

## CSEA Endorses in 72 Races Across Connecticut

This year we have a lot of seats up for election - every single seat in the General Assembly - Senate and House - plus all five Congressional seats and one federal Senate seat as well as the following statewide offices: Governor, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, and Secretary of State.

With so many seats up for grabs, and so much at stake, it is more important than ever to ensure that we elect pro-worker candidates who share our union values.

Please review the list of endorsed candidates on page 4 and don't forget to get out and vote!!

With so many seats up for

*continue onto page 4*

## 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Biennial Convention

On October 14th, CSEA held our 81st Anniversary Biennial Convention at the Aquaturf in Plantsville - the first in-person convention held since 2018!

With over 200 delegates and alternates in attendance, we re-elected Travis Woodward as President and elected Beverly Lee as our Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation. A constitutional amendment was also passed during the convention which would make a slight change to the McCusker

scholarship bylaws, allowing additional scholarships to be awarded to the children/grandchildren of Council 400 members if funds are available.

Attendees also heard from several candidates up for election on November 8th including Governor Ned Lamont, Attorney General William Tong, Congressman John Larson and several State Senate and State Representative candidates.

CSEA also honored

former President and current Senate Co-Chair of Appropriations, Senator Cathy Osten with the President's Award for her long-time service and advocacy fighting for the lives of not only CSEA members, but all Connecticut residents.

Thank you to all of the delegates and alternates who participated and the support staff who made the event possible.

*turn to page 4 for more pictures of the event*

## \$70 Million in Bonuses for Childcare Providers

### CSEA Members Fight for More

This month, Governor Lamont announced the release of \$70 million for childcare providers in the form of \$1,000 "appreciation bonus payments" under a new initiative known as "Wage Supports for Early Childhood Educators", in the hopes of addressing the childcare crisis.

Childcare leaders and members from CSEA fought for these bonuses during the last legislative session to help stabilize the industry where nearly 30% of providers have left for higher paying jobs in the last three years. This exodus in providers comes as no surprise since providers make an effective average wage of just \$8.50/hour.

And while CSEA members were happy to hear that full-time providers will be given \$1,000

and part-time workers will receive \$400, it's wrong that unlicensed providers were not included and much more is needed to stabilize this industry and address the growing childcare crisis families are facing.

Former CSEA President and current Senate Co-Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Cathy Osten, spoke with Keith Phanuef of the *CT Mirror* to voice her concern over the impact a one-time bonus will have on this critical infrastructure, "I don't know what one-time payments do," Osten said. "They don't provide long-term change, and that's what we're looking for."

Osten went on further to question whether bonuses are what the full House and Senate envisioned when they approved \$70 million for "wage support" as part

of the \$24.2 billion state budget adopted last May. She explained that they had wanted to boost weekly compensation for childcare providers in hopes of keeping providers in the industry.

There is no question that the childcare industry is critical to the state's economic health and CSEA members will continue to fight for the childcare industry to be treated and respected as the critical infrastructure it is for Connecticut. Through on-going contract negotiations and legislative pushes, CSEA members will continue to fight for providers, parents and children.

Visit our union's website at: [CSEA-CT.com](http://CSEA-CT.com)



ABOVE: Convention Delegates and Alternates attend the 81st Anniversary Biennial Convention.



ABOVE: Childcare President Katherine Lantigua (left) introduced Governor Lamont (middle) along with Travis Woodward (right).

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



**Meetings  
And News**

**MEETING DATES**

**The Council 400 Delegates Meeting is always held on the third Thursday of the month.**

**The November Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, November 17th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall**

Chapter 401 (Hartford area):  
\*Winter Holiday Luncheon\*  
Thursday, December 1st - Social 11am & Luncheon at 12pm  
USS Chowder Pot IV - 165 Brainard Rd., Hartford  
Live Entertainment - Linda Ransom & Keith Cooper!  
Prime Rib, Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Chicken Parm, or Vegetarian option  
Includes salad, vegetables, warm bread, cheesecake and coffee and tea  
RSVP Deadline: November 25th  
Checks should be made out to "CSEA Chapter 401" and mailed to:  
Sharon D Mounds at 53-C Brookwood Drive Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
For more information contact Sharon: (860) 529-9885 (leave a message)

