, Connecticut  
Bureau of Rehab Services  
President, P-3B Council

As the new year approaches, it seems fitting to take a moment to assess the priorities of our members working as Institution Education Professionals for the State of Connecticut. Our P-3B Council members work in a wide variety of public agencies, and provide a diverse range of services to state residents, and there is no doubt we will play a critical role in advancing our

union's 2007 agenda for working families.

My first priority for the Council this year is to become more unified – to see us realize our potential to be the strong, unified force for change that we are committed to being. Our predecessors worked hard to win the protections we enjoy today, and I believe we must value our past gains if we are to create opportunities for future victories.

This may be the holiday season, but let us not confuse our hard-won rights on the job with a gift from our elected officials!

Our Council's stewards have made enforcement of our contract one of our greatest current strengths. Going forward, we must continue to recruit and develop good

*(Continued on page 5)*

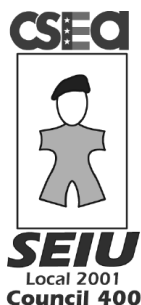
*Postmaster: Please forward address changes to:*

CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

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## Council 400 Retiree Chapters' Meetings



This information will also be 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 meeting for further details, such as guest speaker, and the time, location, and Chapter's contact information.

**COUNCIL 400 Delegates Meeting:** Thursday, January 18, 10:00 a.m., CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Headquarters, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Contact: Ed Daly at (860) 871-9482.

### Connecticut Chapters

**CHAPTER 401,** Hartford area, Thursday, January 4, 1:00 p.m. (light lunch served at 12:00 p.m.), CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Headquarters, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Speaker: Attorney James Kearns on elder law issues. Contact: Katherine Goulet at (860) 675-4053.

**CHAPTER 402,** Danbury area, Wednesday, January 10, 10:00 a.m., (refreshments follow meeting), United Methodist Church, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury. Speaker: District Judge of Probate Dianne Yamin. Contact: Dawn Gallagher at (203) 748-2018.

**CHAPTER 403,** Norwich area, Tuesday, January 9, 1:30 p.m. (meeting room not available until 1:00, refreshments prior to meeting), Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Dr., Norwich. Speaker: Vivian Zoe, Director of the Norwich Free Academy Slater Museum. 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, and WCTY FM 97.7, and WNLC FM 98.7).

**CHAPTER 404,** Waterbury area, Tuesday, January 9, 10:30 a.m. (social, meeting follows), Elks Club, 758 Rubber Ave., Naugatuck. Speaker: Cardiology Specialist Dr. Henry Borkowski. Contact: Armand Rosanelli at (203) 758-5122.

**CHAPTER 405,** New Haven area, Wednesday, January 10, 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. Speaker: Orthopedic Specialist Dr. Philip Minottio on joint replacements and revisions. Contact: Andy Gambardella at (203) 468-7376.

**CHAPTER 406,** Middletown area, Tuesday, January 9, 1:00 P.M. (social, meeting at 1:30 p.m.), American Legion Post 75, 58 Bernie O'Rourke Drive, Middletown. Speaker: Bill Hennessey on history of the CT Lottery. Please bring non-perishable or canned foods for local food bank donation. Contact Elizabeth Harvey at (860) 917-3740.

**CHAPTER 407,** Bridgeport area, Wednesday, January 15; 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). Speaker: CT VNA Hospice representative Suzanne Rosenberg. Contact: Mary O'Connor at (203) 374-1220.

**CHAPTER 408,** Willimantic area, Wednesday, January 10; 1:00 p.m. (coffee social, meeting at 1:45 p.m.), McSweeney Sr. Center, 47 Crescent St., Willimantic. Speaker: CT Alliance for Retired Americans President Kevin Lynch will discuss our joint efforts Universal Health Care. Meeting open to the public. Contact: Donna Linkkila at (860) 455-0883.

**CHAPTER 410,** Windsor Locks area, Monday, January 8, 1:00 p.m. (social, meeting follows), VFW Post 6123, 40 Fairview St., Windsor Locks. Speaker: Council 400 Coordinator Hollis Block to provide update on your union. Contact: Elaine Colson at (860) 623-8704.

**CHAPTER 411,** Rocky Hill area, Thursday, January 11, 1:00 p.m. (social follows meeting), William J. Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Speaker: Hartford Hospital Integrated Medicine Service Representative on "reflexology." Contact: Florence Egan at (860) 666-0382.

**CHAPTER 412,** Putnam area, Tuesday, January 16, 1:30 p.m. (social follows meeting), Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., Putnam. Refreshments, door prizes. Meeting open to the public. Contact: Don Gladding at (860) 564-9092.

**CHAPTER 414,** Torrington area, Monday, January 15, 10:00 a.m., Log House Restaurant, 10 New Hartford Rd. (Route 44), Barkhamsted. Speakers: CT 30th Dist. State Senator Andrew Roraback and CT House 64th Dist. Rep Roberta Willis. Contact: Karen Pineman at (860) 354-6727.

**CHAPTER 415,** Manchester area, Monday, January 22, 1:15 p.m., Eighth District Office, 18 Main St., Manchester. Contact: Ed Daly at (860) 871-9482.

**CHAPTER 416,** New London area, Tuesday, January 9; 12:00 p.m. (refreshments, business meeting at 12:30 p.m., program at 1:30 p.m.), Waterford Public Library Waterford Public Library, 49 Rope Ferry Rd., Waterford. Program: Screening film, "Iraq for Sale" on waste and fraud of private contractors in war zone. Meeting open to the public. Contact: Les Shapiro at (860) 442-5256.

