

Our President's Desk

A Dose of Reality on State Workers' Pensions

(Editor's note: following is the original text of an Op-Ed submitted to the political weblog CT News Junkie to set the record straight on numerous false claims about retired State workers' pension benefits – at press time it was scheduled for publication the week of March 29.)

These days the media rely on sensationalism to sell. Editors and publishers assume the public won't pick up a paper or click on a story without headlines like, "Amazing Bat Boy and Starlet to Wed."



Catherine A. Osten
 Correctional Lieutenant,
 CT Dept. of Correction
 Executive Council
 President

Maybe that's why the not-so-sexy truth about State employee pensions and their history isn't being told.

Lt. Gov. Mike Fedele Proposes Four-Year Hiring and Spending Freezes, Capping State Employee Pensions
 Hartford Courant "Capitol Watch,"
 March 17, 2010

That doesn't mean that the background isn't vital. It is, and the facts must be presented. What the media and the general public need is not more sensationalism. What they need is historical perspective on how and why pensions work for public service workers and taxpayers.

A recent report claiming that Connecticut's pension plan ranks as the fifth-worst in the nation has fueled much of the latest sensationalism. The report falsely cited a \$9 billion increase since 2000 in the total liability of the State Employee Pension fund, when in fact it is almost half that number.

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Paras Mobilize to Win Family and Medical Leave



Paraprofessional Council Members Met in 2009 to Plan Legislative Initiatives

Our Union is fighting for legislation that would correct a long-standing disparity that unfairly impacts thousands of non-certified support staff in our state's schools. Grassroots outreach by Paraprofessional Council members combined with lobbying by SEIU's political organizers moved Senate Bill 300, "An Act Concerning Family and Medical Leave Benefits for Certain Municipal Employees," through two legislative committees, and a vote by one of General Assembly's two chambers is expected in the coming weeks.

S.B. 300 would grant paraeducators in our state the protections of the Connecticut Family and Medical Leave Act, and is one of our Union's five priority bills to pass in the 2010 legislative session.

In August of 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) into law. At the time, the FMLA was hailed as a major victory for working men and women, and a serious commitment to protecting people's jobs when they are faced with a serious medical condition or the need to take care of a sick or injured family member.

Connecticut was ahead of the federal government, having passed its own state-based Family and Medical Leave Act in 1990. The state law, as well as the federal FMLA, protects workers by providing job-protected unpaid leave due to a serious health condition, to take care of a sick family member, or to care for a new child, including by birth, adoption or foster care.

These are powerful protections that have improved the lives of countless people. Unfortunately, there is a nasty loophole built into the law. These

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Decision 2010: Who Has the Vision to Lead?

The 2010 Election marks a critical turning point for our jobs, services, funding, and families. For the first time in decades there will be no incumbent governor on the ballot, and our members have the opportunity to elect a candidate who shares our values and values our work.

Leaders and rank and file members of the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) gathered for a forum with six of the state's candidates for governor at the Webster Hill Elementary School in West Hartford on March 20. The purpose of the event was to provide a platform for public service workers and those who wish to lead Connecticut for the next four years to engage in a frank discussion of the issues.



Dan Malloy Spoke to Over 400 Union Members at the SEBAC Gubernatorial Forum

SEBAC leadership extended an invitation to all of the major parties' gubernatorial candidates and six agreed to participate. In attendance were 2006 US Senatorial Candidate Ned Lamont (D), Ridgefield First

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(Editor's note: "Classified Advertising" remains removed until further notice to allow for more coverage of Union members' issues)

www.csea-ct.com

Our Actions...in Brief**►► New Britain Child Care Professionals Move Forward:**

Head Start and Day Care workers at New Britain's Human Resources Agency have approved a 10-month contract extension that provides better wages and benefits and helps save labor costs. Members of Chapter 191 ratified an agreement that awards a 1.5% general wage increase on October 1 for all members of the bargaining unit and adopts new health insurance changes that will result in lower employee premiums. Members also agreed to a cost savings proposal to switch to bi-weekly payroll processing, a move that will help retain strong jobs by saving the non-profit agency an estimated \$15,000.00 every year. These dedicated child care professionals are already looking ahead, and since the members ratified the

contract extension on March 16, they have met again to discuss topics for a scheduled Labor-Management Committee meeting.



Look for the Arrows Symbol ►► for more "Actions...In Brief"

CSEA Council 400
RETIRED and ACTIVE SEIU
Retiree Chapter Meetings & Events

This information will be posted on our website's "Events Calendar." Select the date and the Chapter for further details. Updated information and details for events that are not available by March 19 will be posted online once provided to the Union hall.