Chapter 402 (Danbury area):  
Wednesday, November 9th - 10am  
Guest Speaker: Cigna Dental Representative  
United Methodist Church  
5 Clapboard Ridge Rd. Danbury  
Linda Albanese: (860) 354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area):  
\*Date Moved - Due to Election Day!  
Tuesday, November 1st - 1:30pm  
Guest Speaker: Robert Rinker,  
CSEA Council 400 Vice President East  
Rose City Senior Center  
8 Mahan Drive., Norwich  
Carol Burgess: (860) 859-3641

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area):  
Tuesday, November 8th - 10am  
Trinity Orthodox Church  
937 Chase Parkway, Waterbury  
John Quinn: (203) 804-0189

Chapter 405 (New Haven area):  
Thursday, November 10th - 10:30am  
Hamden Government Center (3rd Floor)  
2750 Dixwell Ave, Hamden  
Ron Osokow: (203) 671-7685

Chapter 406 (Middletown area):  
Tuesday, November 15th - 1pm  
American Legion Post 75  
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr., Middletown  
Joe Formica: (860) 347-4532

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area):  
Wednesday, November 16th - 1pm  
St. Josephs of Stratford National Catholic Church  
1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford (on Rt. 113)  
Kevin Sullivan: (860) 951-6614 x 118

Chapter 408 (Willimantic area):  
Thursday, November 10th - 12:30pm  
Guest Speaker: Angela Fournier,  
Director of the Windham Senior Center  
Mansfield Senior Center  
303 Maple Ave. Mansfield  
Doug Racicot: (860) 234-2537

Chapter 409 (State University Professors)  
Friday, November 18th - 10am  
CSEA Union Hall & via Zoom  
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford  
Dave Walsh: (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor Locks area):  
Monday, November 14th - 1pm  
Suffield Senior Center  
145 Bridge St., Suffield  
Guest Speaker: Bernadette Conway,  
Director of Retiree Services at CSEA  
Amelia Smith: (860) 687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area):  
We will be having a Holiday Luncheon at Elaine's in December,  
information will be posted here and sent by email.  
Subby Puglisi: (860) 836-4009

Chapter 412 (Putnam area):  
Tuesday, November 15th - 1:30pm  
Guest Speaker: Cigna Dental Representative  
Putnam Town Hall - 2nd Floor  
200 School St., Putnam  
Don Gladding: (860) 933-9998

Chapter 414 (Torrington area):  
Monday, November 21st - 10am  
Cooperative Extension Service Building,  
843 University Dr, Torrington, CT 06790  
Karen Pineman: (860) 354-6727

Chapter 415 (Manchester area):  
Monday, November 28th - 1pm  
Elks Lodge  
30 Bissell St., Manchester, CT  
Stuart Clark: (860) 205-0657 (c)  
(860) 454-4818 (h)

Chapter 416 (New London area):  
Tuesday, November 15th - 12pm  
Groton Public Library  
52 Newtown Rd., Groton  
John Knaff (860) 857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area):  
Wednesday, November 9th - 1pm  
Plainville Public Library - Auditorium  
56 East Main St., Plainville  
Mark Kirschner: (860) 882-2717

Chapter 418 (Community College Retirees):  
Tuesday, November 1st - 10am  
Guest Speaker: Ted Doolittle,  
Healthcare Advocate for the State of CT  
4C's Union Hall  
907 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford  
Bill Searle (860) 745-3692

Chapter 421 (Daytona Florida Chapter)  
\*Social Gathering\*  
Wednesday, November 2nd 12pm  
Red Lobster 3162 South Atlantic Ave,  
Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118  
Ruth Finizio (860) 680-1860

**December Quarterly Virtual Meeting  
Aetna & Comptroller's Office**

<p>The next Quarterly Virtual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14th at 4pm. We will be discussing the upcoming transition to Aetna Medicare Advantage plan for retirees age 65 and over. Please view the information below:</p>	<p><b>Quarterly Virtual Meeting Wednesday, December 14th at 4:00PM</b></p> <p><b>Speakers: Rae-Ellen Roy, Assistant Director of Policy and Benefits Division of the Comptroller's Office, &amp; Kristin Grose, Aetna Representative.</b></p>	<p>If you have email you will receive a Zoom link to the virtual meeting but you can call into the meeting at: <b>1-929-205-6099 and enter Meeting ID: 838 68018842</b></p>
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**Important numbers to have on hand:**

