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Members Fight For State Partnership Plan Win!

Thompson Paras, Cafeteria Workers and Nurses Chapter Organize CEA & AFSCME Unions to Push for a Healthcare Win

The Thompson Paraeducators, Cafeteria Workers and Nurses unit is rightfully celebrating a **huge** win after organizing not just their fellow members but members from the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) and Council 4 AFSCME to ensure **everyone** wins a fair and accessible healthcare plan.

"With contract negotiations ongoing, it was brought to our attention that our medical insurance, CIGNA, was

increasing 17.5%. This was an unacceptable increase" explained Kathy Houle, Chapter President of Thompson Paras, Cafeteria Workers and Nurses, "The Superintendent and Board of Education wanted our members to take high deductible health insurance, which was unacceptable!

"Low wage employees can't afford this. We know that our members won't seek medical care for themselves and

their families if they the price is too high. "Unfortunately, groups that negotiated their contracts before us (teachers, custodians,

continue onto page 4



PICTURED ABOVE: Chapter President Kathy Houle takes a proud selfie after learning of her chapter's inspiring victory!

Waterbury Cafeteria Workers Celebrate TA!

Members Win Tentative Agreement with the City of Waterbury Following Months of Negotiations

CSEA's Waterbury Cafeteria Workers are celebrating the ratification of a tentative agreement with the City of Waterbury.

After contract negotiation member actions and tough negotiations, the Waterbury Cafeteria Workers won a three-year contract with raises for each year, an increase to the uniform allowance, paid union orientations by CSEA stewards, and

additional days to file grievances.

Elaine Remillard, Chapter President remarked, "As Union President, I was thrilled to see such high levels of participation for our ratification vote. We fought for better wages and safer working conditions after a year of negotiations being pushed back and were able to secure a three year contract."



PICTURED ABOVE: Elaine Remillard, Chapter President of the Waterbury Cafeteria Workers, pulls raffle tickets following the ratification of the tentative agreement.

CSEA is a Proud Member of Recovery For All!

Recovery for All is a statewide coalition of labor, community, and faith organizations representing more than half a million residents—black, brown, and white. We are united in a long-term mission to eliminate the extreme inequalities in this state and build a more just, democratic, and egalitarian Connecticut. This spring, we are fighting to win progressive revenue so that we can fund the future of our communities.

The end of the Legislative Session is almost here so we must ramp up our actions. Throughout

the month of May there will be several rallies, marches and important online actions for our members to take part in (turn to page 5 for more information on one upcoming event!) This is your opportunity to tell the Legislature that we need a moral budget and strong contracts!

The time is now to make a major investment in all the goods, programs, and services required to meet the extraordinary level of need during this historic crisis. We demand a Recovery for All—not a Recovery for the Few!

McCusker Applications Closed!

The deadline for CSEA children and grandchildren to apply for the McCusker Scholarship closed on April 30th at 4:30PM.

But it is not too late

to donate to the McCusker fund to allow CSEA to award as many scholarships as possible to deserving applicants

For more information, please visit our website:

bit.ly/McCusker2021

Questions about application status and donations should be directed to Val Lattarulo at

vlattarulo@csea760.com

Visit our union's website at: CSEA-CT.com

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

Don't Miss Another Email!
Update Your Information

Please visit bit.ly/UpdateCSEA TODAY to update your contact information for our database!



Meetings
And News

Council 400 Election Update

Thank You to the New and Returning Leaders!

The Council 400 Chapter elections have been held successfully and we want to thank all of our members that have stepped up in their roles as officers,

delegates, alternate delegates and auditors. We cannot wait to see you in person again once we have all been vaccinated and CDC regulations allow it!

Is Your Spouse a Member?

The size of our membership is an important way that CSEA Council 400 demonstrates our power, our voice and our strength—and for 2021 we've set out to drastically increase our membership numbers ahead of upcoming contract negotiations and legislative threats.

Spouses are a large part of our membership, and it's no secret why—they are affected by health insurance and pension benefit changes and are often slated for survivor benefits.

By becoming a member, your spouse will ensure they will continue to receive the CSEA News and important notifications regarding the benefits you worked

hard to secure if you were to pass away. They will also be eligible for SEIU Member Benefits like travel rewards and reduced auto and home insurance rates.

But most importantly, by becoming a member, they will help to increase our membership numbers so that CSEA Council 400 will have an even larger voice against our opponents who want to slash benefits—yours and theirs.

