

Haven't We Already Been Burned By the Privatization Myth?

(Editor's note: following is an Op-Ed posted at the political weblog CT News Junkie denouncing a recent Yankee Institute analyst's commentary that promoted reckless outsourcing of public projects as a "solution" to the budget deficit.)



Stuart Mahler
 Member, Chapter 401
 Council 400 Legislative
 Action Committee

By now everyone understands that Connecticut is facing the worst fiscal crisis it has seen in decades. This isn't news. It also isn't news that Governor M. Jodi Rell wants to solve the

budget deficit by slashing public services and legislative leaders want to preserve these services by stabilizing the revenue side of the budget.

A recent op-ed by Heath Fahle of the Yankee Institute for Public Policy sides, unsurprisingly, with the "slash and burn" approach of the governor and her backers.

It's Mr. Fahle's silver bullet that I'd like to address in particular. He suggests that privatization of these services is the "logical solution" because it can achieve savings for the state. He extols the results of one study showing that privately run prisons reduced costs by ten percent. Did Mr. Fahle forget Connecticut's experience with shipping inmates to privately-run prisons? We are still paying for that decision in court.

Privatization is not the panacea for budget deficits. As an appointee to the State Contracting Standards Board, I've been ready and anxious to get started on the business of the board's mission, namely ensuring "that state contracting and procurement processes reflect the highest standards of integrity, are clean and consistent and are conducted in the most efficient manner possible."

But Governor Rell has taken over a year and still has refused to fulfill her statutory

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Our President's Desk

Sunlight Project Doesn't Shed Light on Institute's Mission



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

(Editor's note: following is an Op-Ed published in the Norwich Bulletin's February 19 edition responding to an article on the Yankee Institute's latest project exposing personal information on retirees while ignoring waste in contracting-out public projects.)

The Yankee Institute wants us to believe that their "Sunlight Project" web site posting the salaries of current and retired public servants and businesses connected with the state is an unbiased attempt to shed light on government waste.

But who are these unbiased folks?

In their own words, they are "Connecticut's independent think tank dedicated to free markets, free enterprise and private sector solutions to public policy questions."

In other words, these folks aren't trying to shed light on state government, they're shilling for private contractors seeking to profit on the public dime.

That explains why they highlight people like University of Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun, who no doubt offsets his salary with the revenue he generates, and ignore the many lower-wage workers like road maintainers and group home nursing assistants, who provide vital services we all depend on.

And is the Yankee Institute actually in support of disbanding the University of Connecticut's men's and women's basketball programs because of the out-of-state travel costs when they make it to the finals? Surely they must recognize the value of popular and

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The State's High Court Hears Our Members' Voice for Free Choice



CSPCOA Council Members Mark Sticca, Brian MacLean, and Robert Corona with Union Attorney Bob Krzys

On February 11, the case involving the unanimous election by lieutenants and captains in the State Police to join our Union had its day in the Connecticut State Supreme Court. For members of our CSPCOA Council, the hearing brought them one step closer to resolving the Rell Administration's four-year long attempt to deny them a voice on the job.

For the news media and the candidates vying to win the Democratic Party's nomination to be their candidate for governor in November, it was an opportunity to weigh-in on the larger issue of public employees' rights to form a union.

**Connecticut Supreme
 Court Hears Arguments In
 State Police Union Drive**
 Hartford Courant, February 12, 2010

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Postmaster: Please forward address changes to:
 CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

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

Our Actions...in Brief**▶▶ Which Candidate for Governor is Best for Public Service Workers?**

With a crowded and changing field of contenders for governor in 2010, the unions in SEBAC have invited all of the potential candidates -- both Democratic and Republican -- to answer their members' questions. Plan to attend the forum on **Saturday, March 13** and be part of making an informed choice for our Union members in this crucial election. The program begins at **10:00 AM** at the **Webster Hill Elementary School**, located at **125 Webster Hill Blvd.** in **West Hartford**. Space in the school's auditorium is limited to the



Gubernatorial Candidate Mary Glassman Answered Questions at the Council 400 Delegates Meeting in January

first 400 members of SEBAC unions to RSVP, and overflow seating will be available in the cafeteria. Contact Political Director Danny Medress at (800) 894-9479, ext. 111, to sign-up to attend today.

(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 "State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) Gubernatorial Candidates Forum" at our website's "Events Calendar" page.

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

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 February 22 will be posted online once provided to the Union hall.