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528	Aetna Customer Service: 1-855-648-0391
Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537	UnitedHealthcare Dedicated Hearing Aid line: 1-855-523-8355
Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533	UnitedHealthcare: 1-888-803-9217
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: 1-800-922-2232	Caremark: 1-800-318-2572
CSEA Retiree Organizer, Kevin Sullivan: 860-951-6614 x118	Cigna: 1-800-244-6224
	HEP Care Management Solutions: 1-877-687-1448 or visit them at their portal: <a href="https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx">https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx</a>

Visit Our Website: [www.CSECreditUnion.com](http://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](http://www.CSECreditUnion.com)

**Closed Veterans Day November 11th**  
**Closed Thanksgiving Day November 24th**

**Dividend Rates - Third Quarter 2022**

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	1.01%	1.00%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	0.25%	0.25%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	0.50%	0.50%

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**

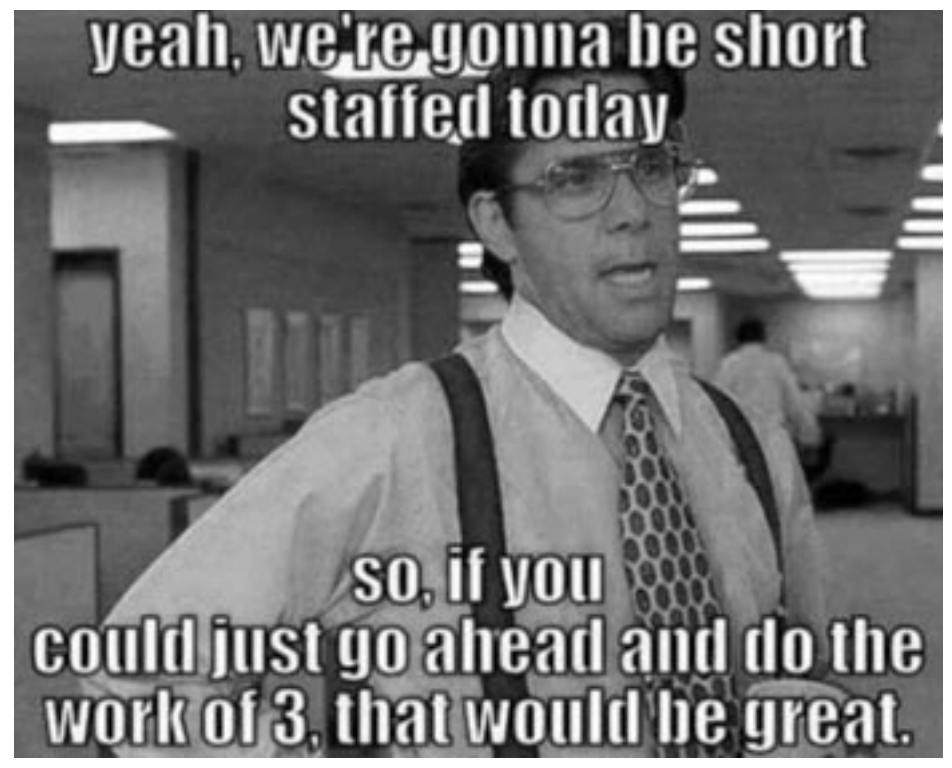
<b>NORWICH</b> Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich, CT 06306 (860) 889-7378	<b>HARTFORD</b> 84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 522-5388 (Savings) (860) 522-7147 (Loans)	<b>NEW HAVEN</b> 1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 (203) 397-2949
<b>MIDDLETOWN</b> Connecticut Valley Hospital P.O. Box 2485 Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 347-0479	<b>STORRS</b> 1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 (860) 429-9306	<b>SOUTHBURY</b> Southbury Training School P.O. Box 644 Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 267-7610
		<b>NEWINGTON</b> 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, 8:30am-4pm; Paydays Open Until 5pm