If your spouse isn't yet a member, contact our Retiree Organizer, Kevin Sullivan at ksullivan@csea760.com or 860-951-6614 x118 to get them signed up!

Council 400 Activists

Get Involved in Protecting Your Benefits!

By: Kevin Sullivan

CSEA Retiree Members have been busy fighting to protect our pension, health-care benefits and much more! Over the past several months Council 400 activists have done direct political actions, organized other retired members and have participated in state-wide and national coalitions to protect benefits and ensure a fiscally responsible future.

Council 400 has a Legislative Action

State Retiree Threat Corner

Hear the most recent threats against your benefits & learn how you can stop them!

Do you think your monthly pension benefit is “overly generous”? Do you think state retirees need to make any further sacrifices?

Well, Red Jahncke, a wealthy Greenwich resident sure thinks so:

“In 2015, the Malloy administration commissioned a study of Connecticut's State Employees Retirement System (SERS) by the Center for Retirement Research, a prominent pension research institute. While the center's

report was well done and most of its recommendations were adopted by the state, the center miscalculated the level of employee pension benefits, saying they were not “overly generous.” They were and, today, still are

overgenerous” [Red Jahncke, *Stamford Advocate*, April 13, 2021]

Fight back by contacting Drew Phelan at Dphelan@csea760.com to submit a LTE in response! Drew will help you through the whole process!

It's almost time for Retiree Open Enrollment! The open enrollment dates for retirees has not been confirmed at press time, but you will be receiving your planner in the mail in the next few weeks, so keep a watch for it! It will have all of the information necessary on the different DENTAL plans, along with the paperwork you will need to fill out to switch your plan. For retirees, this is the ONLY time that you can change your dental plan throughout the year. The State of Connecticut will be having several virtual information events before open enrollment ends so that you can attend online and ask questions. Once we have the information for these events we will send out the links to everyone we have emails for. If you think you have some big dental procedures in the coming year, it might be a good idea to consult with your dentist. **Active employee Open Enrollment is now, but Retiree Open Enrollment dates have not yet been confirmed. You will receive your planner in the mail with the correct dates.**

Council 400 Hosting April Virtual Meeting with Shawn Wooden

Members Asked and the Retiree Team Answered - Hear From CT State Treasurer Shawn Wooden

NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH AT 4:00PM

SPEAKER: State of Connecticut Treasurer Shawn Wooden

As Connecticut's Treasurer, Shawn Wooden is the principal fiduciary for the State Pension Fund making him an important elected official

for state retirees.

Let us know what you would like to hear about at our monthly meetings and we will do our best to address those subjects! Please contact us with suggestions at KSullivan@csea760.com.

Emails with a link to the meeting will be sent out to everyone we have emails for, but if you are not

able to join online, you can call in at:

Dial 1-929-205-6099 then Meeting ID: 963 3232 8607

If you are not receiving our emails and would like to be added to our list so you can receive notification of virtual meetings, send an email to info@csea760.com with your name and we will make sure you are added to our email list!

COVID-19 Vaccine Cancel Your Appointments If You've Been Vaccinated

In Connecticut, all residents over the age of 16 and in Florida, all residents over the age of 18 are eligible for the COVID vaccine. With

demand still very high, it is important that those who have already been vaccinated cancel their other vaccine appointments. You are encouraged to sign up for the vaccine through several different portals, but once you get the first shot, please be sure to cancel your registration through the other portals so that others can find vaccine appointments.

Committee who created an agenda for this legislative session. One of their top priorities was to expand voter participation and access by allowing mail-in balloting and expanded voting windows. They also focused on a fair tax bill that would expand the State of Connecticut's revenue and provide security to active and retiree State Employee pensions, fund social service programs, and improve the overall health of Connecticut's budget.

As part of the Recovery for All Coalition,

Council 400 Activists have attended rallies, Town-Hall style virtual meetings and participated in email campaigns to push legislators into supporting progressive legislation.

There are lots of ways to get involved. From posting on social media or sending a text message to writing letters to the editors or testifying on legislation. Everyone can contribute in one way or another to make CSEA and Council 400 the best it can be.

To get involved and be added to our list of Retired Activists, please reach out to Kevin Sullivan at (860) 951-6614 ext. 118.

