

## AMECSS NEWS July 2010

**ELECTION:** Many thanks to all of you who participated in the election of AMECSS Board Members. The board members that you elected for the next two years are Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief, Department of Public Health; John Gadea, Division Director, Department of Consumer Protection; David Guay, Executive Director, State Board of Accountancy; Jim Leary, Manager, Budget & Financial Analysis Division, Office of the Comptroller; Robert Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent, State Department of Education; Donald Poulin, Director of Facilities Operations, Department of Public Works; and Michael Purcaro, Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services, Department of Public Health.

At the May 26, 2010 AMECSS meeting, the new Board elected the following officers: President – Ellen Blaschinski; Vice-President – Donald Poulin; Secretary – Antoinette Alphonse, Director of Human Resources, Department of Economic and Community Development; and Treasurer – Fred Clark, Tax Legal Director, Department of Revenue Services.

**WEB SITE:** We invite you to visit our new web site that can be accessed by going to [www.csea-ct.com](http://www.csea-ct.com), scrolling over State Employees and clicking on AMECSS.

**LEGISLATION 2010:** Our legislative proposal, **HB 5058- AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE FOR CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES**, was voted out of the Labor and Public Employees Committee and the Appropriations Committee. This legislation never made it to the House floor for a vote.

AMECSS also supported Substitute HB 5202 that subsequently became **PUBLIC ACT 10-169 – AN ACT CONCERNING TELECOMMUTING OPTIONS FOR STATE EMPLOYEES**. This legislation increases telecommuting options for state employees.

This legislative session our efforts were almost exclusively focused on saving longevity payments for all state managers. Many thanks to all of you who e-mailed and phoned the legislative leadership and your state senators and representatives about the unfairness in targeting state managers for the elimination of longevity payments. We fought long and hard and succeeded in preserving longevity for managers, for now. This is the third time that AMECSS has successfully blocked efforts in the legislature to take away longevity payments for managers. Clearly, this issue has not gone away. This year while union members got their raises there are **NO RAISES** once again for managers thus compounding the salary compression problem between managers and union members. The one way to ensure raises and that no changes are made to longevity payments for managers is to secure the right of collective bargaining for managers.

Collective Bargaining for State Managers. Your board members have already started working on a strategy to secure the right of collective bargaining for managers during the 2011 legislative session. We recognize that we have to fight twice as hard for collective bargaining as we did to preserve longevity payments this year. We know we can be successful as we had similar legislation pass the House and Senate in 1991 (only to be vetoed by Governor Weicker) and also pass the House (90-41) in 2009. There are four actions you can take right away that will help make collective bargaining for managers a reality in 2011. 1) Recruit at least one of your

managerial colleagues to join AMECSS. 2) Introduce yourself to your state senator and state representative and ask them to support collective bargaining for state managers. Since this is an election year your state legislators are easily accessible at various functions in your home town. Since more than 80 % of state legislators are re-elected this is the time to meet them. If they support collective bargaining for mstate managers this is also the time to help out (even if only for ½ hour) with their campaign. 3) Join the AMECSS Collective Bargaining work group. This work group will develop the strategy to secure collective bargaining for managers in 2011 and guide the implementation of that strategy. 4) If you are aware of any of union job classifications in you agency where the hourly pay is equal to or greater than the hourly pay of a supervising manager please e-mail that information to [amecss1@gmail.com](mailto:amecss1@gmail.com).

With your help and hard work collective bargaining for managers will become a reality in 2011 thereby securing longevity payments for state managers and ensuring fair treatment for managers. If you want to join the Collective Bargaining work group, find out which managers in your agency are members of AMECSS, or provide comments and feedback to your board members please e-mail [amecss1@gmail.com](mailto:amecss1@gmail.com).