Connecticut Events

COUNCIL 400 DELEGATES: Thursday, April 15, 10:00 AM, CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Program: Council Officer and Committee reports. Speaker: Current Ridgefield First Selectman and candidate for the Democratic Party's nomination as Governor in 2010 Rudy Marconi. Contact: Retiree Coordinator Hollis Block at (800) 894-9479.

CHAPTER 401 (Hartford area): Thursday, April 1, 12:00 PM (light lunch, followed by speaker at 12:45 PM), CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Speaker: West Hartford Probate Court Judge Sydney Elkin. Contact: President Tom Corrigan at (860) 674-8221.

CHAPTER 401 "DAY AT THE MOHEGAN SUN," Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 AM, bus pick-ups at up to 3 locations, including CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Cost: \$20 per person (includes bus transportation, driver gratuity, \$15 meal coupon, and 3 \$5 bets). Reservation deadline: April 17 (see flyer at website "Events Calendar" for reservation form). Contact: Event Coordinator Al Marotta at (860) 712-1300.

CHAPTER 402 (Danbury area): Wednesday, April 14, 10:00 AM (refreshments follow meeting), United Methodist Church, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury. Speaker: CVS/CareMark consultant Amanda Egli to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. Contact: Vice-President Mike Lucas at (203) 426-4890.

CHAPTER 403 (Norwich area): Tuesday, April 13, 1:30 PM (meeting room not available until 1:00, refreshments prior to meeting), Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Dr., Norwich. Speaker: CVS/CareMark consultant Amanda Egli to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. Contact: President Carol Burgess at (860) 303-7267.

CHAPTER 404 (Waterbury area): Tuesday, April 13, 10:00 AM (social, meeting follows at 10:30 AM), Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center, 1075 Chase Parkway (exit 17 off I-84), Waterbury. Speaker: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 President Cathy Osten on issues impacting active and retired members. Coffee and doughnuts served. Contact: President Ron Chasse at (860) 945-0768.

CHAPTER 405 (New Haven area): Wednesday, April 14, 1:00 PM (social, meeting and program follows at 1:30 PM), Smart Living Center, 297 Boston Post Rd., Orange. Speaker: Hebrew Health Care President and CEO Bonnie B. Gauthier with an update on healthcare reform, "What's Next and what does this mean for me?" Contact: President Andy Gambardella at (203) 468-7376.

CHAPTER 406 (Middletown area): Tuesday, April 13, 1:00 PM, (meeting follows social at 1:30 PM), American Legion Post 75, 58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Middletown. Program: Poetic renditions by local author and member Carol Christoffers. Members asked to bring non-perishable food items for Amazing Grace food pantry. Contact: President Elizabeth Harvey at (860) 917-3740.

CHAPTER 407 (Bridgeport area): Wednesday, April 21, 12:30 PM (social, meeting at 1:00 PM), St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church, 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford (on Rt. 113 toward Sikorsky Airport). Speaker: at press time a pharmacist was scheduled to discuss differences between generic and brand name prescription drugs. Contact: President Carol Donofrio at (203) 888-2920.

CHAPTER 408 (Willimantic area): Wednesday, April 14, 1:00 PM (social, at 1:30 PM), Franco American Civic & Social Club, 116 Club Rd, North Windham, CT. Speaker: at press time a representative of a local public safety agency was scheduled to discuss their department's K-9 unit. Contact: President Donna Linkkila at (860) 455-0883.

CHAPTER 410 (Windsor Locks area): Monday, April 12, 1:00 PM, VFW Post 6123, 40 Fairview St., Windsor Locks. Speaker: CVS/CareMark consultant Sonia Suelen to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. Contact: Program Chair Elaine Colson at (860) 623-8704.

CHAPTER 411 (Rocky Hill area): Thursday, April 8, 1:00 PM (social follows meeting), William J. Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Speaker: Peoples United Bank representative Sylvia Orcutt. Refreshments, door prizes. Contact: President Florence Egan at (860) 666-0382.

CHAPTER 412 (Putnam area): Tuesday, April 20, 1:30 PM (social follows meeting), Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., Putnam. Speaker: CVS/CareMark consultant Amanda Egli to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. Refreshments, door prizes. Contact: President Don Gladding at (860) 564-9092.