**CHAPTER 417,** Plainville area, Wednesday, January 10, 1:00 p.m. (social, meeting follows), Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church, 115 West Main St., Plainville. Speaker: Representative from CT Center for Healthy Aging on shingles. Contact: Nicholas D'Emanuelle at (860) 628-6675.

**CHAPTER 418/4Cs,** Thursday, January 11, 10:00 a.m., Congress of CT Community Colleges, 907 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford. Refreshments. Contact: Aldo Sicuso at (860) 346-3550.

### Florida Chapters

**CHAPTER 421,** Northeast Florida area, Thursday, February 1, 11:30 a.m. (luncheon, meeting follows), Country Harvest Buffet, 2400 South Ridgewood Avenue (Rte 1); South Daytona, FL. Cost: buffet free to Chapter 421 members (with meeting notice postcard), guests responsible for payment (no reservations needed). Program: Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll and State health plan carriers Anthem, UnitedHealth Care, PharmaCare and Oxford Medical Plans representatives Diana Manzo, Laura Lesik, and Ann Marie Ricci. Contact: Len Albert (386) 615-6805.

**CHAPTER 422,** Ocala area, Wednesday, February 21, 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/Chapter 422 members (with meeting notice postcard), \$12/guests. Reservation deadline: February 10. Program: Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll and State health plan carriers Anthem, UnitedHealth Care, PharmaCare and Oxford Medical Plans representatives Diana Manzo, Laura Lesik, and Christy Myers. Contact: Jim Carper at (352) 726-3545.

**CHAPTER 423,** East Coast FL area, Monday, February 5, 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). Reservation deadline: January 29. Program: Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll and State health plan carriers Anthem, UnitedHealth Care, PharmaCare and Oxford Medical Plans representatives Diana Manzo, Laura Lesik, and Ann Marie Ricci. Contact: Richard Archambault at (561) 272-0263

**CHAPTER 424,** Sarasota area, Monday, February 12, 10:00 a.m. (breakfast, meeting follows), Helmsley Sandcastle Hotel, 1540 Ben Franklin Drive, Sarasota, FL. Cost: breakfast \$10 per person (incl. tax/tip), Reservation deadline: February 6. Program: Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll and State health plan carriers Anthem, UnitedHealth Care, PharmaCare and Oxford Medical Plans representatives Diana Manzo, Laura Lesik, and Christy Myers. Contact: John Kirker, Sr. at (941) 388-1024.

**CHAPTER 425,** Sun Coast/St. Petersburg area, Wednesday, February 14, 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. Reservation deadline: January 31. Program: Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll and State health plan carriers Anthem, UnitedHealth Care, PharmaCare and Oxford Medical Plans representatives Diana Manzo, Laura Lesik, and Christy Myers. Contact: Hank Bracker at (727) 848-0089.

**CHAPTER 426,** Southwest FL area, 8:45 a.m., Thursday, February 8 (All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast, meeting follows), The Isles Yacht Club, 1780 West Marion Ave., Punta Gorda, FL. Cost: buffet \$9.00 per person. Reservation deadline: February 1 to Chapter Treasurer. Program: Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll and State health plan carriers Anthem, UnitedHealth Care, PharmaCare and Oxford Medical Plans representatives Diana Manzo, Laura Lesik, and Ann Marie Ricci. Contact: Tom McMullen at (941) 480-1946.

**CHAPTER 427,** East Central FL area, Saturday, February 17, 12:00 p.m. (social, lunch and meeting at 1:00 p.m.), Vero Beach Yacht Club, 3601 Rio Vista Blvd., Vero Beach, FL. Cost: \$14/members (with meeting notice postcard), \$16/non-members (incl. tax/tip). Reservation deadline: February 12. Program: Council 400 Executive Committee Member Nancy Driscoll and State health plan carriers Anthem, UnitedHealth Care, PharmaCare and Oxford Medical Plans representatives Diana Manzo, Laura Lesik, and Christy Myers. Contact: William Egan at (772) 569-5568.

**Attention Chapter Secretaries and Program Coordinators**  
**The deadline for February meeting information is**  
**Monday, January 8.**

Learn about the member-only programs, including special discounts, rates, and savings on a wide variety of products and services, offered by SEIU in partnership with Union Plus to our retired and active members and their families at our website:

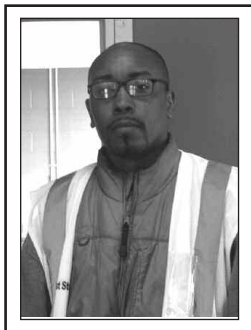
[www.csea-ct.com](http://www.csea-ct.com)

# Our Actions...in Brief

## Members' Current Issues, Meetings, & Events

### Members at Bus Yards Speak Out for Corporate Accountability:

Congratulations to Jim Jenkins, President of Council 760's Chapter 196, and Scotty Rogers, President of Chapter 1108, for publication of their "letter to the editor" of the *Hartford Courant*! They responded to a *Courant* article that neglected to connect Double A Transportation, a private contractor with a long anti-worker history, to the recent tragedy that resulted in a pedestrian's death in West Hartford. Read the letter, which was published in the paper's December 9 edition, at "Our School Bus Drivers" webpage at [www.csea-ct.com/bus\\_drivers.cfm](http://www.csea-ct.com/bus_drivers.cfm).



