

Update from CSEA President
Stephen Anderson

As our state begins the process of reopening and works to ensure we are safe at home and at our worksites, another tragedy is again coming to the forefront in communities around our country. From Los Angeles, to New York, Washington, DC and Chicago, and in many other cities, demonstrations have been raging this week in response to the murder of George Floyd, another reminder of systemic racism that exists in our nation. I want to start by echoing the words of Mary Kay Henry, SEIU International President, who said in part:

“Over the past few years, we have seen heightened public awareness of the racism that people of color have always experienced. Awareness is not enough—it must lead to action. In Minneapolis, that means arresting and charging the officers responsible for the death of George Floyd.

It’s important to recognize that the officers in Minneapolis are not representative of the entire law enforcement community. SEIU members serve on the frontlines doing essential work, including many in law enforcement who keep people safe and uphold the public trust.

However, when that trust is broken, we must use our collective voices to call for change. Unfortunately, justice cannot be served for Ahmaud [Arbery], Breonna [Taylor], and George. Justice would be having them alive and well with their family and

Workers Deserve Respect,
Not Blame.

As public employees and other frontline workers literally put their lives on the line every day to provide vital services during the devastating COVID-19 global pandemic, the same chorus of anti-worker voices is once again demanding givebacks and sacrifices from those same workers.

House Republicans issued a statement calling for the termination of negotiated raises for state employees. The Yankee Institute is putting out regular press releases attacking workers’ pay, retirement, and healthcare. And, in an op-ed in the Journal Inquirer, the president of a worldwide real estate private equity firm asks that state employees give up raises, retirees give up pension cost of living adjustments, all while “reforming” our system of collective bargaining.

friends. But we can choose to make this moment a turning point so that no one feels they can take another person’s life for granted.”

As we use our collective voices to call for reform, let’s not forget how the COVID-19 crisis has been another stark example of systemic racism in our nation. People of color have been adversely affected due to their lack of access to healthcare, their income and job status – many low income workers have no choice but to work during the COVID-19 crisis, putting themselves and their families at increased risk for COVID-19. In SEIU, some 75% of our more than 2 million members have been working throughout the crisis.

To CSEA members out there working on the front lines of the ongoing coronavirus crisis, I want to add an additional and emphatic thank you to all of you - what you are doing is heroic and greatly appreciated.

In our union, we are currently focusing on two key areas related to COVID. First, we continue to advocate in every way possible for those members working in harm’s way during this crisis. Our members stationed at correctional facilities and other COVID sensitive worksites like Southbury Training School deserve every protection and it is a daily struggle for proper PPE, testing, and contact tracing. In addition, we are fighting for hazardous duty pay and, for those who have contracted COVID-19, Continued On Page 7

Note that these same individuals were attacking workers and workers’ rights before Connecticut residents started getting sick from the coronavirus. You might think that, given the sacrifices being made by front line public sector workers, these individuals would “see the light” and cease their attacks on working families. Instead, amazingly, they are doubling down on those attacks. But, when have facts ever mattered to these individuals? Public employees have been sacrificing for years. State employees alone have saved Connecticut taxpayers \$1.7 billion, thanks to the 2017 SEBAC agreement. That same agreement will save taxpayers \$24 billion over 20 years. And, municipal and board of education workers have saved towns in recent years, too.

Continued On Page 6



CSEA Headquarters has been transformed into a distribution center of cleaning supplies and PPE from the National Guard to childcare providers. Eva Bermudez-Zimmerman and Eda diBaccari of the CSEA Childcare Team along with Operations Director Jason Webster and Building Maintainer Luis Torres have put in hours of work ensuring safe distribution of these much needed supplies.

CSEA SEIU Local 2001
Budget & Dues Adjustment

It is hard to deny the many benefits of having a strong union. We know that having a union is the key to protecting pay, pensions, and healthcare. But, lately, the “union difference” has been even more apparent. During this devastating health crisis, together we have fought to make sure that members keep their jobs and their pay. We have pushed for the greatest possible safety measures. As a result of our work, hundreds of our members have been able to telework which has had a profoundly positive impact on the ever-improving hospitalization statistics in our state. We have fought, every day, for our front line workers, pushing hard on issues such as adequate PPE, virus testing, and contact tracing. And when anti-worker forces have the audacity to attack union workers while many are putting their lives on the line every day, we push back, hard.

We all know that the economic impacts of this crisis will be significant. As such, the upcoming election, along with budget debates and contract negotiations, will be greatly consequential for all of us. Our enemies will seek to punish workers for the crisis through cuts, austerity, and privatization. We have to fight back for fair budgets and an economy that supports working families and requires the most wealthy citizens and corporations to pay their fair share. In order to be successful, our union must be properly resourced.