CHAPTER 414 (Torrington area): Monday, April 19, 9:30 AM (coffee, meeting at 10:00 AM), UCONN Torrington Campus Classroom Building, 855 University Dr., Torrington. Speaker: MetLife representative Armen Abrahamian on their Long Term Care insurance program. Contact: President Karen Pineman at (860) 354-6727.

CHAPTER 415 (Manchester area): Monday, April 26, 1:00 PM, Elks Lodge, 30 Bissell St. Manchester. Speaker: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 President Cathy Osten on issues impacting active and retired members. Refreshments will be served. Contact: President Ed Daly at (860) 871-9482.

CHAPTER 416 (New London area): Tuesday, April 13, 12:00 PM (luncheon, business meeting at 12:30 PM and program at 1:30 PM), Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Rd., Groton (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE). Program: not available at press time; check website's "Events Calendar" for details. Contact: Program Chair Les Shapiro at (860) 442-5256.

CHAPTER 417 (Plainville area): Wednesday, April 14, 1:00 PM (social, meeting follows), Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church, 115 West Main St., Plainville. Speaker: CVS/CareMark consultant Amanda Egli to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. Contact: President John Lessor at (860) 628-0021.

Other States Events

CHAPTER 425 (Sun Coast Florida area): Tuesday, April 13, 11:00 AM, Shelter #7, Philippe Park, 2525 Philippe Pkwy, Safety Harbor, FL. Program: "Welcome Back Picnic" with hamburgers, hot dogs, and sodas. Cost: Free, members encouraged to bring guests and welcome to bring salad, side dishes and desserts. Contact: President Hank Bracker at (727) 848-0089.

(Editor's note: April 16 is the deadline for event details to be included in the next edition.)

Our Executive Director's Corner

Our Response to the Rell Administration's Demands



Robert D. Rinker
Executive Director,
CSEA SEIU Local 2001

Worse, her proposals would undue and overturn four decades of collective bargaining agreements between State public service workers and the four administrations that have preceded her.

(Editor's note: Bob Genuario's letter to SEBAC leaders is linked to the March 22 entry at our website's "CSEA Connections" page titled, "Governor Rell's Phony Prescription for Connecticut's Economic Illness.")

Nearly two months after the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) put forward "win-win" proposals to close the budget gap, Governor M. Jodi Rell has rejected common sense solutions in favor of petty politics. Her demands included in a letter Secretary of Office and Policy Management (OPM) Robert Genuario sent to union leaders on March 18 pander to the scapegoating of public service workers by some gubernatorial candidates on the campaign trail.

In a letter replying directly to the governor, SEBAC leaders made clear that the Administration's recent proposals are nowhere near a good faith effort to initiate dialog or solve the economic crisis.

We have reprinted the complete text of our response letter to follow. My column planned to answer members' questions about the unfunded liability for retired State workers' health insurance will be featured in the April edition:

Dear Governor Rell,

We write on behalf of the 45,000 members of SEBAC's constituent unions to respond to OPM Secretary Bob Genuario's letter of March 18, 2010. We write to you, rather than to Secretary Genuario, because it is obviously you who made the policy decisions inherent in the letter and the proposals it attaches. We intend to be very clear and direct with you about our response.

Less than a year ago, although we came from very different places, you acted honorably in reaching an agreement with us that your administration has frequently touted, and which provided nearly three quarters of a billion dollars in savings just when the State needed it the most. Today, you are pandering to the partisan politics of the gubernatorial campaign in making proposals that show a cynical disrespect not just for Connecticut's 45,000 public service workers but for all of Connecticut's struggling working families. While we will not dignify your letter and proposals with a point-by-point reply, we will point out some of the highlights:

The factual inaccuracies in the letter are only the smallest part of the disrespect. For instance, the letter suggests that the negotiations that successfully lead to the SEBAC 2009 concessions agreement did not anticipate worsening budgetary conditions, when in fact that possibility was a frequent and explicit part of the negotiations, and the agreement includes provisions explicitly designed to deal with it. You know this, and Bob Genuario knows this, and it is unfortunate that you asked him to write a letter that suggests otherwise.

Even the cavalier manner in which you dismiss our suggestions for savings and improvements to state services is but a small part of the problem. We offered in March of 2009 to directly involve frontline workers in the crucial task of improving state services to more efficiently meet the ever-increasing public demand during hard times. Your negotiating team then caucused for all of 45 seconds before dismissing those suggestions out of hand. Now a year later, we offer to bring frontline workers directly to the table -- people who actually experience daily which programs work, and which don't, and which bureaucratic obstacles stand in the way of the provision of crucial services to Connecticut's people. And once again you dismiss this offer as insignificant.