Connecticut Events

COUNCIL 400 DELEGATES: Thursday, March 18, 10:00 AM, CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Program: Council Officer and Committee reports. Speaker: an additional candidate for Governor in 2010 will be invited to answer members' questions. Contact: Retiree Coordinator Hollis Block at (800) 894-9479.

CHAPTER 401 (Hartford area): Thursday, March 4, 12:00 PM (light lunch, followed by speaker at 12:45 PM), CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Speaker: Mary Brunell on the American Recovery Act and changes in IRS laws that may affect seniors. Contact: President Tom Corrigan at (860) 674-8221.

CHAPTER 402 (Danbury area): Wednesday, March 10, 10:00 AM (refreshments follow meeting), United Methodist Church, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury. Speaker: UnitedHealthcare Account Manager Chris Nichols to answer members' questions about basic and enhanced dental plans available for retired State workers. Contact: Vice-President Mike Lucas at (203) 426-4890.

CHAPTER 403 (Norwich area): Tuesday, March 9, 1:30 PM (meeting room not available until 1:00, refreshments prior to meeting), Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Dr., Norwich. Speaker: Norwich Probate Court Judge Linda Salafia. Contact: President Carol Burgess at (860) 303-7267.

CHAPTER 404 (Waterbury area): Tuesday, March 9, 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: CVS/CareMark consultant Amanda Egli to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. Coffee and doughnuts served. Contact: President Ron Chasse at (860) 945-0768.

CHAPTER 405 (New Haven area): Wednesday, March 10, 1:00 PM (social, meeting and program follows at 1:30 PM), Smart Living Center, 297 Boston Post Rd., Orange. Speaker: CVS/CareMark consultant Amanda Egli to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. Contact: President Andy Gambardella at (203) 468-7376.

CHAPTER 406 (Middletown area): Tuesday March 9, 1:00 PM, (meeting follows social at 1:30 PM), American Legion Post 75, 58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Middletown. Speaker: CVS/CareMark consultant Amanda Egli to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. 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, March 17, 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: Stratford Police Department Officer Bobby Ramos on personal safety issues. Contact: President Carol Donofrio at (203) 888-2920.

CHAPTER 408 (Willimantic area): Wednesday, March 10, 2009, 1:00 PM (social, at 1:30 PM), Franco American Civic & Social Club, 116 Club Rd, North Windham, CT. Speaker: CVS/CareMark consultant Amanda Egli to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. Contact: President Donna Linkkila at (860) 455-0883.

CHAPTER 410 (Windsor Locks area): Monday, March 8, 1:00 PM, VFW Post 6123, 40 Fairview St., Windsor Locks. Program: "Pizza Time" follows meeting. Reservation deadline: March 6; call Becky Smith at (860) 763-0195 to RSVP. Contact: Program Chair Elaine Colson at (860) 623-8704.

CHAPTER 411 (Rocky Hill area): Thursday, March 11, 1:00 PM (social follows meeting), William J. Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Speaker: Horizon Home Mortgage Consultant Mark Harrington on reverse mortgages. Refreshments, door prizes. Contact: President Florence Egan at (860) 666-0382.

CHAPTER 412 (Putnam area): Tuesday, March 16, 1:30 PM (social follows meeting), Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., Putnam. Speaker: Anthem Representative Diana Manzo on retirees' questions about the State health plan. Refreshments, door prizes. Contact: President Don Gladding at (860) 564-9092.

CHAPTER 414 (Torrington area): Monday, March 15, 9:30 AM (coffee, meeting at 10:00 AM). UCONN Torrington Campus Classroom Building, 855 University Dr., Torrington. Speaker: CVS/CareMark consultant Amanda Egli to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. Contact: President Karen Pineman at (860) 354-6727.

CHAPTER 415 (Manchester area): Monday, March 22, 1:00 PM, Elks Lodge, 30 Bissell St. Manchester. Speaker: CVS/CareMark consultant Amanda Egli to answer questions concerning retired State workers' prescriptions and medications. Refreshments will be served. Contact: President Ed Daly at (860) 871-9482.

CHAPTER 416 (New London area): Tuesday, March 16 (NOTE DATE CHANGE), 12:00 PM (luncheon, business meeting at 12:30 PM and program at 1:30 PM), Waterford Public Library, 49 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE). Speaker: candidate for the Democratic Party's nomination for Governor in 2010 Ned Lamont on his vision for Connecticut. Contact: Program Chair Les Shapiro at (860) 442-5256.

CHAPTER 417 (Plainville area): Wednesday, March 10, 1:00 PM (social, meeting follows), Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church, 115 West Main St., Plainville. Speaker: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 President Cathy Osten on issues impacting active and retired members. Contact: President John Lessor at (860) 628-0021.