Important numbers to have on hand:

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528

Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537

Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: 1-800-922-2232

CSEA Retiree Organizer, Kevin Sullivan: 860-951-6614 x118

UnitedHealthcare: 1-888-803-9217

Caremark: 1-800-318-2572

Cigna: 1-800-244-6224

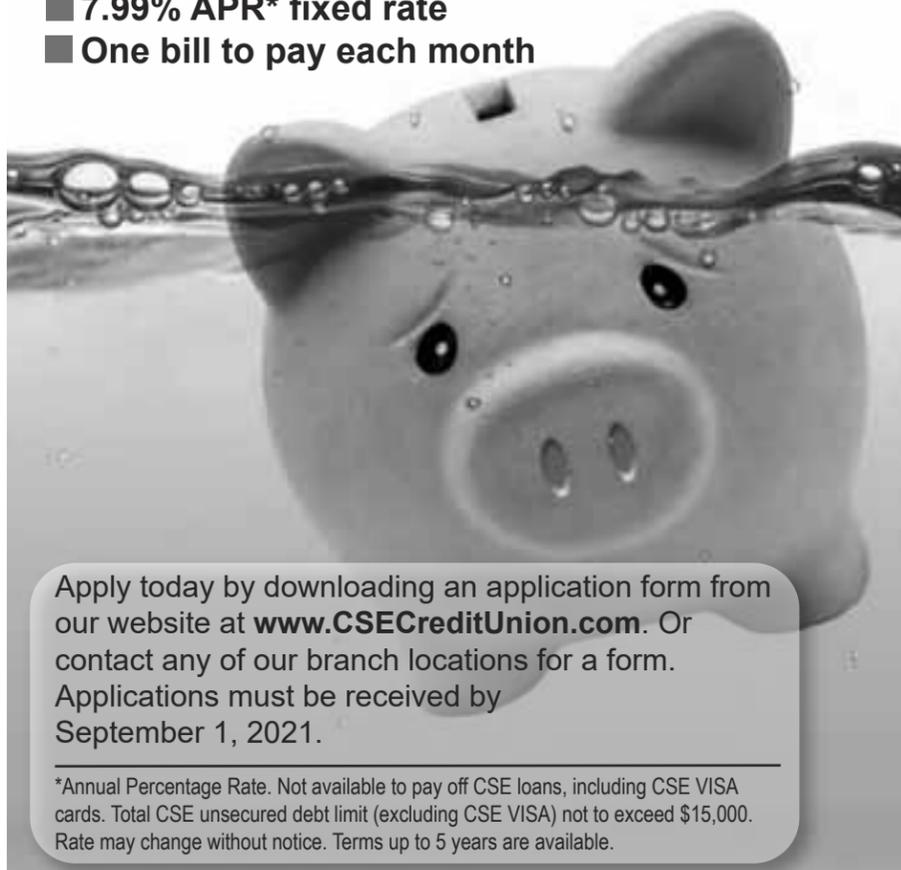
HEP Care Management Solutions: 1-877-687-1448 or visit them at their portal: <https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx>



Drowning In Debt?

A CSE Credit Union Debt Consolidation Loan Can help!

- Loans available up to \$15,000
- 7.99% APR* fixed rate
- One bill to pay each month



Apply today by downloading an application form from our website at www.CSECreditUnion.com. Or contact any of our branch locations for a form. Applications must be received by September 1, 2021.

*Annual Percentage Rate. Not available to pay off CSE loans, including CSE VISA cards. Total CSE unsecured debt limit (excluding CSE VISA) not to exceed \$15,000. Rate may change without notice. Terms up to 5 years are available.

Visit Our Website: www.CSECreditUnion.com



Find all the essential information about the products and services we have to offer. You can even print a loan application online! Best of all, it's accessible from your personal computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

www.CSECreditUnion.com

**Closed Memorial Day
Monday, May 31st**

Dividend Rates - First Quarter 2021

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	0.60%	0.60%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	0.25%	0.25%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	0.40%	0.40%

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

NORWICH Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich, CT 06306 (860) 889-7378	HARTFORD 84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 522-5388 (Savings) (860) 522-7147 (Loans)	NEW HAVEN 1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 (203) 397-2949
MIDDLETOWN Connecticut Valley Hospital P.O. Box 2485 Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 347-0479	STORRS 1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 (860) 429-9306	SOUTHURY Southbury Training School P.O. Box 644 Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 267-7610
		NEWINGTON O'Neil Plaza 2434 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT 06111 (860) 667-7668

Hours: Main Office: Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Branches: Mon-Fri, 9:30am-4pm
Drive-Up Teller (Hartford Only): Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm; Paydays Open Until 5pm

Gone to Soon: CSEA Members Who Have Passed On

The Office of the State Comptroller has provided CSEA with the following members that have recently passed away. Our condolences are with their friends, family and loved ones.

