

Connecticut Employees Union Independent Local 511

UNION NEWS



UNITING CT SINCE 1967

Winter 2023

Happy Holidays

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the 2022 holiday season brings friends and family together, I would like to take a moment to reflect with gratitude for all the hard work our union members provide the residents of Connecticut every single day. Over the last year our dedicated union members stood in solidarity to protect and expand public services, helped elect pro-union candidates, defended our union contract and worked to make our worksites safer. During this holiday season please remember to slow to down for work zones and be safe so everyone has the opportunity to come home safe and celebrate. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

*In solidarity,
President Carl Chisem*



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Please let us know your ideas for our quarterly Union News Newsletter. Send Kate Sullivan an email or give her a call. ksullivan@ceui.org or 860-343-8721

2022 CEUI CONVENTION



On Friday, October 28, 2022, CEUI held its annual convention at the Aqua Turf. This was our first convention held since the beginning of the pandemic, and it was wonderful to see so many members in attendance. As this Convention was held just before the November elections, we had a number of political candidates come to speak. They included Lt. Governor Susan Bysciewicz (now elected to a second term), Jan Hochadel (now elected for 13th Senate District), Sean Scanlon (now elected as our next State Comptroller), and Erick Russell (now elected as our next State Treasurer).



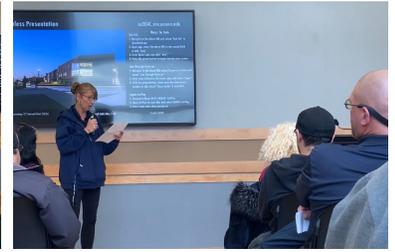
In addition to these candidates for office, CEUI also warmly welcomed Representative Mike D'Agostino, who spoke about the process for getting our recent collective bargaining agreement through the legislature. Additionally, we heard from Connecticut AFL-CIO President Ed Hawthorne about the initiatives of the labor movement in Connecticut. Lastly, SEIU President Mary Kay Henry sent a special message via recorded video to CEUI members thanking them for the work they performed on behalf of the citizens of Connecticut throughout the COVID 19 pandemic.



We would like to thank all the members who attended the Convention, as well as the staff at the Aqua Turf for always making use feel welcome. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's convention!



Union Members in Action



NP-2 Custodians Packed the UConn Town Hall on Thursday, November 17th

Union members packed the room and stood in solidarity to address the rumors of further reduction of NP-2 custodial positions and shifts, the cost of parking, the lack of equipment and supplies, and how they are expected to do more with less every day. President Maric promised to work towards a solution but stressed that we must go to our legislators and demand that they fully fund our colleges and universities in Connecticut.

2022-2023 Snow & Ice Meeting



CEUI Leaders and Members sat down at CT-DOT in preparation of the Winter season at the annual Snow & Ice Meeting in early November

Our dedicated COPE Committee worked tirelessly during the election season with our Political Director Alisha Blake, ensuring union endorsed candidates won in the midterm election in Connecticut.

Public sector jobs directly support Connecticut residents every single day and public agencies continue to be understaffed and underfunded adding stress to our workers and communities. We need members committed to joining us at the State Capitol in 2023 to address your concerns about understaffing, safety, . Demanding legislators fully public services and recognize the dedication and excellence of our NP-2 public service workforce. To learn more about how you can make a difference in the 2023 legislative session.

SCAN ME



Go to:

<https://forms.gle/y2PbGoyyxqSvGF1eA>



Union Members calling members to vote pro-union, attending candidate rallies, and celebrating State Sen. Jan Hochadel's victory!



Made possible by our members' generous donations and fundraising!! SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN OF ACTIVE CEUI MEMBERS

CEUI Local 511 will be continuing the tradition of awarding scholarship money to deserving children of active members. We will be offering four (4) \$2500 scholarships to high school seniors whose parents are members of CEUI Local 511.

- **Scholarship Requirements:**The applicant must be the child of a dues paying member of CEUI Local 511 who is currently working
- A senior in high school about to enter a four-year accredited college in the Fall of 2023
- Complete the application by May 26, 2023.
- Qualified students will be individually interviewed by the Scholarship Committee on a date to be determined in June/July.

To obtain an application, call Tracy at 860-343-8712 or send an email to tdeegan@ceui.org. Please indicate both the name of the parent and the child. If you would like an application sent electronically, please request one via email.



Mechanic Christopher Ruggiero at the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), in Rocky Hill



Welder Jeff Konefal from the Rocky Hill DOT Garage preparing for the upcoming snow and ice season.

EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

It's never too late to increase your skills! Spring semester is just around the corner. NP-2 members have several opportunities available to them:

- **Tuition Reimbursement** – You must contact your Agency's designated Tuition Reimbursement Officer (TRO) for paperwork no later than two weeks prior to the start date of your course(s)
- **Tech School Vouchers** – You pay the \$50 per course registration fee and the Union provides you with a voucher which covers the cost of the course. Course catalog and registration info will be available in January.
- **CEUI In-Service Courses** – These courses are free to members and held on State time. Course catalog and registration info will be available in January.