Starting last fall, before we knew anything about COVID-19, the CSEA Executive Council studied our budget in the context of the battles ahead. They found that, as a result of increased operating costs, a shrinking state Continued On Page 4

Visit Our Union’s Website at www.CSEA-CT.com

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



Meetings
And Events

All Council 400 chapter meetings and the Delegates Meeting will be cancelled for June. This includes all social events. Council 400 will continue with its standard meeting schedule of NO meetings in July or August.

Once we receive guidance from Governor Lamont and The Center for Disease Control and Prevention that it is safe to hold large meetings again, we will move forward. This decision is made in the best interest of our members.

Because we don’t know how things will develop in the coming weeks and months, we ask that you look for our email notifications and check information in the CSEA News and our website, www.csea-ct.com. If you aren’t getting emails already, please email CSEARetiree@CSEA760.com with your first and last name.

Our member’s health and safety is just too important to us to put anyone at risk by going to meetings at this uncertain time. In the meantime, take all measures to keep yourself and loved ones safe.

**Your Retiree Team,

Drew and Bernadette**

What YOU Can Do to Protect YOUR Benefits

State Retirees and their hard earned benefits are under daily attack and our opponents are shamelessly using the COVID-19 crisis in order to amplify these attacks.

Take a look at just some of the attacks we are seeing everyday:

“You raised yourself the important issue of what states have done, many of them have done to themselves with their pension programs. There’s not going to be any desire on the Republican side to bail out state pensions”--Senator McConnell (4/22/2020)
“Gov. Ned Lamont should place a call immediately to Daniel Livingston, chief negotiator for the State Employee Bargaining Alliance Coalition, and demand that workers forgo the July 1 pay raise and that retired state workers give up cost of living increases for the next decade at least.”-- Journal Inquirer Op-Ed (4/6/2020).

“Retirees receive cost of living increases every year that range from a minimum of 2 percent to a maximum of 7.5 percent. The annual COLA increase will add at least another \$3.8 million to the cost of those six-figure pensions and \$42.2 million to the total annual pension payout, listed as \$2.1 billion in 2019.” --Marc Fitch (5/5/2020)

“[...] They should vote to authorize SEBAC negotiators to forgo the upcoming July 1 pay raise, to accept a ten-year freeze on cost-of-living increases for retiree pensions and other necessary reforms, all of which would cause virtually no genuine hardship when compared to state workers in other states and private sector workers here in this beleaguered state.”-- CT Examiner Op-Ed (4/4/2020)

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THESE THREATS?

Write Letters to the Editor--whether you are writing to your local paper or a state-wide paper like the Hartford Courant, it is more important than ever that your friends and neighbors hear from you directly. Right now when you open up the paper all you see is a coordinated effort to distort the truth and threaten hard working members like yourself from a secured retirement.

Email our Communications Director (Bphillips@csea760.com / 860-951-6614 x118) if you are interested in writing your own Letter to the Editor; we can help with drafting, editing and submitting your work. Check out a letter that was recently published in the Journal Inquirer written by our Chapter 409 President, David Walsh by visiting www.CSEA-ct.com

Make sure that if you have an email, CSEA has it on record! Last week we sent out a CSEA Survey to our members as well as a CT Citizens Action Group Survey for Mail in Voting. Email CSEA Retiree Coordinator Drew Phelan (Dphelan@csea760.com) to receive these links. Turn to page 4 for step-by-step instructions on how to make a free GMAIL Account if you don’t yet have an email.

Recruit! Recruit! Recruit! If you know a State Retiree that hasn’t yet joined, let Drew Phelan (Dphelan@csea760.com / 860-951-6614 x118), know so she can send them the paperwork to join.

Do you have a spouse that isn’t a member yet? Reach out to Drew Phelan (Dphelan@csea760.com / 860-951-6614 x118) with their name and mailing address and we can send you a card!

Are you willing to be involved in the upcoming elections? The State Representatives and Senators running locally are the ones that make decisions about your healthcare and pensions. Let’s be a part of electing the right people, but we can only do that if you get involved. If you’re willing to be involved contact dphelan@csea760.com or 860-951-6614, ext. 118.

Talk to your family and friends about the importance of electing candidates who will fight for your pension, healthcare, Social Security and Medicare benefits.

These next few months are going to be filled with near-daily fights to ensure that the benefits you worked your entire career for are secured, and we are going to be relying on our membership to help bring us to victory.