- Anderson, Joanne
- Bacon, John
- Barnas, Harriet
- Batten, Christopher
- Blumberg, Phillip
- Bocon, Wanda
- Boisvert, Martin
- Brown, Ernestine
- Brown, Horace
- Buchmeier, Ronda
- Bullard, Barbara
- Burgess, Robert
- Butcher, Margarie
- Carbone, Belle
- Catanuto, Nicholas
- Cavar, Thomas
- Chen De Yearwood, Shouhua
- Clark, Peter
- Clark, Wesley
- Connors, Jerome
- Coppa, Jacqueline
- Corbeil, Arthur
- Cote, Marjorie
- Dembinski, Edward
- Driscoll, David
- Dumas, Robert
- Durso, Rosemary
- Farley, Paul
- Fentress, C Max
- Foisey, Robert
- Fox, Edith
- Fox, Joseph
- Glynn, Carol
- Gonzalez, Ramon
- Goodman, James
- Grischuk, Mary
- Guardo, Joseph
- Hammond, Marie

- Harvin, Sally
- Heller, Donald
- Hogan, James
- Hunt, Edward
- Jackson, Joseph
- Jetmore, Larry
- John, Prudence
- Johnson, Edward
- Jones, David
- Koch, Charles
- Leone, Helen
- Mastronunzio, Edward
- Mclean, Barbara
- Menard, Lilly
- Mercure, Robert
- Moore, Stephanie
- Nastri, Patricia
- Ohara, John
- Ohradan, Mary
- Onofreo, Elizabeth
- Orourke, William
- Provera, Aldo
- Razzaq, Khurshid
- Reid, Pauline
- Ryan, Kathleen
- Ryan, Richard
- Sage, Donald
- Salmon, Hugh
- Salvadori, Arthur
- Scholl, William
- Sewall, Margaret
- Shears, John
- Shipuleski, Henry
- Spera, Dominic
- Steele, Alan
- Stocking, Sydney
- Sylvester, Marta
- Szall, Frances
- Tamulevich, Theodore
- Thiel, Robert
- Tierney, Patrick
- Verrastro, William
- Volle, Robert
- Walsh, Adelyn
- Williams, Elsie



CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's
Public Service Employees & Retirees

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Published Monthly by:

CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION

Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW/CLC

- Stephen Anderson.....President
- Roland Bishop.....Secretary/Treasurer
- David Glidden.....Executive Director
- Drew E. Phelan.....Communications Specialist
- Jason P. Webster.....Graphic/ Technical Assistance

INSERTION DEADLINE: 1st of prior month.

MAILING ADDRESS: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106; PHONES: (860) 951-6614, toll-free: (800) 894-9479, FAX: (860) 951-3526; INTERNET: www.csea-ct.com.

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continued from page 1 secretaries) agreed through their negotiations/contract to accept HSA for their members. A few years back all union groups at Thompson Public Schools got together in an attempt to join the State Partnership Plan but somehow it fizzled at the last minute and went nowhere.

“With the help of our union representative, Adrean Rodriguez reintroduced an effort to join the State Partnership Plan. He arranged for a

representative of the plan to speak to all union presidents, administration and Board of Education members. All agreed that the plan was the way to go due to the plans stability and RICH quality of insurance.

“With all union groups for Thompson Public Schools in agreement the Superintendent and Board of Ed approved joining the State Partnership Plan. Also, Town of Thompson municipal employees are joining in too. We are on track

to offer our members excellent insurance.” The State Partnership Plan represents a win-win opportunity for members and employers to control healthcare costs while pushing against high deductible plans that force members to make decisions between necessary care and food on the table.

This victory is only one of a few that will be highlighted throughout the next few editions of the CSEA News.

State Division

P-4 DOT Members Meet with Senator Blumenthal

Members Speak to the Senator about the American Jobs Plan

On Tuesday, April 13th P-4 DOT members met with Senator Richard Blumenthal to discuss the American Jobs Plan and its impact on the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Specifically members voiced their hopes for this plan to fund critical infrastructure work in Connecticut while empowering state employees and reducing the use of outside consultants to both drive down costs and improve quality.