**Gone too 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.

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Alves, Debra       | Lin, Jia Ding        |
| Bates, Richard     | Lopes, Susan         |
| Bernier, Rachel    | Maher, William       |
| Breen, Paul        | Mccutcheon, Kathleen |
| Brown, James       | Nottage, Robert      |
| Carr, Kathleen     | Pelletier, Constance |
| Castro, Constance  | Pepin, Anna          |
| Collins, Gabrielle | Petraffassi, Anthony |
| Comp, Patricia     | Presnick, Barbara    |
| Dicapua, Rita      | Presutti, Robert     |
| Dignoti, Sebastian | Puorro, Donald       |
| Dimaria, Liborio   | Reilly, Joanne       |
| Fabian, Helene     | Ryan, Mildred        |
| Fagan, John        | Sajdak, Raymond      |
| Farkas, Roger      | Senich, James        |
| French, Adela      | Seymour, Harold      |
| Garrett, Toni      | Shashok, Karen       |
| Glasser, Joseph    | Sherwin, Helene      |
| Griffith, Birney   | Silva, Aline         |
| Habib, Amiral      | Szafranski, Thomas   |
| Hassett, Jean      | Thompson, Bruce      |
| Kibel, Robert      | Tonucci, Vincent     |
| Knight, Lorenzo    | White, Martin        |
| Lagasse, Glenn     | Young, Debra         |
| Lavin, John        | Zilber, Harry        |



**CSEA NEWS**

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Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW/CLC

- |                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Travis Woodward  | .....President                     |
| Beverly Lee      | .....Secretary/Treasurer           |
| David Glidden    | .....Executive Director            |
| Drew E. Stoner   | .....Communication 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](http://www.csea-ct.com).

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# 81st Anniversary Convention



ABOVE: Queen Freelove and Tom Connolly accept their awards from Travis Woodward.



ABOVE: Senator Cathy Osten accepts the President's Award.



ABOVE: Beverly Lee, our new Secretary/Treasurer and re-elected Travis Woodward, our President.

## Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th

*Get to Know the CSEA Slate of Endorsed Candidates*

CANDIDATE	OFFICE	DISTRICT
Ned Lamont	Governor	Statewide Office
Susan Bysiewicz	Lt. Governor	Statewide Office
Richard Blumenthal	US Senator	Statewide Office
John Larson	US House	1
Joe Courtney	US House	2
Rosa DeLauro	US House	3
Jim Himes	US House	4
Jahana Hayes	US House	5
William Tong	Attorney General	Statewide Office
Sean Scanlon	Comptroller	Statewide Office
Erick Russell	Treasurer	Statewide Office
Matt Ritter	Representative	1
Maryam Khan	Representative	5
Jason Rojas	Representative	9
Erica Evans	Representative	14
Kate Farrar	Representative	20
Peter Tercyak	Representative	26
Gary Turco	Representative	27
Amy Morrin Bello	Representative	28
Brandon Chafee	Representative	33
Christine Palm	Representative	36
Nicholas Menapace	Representative	37
Nick Gauthier	Representative	38
Christine Conley	Representative	40
Aundre Bumgardner	Representative	41
Ashley Gillece	Representative	43
Christopher Rivers	Representative	48
Kenneth James Trice	Representative	53
Kevin Brown	Representative	56
Jaime Foster	Representative	57
Matt Despard	Representative	59
Jane Garibay	Representative	60
Maria Horn	Representative	64
Ronald Napoli	Representative	73
Andrew Rasmussen-Tuller	Representative	77
Mary Fortier	Representative	79

CANDIDATE	OFFICE	DISTRICT
Josh Elliott	Representative	88
Rebecca Hyland	Representative	90
Pat Dillon	Representative	92
Quentin "Q" Williams	Representative	100
Robin Comey	Representative	102
Kara Rochelle	Representative	104
Phoebe Jennine Holmes	Representative	107
Farley Santos	Representative	109
Bob Godfrey	Representative	110
Frank Smith	Representative	118
Mike Smith	Representative	119
Philip Young	Representative	120
Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox	Representative	123
Jack Hennessey	Representative	127
Jennifer Leeper	Representative	132
Cristin McCarthy Vahey	Representative	133
Sarah Keitt	Representative	134
Kenneth Gucker	Representative	138
Dominique Johnson	Representative	143
Corey Paris	Representative	145
Saud Anwar	Senator	3
MD Rahman	Senator	4
Rick Lopes	Senator	6
Cynthia Mangini	Senator	7
Matt Lesser	Senator	9
Martin Looney	Senator	11
Jan Hochadel	Senator	13
Christopher Robertson	Senator	16
Jorge Cabrera	Senator	17
Catherine Osten	Senator	19
Martha Marx	Senator	20
Christopher Green	Senator	21
Julie Kushner	Senator	24
Bob Duff	Senator	25
Eva Bermúdez Zimmerman	Senator	30
Greg Hahn	Senator	31
Lisa Thomas	Senator	35

# Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil



Child care Providers enjoying the speaking program at the Convention!  
¡Proveedores de cuidado infantil disfrutando del programa de oratoria en la Convención!



On September 29th, our former Childcare President, Queen Frelove, was surprised with a Retirement Party. Ms. Frelove has served the union for 17 years and was a pioneer in forming this council, among other child care providers. Her leadership and dedication to this union has earned her the respect of not only child care providers and OEC, but also of other community organizations and leaders.

Además, el 29 de septiembre, nuestra ex Presidenta de Childcare, Queen Frelove, fue sorprendida con una Fiesta de Jubilación. La Sra. Frelove ha servido al sindicato durante 17 años y fue pionera en la formación de este concilio, entre otros proveedores de cuidado infantil. Su liderazgo y dedicación a este sindicato le han valido el respeto no solo de los proveedores de cuidado infantil y OEC, sino también de otras organizaciones y líderes comunitarios.

## Get to Know Your Leaders Conozca A Sus Líderes

### Queen Frelove

Ms. Frelove, former Childcare President, is a licensed child care provider and the owner of Babe's Daycare, where she has been serving the children and families of New Haven for the past 31 years. She currently serves as the Delegate to the Executive Council, where she is able to represent child care providers at the CSEA Biennial Convention, and other childcare related events. She is also a member of the Negotiations and By-Laws Revision Committees. Ms. Frelove's leadership has made a significant impact in bargaining wins. Words from Ms. Frelove: "I am the seventh child out of ten. I am a grandparent, a step-parent, an adoptive parent, and a god-mother. So, it only makes sense that I am in this role of who I am today."

Fun Fact: Ms. Frelove has creative cooking skills. She can make a meal out of nothing and she considers herself a damn good cook.

La Sra. Frelove, ex presidenta de Childcare, es una proveedora de cuidado infantil con licencia y la propietaria de Babe's Daycare, donde ha estado sirviendo a los niños y las familias de New Haven durante los últimos 31 años. Actualmente se desempeña como Delegada del Concilio Ejecutivo, donde puede representar a los proveedores de cuidado infantil en la Convención Bienal de CSEA y otros eventos relacionados con el cuidado infantil. También es miembro de los Comités de Negociaciones y Revisión de Estatutos. El liderazgo de la Sra. Frelove ha tenido un impacto significativo en las negociaciones ganadoras. Palabras de la Sra. Frelove: "Soy la séptima hija de diez. Soy abuela, madrastra, madre adoptiva y madrina. Entonces, tiene sentido que esté en este papel de quien soy hoy".

Dato curioso: La Sra. Frelove tiene habilidades culinarias creativas. Puede hacer una comida de la nada y se considera una muy buena cocinera.



We would like to thank all the providers who were able to attend our CSEA Biennial Convention that took place at The Aquaturf Club in Plantsville on October 14th, 2022. Providers in attendance were elected Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Executive Council. The following took an Oath of Office at the convention: Travis Woodward as SEIU CSEA Local 2001 President, Katherine Lantigua as CSEA Childcare Council President, Jacqueline Ulloa as McCusker Scholarship Rep. and Queen Frelove as Delegate to the Executive Council. We are very proud of your leadership!