Important numbers to have on hand:

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528	UnitedHealthcare: 1-888-803-9217
Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537	Oxford Health: 1-800-385-9055
Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533	Caremark: 1-800-318-2572
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: 1-800-922-2232	Cigna: 1-800-244-6224
CSEA Retiree Organizer, Drew Phelan: 860-951-6614 x118	HEP Care Management Solutions: 1-877-687-1448 or visit them at their portal: https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx

Editor’s Note: We will continue to publish the CSEA News during the health crisis, but because of the fast pace of information and how quickly the situation has evolved surrounding COVID19, please update your email and contact information to ensure you stay up-to-date.”

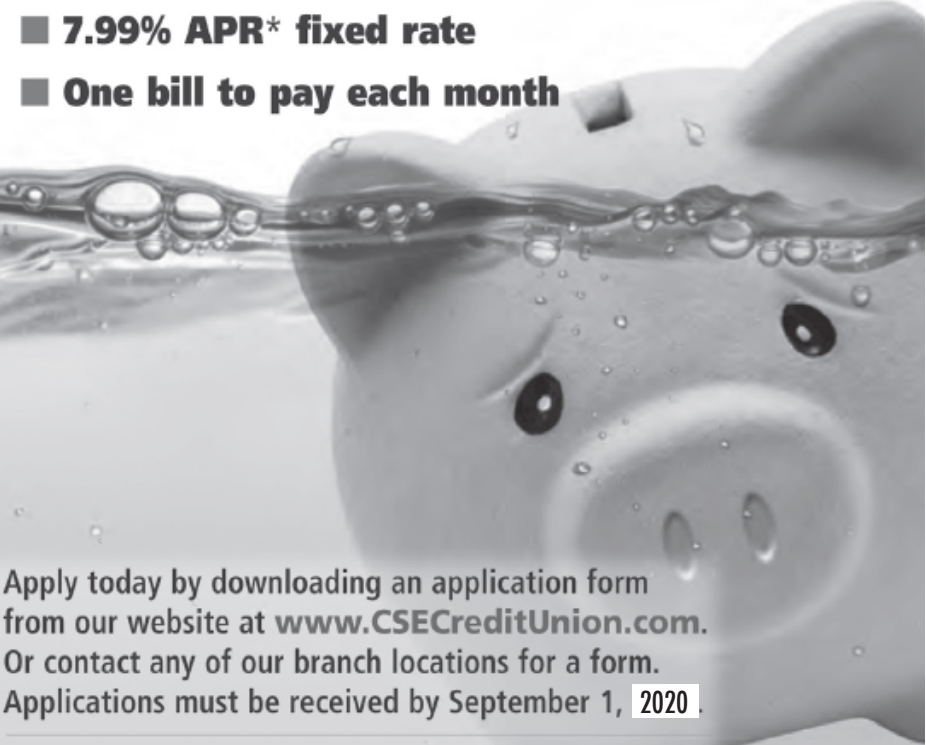
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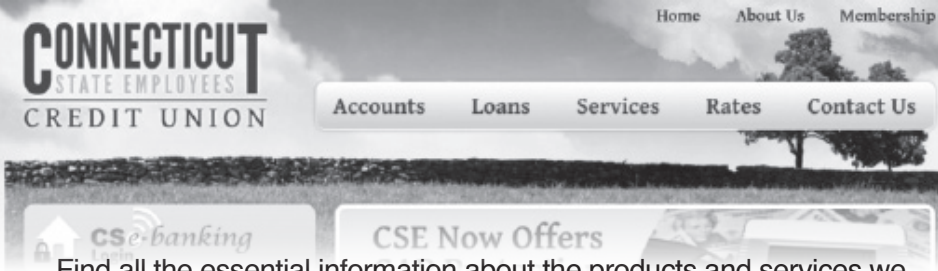
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Closed For Independence Day
Friday, July 3, 2020

Dividend Rates - First Quarter 2020

	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
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REGULAR SHARES	1.00%	1.01%
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.

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MIDDLETOWN Connecticut Valley Hospital 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, 9am-4pm Branches: Mon-Fri, 9:30am-4pm
Drive-Up Teller (Hartford Only): Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm; Paydays Open Until 5pm

Attention State Employees: Limited Durable Power Of Attorney (LDPOA) Pre-Retirement

We want to call current state employees' attention to form CO-1049 - Limited Durable Power of Attorney, which can be found at the Comptroller's website.