P-4 President Travis Woodward, Michael Washington, Ned Stratchen, former P-4 President, and Amber Berry, P-4 Steward, attended this small-circle meeting to discuss their unique and personal experiences while working in DOT. They spoke about the need for cost comparison for architectural, engineering and related services on surface transportation projects using federal funding and how a government agency should prepare an estimate of the cost of procuring the services under a private contractor and an estimate of having the services performed by employees of a government agency to

ensure the taxpayers receive safe, high quality transportation services at the best price. It is becoming increasingly more common that states and local departments are spending hundreds of millions of federal dollars on private contractors without competitive bidding and without determining whether these are cost-effective.

They also addressed the disastrous nature of outsourcing mandates or incentives that are an inappropriate use of federal authority that infringes on a state’s ability to choose how best to deliver its transportation program. During

the last authorization, a broad coalition of transportation groups including AASHTO, NASHTU and other public and private sector stakeholders, worked together to block the inclusion of language that would mandate or incentivize the outsourcing of engineering design and inspection design services.

Members also urged the Senator to remember the I-84 project debacle where the Contractor put in roadway drains in the shoulder but did not connect them to the pipes to carry the water. The Consultant inspectors weren’t on site enough to catch such an obvious problem, thus pointing to the need for public employees to carry out the construction inspection functions on

federally-funded surface transportation projects.

And finally members reminded the Senator that increased transportation funding creates jobs and economic competitiveness. According to ASCE’s latest Report Card on America’s Infrastructure, 42% of the nation’s urban highways are congested, costing the economy \$101 billion annually in wasted time and fuel. Adequate transportation funding is critical to job creation and the country’s economic competitiveness.

These points were positively taken into consideration by the Senator and CSEA looks forward to working with his office in the future on these important issues.



PICTURED ABOVE: Members address Senator Blumenthal on the American Jobs Plan in a small group setting via Zoom.

Members Get Vaccinated!

CSEA members have been busy getting their COVID-19 vaccinations across Connecticut, Florida and the rest of the United States to #StoptheSpread!

It’s important to note that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) still strongly

encourages that those vaccinated continue to wear a mask, socially distance and wash your hands frequently until our country reaches herd immunity.

That being said, it is understandable that many of our members have conveyed a sense of celebration and relief after being fully-vaccinated. Folks are even more excited that the CDC has now announced that those fully vaccinated can begin to travel domestically in a

safe and thoughtful manner. Since that announcement we’ve seen our members road-tripping, visiting family after a year apart and making up for many missed holidays. We are so happy to start seeing a glimmer of hope!



PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Carol Vinnick gets her shot at the East Hartford runway; Terrie Thomas gets her shot at the CVS in Bloomfield; Sheila Garvey celebrates getting her second shot; Robert Rinker poses with his “I got the shot” sticker!

TAX DAY RALLY!

The Federal and State Tax Day has been pushed back a month to May 15th due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and the Recovery For All Coalition (please see a description on page 6) has been planning a Tax Day Rally on May 17th to bring attention to Connecticut's regressive tax structure.

Did you know that if you make less than \$53,000 per year, you would pay an effective tax rate that is more than triple that of someone who makes over \$680,000 a year? Join the Recovery For All coalition to push for narrowly focused reforms to restore fairness to the tax code, fund essential services and jumpstart economic recovery while pushing against broad-based tax increases and rises in your property taxes.

More information will be sent out by email - be sure to update your contact at bit.ly/UpdateCSEA



**The Aquaturf Club
256 Mulberry Street
Plantsville, CT 06479**

Biennial Convention

Friday, October 15, 2021

The **80th Biennial Convention of the Connecticut State Employees Association, SEIU Local 2001** will convene on **Friday, October 15, 2021** at the Aquaturf Club in Plantsville, CT.

SAVE THE DATE!

Registration will open at 8:00 am.

The convention will convene promptly at 9:00 am.

- Elect President and Secretary/Treasurer
- Vote on any Constitutional Amendments
- Guest Speakers

CSEA Chapters and Councils should be conducting their elections in the coming months. Please contact your staff representative at (860) 951-6614 for information about chapter/council officer and delegate elections.

The Local 2001 main office must receive the results of your chapter elections not later than Friday, October 1st in order to properly register and furnish credentials for elected delegates. Only elected delegates and elected alternate delegates are eligible to attend.

Any elected delegate who attends the convention will be compensated for travel, parking and any lost wages.

Please mark
Friday, October 15th on your
calendars.
We look forward to seeing
you on Friday, October 15th!