Nos gustaría agradecer a todas las proveedoras que pudieron asistir a nuestra Convención Bienal de CSEA que tuvo lugar en The Aquaturf Club en Plantsville el 14 de octubre de 2022. Las proveedoras que asistieron fueron electas Delegadas y Delegadas Suplentes para el Concilio Ejecutivo. Los siguientes hicieron un juramento en la convención: Travis Woodward como presidente de SEIU CSEA Local 2001, Katherine Lantigua como presidenta del concilio de cuidado infantil de CSEA, Jacqueline Ulloa como representante de Becas McCusker y Queen Frelove como delegada del concilio ejecutivo. ¡Estamos muy orgullosos de su liderazgo!

## Reminders / Recordatorio

If you would like to form part of our Negotiations, By-Laws Revision and/or Events Committee, please contact your Childcare Organizer Steffi Martinez to sign up at 203-206-6341 or [smartinez@csea760.com](mailto:smartinez@csea760.com).

Si desea formar parte de nuestro Comité de Negociaciones, Revisión de Estatutos y/o Eventos, comuníquese con su Organizadora de Cuidado Infantil Steffi Martinez para registrarse al 203-206-6341 o [smartinez@csea760.com](mailto:smartinez@csea760.com).

### EVENTS 2022

11/12 – Childcare Council Statewide Meeting -Via Zoom at 9:30-11:00 AM:

<https://zoom.us/j/99516066474>  
Reunión estatal del Consejo de Cuidado Infantil -Vía Zoom de 9:30 a. m. a 11:00 a. m.:

<https://zoom.us/j/99516066474>  
11/28 – SEIU & OEC Labor Management Meeting at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Link to follow.

Reunión de gestión laboral de SEIU y OEC a las 6:00 p. m. a través de Zoom. Enlace a seguir.

12/3 – \*TENTATIVE DATE\* Holiday Party -more information to follow.

\*FECHA TENTATIVA\* Fiesta navideña: Más información próximamente.

# Scam Email Sent to State Employees Work Email Addresses

On October 24th, some state members received an email that was designed to look like an official communication from the Comptroller/ Department of Administrative Services about retirement planning, but it was from a private company trying to sell annuities.

The email reads:

*As a valued employee of the Connecticut State Government, you are eligible to receive a free, one-on-one consultation for answers to*

*your retirement benefit questions.*

*As part of this consultation you will be provided with complimentary information that will help you figure out:*

- Your expected income when you retire
  - How much longer you will have to work
  - How you can save more money for retirement
  - Which options have guaranteed income when you retire
- Daytime appointments are going fast. If you'd like to secure your spot, click the link*

below.”

The Comptroller has since put out an alert to employees explaining that this email was not an official communication, but please remain vigilant with emails, especially those that come from an external source and ask you to click on a link or provide personal information.



RIGHT: As Connecticut gets colder by the day, Council 400 Chapter 422 held their Fall Picnic at the Cross Florida Greenway in Ocala, FL. with beautiful warm weather!

## Is your Spouse a Member of Council 400?

The size of our membership is an important way that CSEA Council 400 demonstrates our power, our voice and our strength—and for 2022 we've set out to drastically increase our membership numbers ahead of the gubernatorial election 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—your benefits, their benefits.

If your spouse isn't yet a member, contact our Retiree Organizer, Kevin Sullivan at [Ksullivan@csea760.com](mailto:Ksullivan@csea760.com) or 860-951-6614 x 118 to get them signed up!

# What "Freedom Foundation" Says & What They Mean

## Let's compare

When They Say:	They Mean:
 "Give yourself a raise"	 "It makes little sense to promote a pay raise for state employees who are satisfied enough with their jobs that 90% of them choose to remain employed by the state," Amber Gunn, Freedom Foundation Blog.
 "Leaving your union won't jeopardize your pensions"	 "Everything should be on the table... states should consider replacing their defined-benefit plans with defined-contribution 401(k) plans," Bob Williams, founder of the "Freedom" Foundation.
 "Your healthcare is safe even if you leave your union"	 "It's about time state worker health insurance premiums were on the table. The Evergreen Freedom Foundation has long recommended that state workers pay a bigger share..." Freedom Foundation Official Blog.
 "Your job will be protected without your union"	 "The state and taxpayers would be better off competitively contracting (out) jobs that already exist within the private sector," Amber Gun, Freedom Foundation Blog

## Hartford School Crossing Guard Meeting Notice

Tuesday, December 13th at 10:00AM at the CSEA SEIU Local 2001 Union Hall  
(760 Capitol Avenue, Hartford)

Agenda: Nominations and Elections of Officers and Negotiation Team Members

Contacts: Rosa Salto (Rsalto@csea760.com) and Julius Preston (JPreston@csea760.com)

## Update on Pandemic Pay Negotiations Between SEBAC & the State

CSEA and SEBAC leadership continue to advocate for pandemic hero pay that will recognize our state members' sacrifices throughout COVID-19.