### Members Move to Block More Outsourcing of Public Services:

We issued an e-mail alert on December 11 urging members and clean contracting advocates to call for blocking the latest efforts to outsource vital functions in the State Department of Transportation by writing letters to their local General Assembly representatives. Property Agent Mike Aletta shared his fears and concerns that the failure to act now could lead to another "Little Dig" fiasco...if you didn't receive the alert in your in-box, access the details and a simple, online letter-writing tool at our website's "Action Center" at <http://seiuaction.org/Seiu760/home.html>.



### Our Members' Call for Reform of State Outsourcing is Broadcast:

Our P-4 Council President John Vitale appeared on the syndicated CRN "Dialogue 2006" program and told veteran Capitol reporter Steve Kotchko why we are committed to protecting the public interest from the State's policy of contracting-out...and the interview was aired on 15 radio stations across the state the weekend of December 9! If you missed the program, we have linked the audio to our website's Clean Contracting Issue news coverage page at [www.csea-ct.com/action/little\\_dig\\_media.cfm#CRN](http://www.csea-ct.com/action/little_dig_media.cfm#CRN).



### Our Push for Higher Standards for Paraprofessionals Moves to the Capitol:

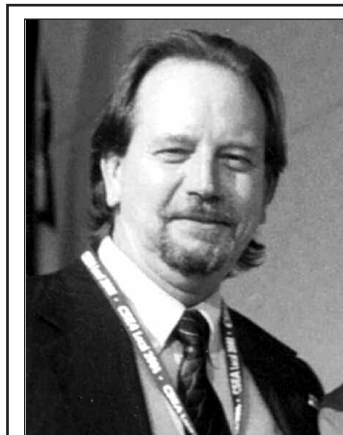
The General Assembly's Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee held a meeting on Thursday, December 14 to brief officials on findings that included the focus group with our members held after our Paraprofessional Conference in October. Visit the "Our School Paraprofessionals" page at our website to access the PRI report and read their recommendations for improving access to training and education for school paraprofessionals by logging onto [www.csea-ct.com/local\\_760/paraprofessionals.cfm](http://www.csea-ct.com/local_760/paraprofessionals.cfm).



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

# Our President's Desk

## Y2K+7



**Michael J. O'Brien**  
Supervising Sanitary Engineer,  
Connecticut Dept. of  
Environmental Protection  
Member, Chapter 24,  
P-4 Council  
CSEA/SEIU Local 2001  
Executive Council President

So is the title of this month's column some sort of secret code? It looks almost like the newspaper comics when the character lets out with a swear word (#!%&+) doesn't it? Well I am not swearing, but I am just trying to figure out where the last seven years went since that period before the end of the last century when we were dealing with the supposed crash of all sorts of computer systems due to Y2K.

The big computer-consulting firms were selling banks and brokerage firms all sorts of expensive fixes to the Y2K bug. At that time, the state Comptroller let our own State work force make the necessary changes in the state's computer system under her control. They got the job done on time and

for a lot less than the proposals received from the consultants. Shouldn't that have told our State officials all they needed to know about the abilities of their own workforce to get the job done right and for less than the consultants?

Here we are almost seven years down the road from that point and the state is contracting out more than ever with predictable results; cost overruns and faulty work - and looking to do more! The recent fiasco on I-84 fit this description and ought to have a lot of people swearing. And now the DOT brain trust is looking to contract-out for most of the appraisal work that is typically done in-house. Will they never learn or don't they even want to learn?

At the beginning of a new year it is appropriate to look back a bit and see where we've been in the previous, and then take a look forward. Let's pull out the crystal ball and attempt to project where we may be headed in the coming new year.

The big news of early 2006 was the implementation of most of our State worker bargaining unit agreements after a year and a half struggle with the Rell Administration. Our efforts resulted in gains for our members that outpaced those of other State employee bargaining units.

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The Voice of  
Connecticut's Public  
Service Workers &  
Retirees

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**Patrice Peterson**.....Secretary/Treasurer  
**Robert D. Rinker**.....Executive Director  
**Matt O'Connor**.....Communications Director  
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INSERTION DEADLINE: 1st of prior month.

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# 400 LAC ACTION

Council 400 **Legislative Action Committee (LAC)**

## Social Security Reform



**Zoe Leibowitz**

Member, Legislative Action Committee  
Chapter 408, Council 400

With the Democrats having won control of the leadership in the November 7 election, the privatization of Social Security will probably not be considered during this Congress. However, the problem of continuing to finance Social Security will certainly be investigated.

Indeed, Max Baucus (D-MT) who is the incoming chairman of the Senate Finance Committee plans to hold hearings on various proposals to keep Social Security solvent and available to our next generations. Options which will certainly be considered include tax increases, changes in the retirement age, and benefit cuts.

It is important that we keep abreast of what is happening in Congress and don't let our representatives take Social Security too far from its present benefits. At this time, Social Security takes about 4.3% of our nation's total income. When the Baby Boomers retire, it will take about 6.3%!

It's a question of where our priorities lie. The money we're spending in Iraq would cover the projected Social Security deficit for the next 75 years. Money seems to be available when there is a will to spend it; when the nation considers the investment to be important.

As an aside, the surplus from Social Security has been used by our government as part of the General Fund income in order to lower the deficits year after year. Some years back, the Congress started saying that the surplus was being saved for the time that Social Security would not bring in as much as was going out. The surplus was still being used for general current expenses; however, now they theoretically issue Government Bonds equal to the surplus money that is being used.

