

### Home-Based Childcare Providers Vote Overwhelmingly to Join CSEA

CSEA is thrilled to welcome more than 4000 home-based childcare providers to our Union. On December 20, they voted overwhelmingly to join with CSEA for future talks with the state over improving the early learning services they deliver.

The home-based childcare providers are an important part of our state's early childhood education program, helping kids prepare for school so they can arrive ready to learn. This is especially important for low-income communities, where children are at greater risk of falling behind. There is a high demand for these types of services and too few providers serving families across Connecticut. "Standing together, child care providers will have a strong voice for the things we need to provide quality care," said Queen Frelove, a 20-year provider of day and after-school care in New Haven. "In this economy, parents are working longer hours to support their families and relying on child care providers for things like homework help after school. Parents and children will both benefit when we can talk to the state about improving the program," Frelove said.

(Continued on page 4)

### Important Information About CT State Retiree Prescription Drug Benefits for Medicare Eligible Members

You should have received information from the State of Connecticut Comptroller's office regarding your prescription drug coverage. 'SilverScript' is the name to identify the State's prescription drug plan for those members who are Medicare eligible. You will be required to use this new identification card for your prescriptions effective January 1, 2012. CVS Caremark remains the prescription drug manager for the State drug plan.

Your State of Connecticut prescription drug plan has NOT changed. You can still get the same medications you have, at the same pharmacies (including smaller independent ones and large ones like Walgreen's), and the same co-pays you have been paying. Each Medicare eligible member will each be receiving his/her own new SilverScript card with their own Medicare number.

(Continued on page 4)

### CSEA's 2012 Legislative Agenda

2011 was a tough year for public employees in Connecticut, and throughout the nation. It was the year that attacking public employees became a blood sport. Throughout it all and up against well financed and ideological foes, CSEA members continued to fight for what they have earned.

A strong and vibrant middle class is at the heart of what makes our state and nation great. It's time to put middle class families first as we confront the challenges facing Connecticut. With that in mind, CSEA's 2012 legislative agenda; developed in consultation with members from across the Union, approved by the Legislative Action Committee, and passed by the Executive Council is a reflection of the battles that we must engage in and the aspirations we must pursue in the coming year.

(Continued on page 3)

Look for the arrows symbol ►► for more "Actions...In Brief"

### State Workers Feed the Hungry for Thanksgiving



**CSEA Volunteers are Joined by Legislators to Feed The Hungry**

In late November, area advocacy organizations received over 200 complete holiday meal packages through an annual effort organized by the members of our P-4 Council's "Good Works" Committee. For the 20th consecutive year, the "Rosario 'Tony' Ferraro Memorial Thanksgiving Drive" helped bring a turkey dinner and all the trimmings to hungry Connecticut families for the holiday.

Joining members of our P-4 and CSC Councils to assemble and distribute meal packages were several state and local officials. US Senator Richard Blumenthal, US Congressman John Larson, CT Attorney General George Jepsen, CT Comptroller Kevin Lembo, and a half dozen legislators worked the "turkey drive" assembly line alongside 20 volunteers from our Union.

Members raised funds to donate the turkey dinners to advocacy groups, including Food Share of Bloomfield, the Hartford Community Partnership, and Hopewell Baptist Church of Windsor.

The holidays are an especially difficult time for anyone hit hard by the economic downturn. Our members are to be commended for donating time and money to make Thanksgiving a little brighter for their neighbors who are struggling to feed their families.

Visit our Union's website at [www.csea-ct.com](http://www.csea-ct.com)

Postmaster: Please forward address changes to:

CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

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**(Editor's note:**  
"Classified Advertising"  
remains removed from this  
and future editions until  
further notice to allow for  
more coverage of Union  
members' issues.)

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

Send an email from your home account to [gogreen@csea760.com](mailto: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.



**(Editor's note:** This information will be posted on our website's "Events Calendar" – updated information and details not available by January 11 will be posted online once provided to the Union hall.)