Even the disrespect for all of working people which is inherent in treating a collective bargaining agreement as meaningless is not the most significant problem, although it is significant indeed. What kind of message do you send to 45,000 working families

who sacrificed substantial wages and benefits to produce an agreement that Bob Genuario told us just last month greatly benefited the state in a letter suggesting that agreement is neither appreciated nor should it be honored? Apparently that is not an issue of real concern to you, although you'd think it would matter a lot to a governor who understood the value of a real partnership between managers and working people.

No, Governor Rell, the greatest disrespect you show is to all the people of the State of Connecticut. Those people are hurting, Governor Rell, and they need a state government that responds to their needs, that does whatever is necessary to create jobs and rebuild our struggling economy. They need a real jobs program, a massive program that matches the scale of the terrible problems facing our people and communities. You cannot deliver that program, because of a your relentless refusal to ask the Wall Street bankers and other millionaires -- some of whom caused the very recession from which the rest of us still suffer -- to pay their fair share. And in a cynical effort to distract the public from your constant choice of the 5% who are super rich over the 95% who are suffering, you make proposals to us which you know perfectly well are insulting and completely unacceptable, no doubt just so you can try to scapegoat public service workers for refusing them. Scapegoat the very group that came first to the budgetary table to offer to help, the group that produced more than \$700 million in savings, which on a percentage basis is 10 times what you've been willing to ask from the richest multi-millionaire.

Cynical scapegoating which masquerades for leadership is exactly what the people of Connecticut don't need in the deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression.

We will close by reminding you of what we said in a letter in February of 2009, not long after we began the negotiations that lead to the SEBAC 2009 agreement.

*... We are confident that the members we represent, who have dedicated their careers to public service, want us in their name to offer to be part of the solution to the state's crisis. We are equally confident that they want us to be clear about the nature of that offer -- that it be part of a genuine solution, one that protects the public services upon which the people of this state depend, and upon which our economic recovery also relies. Our members want to contribute to a solution that makes things better for everyone, not worse. And as two Nobel Prize winning economists have already told us, a supposed solution premised on reducing public services just when they are needed the most would make things worse for everyone. *** The supposedly easier alternative of cutting public services not only abandons Connecticut's people just when they need services the most - thereby building up more costs that will need to be paid in the future - it makes the economy worse, which will only cause more suffering and future budget crises.*

At your insistence, Governor Rell, the budget ultimately adopted was premised largely on cuts, and in addition to the suffering it has caused Connecticut's people, it has done exactly what we predicted it would. It has cost the state thousands of private sector jobs -- best estimates are about 50,000 -- which in turn further depressed the economy, helping to cause the very additional budget problems you had Bob Genuario complain about in his letter. We are reminded -- and not pleasantly -- of the famous story of the man convicted of murdering his parents who asks the judge for mercy because he's an orphan.

We will not join you, Governor Rell, in leading Connecticut on a mad race to the bottom, a race that benefits only the very privileged few. Instead, we will continue fighting for a Connecticut that works, a Connecticut that provides good jobs with living wages, affordable healthcare, and a dignified retirement to all of its hard working people.

We believe it is possible to win that fight if people of good will come together -- indeed we think history demands that we win that fight so that the Connecticut we leave our children and grandchildren is one of which we can all be proud. We are sorry you have strayed so firmly onto the wrong side of this struggle.

Sincerely,

Signed by leaders of the 13 unions in the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition.



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Recycled Paper



A Dose of Reality...

(Continued from page 1)

The inflated figure includes the Teachers' Retirement System Pension Fund, which does not cover retired State employees, and which is not negotiated. The teachers' pension was in such bad shape that the legislature created a constitutional funding obligation three years ago. It serves as an example of the need for collective bargaining and forced funding of pension plans.

Since its first-ever agreement with its unionized workforce on pensions in 1981, Connecticut has been fully funding the normal costs of the fund. Only twice over the past 29 years have

payments for past liabilities been deferred, in each case to help weather major economic crises.

Since we began collective bargaining nearly 30 years ago, our unions have pressed politicians to make the normal costs as well as payments towards the past unfunded liability. Before 1981, politicians kept grabbing from Peter to pay Paul when they were unable to balance their budgets. Our unions knew this was an unwise funding method, and insisted it be changed.

Some have argued that State

scale that defined benefit plans offer, so they actually produce less benefits per dollar invested. That's a foolish waste of taxpayer money.

foot the bill if they make the wrong roll of the dice.