After months of negotiations, coalition

leaders have opted to enter into arbitration to ensure that front-line essential state workers who sacrificed their health and safety throughout COVID-19 receive a fair and honorable pandemic pay award. Our arbitration date is set for December 14th with Susan Meredith as the

chosen arbitrator.

All frontline workers, public and private, deserve recognition of the sacrifices they and their families made to keep Connecticut running during the height of the pandemic. CSEA and SEBAC leadership believe the arbitration is a necessary step toward achieving a just and fair settlement for our members.

## Aetna Transition Update for State Medicare Advantage Program

By now all state retirees should have received a letter from the Office of the State Comptroller stating that anyone age 65 and over (i.e Medicare eligible) will be transitioning to the Aetna Medicare Advantage plan effective January 1, 2023. This means that those currently enrolled in the UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plan will be transitioning to Aetna at that time. CSEA leaders are working hard to assure that the transition goes smoothly. It is important to remember that coverage and benefits remain the same - it is only the insurance carrier that will change.

What exactly does that mean? Do I need to do anything?

The only thing you will have to do is provide your new Aetna

Medicare Advantage Card to your physicians and pharmacy. Your prescriptions and any procedures or surgeries you have scheduled should transfer right over and your physicians should not need to provide a new prescription or any additional prior authorizations. You will receive your new card in December. You do not need to request this new Aetna card; it will automatically be sent.

The Comptroller's letter provided a customer service phone number for Aetna, that you can call in advance if you have any specific questions. That phone number is 1-855-648-0391 Monday through Friday 8AM-9PM, or you can visit [www.CT.AetnaMedicare.com](http://www.CT.AetnaMedicare.com) to learn more. The letter from Aetna also pro-

vided information about opting out of this plan. It is a federal requirement from Medicare that you receive information on how to opt out. **CSEA STRONGLY URGES THAT YOU DO NOT OPT OUT OF THE PLAN! THIS IS THE SAME COVERAGE THAT YOU HAVE NOW, JUST A DIFFERENT CARRIER.** You've worked hard in your state career to achieve these retiree health benefits and you should not give those benefits up!

It is important to clarify that opting out does not allow you to stay with United because United will no longer administer our plan - instead, opting out means that you are giving up your state-provided health coverage altogether. As such, if you opt out you would need to wait another

year to rejoin the plan, and in that period of time you will not have the same coverage you have now. Any other plan you choose would be inferior to your state retiree health insurance plan and MORE COSTLY.

CSEA will be hosting a virtual quarterly meeting in December with an Aetna Representative to review the information you will need for a smooth transition. Please see meeting details on Page 2.

Again, as with the last transition in 2018 to the UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plan, we will be here to help you with any issues you may have and will provide you with any information you need to have!

## Part B Reimbursement for State Retirees

As every retiree is aware, you will soon receive information from Social Security regarding what you will be paying in 2023 for your Part B (and Part D if applicable). The standard amount for Medicare Part B will be announced soon for 2023.

If you pay the basic amount for Part B, you will not have to do anything, your Part B reimbursement will be automatically reimbursed in your pension check.

If you pay a higher amount than the basic for Part B (or if you pay for Part D), you will need to submit that information, as you have done in the past. **HOWEVER**, the process for reimbursement is going to be different this year. Of course, we all know that UnitedHealthcare will no longer be the insurance provider for state retirees, and they were processing the Part B reimbursements. Because your provider is now switching to Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan beginning

January 1st, 2023, they will now be processing the Part B submissions. We do not have the address to send it to yet, but as soon as the Comptroller's Office provides that information we will get it out to you immediately. So be patient in the meantime, and you will be notified through the *CSEA News*, emails from us, and of course the Comptroller's Office will send you the information by mail.