CHAPTER 418 (4Cs): Tuesday, March 9, 11:30 AM, Congress of CT Community Colleges, 907 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. Speaker: UnitedHealthcare Account Manager Chris Nichols to answer members' questions about basic and enhanced dental plans available for retired State workers. Contact: President Aldo Sicuso at (860) 346-3550.

Other States' Events

CHAPTER 421 (Northeast Florida area), Thursday, April 1, 11:30 AM. (lunch), Duff's Buffet, Sunshine Park Mall, 2400 Ridgewood Avenue, South Daytona, FL. Cost: \$9.78 per person. Contact: President Len Albert at (386) 615-6805.

(Editor's note: March 12 is the deadline for event details to be included in the next edition is – a form for providing information is available at our Union hall and our website's "On the Job" page.)

Our Executive Director's Corner

The Truth About the State's Pension Funding



Robert D. Rinker
Executive Director,
CSEA SEIU Local 2001

unfunded liability for the State employees' pension plan and retiree health insurance. She has called for a "blue ribbon commission" to study the issues raised by both, which she has indicated will include an appointee from the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC).

While we seek more details on the governor's commission, I'd like to answer some of the questions that members have asked me about pension and retiree health care funding during my 27 years of service for CSEA/SEIU Local 2001:

Over the past month, Governor M. Jodi Rell has created controversy regarding the

1. What are the unfunded liabilities in the pension plan and retiree healthcare? Unfunded liabilities are determined by actuaries who calculate what the cost of benefits would be if everyone that was entitled to pension benefits or retiree health insurance were to receive them -- and project those costs over their life expectancy.

2. Where did the State employee pension plan's unfunded liability come from? Prior to collective bargaining, pension funding was determined by politicians in the General Assembly. For many years before 1981, legislators would not make contributions to the original Tier I pension fund in order to balance the state budget. These contributions would be called the "normal" cost, and when they are not made, an unfunded liability is created for the pension plan.

3. How much is the unfunded liability for the state pension plan? It is currently about \$9 billion.

4. Have State employee unions done anything to address this issue of unfunded liabilities? Yes, in the early 1980s, the unions reached an agreement with the Administration of William O'Neill to pay off the unfunded liability over a period of thirty years. The agreement also created a new pension plan -- Tier II -- that does not have the unfunded liability of the original Tier I pension fund.

5. Why don't the Tier II and Tier IIA plans have the unfunded liability of the Tier I pension plan? Under the pension and healthcare agreements with our unions, the State has always made the normal cost contributions for Tier II and Tier IIA pensions even during the most troubling economic times. The State has also made its normal cost contribution to the Tier I fund since our first pension and health care agreement.

6. Have any payments not been made to the unfunded liability since pensions were first negotiated? In 1991, SEBAC agreed to allow the State to defer part of the payment for the unfunded liability during the economic crisis that led to the state income tax. Our unions also agreed to defer part of the payment for the unfunded liability as part of last year's cost-savings agreement. However, during these times



P-3A Council Member Geraldine Henry Cast Her Ballot on the SEBAC Agreement at Our Union Hall in May 2009

the state has always made the "normal" cost contribution. Deferred payments still need to be made to the pension plan.

7. What are the "normal" costs for the Tier II and Tier IIA pension plans? The normal cost for both plans are about 7%, with state employees covered by Tier IIA contributing 2% of the cost.

8. How many active State employees are in the three pension plans? Following the last Retirement Incentive Program in July 2009, the number of active employees in Tier I was about 5%, with the remaining employees being in Tier II and Tier IIA.

9. Are all State workers members of the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS)? Most active CSEA SEIU Local 2001 members in our State Division are in SERS. Some members belong to the state's Teachers Retirement System (TRS) because of their jobs as education professionals. The vast majority of the approximately 12,000 employees in higher education belong to the Alternate Retirement Plan (ARP), which is like a 401(k) savings plan. It is portable for higher education professors who move from one college to another. The State contributes 8% of the employees' pay to ARP and the employee contributes 5%. As opposed to our Union's members, whose benefits are determined by a formula based on years of service, an ARP member's benefit is subject to the return on their investment.