Simply put, there's no comparison when it comes to defined benefit



Members of Several Labor Unions Rallied Against Devastating Service Cuts that Hurt Working Families at the Capitol in December 2009



State Comptroller Nancy Wyman with Council 400 Leaders and Retiree Coordinator Hollis Block at the Capitol in February

workers' benefits are too generous and have become unaffordable. The reality is that 25 years ago union negotiations produced changes so that the cost of pensions for employees hired after 1984 is about 7% of payroll, typical of many large corporations. Changes negotiated in 1997 further reduced costs, so that pension costs less are than 4.7% of payroll for employees hired in the past 13 years, far less than many large corporations pay.

In 1984, we instituted reforms advocated by a recent Pew Research Center study such as fully funding the pension obligation every year. The reality is that State workers already had a pension plan that is reasonable by all measures.

Connecticut is simply paying now for the damage created by five

decades of politicians who could not show restraint or fiscal foresight.

But what about moving State workers to a defined contribution plan, like a 401(k) savings account, as some candidates have proposed, and as some private sector businesses have already done to their employees?

Because switching to this type of savings plan today would not solve the problems created in the past. Taxpayers would still be on the hook for the liability created primarily by not funding the pension plan before it was negotiated with the unions. And these types of savings plans would create future problems. They have higher administrative costs because they cannot compete on the economies of

Economic instability is another reason to steer clear of these types of savings plans. One only needs to see how recent market volatility has crushed workers with 401(k)s and the ripple effect it has had on the entire economy. Defined benefit plans work because large employers like the state can handle the ups and downs of the market, even when individual workers cannot.

Defined benefit plans work just like Social Security, in that they are stable and predictable sources of income for seniors. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that for every \$1 that taxpayers invest public plans, an additional \$3 is re-invested back into the economy. Connecticut's small businesses and local municipalities desperately need that influx of cash flow.

Seniors should not have to rely on being lucky enough to retire when the stock market is up, or unlucky if they do when it's down. The bottom line is that they shouldn't have to gamble with their golden years, or leave us as taxpayers to

and defined contribution plans. In a 2008 report by the National Institute of Retirement Security called "Better Bang for the Buck," the authors found that a traditional pension costs an average of 12.5% of payroll while a comparable 401(k) costs almost 23%.

(Editor's note: resources on the advantages of defined benefit pension plans are linked to the March 22 entry at our website's "CSEA Connections" page titled, "Governor Rell's Phony Prescription for Connecticut's Economic Illness.")



Council 400 Members Dan Sullivan, Bill Tyszka, and Amelia Smith Listened to the Governor's Budget Speech in February

Sometimes the facts aren't as sexy as editors like, but they sure are convincing. These numbers don't lie.



"Go Green" and Skip the Print Version of the CSEA News

Send an email from your home account to gogreen@csea760.com with your name and employer (or indicate if you are retired) to receive a monthly message with a link to a downloadable version of the latest edition of our Union newspaper online.

Paras Mobilize to Win...

(Continued from page 1)

protections do not kick in for employees working less than 1,250 hours a year. Our Union represents over 2,600 paraeducators, and most fall just short of this threshold because of the school-year calendar.

This is wrong on so many levels. That's why this year our Paraprofessional Council members are fighting for change.

In early March, Union members and staff testified in favor of S.B. 300 at the first public hearing on the proposed bill. Among them was Paraprofessional Council Treasurer Janette Smith, who shared a personal story in her statement to lawmakers.



"I would hate to have to choose between the students I serve and my own family... I simply want to be treated the same as other employees when it comes to family and medical leave," she said. "Amending the law so that paraprofessionals have access to (these) protections is commonsense and fundamentally fair," Janette, an instructional assistant in Mansfield Public Schools, added.

Patrice Peterson, our Union's Secretary-Treasurer, helped the committee

understand just how vital paraeducators are to the students they serve in Connecticut's public schools in her testimony. She explained that the role of the para has changed greatly in the past two decades, and that they play a critical role in the lives of the students they serve, providing academic and social education as well as assisting in traditional classroom instruction.



Union Counsel Susan Nelson also testified, and told the committee how we have proposed adding contract language that would extend rights to family and medical leave to the paras we represent.



The reality is that decades of past inequities in wages, benefits, and professional development have often meant this important issue was sacrificed in order to address other equally pressing issues of concern to our members.

