

**Association of Managerial Employees
in the Connecticut State Service, Inc.**
760 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106



AMECSS NEWS

June 2009

Welcome to the first edition of AMECSS NEWS. At a recent Managers Advisory Council Meeting we heard you loud and clear when you let us know that AMECSS needed to improve its communications with state managers. We hope you will find this newsletter informative and welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions of AMECSS NEWS.

AMECSS Board Members

AMECSS is governed by a seven member Board of Directors selected by its members. Board members are elected for a two year term. The next election will be in June 2010. All officers and board members serve on a voluntary basis. The current board members are David Guay, President; Ellen Blaschinski, Vice President; Fred Clark, Treasurer; Warren Wollschlager, Secretary; Jim Leary and Dick Edmonds. There are two board member vacancies at present.

David is the Executive Director, State Board of Accountancy; Ellen is a Branch Chief at the Department of Public Health; Fred is a Bureau Chief at the Department of Revenue Services; Warren is the Chief of the Office of Research and Development at the Department of Public Health; Jim is a manager in the budget and financial analysis division at the Office of the Comptroller and Dick is a Branch Chief at the Department of Public Health.

Legislation

The major portion of AMECSS support for state managers is through its work at the legislature. AMECSS has a contract with Bobby Shea, Lobbyist, who diligently works to support our AMECSS legislative agenda. Bobby attends the monthly AMECSS board meetings and works with us on developing legislation, keeping us informed on legislative and government actions that are relevant to state managers and lobbying on our behalf with state legislators.

This year, Bob was very active on behalf of AMECSS supporting two legislative proposals that have a direct effect on state managers: HB 6545 - Collective Bargaining for Managers which had passed the Labor Committee and the GAE Committees. The Appropriations Committee also approved HB 6545, amending the bill to delete certain employees of the legislative branch from the collective bargaining opportunities. This Bill passed in the House (90-41) on June 1, 2009. However, this bill was not called for a vote in the Senate before the end of the legislative session on June 3 2009.

HB 1144 – eases restrictions and streamlines telecommuting for all state employees. This bill also has been approved by the Labor and GAE Committees, but the bill did not move in the

Senate. Bob has also worked to stop SB 829 – the Governor’s proposal to change longevity payments which will result in a decrease in longevity payments for state managers. SB 829 was not approved by the Appropriations Committee prior to the Committee deadline on April 16th. Mr. Shea will keep an eye out to see if this issue resurfaces as budget deliberations continue. This is not the first time that AMECSS has fought to prevent decreases in longevity payment for managers. In 1996 AMECSS was successful in its fight to defeat SB 525 which would have eliminated longevity payments for state managers.

Managerial Representation

AMECSS is affiliated with CSEA – the Connecticut State Employees Association. One third of our bi-weekly dues of \$4.50 per member goes to CSEA. In return, CSEA provides professional representation before the employee Review Board; representation/advice regarding issues at the Workers’ Compensation and Retirement Commissions; Legal Counsel if members’ rights and state law is violated; representation on the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC); eligibility for McCusker Scholarships awarded annually to children and grandchildren of AMECSS/CSEA members; and office support. Over the years we have had some very significant victories before the Employees Review Board (ERB) and at the legislature. In 1997 the ERB upheld the right of laid-off managers to file grievances. In 1993 we were successful in getting legislation passed that provides managers with up to eight weeks notice prior to layoff. We were also successful in having the ERB hear institutional managerial grievances in addition to individual manager grievances.

Recruitment Drive

This newsletter also serves as the third stage of our current recruitment drive. In early March we sent out a mailing to all state managers who were not AMECSS members along with testimonials from current members and a membership card. This was followed by a mailing to our members requesting them to recruit one new member. To date, our recruitment drive has resulted in 63 new AMECSS members. For those of you who are not AMECSS members we encourage you to join an association that is solely devoted to your interests as state managers. The one best way that AMECSS can be strengthened and thereby provide better support to state managers is by increasing its membership. Remember there is strength in numbers and membership is a bargain for \$4.50 per pay period. If you have a colleague interested in joining or learning more about AMECSS, please call 951-6614.

State Life Insurance

If you did not sign up for state life insurance when you first entered state service you may do so at any time. You can get a Group Life Insurance eligibility application from your payroll office. It takes about two months to get processed so give yourself a good 90 days before retiring to apply. Once you retire the state will pay to cover ½ of your insured amount for the rest of your life. At present, the maximum amount of insurance you can get is \$85,000. Your maximum is based on your salary.