SJM Council Leaders Joined SEIU/IBPO Local 731 in 2008 to Support Legislation Allowing Judicial Branch Employees to "Buy Back" Pension Benefits

10. Does the risk of the stock market affect our pension plan? While the ups and downs of the stock market affect savings plans like 401(k)s and ARP, defined benefit plans are in it for the long run. The State pension plan will be around for many years to come, so we will have good years and bad years regarding investments. If the plan's investments return an annual average of 8.25% over the long term, the plan should have no difficulty paying out future benefits. During the worst stock market cycle since the Great Depression, our total investment returns since 2003 have been 6.25% per year.

11. Have officials taken money out of the State employee pension fund to pay for public services? Absolutely not. The State has never taken money out of the pension fund to pay for anything but pension benefits.

12. What about the unfunded liability for retiree health insurance? I will answer questions about retiree healthcare in my column next month.



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Recycled Paper



The Privatization Myth...

(Continued from page 1)

obligation to appoint representatives to the Board.

dollars' worth? How can we evaluate the work being done? Connecticut taxpayers cannot benefit from the safeguards provided by the statute until the governor acts so the Board can get to work.

It is a myth that private companies will perform work better, faster and cheaper than public workers simply because they happen to be "private." We simply need to remember the I-84 debacle to realize understaffing leads to poorer service, and more costs in the future.

The bad boys aren't the

Clean contracting off to slow start, as Rell lags on appointments

Journal Inquirer, January 5, 2010

I was appointed to the Board, in part, because of my past experience at the Office of Policy and Management. While at OPM, I handled issues related to governmental contracts. The mission of the Contracting Standards Board is and should be to hone in on waste, fraud and abuse.



House Majority Leader Denise Merrill Affirms Her Commitment to Clean Contracting to Our Council 400 Members

The statute was passed, after all, as a result of the Rowland contracting scandals. Our state had seen political bid rigging, public officials fixing contracts for personal gain and the public trust lost. We also saw precious state funds vanish.

engineers employed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The problem is an atmosphere that compels management to hire politically connected consultants who look the other way when it comes to shoddy work.

(Editor's note: the Op-Ed Stu responded to is linked to the February 22 entry at our website's "CSEA Connections" page titled, "The Yankee Institute's Hypocrisy Knows No Bounds.")

Now that Connecticut finds itself in a brutal fiscal crisis, the need for oversight is even more acute. The Board is not only mandated to look for fraud and abuse, it is charged with getting the best bang for our buck, so to speak, when it comes to state contracts.

Without knowing what contracts we have, the value of each and the performance of those providers, how can we know if we are getting our



P-4 Council Members Denise Eaton and Travis Woodward Told Legislators About Shoddy Work by Contractors in March 2008

Project Doesn't Shed Light...

(Continued from page 1)

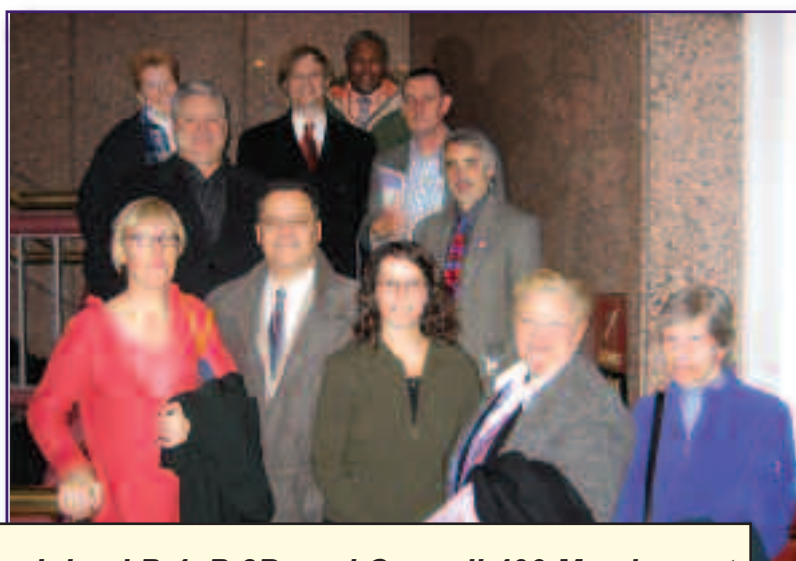
successful college sports teams to our state's economy.

Also absent from their web site are the many unsuccessful privatization ventures that have cost taxpayers millions, like the I-84 inspection debacle or the UConn 2000 construction fiasco. It's why they leave out the vast majority of private sector "independent contractors" who are paid hundreds of dollars by the hour for work that can be done many times cheaper by in-house public service workers.

dangerous.

As an elected office-holder, I believe that transparency in government is actually a good thing, and I'm all for shining a light on the work that public service workers perform. In fact, I believe that many people aren't aware of the depth and breadth of the vital public services provided until they really need them.