Following the hearing, Paraprofessional Council President Bill Walkauskas sent a letter to the leaders of all 35 Chapters in our Union that represent paras urging them to keep the pressure on legislators to support S.B. 300.



"Thanks to the efforts of our Union's members and staff, the bill was passed yesterday by the Labor and Public Employees Committee, and is being sent to the Planning and Development Committee," he said. "Everyone's help is needed to pass this bill, so make a call or send an email," Bill, a teacher assistant and school bus driver with Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), added.

The mobilization effort paid off, and this second committee passed the bill. With a floor vote coming soon, we will need all our members to join the effort to move their lawmakers to support S.B. 300 and amend Connecticut's FMLA law so that paras have access to family and medical leave protections.

(Editor's note: an updated legislative action leaflet with contact instructions and a sample script for reaching out to state legislators is linked to the "Empowering Paras to Raise Standards" section at our website's "Paraprofessionals Council" page.)

Decision 2010...

(Continued from page 1)

Selectman Rudy Marconi (D), Former Stamford Mayor Dan Malloy (D), former State Representative Juan Figueroa (D), Simsbury First Selectman Mary Glassman (D) and Chester First Selectman Tom Marsh (R).



P-4 Council Members John Fasolo and Stephen Anderson in a Small Group Session with Rudy Marconi

Each candidate took part in an open plenary session with a moderated panel of active and retired State workers and the full group of more than 400 assembled members from the unions in SEBAC. They shared their positions on a range of issues, from rebuilding our state's economy to increasing job growth for all citizens and protecting the public services our members provide.

These sessions were followed by smaller group discussions where each candidate was able to interact more intimately with about a dozen members and hear their concerns about Connecticut's future. They were asked about their commitment to active and retired state workers' healthcare and pension benefits, as well as how they would increase state aid to support cash-strapped municipalities and local school districts.



"I appreciated the chance to be part of the small groups with the candidates," said P-4 Council Steward Fredrena Degraffenreidt. "It was a real eye-opener, especially hearing Tom Marsh tell a room full of union members that he wouldn't hesitate to outsource their jobs," Fredrena, an information technology analyst with the State Department of Correction, added.

Candidates received SEBAC's "Jobs For Every Working Family Proposals" that coalition leaders presented to the Rell Administration and legislative leaders in January. The 18-point plan contains dynamic ideas to raise Connecticut up from the current economic downturn. They include implementing long overdue "clean contracting" standards, soliciting innovations from front-line workers, reducing duplicative bureaucracy and generating future retiree savings.


SEBAC leadership will be presenting these proposals to additional candidates for statewide office and seats in the General Assembly as the campaign season progresses, and as our unions are asked for endorsements.



Mary Glassman Praised Union Members for Our 18-Point Cost Savings and Job Creation Plan

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Our Benefits

 **Our 2010 "Hall of Fame" is Growing:** Our McCusker Trustees want to thank those whose support was pledged for our Union's exclusive scholarship incentive since we printed the initial list of donors in the February edition of the CSEA News:

- **Council 400 (Retirees):** **\$5,500.00**
- **CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Executive Council:** **\$3,500.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 415 (Manchester Area Retirees):** **\$500.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 426 (Southwest FL Area Retirees):** **\$400.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 410 (Windsor Area Retirees):** **\$350.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 401 (Hartford Area Retirees):** **\$300.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 421 (North Central FL Area Retirees):** **\$300.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 423 (East FL Coast Area Retirees):** **\$300.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 402 (Danbury Area Retirees):** **\$250.00**
plus \$50.00 for Dawn Gallagher
- **Council 760, Chapter 183 (Simsbury Clerical/Secretarial Employees):** **\$250.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 406 (Middletown Area Retirees):** **\$250.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 414 (Torrington Area Retirees):** **\$250.00**
- **P-4 Council, Chapter 33 (CT Dept. of Social Services):** **\$200.00**
- **P-4 Council, Chapter 238 (CT Ag Experiment Station):** **\$200.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 404 (Waterbury Area Retirees):** **\$200.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 422 (Ocala, FL Area Retirees):** **\$100.00**
- **Council 400, Chapter 425 (Sun Coast, FL Area Retirees):** **\$100.00**
- **Peter and Patricia Bassett, Council 400 Members:** **\$100.00**
- **Nancy Driscoll, Council 400 Member:** **\$50.00**
- **John and Julia Steinis, Council 400 Members:** **\$25.00**
- **Pietro and Ruth Campelli, Council 400 Members:** **\$25.00**
- **Richard Pakenham and Betty Gardner, Council 400 Members:** **\$20.00**
in memory of Joan Hogan
- **Joseph Eaton, Council 400 Member:** **\$10.00**

All individual and group donors to support our educational benefit in 2010 will be included in the "McCusker Awards Night" booklet provided to this year's recipients and their families on Tuesday, July 13. Pledge your support to ensure a record number of members' children and grandchildren are awarded scholarships this year. Mail your contribution, payable to "McCusker Scholarship Fund" to:

- CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT, 06106

(Editor's note: select "McCusker Scholarships" page from the left menu of our website's "Incentives" page to access an online pledge form to commit your individual, Chapter, or Council support for the fund.)