80th
Anniversary
Biennial Convention

Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

Elections for Childcare Council & Regional Childcare Officers

We would like to remind all providers about our Elections for Childcare Council & Regional Childcare Officers that will be held on June 3rd and 5th. To qualify for nomination you must have received Care4Kids

for at least one year and be a union member in good standing. Nominations will be taking place on April 24th, but providers will have until April 23rd to nominate other members for the following positions:

Nos gustaría recordarles a todos los proveedores sobre nuestras elecciones para el Consejo de Cuidado Infantil y los Oficiales Regionales de Cuidado Infantil que se llevarán a cabo el 3 y 5 de junio. Para calificar para la nominación, debe haber recibido Care4Kids durante al

menos un año y estar al día como miembro del sindicato. Las nominaciones se llevarán a cabo el 24 de abril, pero los proveedores tendrán hasta el 23 de abril para nominar a otros miembros para los siguientes puestos: (Puede ver la lista traducida en la sección en inglés)

President & Delegate to CSEA Executive Council | *Presidenta y Delegada de Comité Ejecutivo de CSEA*
 Treasurer | *Tesorero*
 Secretary | *Secretario*
 Delegate to Ex. Council | *Delegado al EC*
 Alt Delegate to Ex. Council | *Alt. Delegado para EC*

Regional

Eastern Regional VP | *VP de la Region Este*
 Regional Lead Organizer | *Organizador Lider Regional*
 Regional Organizer | *Organizador Regional*
 North Central Regional VP | *VP de la Regio Norte Central*
 Regional Lead Organizer | *Organizador Lider Regional*
 Regional Organizer | *Organizador Regional*
 South Central Regional VP | *VP de la Region Central Sur*
 Regional Lead Organizer | *Organizador Lider Regional*
 Regional Organizer | *Organizador Regional*
 Northwest Regional VP | *VP de la Region Noroeste*
 Regional Lead Organizer | *Organizador Lider Regional*
 Regional Organizer | *Organizador Regional*
 Southwest Regional VP | *VP de la Region Sur Oeste*
 Regional Lead Organizer | *Organizador Lider Regional*
 Regional Organizer | *Organizador Regional*

Notice From Gov. Lamont

Last month, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont told reporters that due to the Covid-19 recession, he was going to announce a package of proposals (including \$210 Million in Covid-19 funds) to help women in employment and child care. He also told reporters that “women’s participation in the workforce is at a 30-year low... a lot of that was related to day care... With a 10% unemployment rate, this is an incredibly important time for us to take the lead on child care, day care, paid family and medical leave and education” (Hartford Courant, 2021). All the hard work done by early education leaders seeking for change in child care, culminated in an Early Childhood Advocacy Day on April 14th. Providers had an opportunity to share stories of their

struggle and give Commissioner Beth Bye and Governor Lamont a well-deserved thank you for the support to the industry. Providers also were able to lobby over 50 state legislators and municipal leaders to make sure the funds are truly allocated to early education. Provider Monisha Gibson from Maritime Odyssey Preschool in Norwalk, Gladys Contreras from Shiny Rock Day Care in Stamford, and Cathie Vanicky from Honey Bear Child Care Center from Stratford had the opportunity to express their difficulties and demands. Providers should expect Care 4 Kids parents fees to be eliminated and Care 4 Kids expansion for the next two years for parents who are pursuing an education. Starting next month, providers will also see new grants opening to support their business.

Aviso del Gobernador Lamont

El mes pasado, el gobernador de Connecticut, Ned Lamont, dijo a los periodistas que debido a la recesión de Covid-19, iba a anunciar un paquete de propuestas (incluidos 210 millones de dólares en fondos de Covid-19) para ayudar a las mujeres en el empleo y el cuidado infantil. También dijo a los periodistas que “la participación de las mujeres en la fuerza laboral está en un mínimo de 30 años ... mucho de eso estaba relacionado con el cuidado infantil ... Con una tasa de desempleo del 10%, este es un momento increíblemente importante para que tomemos la iniciativa en materia de cuidado de niños, licencia familiar y médica y educación” (Hartford Courant, 2021). Todo el arduo trabajo realizado por los líderes de educación temprana que buscan un cambio en el cuidado infantil, culminó en un Día de Defensa de la Primera Infancia el 14 de abril. Los proveedores tuvieron la oportunidad de compartir

historias de su lucha y darles a la Comisionada Beth Bye y al Gobernador Lamont un merecido agradecimiento por el apoyo a la industria. Los proveedores también pudieron presionar a más de 50 legisladores estatales y líderes municipales para asegurarse de que los fondos se asignen realmente a la educación temprana. La proveedora Monisha Gibson de Maritime Odyssey Preschool en Norwalk, Gladys Contreras de Shiny Rock Day Care en Stamford y Cathie Vanicky del Honey Bear Child Care Center de Stratford tuvieron la oportunidad de expresar sus dificultades y demandas. Los proveedores deben esperar que se eliminen las tarifas de los padres de Care 4 Kids y que se amplíe Care 4 Kids durante los próximos dos años para los padres que buscan una educación. A partir del próximo mes, los proveedores también verán la apertura de nuevos subsidios para apoyar su negocio.