If the Yankee Institute really wants to talk about transparency, they should stop targeting vulnerable seniors and fully disclose the



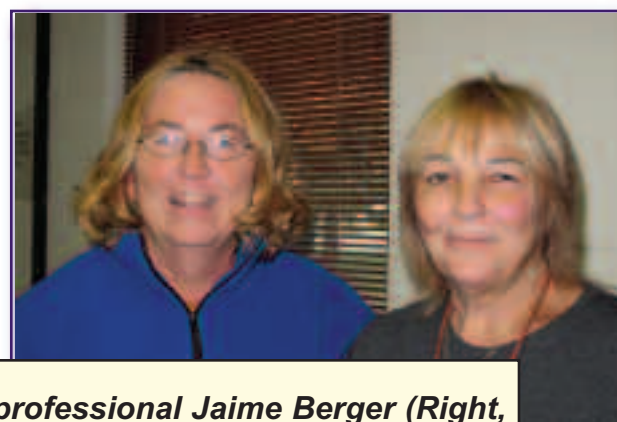
Cathy Joined P-4, P-3B, and Council 400 Members at the State Capitol in January 2009 to Advocate for Reducing Costly Outsourcing of Public Services

Disguising their promotion of private vendor contracts as unbiased research is bad enough. Worse, the Yankee Institute has painted a giant target on the backs of thousands of our state's senior citizens.

salaries, bonuses and benefits of their own corporate benefactors. Then the public would really see the sun shine.

(Editor's note: the news article Cathy responded to is linked to the February 22 entry at our website's "CSEA Connections" page titled, "The Yankee Institute's Hypocrisy Knows No Bounds.")

By disclosing the pensions of retirees to the entire world, they've made it easy to identify the elderly and widows. Any scam artist looking to exploit this vulnerable population now has the perfect hit list available with a few clicks online. It's disgraceful and it's



Groton Paraprofessional Jaime Berger (Right, with Member Marie Tussing) Responded to an Institute Op-Ed Attack in June 2009



Stay connected between monthly editions of the CSEA News by visiting our Union's website at

www.csea-ct.com

High Court Hears Our Members...

(Continued from page 1)

About a dozen members and labor allies came to the high court's chambers to hear Union legal counsel Bob Krzys and a lawyer for the State Board of Labor Relations rebut the private firm the Rell Administration hired to mount their appeal in 2008. At issue is the decision by a Superior Court Judge upholding the Labor Board's previous rulings certifying our CSPCOA Council members' June 2006 election and subsequent order to the Administration to begin contract talks.

"I work hard every day to protect the families and people of this state," Council Secretary-Treasurer Tom Garbedian told a reporter after the hearing. "Every officer who puts themselves in harm's way to protect the public should have the right to a voice on the job," Tom, a captain in the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) State Police Division, added.



The Administration seems to be driven by a political vendetta that they're trying to wrap in a fiscal argument -- which in four years, none of the legal or labor experts have agreed with. But this costly court battle has not just wasted taxpayer dollars; it has also created an environment where officers do not want to be promoted to higher ranks, threatening the public safety operations of the State Police.



"The reality is that the Administration's actions have discouraged others from seeking leadership positions, and that has left key command positions vacant," Council Vice-President Ed Gould told the press before the hearing. "The Labor Board, the Attorney General, and a Superior Court Judge all previously agreed that we should be allowed to come to the table with leadership and work together to solve problems," Ed, a State Police Lieutenant, added.

Our members' concerns over staffing shortfalls in the DPS, including the absence of command officers in key positions since last summer, was echoed in statements of support issued by several gubernatorial candidates.

"The fact that two of the three major crime squads and other critical units are without command officers is unacceptable," Ned Lamont, cable business owner and the Democratic Party's 2006 Senate nominee, said. "Allowing State Police captains and lieutenants a voice on the job is an essential right and critical to ensuring our safety," he added.



"Thanks to (the Administration's) obstruction, 22 critical command positions remain unfilled coming out of retirements last July, including the Sex Crimes Unit, Organized Crime, Auto Theft, Statewide Narcotics, the Gang Unit, and State Fire Marshal's Office," said former Stamford Mayor Dan Malloy. "This has left the State less prepared and less safe," he added.

The underlying issue of workplace fairness and this governor's track record of suppressing the free choice of public service workers' rights to a union were at the heart of the statements issued by two additional candidates.