Watch for Union emails in January with more information! Please contact Tammi Atkins with any questions at 860.343.8724 or tatkins@ceui.org

HEALTH & RETIREMENT

Retiree Staff Rep, Kathy Chubet, can help resolve issues with retirement eligibility, the retirement process, health insurance, or Medicare reimbursement, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and can be reached at 860-343-8722 or kchubet@ceui.org

2023 Medicare Part B/D Reimbursements

The 2023 standard Medicare Part B premium will be \$164.90 per month.

If You Are Currently Receiving Medicare B Reimbursement

Effective January 1, 2023, retirees and/or eligible dependents already receiving Medicare B reimbursement will automatically begin to receive \$164.90 each month. You do not need to submit anything to receive the standard reimbursement.

If you are notified that you will pay more or less than \$164.90, send a copy of your annual notice of Medicare Part B/D premiums to Aetna. (Include the retiree's name and Employee ID on any documents you mail or email.)

Mail (do not send certified):

Aetna, Inc.

PO Box 7083

London, KY 40742

Email: medicareenrollmenttransactions@aetna.com

Fax: 1-855-481-3124

All documents should be sent by February 28, 2023, otherwise, your reimbursement amount will only be applied to future pension checks.

Call Aetna Medicare at **1-855-648-0391** if you have questions about receipt of your submitted documents.

If you become newly enrolled in Medicare after January 1, 2023, the State Retiree Health Unit needs a copy of your Medicare card. We can help. Just contact Kathy Chubet for assistance.

Important Reminder:

DO NOT enroll in any other Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D plan. If you do, your State of Connecticut medical and prescription drug coverage may be terminated.

NP-2 CONTRACT

BOOKS HAVE

ARRIVED!!



Contract books are being delivered to worksites
contact your Union Rep for more information

energize 
CONNECTICUT

Don't let Eversource rate hikes stress you out, this simple solution can make a huge difference in your monthly electric bill.

If you utilize Eversource, make sure to review all the alternate supplier rates available and the terms of their contracts. You just need a copy of your most recent bill for the account number and service number. Save money on your electric bill.

To compare rates you can either go to:
bit.ly/3VWYT56
or

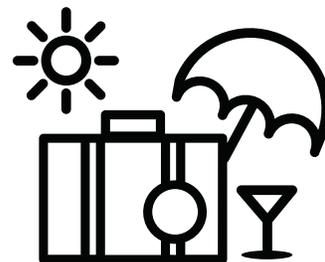
SCAN





HEALTH & RETIREMENT

Retiree Staff Rep, Kathy Chubet, 860-343-8722 or kchubet@ceui.org



Planning for Retirement

If you have questions about retirement eligibility, retiree health care, how to get a pension estimate or how to start the retirement process, contact Kathy Chubet.

The effective date of all retirements must be the first of a month. It's best to start the retirement process approximately 60 days before your planned retirement date.

Aetna Transition for Medicare Retirees

Coverage under the Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan was effective January 1, 2023, for state Medicare retirees. The Aetna coverage replaced the UnitedHealthcare coverage.

Remember to use your new Aetna ID card at the doctor, hospital or pharmacy. Be sure your insurance information that may already be on file with a provider gets updated.

You can visit CT.AetnaMedicare.com for plan information or call Aetna at 1-855-648-0391 with questions.

Union Membership for Retirees

Retirees are welcome and encouraged to remain members of the Union. When you retire, you'll receive an invitation to remain a Union member that includes a Pension Deduction Authorization card. Please sign and return the card - dues are only \$3.00 per month and are deducted from your monthly pension payment

Health Enhancement Program (HEP)

There are two parts to complying with the HEP program requirements:

- getting appropriate preventive services
- completing chronic condition education for members with asthma, COPD, diabetes, heart failure, high blood pressure or high cholesterol

The program runs on a calendar year basis. All requirements (preventive and education) are to be completed by December 31 of each year. If you receive a notice from the HEP about the need to complete any outstanding requirements, contact Care Management Solutions, the HEP program administrator. You can reach them by phone at 1-877-687-1448 or by email to HEPquestions@Connect2YourHealth.com to discuss any action you may need to take.

Please note: If you are placed into non-compliant status, your health care premium increases by \$100 per month and you are subject to an in-network health plan deductible of \$350 per member (up to a maximum of \$1,400 per family.) You are not automatically reinstated once any outstanding requirement(s) are completed. To be reinstated, you must complete and return a reinstatement form to Care Management Solutions.

You can find more details about how HEP works by visiting www.cthep.com. Click on the Help, Forms & Contact box, then click on the FAQ link.

HEP Program requirements do not apply to Medicare retirees covered by the Aetna Medicare Advantage plan.

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Go PAPERLESS and sign up TODAY for our quarterly newsletter. Contact ksullivan@ceui.org



Don't hesitate to call, we are here to help!

For General Questions and Updates call:
860-343-8700

Thinking of Retiring?

Contact Kathy Chubet
Tues-Thur 860-343-8722

Injured on the Job?

Contact Tammi Atkins
860-343-8724

Donation of Time

Contact Kat Bergeron
860-343-8726

Get Out the VOTE!

Contact Political Director
Alisha Blake 860-343-8709

Check us out at www.ceui.org
Facebook @Connecticut Employees Union Independent
Twitter @CEUI_SEIU_511