### January Meetings & Luncheons

#### Chapter 421 ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Daytona Beach Area

Wednesday, February 8, 2012. Luncheon & Meeting 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Location Duff's Buffet, Sunshine Park Mall, 2400 Ridgewood Avenue, South Daytona, FL

Cost: Members \$5.00 (Please present this postcard at the meeting); Non-members and guests \$9.78 per person including beverage, tax and gratuity.

Reservations and payment deadline: February 2, 2012.

Make checks payable to CSEA Chapter 421 and mail checks to Harvey Plourde, 2923 Silver Palm Dr. Edgewater, FL 32141

Please feel free to contact Len Albert, President at 386-615-6805 for more information.

#### Chapter 422 ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

West Central Florida-Ocala Area Chapter

Friday, February 24, 2012; 11 AM—3PM; Lunch: Noon,

Location: Citrus Hills Golf & Country Clu, 505 E. Hartford St. Hernando, FL 34442, (352) 746-6855

MENU CHOICES: Sliced Roast Pork, With an Apple Cinnamon Glaze; Chicken Marsala, Sautéed Boneless Breast of Chicken with Mushrooms and Marsala Wine Sauce; Baked Tilapia Almandine, Filet of Tilapia Coated with Toasted Almonds and Baked with Fresh Lemons. All served with: Tossed Garden Salad, Vegetable of the Day, Potatoes Au Gratin, Dinner Rolls, Dessert, Coffee & Tea.

Deadline for Reservations: February 10, 2012. Please send choice of meal to: Christine Lafferty, 407 S. School Ave. Lecanto, FL.

34461-8271 Please present postcard at the door.

WE WILL ALSO HAVE A 50/50 DRAWING & DOOR PRIZE!

Contact Chris Lafferty, Chapter 422 President at 352-527-7199

#### Chapter 423 ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

East Coast Chapter

Tuesday, February 14, 2012: Luncheon and Meeting, 11:30 AM—3:00 PM

Location and Phone: Holiday Inn, 2809 South Ocean Blvd. Highland Beach, 561,278-9241

Menu Choices: Chicken Francoise, London Broil, Poached Salmon

Cost: Members \$15; Non-members and Guests: \$18 per person including tax and gratuity

Reservation and Payment Deadline: February 1, 2012

Make checks payable to CSEA Chapter 423 and mail, with menu choice, to: Treasurer Phyllis Bonfoey, 8250 NW 95 Avenue, Tamarac, FL 33321

#### Chapter 424 ANNUAL MEETING AND BREAKFAST

Sarasota Area Chapter

Wednesday, February 22, 2012; 9:30 AM Continental Breakfast (sausage, eggs, bacon, juice, coffee, etc.) & Meeting to follow The Helmsley Sandcastle Hotel; 1540 Ben Franklin drive, Sarasota, FL 941-388-2181

Cost: \$10 per person (including tax/tip)

Deadline for reservations: Feb. 15, 2012. Make checks payable, and mail to: CSEA Chapter 424, President John A. Kirker, Sr., 1700 Ben Franklin Drive, Sarasota FL 34236. (941) 388-1024  
CSEA RETIREE

#### Chapter 425 ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Suncoast/St. Petersburg Chapter

Munday, February 20, 2012; Social: 11:30 AM (cash bar);

Luncheon & Meeting to follow

Kally-K's Restaurant, 1600 Main Street (SR580), Dunedin, FL

Menu Choices: Stuffed Flounder or Garlic crusted Scrod served with rice; Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauce served with rice, Chicken Marsala with Mushroom sauce over rice, or 8 oz. Grilled sirloin served with rice or a baked potato. The salad or soup bar is included in the price as well as iced tea and ice cream or sherbet for dessert.

Cost: Members or guests: \$12.95. Cost is per person and does NOT include tax and gratuity.