"I have been working and negotiating with unions for over a decade. And while the negotiating process may sometimes put us at odds, I have never questioned their right to collective bargaining," said current Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi "It's time for Governor Rell to stop squandering State resources on her mission to suppress these officers' rights as State employees," he added.

"These commissioned officers are working on the front lines to protect our citizens. Their voice and their wishes should be respected by the State," said former Assistant Attorney General and State Representative Juan Figueroa. "Instead of paying high priced lawyers, the State should be supporting those whose job it is to look out for our public safety," he added.



(Editor's note: press statements issued by our Union and the gubernatorial candidates, along with news coverage available online, are linked to the February 16 entry at our website's "CSEA Connections" page titled, "Arguing Employee Free Choice to the State's High Court.")

The Supreme Court's decision in the case is expected before the end of the current legislative session in May. But all Union members can speak out in support of their brothers and sisters who have been the targets of this long and protracted legal battle by the current governor and her Administration in the meantime.

Contact Communications Director Matt O'Connor at (800) 894-9479, ext. 129, or send e-mail to moconnor@csea760.com to offer your voice in a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

►► **Stafford Schools' Employees Seek Support:** The non-certified employees in Stafford Public Schools are reaching out to political allies for aid in resolving a dispute with the Board of Education over a successor contract. Members of our Paraprofessional Council's Chapter 151, which represents secretaries, bookkeepers, custodians, cafeteria workers, and paraprofessionals are building support for moving the district's elected officials to address language changes that were made to a tentative agreement after it was ratified by our members.



Stafford Paraprofessionals Joann Milikowski and Carol Parker with State Senator Tony Guglielmo

For months, the school board has not recognized that previously agreed-upon language regarding layoff procedures for paraprofessionals would have no economic impact to the school system. Their current position could, however, have a substantial financial impact to long-term employees who have dedicated years of their lives to serving the children of the district's communities. Additionally, the board has refused to implement negotiated pay raises that are not in dispute while the language issue awaits action by the State Board of Labor Relations. Meanwhile, our members are working to end a protracted process that is driving up additional attorney costs for taxpayers and forcing unnecessary hardships on hardworking public school employees.

Social Activities

St. Patrick's Day at the Aqua Turf Club

Wednesday, March 17, 2010



Cost: \$68.00 per person

Reservation deadline: Full payment due Mar. 12

Includes: Motorcoach pick-up from East Hartford to Plantsville, sit-down family-style lunch, and entertainment

West Point Dress Parade

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Cost: From \$76.00 per person

Reservation deadline: Full payment due Mar. 20

Includes: Motorcoach pick-up from East Hartford to West Point, NY, cadet parade, guided tour of West Point Academy, and buffet lunch at the Hotel Thayer



"Joseph" Showtour at the Millennium Sight & Sound Theater

Monday, May 17 – Tuesday, May 18, 2010



Cost: From \$249.00 per person (double)

Reservation deadline: \$50 per person deposit due now; final payment due Apr. 15

Includes: Motorcoach pick-up from East Hartford or North Haven to Lancaster, 1-night accommodation, 2 meals, admission to the Millennium Theater, additional comedy show, sightseeing in Philadelphia

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 breakfasts, 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

Our Benefits



Recognizing 2010's First "Hall of Famers:"

Congratulations to this early round of inductees to this year's McCusker "Hall of Fame" for their donations to our Union's annual scholarship incentive:

- **Lawrence Lunden, Council 400 Member:** \$600.00
- **P-4 Council, Chapter 97 (CT Dept. of Transportation, District II):** \$200.00
- **P-4 Council, Chapter 87 (Dept. of Public Health):** \$130.00
- **P-4 Council, Chapter 151 (CT Dept. of Public Safety):** \$100.00
- **Council 400, Chapter 431 (South Carolina Area Retirees):** \$100.00
- **Cathy Osten, CSEA SEIU Local 2001 President:** \$100.00
- **Lynn Coda-Klein, P-4 Council Member:** \$100.00
- **Karen Pineman, Council 400 Secretary in honor of her "kids" in Mozambique:** \$100.00
- **Michael and Patricia McHugh, Council 400 Members:** \$100.00
- **Irene Malesky, Council 400 Member in memory of Robert Malesky:** \$100.00
- **Shelley Ostop, Council 400 Member:** \$100.00
- **P-4 Council, Chapter 119 (CT Economic/Community Development):** \$50.00
- **Thomas Corrigan, Council 400 Member:** \$20.00

These inductees, along with all individual and group donors in 2010, will be included in the "McCusker Awards Night" booklet provided to this year's scholarship winners and their families on Tuesday, July 13. Add your support to make this another record-setting year for the fund! Mail your contribution, payable to the *McCusker Memorial Scholarship Fund*, and mailed to:

- CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT, 06016



2009 McCusker Scholarship Recipient Gabrielle D'Amico Receives Her Award at Last Year's Awards Night

(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.)