<https://www.osc.ct.gov/rbsd/forms/pdfs/CO-1049%20Rev%208-2015.pdf>

This form is intended to deal with the situation where a member might want to take a step with respect to retirement--e.g. apply for disability or choose a particular spouse option- but is as a result of illness or accident physically or mentally unable to do so. Having the above-referenced form filed with the comptroller at rsd-poa-documents@ct.gov enables the employee to authorize another person to make retirement decisions and execute retirement documents in the member's place and on the member's behalf. Having an LDPOA on file can be essential to protect the rights of members, their families, and other loved ones if a member becomes incapacitated by illness or injury. During the COVID-19 crisis, temporary rules have been adopted that allow the form to be emailed and completed without notarization as long as it has been properly witnessed.



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

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State Retirees

By The CSEA Retiree Team's
Drew Phelan

OSC NOTICE REGARDING OPEN ENROLLMENT

The Retiree Team has heard from many of you with questions regarding both the OSC Notice Regarding Open Enrollment and the Healthcare Updates published in the May CSEA News. The notification letter was not clear and was confusing, so we wanted to take a minute to clarify a few points.

RETIREE MEMBERS & DEPENDENTS ON THE UNITEDHEALTHCARE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN

The Medicare Advantage Contract, currently administered by UnitedHealthcare, has been extended for one year until December 2021. THEREFORE IF YOU ARE A MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE AND THEREFORE CURRENTLY COVERED BY UNITED HEALTHCARE'S MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM, THEN THERE ARE NO CHANGES FOR YOU. YOU WILL REMAIN ON THE UNITED MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF 2021.

RETIREE MEMBERS & DEPENDENTS ON ANTHEM

Open Enrollment has been delayed to September 2020 for plan changes with an effective date of October 1, 2020.

RETIREE MEMBERS & DEPENDENTS ON OXFORD

Any members under the age of 65 that are on the Oxford plan will be transitioned to Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield effective October 1, 2020 to avoid any disruption in continuity of care, rather than the original July 1, 2020 date.

FOR ALL MEMBERS ON CIGNA DENTAL

Open Enrollment has been delayed to September 2020 for plan changes.

HEALTHCARE DIRECTIVES IN A PANDEMIC

Even if we weren't in the midst of a global pandemic, I would still be advocating for members to take the time to write out their healthcare directives for their loved ones in the unfortunate event that you are unable to make your own medical decisions.

A healthcare directive is a form that describes the kind of medical care that you want and don't want if you are unable to advocate for yourself. There are two main types of directives--a living will which describes the types of treatments you want at the end of your life, and a medical power of attorney which denotes a person your health care proxy to make treatment decisions for you.

Dr. Asha Shajahan is a primary care physician in Detroit who recently conveyed the harsh realities that COVID-19 patients are facing today, and why healthcare directives are so important.

"Earlier this week, a 30-year-old patient with COVID-19 passed away on a ventilator. He hadn't laid out his end-of-life wishes -- what in

the medical field are called advance directives. His father, devastated after seeing the numbers related to his condition, didn't want any further treatment that would prolong the inevitable. His mother wanted to try everything that could possibly be done to save him. If the patient himself had been able to speak, he might have expressed what his wishes were and saved his family a heartbreaking conflict.

"But he hadn't planned to die.

"I don't know what he would want - making this decision for him is too stressful," the sister of one 37-year-old patient said tearfully. This patient didn't have advance directives in place. His sister now had the emotional burden of deciding his care. She too was fighting COVID-19 but from home. Her brother was on a ventilator, unable to communicate. To say it's an overwhelming situation to be in is an understatement.

"That patient was nonverbal after having a stroke at the age of 54. I phoned his sister, his designated legal guardian, and she read his advance care plan to me. "Doctor, tell him I love him," she said. It was comforting to know that this patient had a designated advocate.

"Instead of guilt-ridden regretful thoughts -- "I wish I knew what he would've wanted"-- we all have the power to know our family's wishes now. Talking about death is horribly uncomfortable, but perhaps this pandemic is the harsh nudge we need. Discussing advance directives prior to getting ill can save a lot of emotional pain and help to lessen the fears that surround death."

It's important that the right people have access to your healthcare directives-- your physician, any health care proxy and family members or close friends that may one day make your health care directives known if you cannot do so yourself. It is also recommended that you review and update these forms whenever any of the 5 D's happen--Divorce, Death, Diagnosis, Decline and the start of a new Decade. Both living wills and medical power of attorney forms are widely available at doctor's offices, senior centers, hospitals, law offices or state and local websites. For help with these forms, please contact your local or state offices. While it's uncomfortable to address these scenarios, it is important to do so in order to ensure that your wishes will be honored no matter what.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ONLINE: HOW TO SET UP A FREE GMAIL ACCOUNT

We have heard from a lot of members that COVID-19 has convinced them to get an email--whether it's so you can connect with family and friends, shop online or stay up to date with CSEA--it's never been a better time to get online!