Reservation and payment deadline: Feb. 15 2012, Make checks payable to CSEA Chapter 425 and mail, with menu choice to: Chapter 425 Secretary Ursula Bracker, 3673 Rockaway Drive, Holiday, FL. 34691 telephone: (727) 848-0089

#### Chapter 426 ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Fort Myers Area

Thursday, February 16, 2012, Noon—3 PM, Carrabba's Italian Grill, 762 SW Pine Island Road,

Cape Coral. Cost \$12.00; Menu choices: Spagnolo di Mare (Scallops & Shrimp) or Chicken Marsala. Meal includes baked garlic breadm soup or salad, non-alcohol baverage, and vanilla ice cream.

Reservation Deadline: February 10, 2012

Please make checks payable to C426 and respond, along with your meal choice to Bill Dowd, CSEA, Chapter 426 Treasurer, PO Box 234, Pineland FL 33945, 239-283-7864

#### CHAPTER 427 LUNCHEON

East Central Florida

Saturday, February 11, 2012; Social 11:30; Lunch 12:30 PM

Vero Beach Yacht Club, 3601 Rio Vista Blvd., Vero Beach 32963  
Phone: 772-231-2211

Luncheon selections are sliced London Broil, Chicken Marsala, or Baked Cod. All entrees are served with oven roasted potatoes, peas and carrots, salad, coffee/tea, and Rhubarb Pie for dessert. Price per person for members and/or guests is \$18 per person, which includes full meal, tax and gratuity. Please make checks payable to C427 and mail check and meal choice to William Egan, Chapter 427, 5150 9th St., Vero Beach, FL. 32966. Telephone 772-569-5568. Payments and meal choice deadline to be received by February 4, 2012.

# Our Executive Director's Corner

## Year In Review 2011



**Robert D. Rinker**  
Executive Director,  
CSEA SEIU Local 2001

As another year comes to a close for our Union, it's worth pausing to reflect for a moment on everything that we've accomplished in the last twelve months. While 2011 was a year filled with struggles, thanks to our dynamic organization; operating at the capitol and in the workplace; we were able to get some very good results despite a difficult climate.

2011 was a year of great financial stress around the country. Here too in Connecticut, a massive budget deficit threatened our state's financial stability. CSEA spearheaded the pushback against Governor Malloy's proposal to take 1.7 billion dollars from state workers. As a result we, and the rest of the SEBAC coalition, won an agreement that shared the sacrifice, protected our jobs, and extended the life of our benefits. The final SEBAC agreement, while difficult, was one of the best agreements reached nation wide for state workers in a year that saw Governors in many states take unprecedented steps to completely strip collective bargaining rights from state employees. The SEBAC Agreement was incredibly successful at protecting our jobs; offering 4 years of layoff protection during one of the worse recessions in history,

ensured funding of our pensions and retiree health insurance, and lowered the state's unfunded pension liabilities to protect those benefits for future retirees.

The SEBAC agreement is especially important in that it created a transformation process for state government that empowers front line state workers to improve our working conditions, and look not only for cost savings, but also for additional ways to raise revenue. This process will ensure that government dollars spent on outside consultants and contractors goes through a cost benefit analysis. It only makes sense that this shadow workforce be subjected to the same level of scrutiny as the filling of vacant state employee positions. Transformation is just getting under way state-wide in information technology and will

*(Continued on page 4)*



## P-4 Member's Child Wins \$1,000 SEIU Scholarship

CSEA wishes to congratulate Joseph Neri, son of P-4 member Margaret Neri, who was awarded one of just fifteen SEIU scholarships nationwide for the 2011-2012 academic year. Every year the SEIU

Scholarship Program provides fifteen \$1,000 renewable scholarships for up to four years. Joseph is currently attending Flagler College in Florida.

**CSEA Members-Only Discounts are at Our Website**



# CSEA's 2012 Legislative Agenda

*(Continued from page 1)*

When the Connecticut General Assembly goes back into session on February 8th, CSEA members will be there to advocate for our Union's agenda:

### Make State Government Work Better

Provide needed oversight of the governor's sweeping consolidation of state agencies in order to affirm public services are improved, not impaired -- and hold elected officials accountable for making appointments to the State Contracting Standards Board to protect taxpayers from costly contracting-out and to establish cost-effective procurement standards.