Look for the Star Symbol ★ for more of "Our Benefits"



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

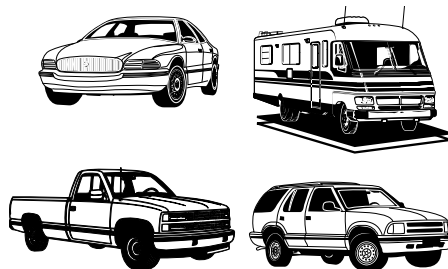
Send an email from your home account to gogreen@csea760.com with your name and employer (or indicate if you are retired) to receive a monthly message with a link to a downloadable version of the latest edition of our Union newspaper online.





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

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.



Good Friday.....Friday, April 2

Dividend Rates – 4th Quarter 2009

	<i>Dividend Rate</i>	<i>Annual Percentage Yield</i>
REGULAR SAVINGS	1.75%	1.77%
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.

7 Full-Service Offices To Serve You

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<p>MIDDLETOWN P.O. Box 2485 Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 347-0479</p>	<p>STORRS 1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 (860) 429-9306</p>	<p>SOUTHBURY Southbury Training School P.O. Box 644 Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 267-7610</p>
		<p>NEWINGTON O'Neil Plaza 2434 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT 06111 (860) 667-7668</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.

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.



►► **Opposing an Unfair Burden on Monroe's Paras:** Leaders of our Paraprofessional Council's Chapter 131 are organizing a strong response to health insurance changes the Administration in Monroe Public Schools have proposed for its workforce. Of concern is the disproportionate share of the costs that would impact the district's nearly 100 paraprofessionals if adopted as presented by the broker crafting the new provider's plan. Union Secretary-Treasurer Patrice Peterson (pictured below, far right) joined Chapter leaders Christine Bennett (left), Barbara Ehmer (second from left), and Union Staff Representative Pat Hayes (second from right) for the school board's February 17 meeting to urge immediate negotiations in order to find a fair resolution. The burden on the schools' paras is the result of a proposal to divide the district's workforce into smaller risk pools, sacrificing the district's ability to negotiate lower costs through economies of scale. As Patrice told the school board, their proposal is exactly the wrong approach to reducing costs and runs counter to the state level healthcare reforms our Union has long advocated.



(Editor's note: Patrice's statement to the school board and Cigna's proposed health plan rates are linked to the February 19 entry at our website's "CSEA Connections" page titled, "Standing-Up to Risky Health Plan Changes for Monroe Paraprofessionals.")

►► **Public Safety on the Ballot in Middlebury:**

The question of how to replace an antiquated and faulty communications system for Middlebury's first responders and the people they serve has finally been called. After months of generating positive public relations among local residents, members of our three Council 760 Chapters representing Middlebury's municipal employees succeeded in moving the Board of Selectmen to set a town-wide referendum on the bond for the much-needed upgrade. Members of Chapters 132 and 133, which represent Police Department civilian employees and sworn officers, quickly sprang into action and organized a grassroots campaign to pass the referendum, which was set for **Tuesday, March 2.**



Middlebury Police Officers Ed Demers and Rich Wildman Planning Campaign Visibility Efforts

At press time, members had placed large signs urging residents to VOTE YES at major intersections, organized lit drops and visibility efforts at heavily trafficked public locations, visited Region #15 schools and the town's residential senior center, and placed a full-page ad in the town's local weekly newspaper.

(Editor's note: a pre-referendum update, with links to online news coverage of our members' public relations efforts, is available in the January 8 entry at our website's "CSEA Connections" page titled, "A New Year, Same Fights for Middlebury's Public Service Workers.")