So when Social Security no longer brings in a surplus, our government will no longer have that extra money to use for other things. It will be truly hard to honor those IOUs it has been issuing Social Security for these past years.

Keep an eye on what's happening to Social Security. Be active. Write to your elected officials to let them know how you stand on this issue. Visit our website's Action Center at [www.csea-ct.com/action](http://www.csea-ct.com/action) and select "Reaching Elected Officials" from the page's index. There you can access contact information for your US House Representatives and Senators using an easy, online search feature.

### »» Our "Retiree of the Month:"

Congratulations to Mike Lucas, our Council 400's Western Region 2nd Vice-President, for receiving the December 2006 "Retiree of the Month" honor! Mike's contributions to building our union during his years of state service and now in his equally active retirement are deeply appreciated. Learn more about how our members are standing up to protect retirement security by visiting our website's Council 400 page at [www.csea-ct.com/retirees/index.cfm](http://www.csea-ct.com/retirees/index.cfm).



## Pride In Our Communities!

### Good Works for the Holidays



**P-4 Council Members John Vitale, Byron Lester, Nate Jenkins, and Tony Ferraro Loading Prepared Thanksgiving Meal Packages at Union Hall for Donation to Area Charities**

Continuing a proud fifteen-year tradition, our Good Works Committee organized the annual distribution of Thanksgiving meal packages to community advocacy organizations and fellow members facing economic challenges, to help bring joy – and a turkey dinner – to hundreds of Connecticut families during the holidays. Beginning Monday, November 20, food packages and over 100 turkeys were distributed to several area organizations, including the Hartford Community Partnership, Hopewell Baptist Church, the Friendship Service Center of New Britain, House of Bread, Hogar Crea International, and Hartford's First Baptist Church.



**Frederina DeGraffenreidt**  
Systems Developer, Connecticut  
Dept. of Correction  
Steward, P-4 Council Chapter 33

"The holidays are an especially difficult time for low-income workers, senior citizens on fixed incomes, and anyone struggling to get back on their feet," said State Department of Correction Systems Developer Frederina DeGraffenreidt. "This year, our members are making a difference for Connecticut residents who are most in need, from East Haven to Hartford" she added.

Our P-4 Council members took the lead in organizing our Good Works Committee food drive during the six weeks leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday. "Reading about the limited resources so many food pantries and charities that provide meals during the holidays were faced with this year, we felt it was more important than ever to make this effort a success" Department of Labor Systems Developer Gloria Cournoyer said in reference to recent news reports of shortages expected in donations to numerous area organizations dedicated to feeding the poor.



**Gloria Cournoyer**  
Systems Developer,  
Connecticut Dept. of Labor  
Steward, P-4 Council  
Chapter 75

Turkeys and meal packages were delivered to members working in Double A Transportation's East Haven bus yard as well. School bus

driver Pamela Zampano said of the effort as she picked up a turkey and all the trimmings, “we appreciate fellow members recognizing the challenges we face on the job.” She added, “We are standing together for fairness and equality, and this show of support means a lot.”



Pamela and her co-workers are struggling to create greater economic security for their families, and face rising health care costs. We recognize the commitment to safe, reliable transportation services these undervalued workers provide our public school children and hope the meal donations reminds them they are not alone in their struggle.

In addition to the sweat and elbow grease of more than a dozen P-4 Council members assembling and loading meal packages, the financial commitment made by five of our Council Chapters made this year’s Good Works Committee efforts possible. The investment each of the following chapters made, when combined with a \$500.00 contribution by our CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Executive Council and a \$600.00 donation by the P-4 Council, ensured we met our goal of 100 turkeys this year:

- P-4 Council Chapter 9: \$600.00**
- P-4 Council Chapter 148: \$200.00**
- P-4 Council Chapter 75: \$100.00**
- P-4 Council Chapter 55: \$100.00**
- P-4 Council Chapter 97: \$50.00**

Visit our “Good Works Committee” section at our website’s “In Our Communities” page to complete a simple online form to pledge your individual or chapter’s financial support and allow us to make a difference in our communities! Log on today at [www.csea-ct.com/good\\_works](http://www.csea-ct.com/good_works), pledge your support, and learn more

about how we are joining with community advocates, faith leaders, and labor partners to support our working families’ agenda!



**P-4 Council Members Sandy Brunelli, Frederina DeGraffenreidt, Byron Lester, Gloria Cournoyer, and Nate Jenkins Loading Packaged Meals**

## »» We’re Moving Forward on Access to Health Care for All:

With incoming legislators pledging to make affordable health care for the uninsured a major focus of the upcoming General Assembly session, we are uniting early education professionals to advocate for Universal Health Care. Our Connecticut Kids First Campaign, which has the support of more than a thousand providers from around the state, is gearing up to support legislation that will empower this underrepresented and underserved workforce. Visit our Child Care Providers resource page at our website at [www.csea-ct.com/ccp/](http://www.csea-ct.com/ccp/) to learn more.



## Turning Vision into Action

(Continued from page 1)

stewards to establish and maintain a positive union presence everywhere our members work and serve the public. With a Chief Steward like Dave Abruzzi, who has done so much for his fellow members throughout his many years of service, we have a great example for future worksite leaders.

Part of making sure that our contract’s protections are upheld and its opportunities are realized is to keep it from being weakened by misguided or misinformed managers. Equally important is to prevent our members’ own benign neglect from allowing our contract to lose strength, and that takes each and every one of us committing to due diligence.