### Let Workers Put Family First

Amend the Connecticut Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to allow public school paraeducators to take time off of work to care for themselves, a sick family member, or to be at home after the birth of a child without the fear of losing their job.

### Get Children Ready to Learn

Grant family child care providers the freedom to bargain collectively in order to improve early education and school readiness services for kids and to provide more opportunities for working families to seek or maintain gainful employment and support economic recovery.

### Protect Early Connections

Restore and maintain Connecticut's Early Connections program in order to continue delivering vital education and care for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and to assure their families freedom of choice among Birth to Three services.

### Move Connecticut's Money

Move state taxpayers' funds from Bank of America, which has a record of profiting off Connecticut without pitching in, to a Connecticut state bank that will have a long-term interest in seeing our state's residents succeed and thrive.

### Display the Union Label

Allow union logos to be placed on websites and other properties staffed and maintained by unionized state employees to recognize the work of our members and allow the public to "look for the union label."

CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 is a proud member of Better Choices for Connecticut, the Everybody Benefits coalition, and the Connecticut Action Alliance for a Fair Economy. Our members work with community allies to move Connecticut in a positive direction that respects the sacrifices and commitment of working men and women.

CSEA's 2012 legislative agenda means nothing without members to support it. Over the course of the General Assembly session CSEA members will come to the State Capitol to lobby legislators, testify at committee hearings, hold in-district meetings with General Assembly members, and call, write, and email elected officials to hold politicians accountable and ensure that we advance our priorities.

If you have any questions, need more information, or want to get involved in CSEA's political program, please contact our political director, Danny Medress at 860.951.6614 ext. 111, or send an email to [dmedress@csea760.com](mailto:dmedress@csea760.com).



## CSEA NEWS

*The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees*

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Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW, CLC

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- Paige Farnham.....Secretary/Treasurer
- Robert D. Rinker.....Executive Director
- Benjamin Phillips.....Communications Director
- 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 in Connecticut: (800) 894-9479, toll-free in Florida: (800) 437-5630; FAX: (860) 951-3526; INTERNET: [www.csea-ct.com](http://www.csea-ct.com).**

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## Our Benefits

### ★ Support a Higher Education for Our Members' Families

McCusker Awards Night 2011 continued the tradition of investing in the future of working families in Connecticut, when we awarded college scholarships of \$1,000.00 each to 62 of our Union members' children and grandchildren. Our annual "McCusker Month" drive to raise funds for this year's recipients kicks off on February 1<sup>st</sup>, and we are reaching out to individual members, as well as Council and Chapter leaders, to help make 2012 even more successful. After all, last year more than 110 completed applications were considered. More support will allow us to increase the number of our members' families to receive awards.



***P-4 Council McCusker Trustee Lynn Coda-Klein picks up her chapter's Butterbraid and cookie dough order for the fall fundraiser which earned \$875 for the McCusker Scholarship. P4 Chapter 148 had the largest order earning over \$400 alone towards the scholarship. Look for the Spring Butterbraid fundraiser in the upcoming months. What an easy and delicious way to earn money for the scholarship!***

Contributions must be received by February 15 to be included in the first list of 2012 "Hall of Fame" donors in next month's edition of the CSEA News. Checks should be endorsed to the McCusker Memorial Scholarship Fund, and mailed to: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT, 06016

The 2012 application period for our McCusker Scholarships also opens February 1, and a downloadable application, submission instructions, directions and requirements will be available online on our website.

(Editor's note: select the "McCusker Scholarships" page from the left menu of our website's "Incentives" page to access 2012 application material for your child or grandchild.)

Let's not forget the other higher education benefits available each year to our members and their families through our affiliation with SEIU. The application period for five individual scholarships offered by SEIU this year is open now and through March 1.