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:

- Connie Alderuccio of Chapter 401, November 26
- John Antaki, 420, November 14
- Joan Augustine, 405, November 20
- Ruth Backes, 422, November 21
- Sophie Bieszad, 401, December 4
- Frank Bongiovanni, 417, November 27
- Marie Boyd, 403, December 7
- Ruth Breitzke, 416, November 12
- John Carlson, 407, December 5
- Julia Cinquino, 405, December 7
- Albert Daddona, 407, November 27
- Florence Fontaine, 403, November 21
- Hugh Fritch 414, December 3
- Bernard Gerling, 412, November 24

- Elizabeth Glass, 401, November 24
- Margurite Gough, 423, December 8
- Jules Green, 410, November 28
- Louise Hamelin, 406, November 12
- Marion Hanaghan, 401, November 24
- Roger Hatch, 408, November 20
- Donald Jespersion Sr., 414, December 9
- Barbara Kenny, 420, December 13
- Isabel Madigan, 401, December 2
- John Markis, 425, November 9
- Ingeborg McGuire, 420, December 2
- Helen Neumayer, 411, November 26
- Jean Ouellette, 408, November 11
- Raymond Palmer, 403, November 24
- Elizabeth Peterson, 408, November 15
- Ruth Peterson, 411, November 7
- Pasquale Piazza, 404, December 10
- Richard Popham, 414, November 23
- Cecilia Rafalowski 405, November 24
- Dorothy Rice, 412, November 24
- Kenneth Rose, 404, November 28
- Sam Ruderman, 405, November 12
- Margaret Skelly, 412, November 25
- Gene Snedeker, 424, December 8
- Gareth Thorne, 420, November 30
- Thomas Turchetta, 417, December 8

In Our Communities

P-4 Council's Solidarity with the Troops: At a recent Delegates meeting, P-4 Council President John Vitale (pictured below, left) accepted a very special "thank-you" from active duty military personnel stationed overseas last year. Council member Gabriele Hallock (right) delivered in appreciation a certificate of authenticity and an American flag that had flown over Afghanistan on behalf of the US Air Force's C-130 J Wing, which includes her son Thomas. Last spring, Council leaders rallied to support Gabriele's proposal to help provide some of the comforts of home for the unit while they were stationed overseas. With a \$300.00 donation from the Council, Gabriele was able to send care packages that included DVDs, soccer balls, and hacky sacks to help the troops pass the time. Once again, State workers have shown their commitment to doing "good works" for those who serve!



Boosting Benefits with Butter Braids: Once again, Lyman Orchards is providing the opportunity to support our Union's exclusive McCusker scholarship fund for our families' higher education. This time the Trustees have organized a butter braid pastry fundraiser, with the proceeds supporting the effort to make 2010 another record-breaker in college grants to be awarded to children and grandchildren of our members. Use the form below for taking orders from your friends, family, and neighbors

(Editor's note: the fundraiser was announced in the February 12 entry at our website's "CSEA Connections" page titled, "Boosting Support this 'McCusker Month' for Our Scholarship Benefit.")

for these delicious pastries and return it to the Union hall in Hartford by **Friday, March 12**. Frozen butter braids will be available to pick-up just in time for Easter Sunday on **Thursday, April 1**.



Our McCusker Trustees Gathered with Union President Cathy Osten and Two-Time Scholarship Winners for Awards Night 2009 at Our Union Hall



Thank you for your Support!!

Date to Start	Return Order	Delivery Date
2/8/2010	3/12/2010	4/1/2010

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Organization: McCusker Scholarship Fund
 Please Make Checks Payable to: McCusker Scholarship Fund
 If you have any questions, please call **Bernadette Conway at 860-951-6614**

Sales Tips:

1. Make a list of potential customers. Good customers are friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers.
2. Introduce yourself and your organization.
3. Smile, be polite and thank them for their order.
4. Do not sell door to door without adult supervision.
5. Collect money when taking order.
6. Bring a cooler for distribution of large orders! Easy to take to work!

About Butter Braid Pastries:
 Butter Braid pastries are light and flaky with over 20 layers of pastry dough. These hand-braided pastries are made with 100% real butter, the finest natural ingredients and filled with 6 delicious fillings. A tasty treat that's so easy to prepare and enjoy!

Great Gifts: These products make great gifts so don't forget to order extra for the holidays!



Name	Phone	Butter Braid Pastry - \$11.00 per item						Total Items	Total Dollars
		Bavarian Creme Chocolate Icing	Apple	Blueberry Cream Cheese	Cinnamon	Raspberry	Cream Cheese		
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
		Bav	Apple	Blue	Cinn	Rasp	Cream	Total Items	Total Dollars

MCM Fundraising, Inc.
 CT, MA & RI Exclusive Fundraising Distributors
 Butter Braid Pastries, Classic Breaks Cookie Dough,
 Lyman Orchard Pies
 888-774-5889 * 860-654-1606
 www.mcmfundraising.com

Allergy Information: Butter Braid pastry and Classic Breaks are produced in a plant that processes nuts. Check our web site for ingredient listings.