Use the CSEA Email Guide, which can be accessed by visiting our website, CSEA-CT.com and clicking on the link on the home page under Recent Items titled, "JOIN THE CONVERSATION ONLINE: HOW TO SET UP A FREE GMAIL ACCOUNT".

Once you are set up, send an email to Drew Phelan (Dphelan@csea760.com), we will send you our Email Security Guide--Phishing & Bad Actors to help make you safer online.

Budget & Dues Adjustment Continued From Page 1

workforce, and other factors, adjustments were required in order to reduce projected deficits and provide long term financial stability for our union. The Executive Council voted unanimously to implement a plan that includes budget cuts, CSEA staff concessions, and our first dues increase in over a decade.

Budget Cuts

As a result of the Executive Council's work, CSEA has implemented a number of cost savings measures including cuts to travel expenses, a reduction in the McCusker scholarship contribution, elimination of the subsidy for the Social Activities Committee, a reduction in membership mailings in favor of electronic notices, and (most painfully) the layoff of an employee in a trainee position. These cuts will provide ongoing savings in our budget of upwards of \$125,000 to \$150,000 annually.

Staff Concessions

In the process of discussing concessions with CSEA staff unions, it was clear that all CSEA employees have a strong belief in the mission of the union and a strong desire to be partners in putting the union on strong financial ground.

CSEA's staff unions agreed to concessions that produce additional savings by forgoing raises and taking a one year holiday on employer/employee contributions to the retiree health insurance fund. It shouldn't be lost on anyone that the concessions, totaling upwards of \$120,000 were made mid-contract, which illustrates our staff's willingness to help solve the budget problem.

Dues Increase

With the above savings and concessions in place, the CSEA Executive Council voted to adjust member dues rates effective July 1, 2020. This small adjustment in our dues guarantees that CSEA members will continue to receive top-tier resources in our 2020 contract negotiations including legal, legislative and communications support.

It will also allow us to combat the new threats and challenges we face every day, like outside groups spending millions in Connecticut to villainize state employees, attempts to replace basic labor laws that protect us, and efforts to slash the budgets that fund our jobs, our pensions, and our healthcare. Following are the specific changes in rates:

- An increase in retiree dues from four (\$4) to five (\$5) dollars/ month effective March 2020.

- Effective 7/1/20, dues rates for state members increase from 1% to 1.15%; the minimum rate will increase by \$2, and the maximum rate increases by \$4.

- Effective 7/1/2020, dues rates for Muni/BOE members at minimum increases from 1% to 1.15%

- The cap for childcare members increases from \$35 to \$43/month

Collectively, these changes reflect a commitment to ensure all of our chapters have the strength and resources to win increased standards at the bargaining table as we enter contract negotiations in 2020.

We will have the resources to recruit and support more worksite leaders, involve more members in bargaining contracts, electoral and legislative work, and in any additional fights that arise in the coming months and years.

In short, by making these adjustments, we ensure that our union is properly resourced for the fights ahead. And, as we all know, when we fight, we win!



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VIRTUAL DOCTORS VISITS UNDER UNITEDHEALTHCARE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

During this global pandemic, much of our daily routines and lifestyles have been disrupted, but some things you just need, like going to see your doctor. Fortunately, under your UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plan, you have Virtual Doctor Visits covered with a \$0 copayment and no limit for any COVID-19 related visits.

You can also take advantage of the Virtual Behavioral Health Visits, another great way to maintain your health while mitigating risks. These will be covered with your specialist copayment.

Not tech savvy? Don't have a laptop or camera? Don't worry! For assistance in getting started or if you have general questions, call your dedicated UnitedHealthcare number on the back of your card. If you don't have a camera, you can also receive care by phone only. To access either of these benefits, simply visit www.UHCvirtualvisits.com to learn more and book an appointment. Questions can be directed to the 888 number on the back of your UnitedHealthcare card.

SilverSneakers is also offering On-Demand workout videos and other resources to ensure you are staying active and healthy during the outbreak. It's important to know that you are still encouraged to go outside, if possible, but you must still maintain 6ft of distance between yourself and others. You can access this great benefit at Siltersneakers.com where you can explore virtual classes, informative blogs and other resources.

Virtual Visits



With Virtual Visits, you're able to live video chat with a doctor or behavioral health specialist from your computer, tablet or smartphone anytime, day or night.