## Year In Review

(Continued from page 3)

soon be seen throughout state agencies.

At the state capitol, CSEA played an intricate role in finally passing municipal pooling legislation, which allows us to help cities and towns (including the board of education), leverage the state health care plan to reduce costs and have consistency in premium increases. In allowing municipalities to join with the state employee pool, this legislation will give greater negotiating power to cities and towns, who will no longer be on their own in negotiating with insurance companies for the best rates. This will generate savings for taxpayers and provided better health care for municipal and public school employees.

This year, CSEA also helped give a voice to childcare providers who receive reimbursements from the State's Care-4-Kids program. Through an executive order issued by Governor Malloy, we were able to help organize those workers, and in December they voted overwhelmingly to join our

union! Our hope is that by giving the childcare providers a voice, we will be able to increase the quality of care for economically disadvantaged kids, so that they can come to school prepared to learn, and we can begin to close the education achievement gap. We all deserve to live in a state with equal opportunity for all of our kids and this is just another way that CSEA is working to make that happen.

So in the struggles we face as the New Year arrives, let's remember that our strength comes from our unity; because when we stand strong together, we can accomplish great things, both at our jobs and in our communities.



## Childcare Providers Vote Overwhelmingly to Join CSEA

(Continued from page 1)

Connecticut's in-home childcare workers who participate in the Department of Social Services' Care4Kids program have been working to unite together since 2005. They now join family providers in 15 other states who have gained official standing to seek improvements in early learning through their unions. By having a voice, providers can help stabilize the childcare workforce, expand family access, and work to retain experienced, trained childcare providers, raising the quality of early learning.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signed an executive order in September granting providers the means to unionize, and which established a

path forward to begin formal collective bargaining with the state. Family child care providers operate their own businesses in their homes; while the governor's executive order and December's election empowers them with a voice in improving the quality of care, it does not make them state employees.

The American Arbitration Association, a nationally recognized neutral party, counted returns following a secret ballot election in which the home-based providers **voted 1,603 to 88** for representation by CSEA/SEIU Local 2001.

**CSEA Members Can Join or Renew for Only \$40. Or Sign Up as a BJs Rewards Member for Only \$80 and Earn a 2% Payback on Purchases!**

That's a savings of \$10 off both annual fees and includes an additional two months of membership as a sign-up bonus. Download a CSEA BJ's Application form online at our website's "Incentives" page today.



## Information About Connecticut State Prescription Drug Benefits

(Continued from page 1)

You do not have to do anything except use the SilverScript card beginning January 1, 2012.

If you do not receive your new card(s), you can use your Medicare identification card along with the information provided by the Comptroller's office: RxGroup: RX9433; RxBIN: 004336 and RxPCN: MEDDADV.

As a result of Medicare requirements under the 2010 Affordable Health Care Act, the State is required to send several mailings from SilverScript including: 1. 'OPT OUT LETTER' and SUMMARY OF BENEFITS –**DO NOT OPT OUT of your medical or prescription drug coverage!**; 2. WELCOME LETTER and CONFIRMATION OF ENROLLMENT LETTER; 3. EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE, ABRIDGED FORMULARY & PHARMACY DIRECTORY; and 4. SILVERSCRIPT ID CARD(S).

In addition, each Medicare eligible member will receive a Monthly Explanation of Benefits (EOB) for all medications dispensed each month.

Please contact the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) Retirement Health Insurance Unit with any questions. **If you currently use a P.O. Box as your mailing address you must contact the State immediately at 860-702-3533 with a street address.** Only the State can make changes to your information, not the health plan carriers (i.e. Anthem, Oxford or Caremark). The State Health Unit can be reached at 860-702-3533. CSEA members can also call 800-894-9479 for more information.