Open Enrollment Starts

Make Healthcare Elections Starting May 3rd

Active State Employees can now participate in Open Enrollment and make healthcare and dental elections from May 3rd through May 28th. The State of Connecticut has been mailing and emailing you throughout the last few weeks with information about Care Compass, Networks of Distinction, the Health Navigator and new plan options for you and your family.

Utilize these tools to identify the health and dental plans that fits your situation

the best. Don’t hesitate to reach out to your provider’s billing department to discuss these options as it relates to your upcoming year of health and dental appointments and procedures.

Look for the Care Compass logo for virtual events and contact information for questions!

Attention Veterans:

The VA is Now Offering COVID Vaccines to Veterans Caregivers and Spouses

All Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care or currently receive care at the VA as well as designated primary and secondary family caregivers who are enrolled in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (and accompany the Veteran to the

appointment) are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Spouses and surviving spouses of Veterans are also eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine at participating VAs.

Some facilities still have a limited supply of vaccines, but the best way to stay informed is to sign up for a

COVID-19 vaccine at the VA by calling the MyVA411 main information line at 800-698-2411, do not go to a VA health facility to request a vaccine unless you have a previously scheduled appointment or you are invited to the vaccine clinic.

You are encouraged to take the

first vaccine that is available to you, but if the VA has one available to you they will text you from 53079 or email you from a va.gov email address - any other forms of contact will not be used and should be reported if they present themselves as VA healthcare. If you get a vaccine from another provider, pharmacy or local public health officials, please inform the VA so that they can remove you from their vaccination list.

Council 400 Member Becomes Milford-Orange Times Contributor

Ellen Russell-Beatty Wants You to "Ponder This"!

Ellen Russell-Beatty is a Council 400 and Chapter 409 member that has been a pillar in her community for several years. She served seven years as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Southern Connecticut State University, and also served as interim Academic Vice president, Dean of Health & Human Services and Director of Faculty Development.

In addition to the broad perspective and a multitude of skills required of high-level administrators, her areas of special expertise lie in strategic planning, accreditation,

assessment and planning and budgetary allocation.

Ellen's latest column, published in the *Milford-Orange Times*, "A Public Option Would Lower Costs" is printed below in its entirety:

"The report of the Lancet Commission on Public Policy and Health in the United States offers a clear, evidence-based and informative analysis of our health care crisis. As a nation, we are clearly aware of the shortcomings and failures of our system. An opportunity presents itself in the form of a public option mechanism within any health

care reform.

A public option is a cost saver and a critical step toward progress and reform, but the term itself is problematic. Simply described, a public health insurance option means that the government provides a form of health insurance that Americans can purchase.

The first step is to understand that this is a financial model, not a delivery system. By poll, a majority of Americans favor universal health care but disagree about the details. We can be comforted by the strong history of attempts at reform despite the

inability to reach the desired outcome of affordable, high quality,

accessible health care. Many Americans remain fearful of a public option fueled by skepticism of the government despite satisfaction with Medicare and Social Security.

Opponents of a public option have offered and reinforced a narrative that capitalizes on this fear. Much has been written about the obstacles to health care reform, but we now have a pressing need to pause the discussion about our differences, our history and engage in corrective action. The public option would operate in the same manner. The detail in previous reform efforts like the Affordable Care Act that colored the narrative was the requirement that all Americans must carry some form of insurance.

This is actually a tried-and-true mechanism. Think Social Security: all workers contribute (or purchase) retirement insurance. Younger workers participate fully to gain a benefit that will not be used until later in life. The critique that younger workers don't want to participate since they are not using the benefit is a red herring. They certainly will benefit down the road as in all pension, retirement and insurance programs.

By contributing to a public option, the costs are lowered for all and savings increase overtime due to the volume served. Politically motivated discussions have focused on a particular part of the public option design: the enrollment requirement. Advocates initially were seemingly well intended; some of the more strident dialogue came as a

helpful strategy to add volume, contain costs and keep premiums lower over time.