Stay connected between editions of the CSEA News by visiting our website at www.csea-ct.com

Access news and updates and find out about Union events.

Social Activities

CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Day at Lake Compounce

Saturday, June 5

Cost: \$35.81 per person (children under three free)

Includes: free parking, admission from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM to Lake Compounce and Splash Harbor, unlimited use of rides, shows, and attractions, 2-1/2 hour all-you-can-eat picnic buffet, free return admission ticket to Lake Compounce



Visit the Birthplace of Liberty

Saturday, June 26

Cost: From \$72.00 per person

Includes: motorcoach pick-up from East Hartford to Lexington and Concord, MA, lunch, guided tour of historic sights, free time to visit Minute Man National Park and shop in Verrill Farm



"Hello Dolly" at the Theater by the Sea

Wednesday, July 7

Cost: From \$92.00 per person

Includes: motorcoach pick-up from East Hartford to Matunuck, RI, lunch at Bistro By the Sea, performance of musical "Hello Dolly"

UPCOMING TRIPS and ACTIVITIES

Red Sox Nation in Toronto Weekend

Thu., Jul. 8 – Sun., Jul. 11, 2010

Reservation deadline: \$100 deposit due Feb. 22;

\$50 payment due Apr. 15; final payment due May 20

From \$625.00 per person (twin) includes motorcoach pick-up from Glastonbury, 3 nights accommodations, 1 breakfast, 2 dinners, reserved tickets for 2 Red Sox vs. Blue Jays games

Weekend of Yankees Games in Baltimore

Fri., Sep. 17 – Sun., Sep. 19, 2010

Reservation deadline: \$150 deposit due now;

final payment due Jul. 21

From \$481.00 per person (twin) includes motorcoach pick-up from Glastonbury, 2 nights accommodations, 2 breakfast, guided tour of Camden Yards, reserved tickets for 2 Yankees vs. Orioles games

Trips sponsored by CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Social Activities Committee (SAC). For more information call the Local hall in Hartford toll-free at (800) 894-9479, send email to sac@csea760.com, or visit the "Incentives" section at our website for access to flyers you can download and print.

Make checks payable to "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 or after deadline. Travel insurance (cancellation waivers) available on some trips (see flyer) due with initial reservation. Reservations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Social Activities RESERVATION FORM

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



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This offer is good on applications received by September 1, 2010.

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Memorial Day.....Monday, May 31

Dividend Rates – 1st Quarter 2010

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SAVINGS	1.25%	1.26%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	0.50%	0.50%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	1.00%	1.01%

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

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▶▶ Tell Lawmakers No One Should Work

When Sick:

School bus drivers in our Union's Council 760 captured the attention of lawmakers at the state capitol when they described being forced to choose between their jobs and their health. As part of the "Everybody Benefits" coalition, members have joined legislators, physicians, and public health groups to urge passage of a paid sick days law this year.



Chapter 1117 Member Wanda Cobbs Described Driving a School Bus While Sick at a Capitol News Briefing

Our members' stories provide tangible proof that most private school bus companies contracted to Connecticut public schools are putting the health and safety of our children and school bus drivers and monitors at risk by refusing to live up to common sense sick leave standards.

(Editor's note: photos and news coverage of our members speaking at the legislative campaign's kick-off press conference are linked to the February 26 entry at our website's "CSEA Connections" page titled, "Paid Sick Days are Good for School Workers and the Students they Serve.")

▶▶ Safer Facilities for Workers and Our

Communities:

The number of assaults by inmates on staff in Connecticut's prisons is on the rise, and at the same time, supervisory staff levels in the Department of Correction (DOC) are falling dramatically. Our Union's CSC Council leaders have raised these concerns with state lawmakers who have since appointed members Mark Verdone (pictured below) and Brian Hammond to serve on the legislature's Correctional Staff Health and Safety Committee.