## State of Connecticut Employees and Retirees!



### 5 reasons to switch your auto insurance carrier to MetLife Auto & Home®:

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## Change in Dues Structure to take effect January 1st, 2012

On January 1st, 2012, the final step in our three-year phase-in of a more progressive dues structure for active members will take effect. This increase will be included in the first paycheck of January 2012. Originally announced by the Union's Executive Council in January of 2009, this plan was approved after more than two years of discussion. These important changes will strengthen our union by giving us the resources to better represent members and continue to fight for workers rights in these difficult economic times.

### State Division Dues Rates:

The minimum dues rate will be increased from \$23.00 per pay period to \$24.00 per pay period for all full-time state division members who earn less than \$62,400 annually.

The dues rate for members who earn more than \$62,400 annually and less than \$88,400 annually for all full-time state division members will be 1% of annual salary per bi-weekly pay period.

The maximum dues rate will be increased from \$32.00 per pay period to \$34.00 per pay period for full-time state division members who earn more than \$88,400 annually.

### Municipal Division Dues Rates:

The maximum monthly dues rate will be increased from \$30 per month to \$32 per month for municipal division members who work full-time (ie. 20 hours or more per week) and who earn more than \$38,400 annually.

The maximum monthly dues rate will be increased from \$18.92 per month to \$19.92 per month for municipal division members who work part-time (ie. 10 hours per week up to 19.99 hours per week) and who earn more \$19,920 annually.

For all other municipal division members and all private sector division members, there will be no changes in the dues structure and all other dues rates will remain unchanged.

If you have any questions on this change in the dues structure, please contact your staff representative at CSEA SEIU Local 2001 at 800-894-9479.



## Citizen's Oil Co-op

HEAT FOR LESS

Citizen's Oil Co-op, Inc. has partnered with Public Power & Utility, Inc. to provide electrical power for less to CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 members. The rate is guaranteed to be **5% to 20% lower than CL&P and UI.**

This is another way that the Citizen's Oil Co-op is working to help union members and all consumers save on the high cost of utilities!

Call (860) 561-6011 for further information, or visit the Co-op's website which is linked to our site's "Incentives" page.



## Refinance Your Mortgage With CSE

No Closing Costs. No Points. No Application Fees. No Attorney Fees.

It's not too late to take advantage of these low mortgage rates. Visit our website at [www.csecreditunion.com](http://www.csecreditunion.com) and use our loan calculator to see just how much you could be saving by refinancing your first mortgage loan with CSE. Or, call or visit us and let us walk you through all your options.

**3.60%**  
APR\*  
10 YEARS

**3.85%**  
APR  
15 YEARS

**4.30%**  
APR  
20 YEARS

\*Annual Percentage Rate. Appraisal, title search and recording fees apply. All rates are subject to change without notice.

## Visit Our Web Site

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)

The Credit Union  
will be **CLOSED**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day...  
January 16, 2012

## Dividends Declared Fourth Quarter 2011

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	1.00%	1.01%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	0.35%	0.35%
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

### NORWICH

Uncas on Thames  
401 West Thames St.  
Norwich, CT 06360

**(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

P.O. Box 2485  
Middletown, CT 06457

**(860) 347-0479**

### STORRS

1244 Storrs Rd.  
Storrs, CT 06268

**(860) 429-9306**

### SOUTHBURY

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. 9 AM to 4 PM • Branches: Mon.-Fri. 9:30 AM to 4 PM  
DRIVE-UP TELLER (Hartford only): Mon.-Fri., 9 AM to 4 PM; Paydays open until 5:00 PM

## Social Activities

### St. Patrick's Day from Galway to Broadway



Monday, March 12, 2012

**Cost:** \$60.00 per person (drive to event)  
**Reservation deadline:** Full payment due Feb. 7, 2012

**Includes:** Family-style lunch at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington; Entertainment by Broadway stars Ciaran Sheehan and Kimilee Bryant and violinist Heather Martin Bixle