I also believe that our approach to moving forward has to be more eclectic. Our Council represents teachers, instructors, and educators from the Department of Children and Families, the Board of Education’s Services for the Blind, the Department of Correction, Social Services’ Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Mental Retardation, and Mental Health’s Addiction Services, so a “one-size-fits-all” internal organizing strategy just will not do!

One of the most valuable opportunities we created for ourselves in our current contract is found in our Quality of Work Life (QWL) provision. In fact, we have just begun a new QWL project to create opportunities for increased counselor training at BRS and have moved management to work directly with us in generating a needs assessment and supporting our overall goals and objectives.

I believe that if we commit to a shared goal of developing or continuing at least one QWL project in each department or agency where our members work each year, we will

accomplish our common objective of making our workplaces more enjoyable, efficient, and effective.

Our members have many opportunities to make positive change in 2007. Several of our bold agenda goals will require P-3B Council members to play substantial roles. From delivering “client-driven services” for families impacted by autism, for instance, to improved mental health care in the Department of Correction, to much needed reforms at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the communities we serve are counting on us for better public service!

I will try not to let my fellow Council members down as we move forward to improve our work-lives together. I am fortunate to have a great cabinet of elected leaders who are dedicated and committed to our members’ objectives. With Ann Francisco in DOC, and Kim Wesolowski and Gary Nolan in DCF standing with me, I am confident that this will be a year in which we make true progress.

I take great comfort in knowing that we can always tap into the wealth of experience of our valued leaders like Tom Welch, our Council Past President, and Patrice Peterson, our Executive Council’s Secretary-Treasurer. The sound advice, counsel, and information we have come to expect from Joanna James, our Union Staff Representative, provides another needed pillar of support for our leaders and rank-and-file members alike.

Take a moment to visit our Council P-3B page at our website’s “On the Job” section; [www.csea-ct.com/p3b/index.cfm](http://www.csea-ct.com/p3b/index.cfm) and learn more about how we are uniting our members, increasing the volume of our voices on the job, and building working families’ power together!

## Our President's Desk...

(Continued from page 3)

On the legislative front, we were successful in passing a third contracting reform bill that the governor promptly vetoed, as she had done twice before. You can tell that her promise to clean up the corruption left by her predecessor in the State contracting process is pretty much hot air.

Early in the year, our strategic realignment of state workers and municipal and board of education workers was completed. The purpose behind this is to build a stronger union that can win better wages and benefits for all of our members. We have been working hard to make that a reality.

We took a big step forward to improving the lives of the paraprofessionals that we represent when we held the first ever conference for paras in October. The event was widely attended by members from all across the state and

hopefully will continue to trigger more member involvement and participation as we look to organize their strength to gain more recognition for a profession that truly deserves it. After all, they work everyday with our state's most precious population: our children - who are our future!

On the organizing front, we have been slowly but steadily signing up some of the remaining unrepresented State workers. Last year we signed up the State Police Captains and Lieutenants and also began negotiations to bring DOC Captains and Counselor Supervisors into our CSC Council. We continue our organizing efforts with family-based child care providers and to date we have signed up over a thousand of these early education professionals. Our next step is a legislative initiative to help make their desire to have a collective voice in raising wages and improving working conditions reality.

The summer and fall were taken up by the important work that we do in the political arena; first the Primary in August and then the General Election in November. We didn't win the governor's race in November but not for lack of trying by our members. The positive approval rating of Jodi Rell proved too much to overcome for our candidate.

We did make progress by making the State legislature and the Congress more worker friendly, giving us reason for optimism that the lives of middle-class families will be improved. Connecticut union members did their part by helping to elect two strong working family advocates, Joe Courtney and Chris Murphy, to our state's 2nd and 5th Congressional Districts. I am proud of the role our members played in these successful campaigns.

You can tell the elections are over for sure now because the price of gasoline that had been falling in the months prior to the November election is

steadily creeping up again!

So much of the success that we hope to achieve for our members and their families depends on our ability to get good legislation passed. That is why we put such an emphasis on political work. In the coming year we hope to leverage our election successes into getting legislation passed that will be beneficial to our members and all working families.

One of our obvious priorities will again be Clean Contracting legislation. Not only will it be a benefit to our members but to all the tax paying citizens of Connecticut. We need to put a halt to the inappropriate privatization of state services that time and again has been proven to waste tax dollars.

Another legislative priority of our union is affordable health care coverage for everyone. I believe that it is absolutely crucial to achieve this if we hope to solidify our good health care coverage that we have as public sector workers. State workers and retirees have

(Continued on page 8)

## Member Activism...

(Continued from page 1)

be changed. Though the move was unilateral, and the new policy showed a lack of respect for our members, this victory is a testament to the power we have to get our message out!