Their perspective as front-line criminal justice professionals will add to that of the Committee's correction officers to promote ground-up solutions to improve facility and community safety. Since Governor M. Jodi Rell chose last summer to allow a part-time Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners to manage the state's largest workforce and its most dangerous workplaces, our members' participation on this Committee will be more valuable than ever.

Our Members Can Join or Renew a 15-Month Membership for Only \$35...

That's a savings of \$10 off the annual membership fee! Download a leaflet with details and a CSEA BJ's Application form online at our website's "Incentives" page today.



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Decision 2010...

(Continued from page 5)

(Editor's note: SEBAC's 18-point plan is linked to the "Solving Our Economic Crisis without Sacrificing Services" section of our website's "State Workers" page.)



Ned Lamont Committed to Revitalize the Economy in His Plenary Discussion with Union Members

(Editor's note: video of plenary discussions with each of the six candidates, along with photos and news coverage of SEBAC's forum, are linked to the March 25 entry at our website's "CSEA Connections" page titled, "Watch the Candidates Discuss Jobs and the Economy with Union Members.")

The next governor of Connecticut is going to face serious challenges. With a budget deficit approaching half a billion dollars, we are again hearing calls to slash public services, cut municipal aid, roll-back education funding, and close more state facilities -- in addition to renewed calls to layoff public workers and gut their healthcare and pension benefits.



Juan Figueroa Told Union Members He Would Honor Past Agreements in the Open Plenary Discussion

That's why it is so important we elect a governor who respects public employees and the work we do.

We are continuing the process with a gubernatorial candidates' forum that our Union and the SEIU Connecticut State Council is hosting on **Saturday, April 10** at the **Faith Congregational Church**, located at **2030 Main Street** in **Hartford**. This event will be the start of CSEA/SEIU Local 2001's endorsement process and it is important we have a large turnout of members. Lunch will be provided, and all members to attend will receive a free Union tee shirt.



At press time, five of the six candidates that attended the SEBAC forum have committed to participate in this next event. RSVP and provide your tee shirt size to our Union's Political Director, Danny Medress by calling (800) 894-9479 ext. 111 or sending e-mail to dmedress@csea760.com.

(Editor's note: the list of candidates who have committed to participate and a downloadable version of a flyer with details is linked to the "SEIU State Council Gubernatorial Candidates Forum" at our website's "Events Calendar" page.)

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 Bankoski

of Chapter 406, died January 11

Francis Barsaleau, 408, January 3

Leo Bilodeau, 420, January 9

Jessie Blaszczyk, 410, December 22

Jeannette Broder, 404, November 14

Lila Crane, 408, January 11

Jerome Crawford, 405, December 16

Paul Deutsch, 426, December 9

Joan Fitzgerald, 411, December 2

Hope Halstein, 417, December 16

Owen Hand, 420, January 5

Frances Hollis, 411, January 6

George Kingsbury, Jr., 408, January 1

Helen Klimoff, 420, December 14

Genevieve Kunhardt, 408, November 29

Ellen Maciolek, 408, December 23

Malcolm Major, 404, January 6

Gerald Marshall, 421, December 16

Marian Matika, 404, January 9

Frank Micali, 411, December 17

John Morrison, 441, December 28

Margaret Neumann, 406, December 25

Stasia Phillips, 410, January 5

Nora Ring, 405, October 10

Edna Ross, 416, December 20

Jeffrey Schoenfeldt 410, December 19

George Shimko, 410, December 15

Constanti Solomonides, 401, January 5

Anna Staron, 401, December 18

Dorothy Stevens, 405, December 15

Harry Taylor, 404, December 21

Ruth Wentland, 417, December 17

Edward Wojtusik, 411, December 8

Richard Zink, 417, December 29

Douglas L. Angers (1965 - 2009)

We all lost a great Union fighter when member Doug Angers suffered a fatal heart attack at the age of 57 on March 10. In addition to his Union family, Doug's wife Mica, his five children and three grandchildren, as well as his parents, his brother and his sister are mourning his sudden passing.



Doug had long-served as a Steward for our Council 760 Chapter that represents Town of Enfield supervisory staff. His public service in the town he called home went back 23 years, where he worked as a master mechanic and diesel technician in the Fleet Services Division.

In addition to his public service, Doug shared his passion for hockey with town residents as a coach with the Enfield Hockey Association. Though he will be sorely missed, his Union brothers and sisters are remembering Doug for his commitment to fairness and justice in the workplace, and sportsmanship and camaraderie on the ice.

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