## UPCOMING TRIPS and ACTIVITIES

### Bermuda 8-Day Cruise

Sun., April 22 - Sun., April 29, 2012

**Cost:** From \$669 per person (double); deposit \$450

**Reservation deadline:** Balance due Jan. 21, 2012

**Includes:** Roundtrip motorcoach to NY Pier; 7 nights accommodation onboard Holland America's Veendam; all meals onboard; nightly entertainment; 3 days docked in Hamilton

### West Point Dress Parade

Sat., April 28, 2012

**Cost:** \$77.00 per person

**Reservation deadline:** Full payment due Mar. 24

**Includes:** Roundtrip motorcoach to West Point, NY; cadet parade and guided tour of West Point Academy; buffet lunch at the Hotel Thayer



### A Day In New York City

Saturday, March 31, 2012

Spend the day doing whatever you please!

**Cost:** \$30.00 per person

**Reservation deadline:** March 21st, 2012

Several Bus Pick-Up Sites: Visit CSEA website for more information!

### WTC 9/11 Memorial & Circle Line Cruise NYC Trip



Saturday, May 19, 2012

**Cost:** \$72.00 per person

**Reservation deadline:** April 10, 2012

**Depart:** East Hartford 7:00am, Hamden 7:45am

**Return:** Hamden 7:00pm, East Hartford 7:45pm

### 4 Troops, A Salute to Our Armed Services!!



Thursday, May 24, 2012

Doors Open at 11:30am

**Cost:** \$60.00 per person (drive on your own)

**Reservation deadline:** April 20, 2012

There will be no refund for cancellations after the deadline date.

**Includes:** Family-style lunch at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington;

Officers who served on the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan, come together to sing on behalf of all troops.

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](mailto: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.

### CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Social Activities RSVP 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

## Retiree Chapter Meetings...

(Continued from page 2)

### Upcoming 2012 Events

- CHAPTER 401** (Hartford area): Thursday, February 2  
1:00 PM, CSEA, 760 Capitol Ave, Hartford
- CHAPTER 407** (Bridgeport area): Wednesday, January 18  
1:00 PM, St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church, 1300 Stratford Rd, Stratford
- CHAPTER 412** (Putnam area): Tuesday, January 17  
1:30 PM, Knights of Columbus  
64 Providence St., Putnam
- CHAPTER 414** (Torrington area): Monday, January 16  
9:30 AM, Log House Restaurant  
110 New Hartford Road, Route 44, Barkhamsted
- CHAPTER 415** (Manchester area): Monday, January 23  
1:00 PM, Elks Lodge, 33 Bissell Street, Manchester
- CHAPTER 417** (Plainville area): Wednesday, February 8  
1:00 PM, Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church  
115 West Main Street, Plainville
- CHAPTER 418** (Plainville area): Thursday, January 19  
10:00 AM, Congress of Community Colleges  
907 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford

## Our Actions...in Brief

### ▶ Groton Workers Win Union



**Groton Workers Vote to Ratify Their Contract**

### Recognition

After months of stalled negotiations, 150 workers in the Groton school district; including paraprofessionals, library technicians and district tutors, won recognition of their union through the collective bargaining process. Workers were added into the existing contract with the district and in doing so won a raise, 5 sick days and bereavement leave. This is a good first step towards economic and social justice for these Groton workers!

"I want to be part of raising standards so we can attract that next generation. Now with the union we have a shot at changing that." Said Sherry Cutler as she cast her vote for contract ratification.

### ▶ Cheshire School Secretaries Ratify New Contract



On November 15, 2011, the Cheshire school secretaries voted to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement with the Board of Education, following the earlier rejection of a prior tentative agreement. The new agreement provides for wage increases of 1.5% this year, 1.75%, 2% and 2.25% in each of the following three years, concluding in 2015. The rejected agreement provided lower wage increases in return for maintaining a cap, albeit a higher one, on the amount of health insurance premium contribution. This provision proved controversial and was subsequently exchanged for higher wages. Employees electing the PPO/HMO insurance plan will pay 13% of the premium, which will increase by .5% annually. An optional HSA plan can be elected by the employee for a 5% premium contribution. Future employees will be eligible for the Town's existing 401k plan and existing staff shall remain in the defined benefit retirement plan. Other issues addressed included clarification of need for medical certification following absences and a verbal agreement to review the job grades and pay rates of members during the contract period.