Virtual Doctor Visits

You can ask questions, get a diagnosis, or even get medication prescribed and have it sent to your pharmacy. All you need is a strong internet connection. Virtual Doctor Visits are good for minor health concerns like:

- Allergies, bronchitis, cold/cough
- Fever, seasonal flu, sore throat
- Migraines/headaches, sinus problems, stomachaches

Virtual Behavioral Health Visits

Virtual Behavioral Health Visits may be best for:

- Initial evaluation
- Medication management
- Addiction
- Depression
- Trauma and loss
- Stress or anxiety



You can find a list of participating Virtual Visit providers by logging into www.uhcretiree/CT.

STATE OF CT ANTHEM PLAN OFFERS VIRTUAL DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS



Anthem offers Virtual Doctor Appointments for members by going to livehealthonline.com. If you are unsure if you have a cold, flu, allergies, pinkeye sinus infection of other common health issues, this is a great way to contact a physician without leaving your home.

Your Anthem plan with the State of Connecticut includes benefits for video visits using your LiveHealth Online, so you'll just pay your share of the costs, \$5 for medical doctor visits and a 45 minute therapist of psychiatric session.

- *See a board certified doctor 24/7, no appointment needed. They can prescribe medication to the pharmacy of your choice if needed.
- *Visit licensed therapist in four days or less by video visit. Anxiety, depression, grief, panic attacks. Call 1-888-548-3432 8am to 8pm 7 days a week.
- *Consult a board certified psychiatrist within two weeks. If over 18 years old, get medication support to manage a mental health condition by calling 1-888-548-3432.

Respect, Not Blame: Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, as revealed in a new report from the Institute for Policy Studies, in the few months of the health crisis, the total net worth of the more than 600 billionaires in the United States grew by 15%, or \$434 billion. And, we’ve all seen the news articles about rich people from New York snapping up homes along Connecticut’s Gold Coast. There’s plenty going around, as long as you already have it.

Ending the continuing attacks on public employees and retirees is just one of the many fights in which CSEA members need to engage as we move through the process of reopening and recovery. We’ll be asking members to take action on a range of issues over the coming weeks and months, and we are starting with one of the most fundamental battles of them all: the protection of our jobs, our benefits, and our rights.

We are asking members to contact their General Assembly members to tell them “Workers Deserve Respect, Not Blame”. Visit <https://bit.ly/2yExGIF> to easily send a message to your representative and senator. There is a letter at the link which you can edit if you want and all you have to do is enter your name, address, and email. If you are not already, please visit the CSEA website (seiu2001.org) and click on the “Sign Up For CSEA eMail” graphic to make sure you are getting actions alerts and the latest information from CSEA.

No one wanted to be living through the fear and anxiety in which we now find ourselves, and we certainly did not want to also have to fight to hold onto everything we’ve built, but if this is the fight our enemies want, let’s give it to them.

Giving in a time of great need.

While helping our members and their families who have contracted and are being treated is our first priority, our second priority are the members currently out of work. For all us still earning a paycheck, please consider a donation to organizations helping to feed the hungry. Foodshare.org is the regional food bank serving Connecticut’s Hartford and Tolland counties, where 118,000 people struggle with hunger. Foodshare is a member of the national organization Feeding America, along with more than 200 other food banks nationally. In partnership with the food industry, donors, community leaders and volunteers, Foodshare works to maximize access to nutritious food and other resources that support food security. And, because hunger is more than food, Foodshare collaborates with anti-hunger organizations, policy makers, and the broader community to build effective solutions to end hunger.

Voting By Mail

Connecticut’s lack of no-fault absentee balloting has always been a problem. One which has been brought into sharp focus as a result of the pandemic. Thankfully, Governor Ned Lamont acted on the urging of CSEA, our allies in Common Cause and the other organizations in the CT Vote-by-Mail Coalition and signed Executive Order No. 7QQ, which allows all registered voters in Connecticut to vote absentee in the August 11, 2020 Primary Election. Current state law authorizes the use of an absentee ballot for six reasons, including a voter’s active service in the Armed Forces; absence from town during all of the hours of voting; own illness; religious beliefs; duties as an election official; and physical disability.

Governor Lamont’s action follows moves in several surrounding states – including New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island – where steps have been taken to implement vote-by-mail in upcoming elections. This common-sense step is necessary to ensure a safe and secure election later this summer as we continue to adjust to the COVID-19 crisis. And, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill has announced that she intends to mail every registered voter in the state an application they will need to fill out and return in order to obtain an absentee ballot.

Governor Lamont’s step is extremely popular nationwide. According to data from President Trump’s own pollsters, recent survey research shows:

Three-fourths of the respondents said they favor states keeping polling locations open (so long as they meet health guidelines), but also giving all voters the option to vote absentee;

82% of Democrats, 76% of independents and 70% of Republicans supported that dual option — and it was most popular with voters 65 and older; and

About three in four also favor pre-paid postage for absentee voting; counting absentee ballots postmarked by election day; establishing secure, monitored drop-box locations for absentee ballots; and letting voters ask for absentee ballots through a website.