*"I am extremely proud and supportive of this issue!"*

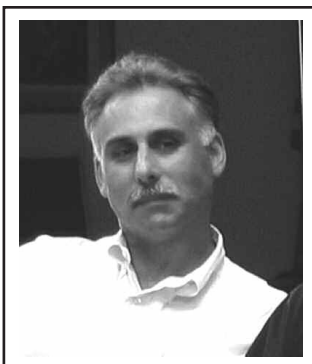
### Kirstin May

Disability Determination Services,  
Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Svcs  
Steward, P-3B Council

*"Activism in the workplace, when effectively planned and supported by our members, works."*

### Bob Adriani

Community Work Incentive  
Coordinator, Connecticut Bureau of  
Rehabilitation Svcs  
President, P-3B Council



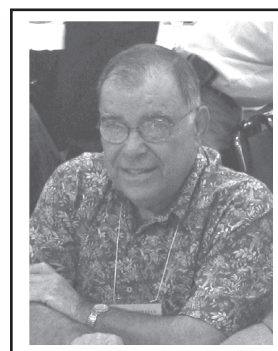
*"This win is causing a paradigm shift in worksites where this type of activism that was once seen as 'troublemaking' is now seen as effective advocacy!"*

### Patrice Peterson

North Region State School Teacher,  
Connecticut Dept. of Mental Retardation  
Secretary-Treasurer, CSEA/SEIU Local 2001

Sheila reflected on the support of her co-workers and member leaders after a week of taking calls from reporters and sharing her story on camera. "I had several supportive e-mails from SSA employees, but the most heart-rendering was a call from a woman at Danbury Social Services" Sheila said of a particularly moving response. "She has a son serving in Afghanistan with the same unit as my son Andrew, and she told me that when she read the *Danbury News* it made her cry" she continued. "She wanted to meet me, the woman who made it all possible for her to e-mail her son" she said, illustrating how activism that may appear to be the struggle of a single member can and does create change that benefits all!

Visit the "Dignity and Respect on the Job" section at our website, at [www.csea-ct.com/action/#Our\\_Issues](http://www.csea-ct.com/action/#Our_Issues) for access to the TV reports and newspaper articles on how Sheila and her fellow members demonstrated the power of collective action to move our agenda forward!

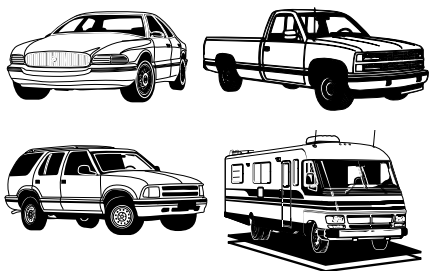


»» **We Have a New Social Activities Chair:** We welcome Kosrof Kerkian, active member of Council 400's Chapter 401, to the helm of our SAC! Our next meeting, to be held Tuesday, January 9 at 1:30 P.M. at our Local hall in Hartford, is an opportunity to recommend members to fill vacant posts on the Committee and share ideas for events and activities to host in 2007. Call our SAC hotline toll-free, (800) 894-9479, extension 411, to leave a message with your recommendations or to suggest a member to serve on the Committee!

# CSE CREDIT UNION NEWS

## Rates on Most Car Loans:

**5.50%** ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE



Finance the purchase of a New or Used Car (up to six model years) at 5.50% APR and choose a term that's right for you – up to 6 years on a new car and 4 years on a used car.

Finance up to 100% cost of the vehicle, including Tax, Title, Warranty and Conveyance Fee.

Sign up for direct payment from your State pay for worry-free bi-weekly payments.

Visit our Web Site:

[www.csecreditunion.com](http://www.csecreditunion.com)

Print a loan application and mail or deliver it to any branch location before you shop. Receive your pre-approval and then negotiate your best price.

### Other Auto Loan Rates

USED CARS (over six model years) .....	9.70% APR
IMPAIRED CREDIT (new or used) .....	9.50% APR

*Cannot be applied toward existing loans. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Used cars: Up to six model years old and total financing cannot exceed book value.*

The Credit Union  
will be **CLOSED!**

- Christmas Day ..... Monday, December 25
- New Years Day ..... Monday, January 1
- Martin L King, Jr.'s Birthday ..... Monday, January 15

### JUST A REMINDER

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

## Dividend Rates – 3rd Quarter 2006

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
<b>REGULAR SAVINGS</b>	4.25%	4.34%
<b>SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)</b>	2.25%	2.28%
<b>CLUB ACCOUNTS</b>	3.25%	3.30%

*Minimum opening balance \$25.00. The annual percentage yield is accurate as of the last dividend declaration date. Rate may change after the account is opened. Fees or other conditions may reduce the earnings on the account.*

## 7 Full-Service Offices To Serve You

<p><b>NORWICH</b> Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich CT 06360 <b>(860) 889-7378</b></p>	<p><b>HARTFORD</b> 84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 <b>(860) 522-5388 (Savings)</b> <b>(860) 522-7147 (Loans)</b></p>	<p><b>NEW HAVEN</b> 1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 <b>(203) 397-2949</b></p>
<p><b>MIDDLETOWN</b> P.O. Box 2485 Middletown, CT 06457 <b>(860) 347-0479</b></p>	<p><b>STORRS</b> 1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 <b>(860) 429-9306</b></p>	<p><b>SOUTHBURY</b> Southbury Training School P.O. Box 644 Southbury, CT 06488 <b>(203) 267-7610</b></p>
<p><b>NEWINGTON</b> O'Neil Plaza 2434 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT 06111 <b>(860) 667-7668</b></p>		

**Hours:** Main Office: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Branches: Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
DRIVE-UP TELLER (Hartford only): Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Paydays open until 5:00 p.m.

## Classified Advertising

**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](mailto:moconnor@csea760.com), to place or renew your ad.

### FOR SALE

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

E Hartford (860) 568-8088.

**NORTH CONWAY, NH.** Deeded timeshare at Eastern Slope Inn Resort. Sleeps 12 - 14 very comfortably. Unit CH-2. WK 21. Sat to Sat. Annual maint. fee \$641. Paid over \$7,400, asking \$5,000 OBO. Some bonus time included. FL timeshare at Bonnet Creek Resort in the "Heart of Disney" also available.