### MEDICARE OPEN-ENROLLMENT PERIOD CAN BE CONFUSING!

The time is here for non-State retirees of Medicare age to make changes to their Medicare plans. Everyone is receiving mailers and phone calls, and the TV commercials are constant.

**REMEMBER, AS A STATE RETIREE, YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING DURING MEDICARE ENROLLMENT PERIOD.** Only non-state

retirees enroll in plans at this time. You should ignore any calls and the commercials, but you do need to be aware that you will be receiving your new AETNA Medicare Advantage card in the mail in December. If there is a State of Connecticut Comptroller's Office address or insignia, you need to open that mail! If the mail is not from the State of Connecticut Comptroller's Office you can throw it out.

Also, do not be confused by notifications you receive from Aetna that may have information about "opting out" of this plan. **WE URGE YOU NOT TO OPT OUT OF YOUR STATE RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN.** This information is a federal requirement by Medicare to have this information in communications, but State Retirees will not find a better plan than this plan, so **DO NOT OPT OUT OF THE PLAN!**

# State Partnership Plan Rebate Checks

*Providers of Distinction Program Rebate Checks Arriving in Coming Weeks*

In the coming weeks, rebate checks will be issued to members in the State Partnership Plan who have chosen to receive care from certain high-quality providers. This is part of the Centers of Excellence and Provider of Distinction programs created by the SEBAC 2017 agreement.

Under the program, the state of Connecticut has identified specific doctors, hospitals, and provider groups that meet the highest patient care standards. These providers are designated as "Providers of Distinction." Members who use Providers of Distinction for certain services are eligible for rebate checks, which generally range between \$150-\$1,000.

To become a Provider of Distinction, they must meet strict requirements for quality of care including low incidents of complications, readmissions and duplicate procedures. Providers of Distinction members are scored by calculating the rate and severity of adverse events by procedure. To earn the Provider of Distinction designation, providers must have lower-than-average adverse events. In order to participate, eligible providers must commit to maintaining or improving their quality performance and efficiency in providing care for specific procedures.

Maternity care has its own unique set of quality measures that includes appropriateness of care,

gaps in care and the successful outcome of procedures and delivery.

There have been over 180 providers designated as a Provider of Distinction across Connecticut and when you visit a Provider of Distinction for certain procedures you automatically receive a cash incentive in the form of a rebate check. You can use the lookup tool to find a provider near you and review the complete list of available incentives by procedure on the Care Compass website ([CareCompass.ct.gov](http://CareCompass.ct.gov)). You can also contact Care Compass to speak to a personal Health Navigator with any questions you might have at (866) 611-8005.

## Go Green!

*Opt-In to our Digital CSEA News*

Did you know that the average person in the US uses more than 700 pounds of paper per year? Or that despite global digitalization, paper usage has actually grown 126% in the last 20 years in the US?

The CSEA News has been an integral part of our communications program for decades, but it is 2022 and we have a host of resources to reduce our carbon footprint and "Go Green." The most effective way for our members to "Go Green" is to request that the CSEA News be sent digitally rather than a hardcopy in the mail!

"Going Green" not only helps decrease the amount of paper waste in our landfills, but it also reduces ink waste and the carbon emissions from delivery. Many of our CSEA members have been interested in decreasing their carbon footprint and opting into the

digital E-Newsletter is a great way to take a small step towards a greener future! Every month you will receive this digital paper in your email inbox - all of the same information, just a lot less waste! To opt into the Go Green E-Newsletter, simply visit [bit.ly/GoGreenCSEA](http://bit.ly/GoGreenCSEA) and fill out the form.

To make your communications experience even easier, we've launched a BRAND NEW WEBSITE! Visit [CSEA-CT.com](http://CSEA-CT.com) or [SEIU2001.org](http://SEIU2001.org) and let us know what you think - give us feedback on what you like, don't like and what you want improved by visiting [bit.ly/CSEAWebSiteInput](http://bit.ly/CSEAWebSiteInput) (case sensitive).

If CSEA has your email address, then you've already received this survey in your inbox, but if we don't then it is also a good opportunity for you to update your contact information by visiting [bit.ly/UpdateCSEA](http://bit.ly/UpdateCSEA) (case sensitive).

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