Those numbers come after a Reuters poll last month also showed broad nationwide bipartisan support for vote-by-mail, with more than 70% of all U.S. adults and 65% of Republicans supporting it.

We are living through a once-in-a-century pandemic, and it’s happening in a major election year. We have an obligation to every voter and to our democracy to ensure everyone’s health and rights are protected. However, the reality is that this virus is not going away anytime soon, and certainly not before Election Day in November. It is vital that the General Assembly pass legislation expanding mail-in voting through the General Election, ensuring all residents can safely cast their ballots.

No one should have to choose between their health and their voting rights. This is just as true for the Primary Election as it is for the General. That is why CSEA members will continue to fight for all voters to have the ability to choose to use a no-fault absentee ballot in any election they wish.

Family Child Care Provider News

CTCARES for Family Child Care CTCARES for Family Child Care is an initiative from the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) designed to help licensed family child care providers during the COVID-19 emergency and beyond. This program connects providers with a Family Child Care Network to offer grant funding, quality improvement supports and other resources to help you keep your business running.

Available to all Licensed Family Child Care Providers:

Phone consultations with behavioral health experts The Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP) will provide telephone and/or online opportunities to answer questions regarding social emotional and behavior concerns for children 0-5 in your care. They can also help with managing self-care and dealing with stress in adults. Visit www.eccpct.com to find a consultant. If you require Spanish translation contact Juan Ortiz by email at jortiz@abhct.com or phone at: 860-704-6378.

Access to Health Consultation Join one of several CT Nurses’ Association webinars on health and safety topics related to the COVID-19 emergency. Webinars will also be available in Spanish. For details and registration visit: www.ctoec.org/covid-19/ctcares-for-family-child-care.

Access to the Connecticut Talk It Out Help Line This is a dedicated line for parents and caretakers to get help with the stress and increased needs resulting from caring for their children during the emergency. Those in need of help should call 833-258-5011 to be connected with trained professionals who will listen and speak with them about their concerns. Help can also be found online: <http://talkitoutct.com>

Connecting to a Family Child Care Network Family Child Care Networks are community initiatives that have staff with expertise working with family child care providers. They’re a number of ongoing support services and resources to family child care providers, which may include professional development, coaching and consultation, and business and administrative supports. These resources support quality improvement and business stability. One of their greatest strengths is that each network is local and works to meet the specific needs of their community.

Because the networks are located in the geographic areas they serve, they are directly in touch with local providers and families.

CTCARES para hogares para cuidado de niños familiar es una iniciativa de la Oficina de la Primera Infancia de Connecticut (OEC) cuyo propósito es ayudar a los proveedores de cuidado de niños familiar autorizados durante la emergencia por la COVID-19 y posteriormente. Este programa conecta a los proveedores con redes de hogares para cuidado de niños familiar que ofrecen financiación mediante subvenciones, apoyos para mejorar la calidad y otros recursos con el objetivo de ayudarlos a seguir funcionando.

Apoyo Disponible para Todos los Proveedores de Cuidado de Niños Familiar Autorizados:

Consultas Telefónicas con Expertos en Salud Conductual La Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP, Asociación de Consultas sobre la Primera Infancia) responderá por teléfono o internet las consultas de los proveedores relacionadas con problemas socioemocionales o conductuales en niños de 0 a 5 años. También puede brindar apoyo para el cuidado personal y el manejo del estrés en los adultos. Ingrese en www.eccpct.com para buscar un asesor.

Si necesita traducción al español, comuníquese con Juan Ortiz por correo electrónico jortiz@abhct.com o por teléfono 860-704-6378.

Acceso a Consultas de Salud Participe de uno de los muchos seminarios web que ofrece la Connecticut Nurses Association (Asociación de Enfermeros de Connecticut) sobre temas de salud y seguridad relacionados con la emergencia por la COVID-19. Estarán también disponibles en español. Para obtener más información e inscribirse, ingrese en www.ctoec.org/covid-19/ctcares-for-family-child-care.

ctoec.org/covid-19/ctcares-for-family-child-care.