Waterbury (203) 757-2751.

**CLEARWATER, FL.** On Top of the World Seniors 55+ Condo, 2 BR/2 BA, 1400 sq. ft. free golf for resident owners, pools, tennis, pets OK. Shows like a model. Furniture negotiable. \$129,900.

Clearwater, FL (727) 669-1751.

**PALM COAST, FL.** 3 BR/2 BA custom-built retirement home in excellent Sailboat Country priv neighborhood on deep salt-water canal in view of Inter-Coastal Waterway, dolphins, and manatees from living, dining, kitchen, dinette, & family rooms. Family rm. adaptable for in-law suite. Lots of closets & cabinets, plus pull-down stairs for extra storage. Like new appliances in laundry room and kitchen included. Oversized, attached 2-car garage w/large work bench, tub sink, closet and shelves. \$475,000.00

Palm Coast, FL (386) 445-5088.

**WOODBIDGE CUSTOM COLONIAL.** Totally renovated, open, airy, spacious 2 BR/2 BA, gorgeous 1.8 acre lot north of New Haven. Great commuter location, A-1 Amity Schools. Owners downsizing. Only \$415,000.00 Woodbridge (203) 389-4580.

**22' MAKO BOAT.** Twin 4-stroke 100hp Yamaha motors. EZ-load tandem trailer, GPS, VHF, 60 gal. fuel tank. Ready for winter storage. \$15,000

Meriden (203) 235-9934.

**ANTIQUÉ WHITE WICKER SEWING BASKET** on legs with cover and bottom shelves, \$70. Antique oak pressed chairs (not matching set), \$65 each. Men's Schwinn bicycle, good condition, \$60. Metal fibre trunks, good for college students, \$50 large & \$25 small. 1986 Chevy Camaro for parts, no fuel injection on rolling cradle with 305 in. motor, offers accepted.

Hamden (203) 248-1825.

**M.J. HUMMAL HEIRLOOM,** 14-pc Christmas Nativity Scene in original box, never used. Portsmouth, NH (603) 773-1656.

**UNIVERSAL TRIPOD.** Slik U212 with case. Almost new. \$20. Newton (203) 426-9627.

**SPORTSCARD BOXES & COMPLETE SETS.** Baseball, football, basketball, and hockey. Current and older. Wanted pre-1970 baseball cards.

West Hartford (860) 621-3131.

**1970 CHEVY IMPALA.** Very good condition, low mileage.

Hartford (860) 869-5611.

**ORIENTAL RUG.** Kashan 11' x 19' with red background.

Hartford (860) 247-4390.

**GIANT LADDER.** Standard 5 to 9 feet, with 11 to 19 foot extension. \$400.00. Sears Vacuum. 1 year old, has all the parts as needed, it runs very well for \$125.00.

Enfield (860) 741-2950.

**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.

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**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.

**MANHATTAN CLUB RENTAL.** Studio sleeps four, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, across from Carnegie Hall, near Theatre District and Fifth Avenue, 56th St and 7th Ave.

Individual days available or weekly. Price dependent on dates.

Coventry (860) 742-5220.

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**OLDER TUBE AMPS,** tuners, guitar amps, etc. Working or not. Any condition. Don't throw it out, give me a "SHOUT."

New Haven (203) 281-0005.

**RECYCLE YOUR GOOD OLD STUFF,** e.g. postcards; advertising; toys/games; marbles; sporting; military; coins/currency; stamps; pocket watches; fountain pens; old bottles/glass; potter; vases; etc. just about any good old thing.

East Hartford (860) 528-8508.



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## Our President's Desk...

(Continued from page 6)

stability for now, but Y2K+17 will be here before we know it, and then what? Municipal workers have to bargain more frequently for their healthcare benefits and higher premiums, and higher co-pays and weaker plans are always on the table.

SEIU President Andy Stern is a national leader in the debate to reform our healthcare system. He believes that the solution for who pays has to be a combination of the employer, the employee and the government. Employer-based coverage isn't working, especially in the private sector where so much emphasis is on the bottom line and

competitiveness in the global economy.

It seems pretty obvious to me that if we want a company like General Motors to survive and continue to provide good union jobs we need to fix healthcare. The cost of every new GM car includes \$1,500 for retiree health insurance coverage. Blaming the unions for being successful in negotiating good benefits is the tactic the media takes on this and we know where that will lead if we continue on that road. Car manufacturers in foreign countries don't have that high cost to pass along on their vehicles because healthcare in every other civilized country in

the world is universal! We need new ideas in this country and elected leaders willing to implement them.

We will continue our campaign to organize family childcare providers in the New Year and work with coalition partners to pass legislation that will make their union rights a reality. So also with our program to raise up the recognition and standards of our paraprofessionals. I look forward to working for and with our members on these important issues.

At the beginning of a New Year people often make resolutions. I have a few suggestions for resolutions for union members. Try these: I will attend

membership meetings and try to stay informed on the issues. I will be supportive of workplace leaders and those willing to accept the responsibility of running for union office. I will turn complaining into positive action. I will contact my elected officials about the union's legislative priorities. I will report instances of contracting-out to the union.

I am sure each of us could come up with many more resolutions, and if each of us acted on just one, what a better and stronger union we could be! I hope I can look back at this time at the end of 2007 and see evidence of positive change for our nation and for working families.