Much has been written about the obstacles. The public option itself is a step toward removing some of the obstacles. It is a start, since good health care is associated with better opportunities for employment and school performance. The Congressional Budget Office indicates that the deficit will decrease significantly over 10 years due to savings accrued from the public option.

Social policy decisions about jobs, education and the economy affect individuals with lower educational attainment and fewer resources, making them more vulnerable to social policy decisions that affect access to health care and other services. The advantages of a public option include the nonprofit status of the government; there is no tax liability. Although not in the forefront of the discussions, the tax liability issue is responsible for much of the opposition from the private insurance industry. In the for-profit system, the tax liability on earned profits is subsidized by the customer via higher premium costs. Ordinarily,

higher premiums are a means to repay investors and absorb the tax liability from earned profits. In a more competitive system, the for-profit insurance industry would have to lower premiums to compete with the public option. The margin of profit would be diminished if competing with a public option system.

The administrative costs are significantly lower with all public payer systems, thus providing another advantage to a public option. Research has determined that Americans have a fundamental bend toward moderation combined with suspicion of government. These attitudes have compromised previous reform efforts, especially when elected officials use attitudinal norms to prevent progress. We need to reframe the discussion so that we can properly address health care reform. The public option is an investment in the public sector for the good of the community. The US must not remain an outlier in health care. Affordable quality health care is not just essential for individuals and families, but an integral component of well-being for our communities."

Correctional Supervisors Council Nominations are Officially closed

(Nominee's listed below)

President

Millie Brown
John McCormack

Executive Vice President

Tara Keaton
Scott Langenheim

Vice President Captain's/C.S.'s

Israel Rodriguez
Julie-Ann Stewart

Vice President Lieutenant's

Stephen Cross

Treasurer

Beverly Lee

Secretary

Tawanda Kitt

Chief Steward

Dan Melton
Brandon McCloud

ELECTIONS FOR CONTESTED POSITIONS, ONLY, WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021 @ THE UNION OFFICE/HALL 10:00 A.M. THRU 7:00 P.M.



PICTURED ABOVE: Council 400 member and Milford-Orange Times columnist, Ellen Russell-Beatty.

Fights for Racial Justice

Julius Preston Testifies in Support of HB 6662: An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis & Establishing a Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health

Julius Preston, Staff Representative and former CSC President recently testified on HB 6662: An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing a Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health. Below is an excerpt of his testimony.

"I am here now to further show our support for this bill as well as any other bill seeking to eradicate racism on any level.

Let me begin with defining racism. Webster defines racism as:

1. a belief that race is a fundamental determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race also : behavior or attitudes that reflect and foster this belief : racial discrimination or prejudice
2. the systemic oppression of a racial group to the social, economic, and political advantage of another

In respect to racism being a public health crisis we would look no further than the current pandemic we are in.

Black and Latino residents experience higher rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths, because they are more likely to work in "essential" frontline jobs, live in more crowded housing and suffer from health conditions that can make COVID-19 infection more deadly.

Treating people differently based on race has morbid consequences and we've learned that COVID-19 didn't care about race.

This makes me think of something the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said. Martin Luther King said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Many people know that quote however the rest of the quote is more representative of what the bill is trying to achieve.

He continued with: We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

Also what shouldn't be missed in this discussion is the impact racism has on the mental health of black and brown people and even recently with our brothers and sisters of asian decent.

Dealing with racism as a black, brown, Asian person has a significant impact on our psyche. It's similar to PTSD because we are always dealing with issues that our white counterparts rarely have to in particular having difficult discussion with our kids about race.

Lastly: I again want to express wholeheartedly support for this bill HB 6662 An Act Declaring Racism as A Public Health Crisis and Establishing a



PICTURED ABOVE: Julius Preston testifies in front of the Appropriations Committee in support of HB 6662.

Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health.

But I also want to encourage more bills like this that address racial equity. As a member of the racial justice committee of SEBAC we have been continually advocating to the governors office the need to address systemic racism in state government and much like the current bill we are looking for an Inspector General type to oversee its implementation to ensure the eradication of racism everywhere in

the work force.

Too many times we've seen appointments made to committees that affect state and municipal government that continue the status quo and offers no diversity.

Much like the diversity that is exuded in the Appropriations Committee we the racial justice committee of SEBAC want to see your lead followed to ensure that State and Municipal government looks like all the people they represent."

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