### ▶ East Haven Bus Drivers Make A Stand For Safety During Contract Fight

East Haven school bus drivers have taken significant steps to organize themselves during their ongoing negotiations and make a stand for safety. The drivers had never stuck together before, and the company knew it. The bus company included in its contract proposal the elimination of paid holidays as an "exchange" for new state mandated paid sick days.

In response, the drivers are banding together to take a stand for fair treatment and bus safety to put pressure on their employer. Durham School Services, the company tasked with running East Haven School buses, has a dismal safety record. Frequently the company orders buses with significant defects onto the road. Complaints about unsafe equipment have prompted some drivers to refuse to drive.

"Our job is to transport kids safely to their destination, and when there are serious problems, you need to try and correct them. We're not asking for brand new buses, but we need the tools to do our job," said Brenda Barrett, a bus driver for the town of East Haven. The drivers have started collecting lists of safety issues to deliver to the DMV in hopes they will conduct a full investigation.

The fight to win a fair contract continues this week. "People are waking up to the fact that the company doesn't appreciate the bus drivers. It's hard, stressful work and we go through a lot. Drivers are breaking their backs to do a good job and all we want is to be treated fairly," added Brenda.

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<sup>1</sup> National Safety Council, Injury Facts, 2010 Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Universal Life Insurance builds cash values, changes in the current non-guaranteed interest rate, and changes in the current cost of insurance rates will affect cash value. However, the current non-guaranteed interest rate will never be less than the guaranteed rate shown in the policy.

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## DEATHS REPORTED

*We regret to learn of the deaths of the following retired CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 members, as reported by the State Comptroller's Office Retirement Division:*

Phyllis Ableman  
of Chapter 416, Sept. 8,  
Nancy Austin 408, Nov. 3,  
Beverly Bailey 401, Nov. 10,  
Dolores Boccaccio 425, Nov. 25,  
Germaine Bouchard 420, July 16,  
Charlotte Cline 407, Oct. 21,  
Robert Coleman 441, Sept. 16,  
Elizabeth Crouch 416, Oct. 29,  
Lola Downs 407, Oct. 8,  
Edward Drew 420, Oct. 26,  
Shirley Filbig 408, Oct. 27,  
Margaret Gallagher 423, Oct. 14,  
Patricia Giverdon 421, Oct. 26,  
Carmela Gleed 401, Nov. 15,  
Claire Hall 416, Oct. 11,

John Haluchak 414, Nov. 8,  
Max Harrell 426, Nov. 1,  
John Hawes 412, Oct. 19,  
Jerome Higgins 414, Nov. 2,  
Olga Karpiak 401, Oct. 22,  
Edmund Kobelski 416, Oct. 10,  
Rocco Lacava 411, Oct. 15,  
Joseph Letitia 417, Nov. 3,  
Milton Lieberman 401, Oct. 18,  
Frank Logan 426, Nov. 7,  
Ann Loomis 410, Oct. 25,  
Rose Martin 401, June 12,  
James McDonald 427, Nov. 3,  
Warren Melien 406, Oct. 1,  
Donald Morrissey 426, Oct. 25,  
Bessie Patsouris 403, Oct. 20,  
Stephan Peruta 417, Oct. 18,  
Robert Richardson Jr. 420, Oct. 16,  
Jennie Sarosky 407, July 27,  
Josephine Schopp 406, Oct. 30,  
Beatrice Sharkiewicz 401, Oct. 17,  
James Shugrue 411, Nov. 12,  
Paul Swann 416, Oct. 21,  
Cora Webb 420, Oct. 24,  
Dolores Yazon 420, Sept. 4,