*Happy New Year!*

### DEATHS REPORTED

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

Vincent Amodeo of chapter 401 died 10/24/06  
 Roger Arthur, 402, 11/04/06  
 Cecile Asselin, 416, 10/25/06  
 James Bennett, 420, 10/20/06  
 Thomas J. Burke, 408, 11/08/06  
 William Cavallaro, 417, 10/21/06  
 Donald Charron, 403, 10/29/06  
 Elizabeth Cunningham, 401, 9/03/06  
 Flonnie Daley, 425, 10/18/06  
 David Davis, 416, 11/08/06  
 Geraldine Dyer, 420, 11/05/06  
 Howard Fussiner, 405, 11/7/06  
 June Greller, 407, 11/10/06  
 Evelyn Hatch, 420, 11/04/06  
 Abraham Hodes, 405, 11/08/06  
 Harold Johnson, 415, 10/28/06  
 Leena Johnson, 415, 10/20/06  
 Jacob Lebovitz, 401, 10/31/06  
 John Leslie, 407, 10/19/06  
 Warren Lindquist, 404, 10/25/06  
 Peter Lisiewski, 403, 10/22/06  
 Carmine Mancarella, 426, 11/09/06  
 James McGennis, 408, 10/26/06  
 Helen Meyers, 420, 10/01/06  
 Eleanor Monckton, 404, 11/02/06  
 Blanche Moss, 416, 10/17/06  
 Peter Noyes, 404, 11/10/06  
 William O'Neill, 405, 10/18/06  
 Stanley Osora, 406, 10/21/06  
 George Potter, 425, 10/21/06  
 Willis Pritchett, 405, 10/24/06  
 John Raymond, 403, 11/08/06  
 Reba Small, 408, 10/26/06  
 Leverett Spencer, 411, 11/01/06  
 Margaret Sprague, 420, 10/01/06  
 Franklin F. Uricchio, 415, 11/21/06  
 Bertha Waskis, 401, 9/28/06  
 Hazel Webb, 411, 9/14/06  
 Druscilla Wells, 406, 10/04/06  
 Robert Whittles, 408, 10/17/06

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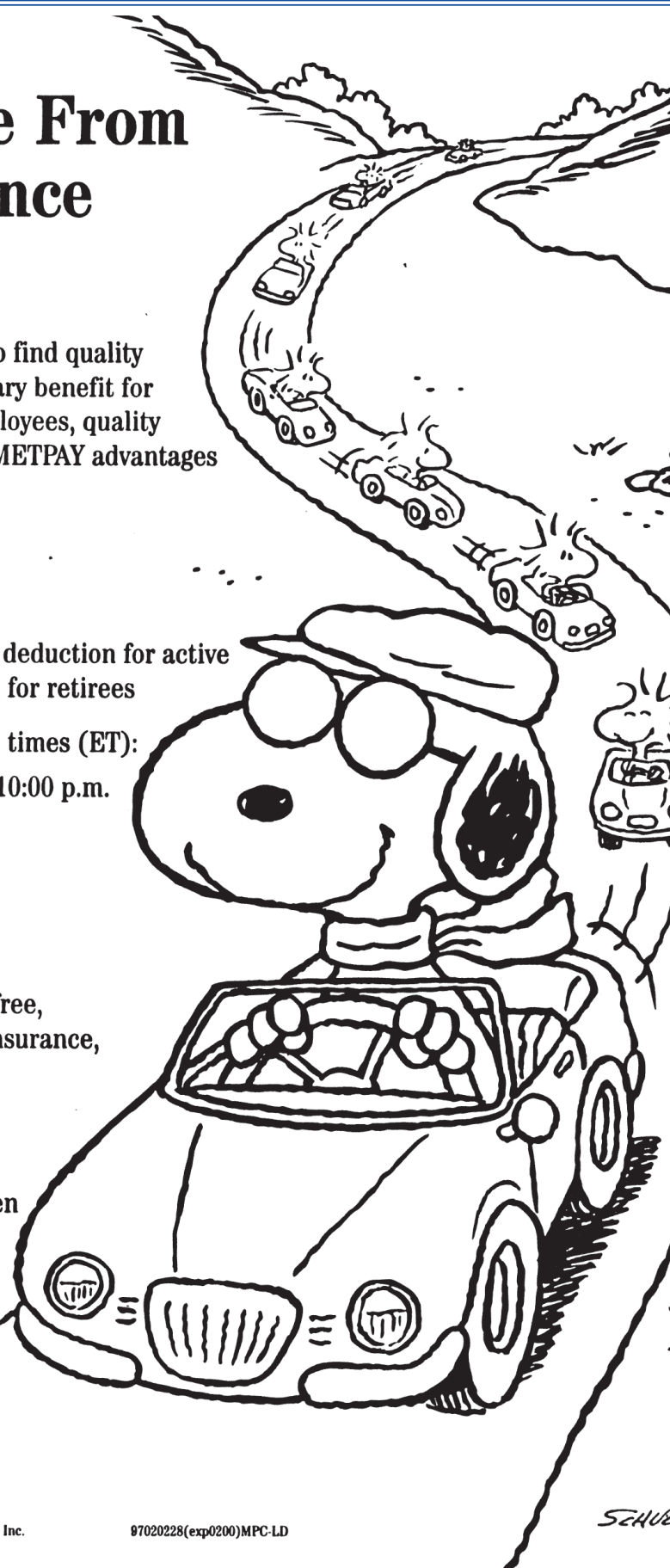
Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company and Affiliates, Warwick, RI

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