Acceso a la Línea de Ayuda Talk It Out de Connecticut Esta línea dedicada para padres y cuidadores ofrece ayuda para manejar el estrés y la mayor cantidad de necesidades que surgen por el cuidado de sus hijos durante la situación de emergencia. Quienes necesiten ayuda deben llamar al 833- 258-5011 para que los comuniquen con profesionales capacitados que escucharán sus inquietudes y los asesorarán. Help can also be found online: <http://talkitoutct.com>

Súmese a una Red de Hogares para Cuidado de Niños Familiar Las redes de hogares para cuidado de niños familiar son iniciativas comunitarias que cuentan con personal con experiencia en el trabajo con proveedores de cuidado de niños familiar. Ofrecen una serie de servicios y recursos de apoyo continuo a los proveedores de cuidado de niños familiar afiliados, que pueden incluir desarrollo profesional, capacitación y asesoramiento, y apoyo empresarial y administrativo. Estos recursos promueven la mejora de la calidad y la estabilidad de las empresas. Una de sus mayores fortalezas es que

cada red es local y tiene el objetivo de satisfacer las necesidades específicas de su comunidad. Debido a que

las redes están ubicadas en las zonas geográficas a las que prestan servicios, están en contacto directo con

los proveedores y las familias locales. Actualmente, las redes de hogares para cuidado de niños familiar



CSEA To Hold On-Line Special Convention Saturday, June 27.

As such, the CSEA Executive Council voted unanimously to hold an on-line Special Convention on Saturday, June 27, 2020 to consider its motion to postpone this year’s regular biennial CSEA Convention from October 16, 2020 to September or October of 2021.

The Special Convention will be held by Zoom video conferencing, with an option to phone in to the meeting.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE CSEA SEIU LOCAL 2001
SPECIAL CONVENTION OF SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020

(All times are approximate)

- 8:45 a.m. Registration/Log-In of Delegates
- 9:00 a.m. Convention Convenes
Call to Order
- 9:05 a.m. Report of Convention Committee
Registration and Credentials Report
Appointment of Parliamentarian
Adoption of the Rules of Order
- 9:15 a.m. Vote on Motion

Motion to be considered:

For this year only, CSEA SEIU Local 2001 shall suspend its practice of holding its biennial Convention in September or October of an even numbered year, and conduct its biennial Convention in September or October of 2021.

Presidents’ Letter Continued from Page 1

an automatic presumption that it was contracted at work and therefore covered under Workers’ Compensation.

Our second area of focus is on the many issues associated with the future reopening of workplaces that have been closed, or partly closed, during the crisis. Through an on-line survey, many of our state members offered input regarding reopening and we will use this input as we discuss these matters with the Lamont Administration. As with everything during this time, our primary goal is for worker safety. For the many who have been successfully teleworking, we will push to have these arrangements continued for as long as possible.

Speaking of the Lamont Administration, many state employee members have asked me about Governor Lamont’s request to meet with state employee union leaders about the negotiated 2020 general wage increases. Of course, when the Governor asked to meet we said yes and we listened respectfully. As many of us predicted, however, the Governor was understandably unable to offer anything that would make such a concession possible. As we all remember, we gave concessions in order to achieve this year’s raise and that increase is very important to all of us, especially in light of all that public sector workers

are doing during this crisis.

In the wake of the exchange with the Governor, we know that our enemies will use this crisis to attack us. It has already started with local GOP leaders “thanking” state workers for the sacrifices they have made by demanding that the raises be withheld. Others have called for and will continue to call for the revocation of fundamental worker rights, like the right to collectively bargain.

Make no mistake, these attacks will amplify over the coming months. Unquestionably, budgets have been and will continue to be negatively impacted by the pandemic. The fundamental question is, should budgets be balanced on the backs of working families who are struggling to survive and thrive during this time? Or, should wealthy citizens and corporations be asked to pay their fair share? The answer is crystal clear, but it is up to us all to work hard to make sure that our state moves forward in a manner that broadens and elevates the middle class rather than one that devolves into austerity and cuts to public services. The election in November will be our first test. And, the legislative session of 2021 will be the second. At a time when budgets are debated and contracts expire, we will need to ensure no one forgets the critical work that our members perform.

Lastly, as you may know, this is a biennial convention year for CSEA. Normally the convention is something to look forward to;

an opportunity for members to come together and celebrate each other. This year, given all of the factors that prevent large in-person public gatherings, the CSEA Executive Council voted unanimously to recommend postponement of our convention from this fall to the fall of 2021. As such, we will conduct a virtual special convention on June 27th to take up the singular motion of postponing the regular convention. Per the CSEA Constitution, the delegates to the special convention will be the same ones that served at the last biennial convention in 2018. Hope to see many of you on Zoom on June 27th.

In closing, it is my most sincere hope that all of you have a healthy and happy summer. Always remember, through our union, we have the ability to make change happen with our collective voices. As Mary Kay said, we have the ability to make this a turning point, and we should do just that.

In solidarity,

Steve Anderson

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