

BUDGET DOES NOT INCLUDE SEBAC AGREEMENT

Both the House and Senate voted to approve a state budget (editors note: a budget which has more holes than Swiss cheese in it) and the Governor will sign it. Below are several of the "spending" issues impacting members and their families.

- Authorize Gov. John G. Rowland to make up to \$55 million in additional cuts to the 2004-05 budget, on or after October 1, 2004. By law, the governor can already rescind up to 3 percent of the total appropriations from any fund. The authority is repealed if Connecticut receives more federal aid next fiscal year.
- Require the governor's budget director to save \$14 million in both years in personnel services. No explanation is given.

SEPARATE LEGISLATION

SEBAC and House/Senate leadership have negotiated a package which includes \$100 million from unionized state workers in return for 4 years of job protection (June 2007).

The proposal will be introduced as legislation and voted on by both the House and Senate. It will require the Governor to sign or veto.

Below are highlights of the proposal:

1. Pension agreement modified to incorporate the 2003 Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) providing job offers to 2300 laid off workers, inclusion and/or eligibility of participants in the Alternative Retirement Program (ARP-specific to professors) and/or Teachers Retirement System (TRS)
2. Prescription drug co-pay for active and future retirees increase to: \$5 for generic, \$10 for brand, \$15 for preferred brand names—the list of preferred brands shall be pre-approved by the Healthcare Cost Containment Committee. This does not effect anyone presently retired.

Anthem/Blue Cross POS Preferred Plan— most expensive plan

3. Employees (initially) first hired on or after July 1, 2003, shall not have access to Preferred POS Plan.
4. New enrollment in the Preferred Plan for current employees shall end no earlier than

July 1, 2004, provided that enrollment shall not end unless and until the Comptroller certifies that access to out-of-network provides for employees with life-threatening illnesses will be provided through POS Standard Plan in a manner substantially equivalent to that currently available under the Preferred POS Plan.

5. Employees (initially) first hired on or after July 1, 2003 will pay \$10 co-pay for doctor office visits regardless of the insurance plan he/she enrolls in.
6. The State's contribution to the unfunded accrual pension liability is reduced \$25 million for the years ending June 30, 2004 and June 30, 2005. Repayment in equal increments over the remaining period of amortization.
7. SEBAC unions will withdraw as plaintiffs in the federal lawsuit.

Items 1 through 7 do not effect anyone presently retired.

8. OPM Secretary is required to negotiate/arbitrate the creation of a Voluntary Schedule Reduction Program.
9. OPM Secretary is required within 7 days to offer the following contractual terms and conditions to unions:
 - a. January 2004—No AI, 10th step payment will be paid.
 - b. July 2004—No pay raise.
 - c. July 2004—No AI, 10th step payment will be paid.
 - d. January 2005—AI and 10th step payment will be paid.
 - e. July 2005—3% pay raise, AI and 10th step payment will be paid.
 - f. January 2006—AI and 10th step payment will be paid.
10. Job security protections (through June 2007) shall not include: separations occurring as a result of terminations of grant funded or durational positions, failure to renew appointments for performance reasons, denial of tenure for performance reasons.
11. Members laid off will be offered either the position held prior to layoff or a substantially equivalent position.

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12. Placement & Training Committee--\$5 million will be provided to train and place laid off members, if necessary.
13. Members who were laid off and elected retirement will be offered his/her job as long as they rescind within 30 days their retirement.
14. Time on layoff shall be considered continuous state service and not impact seniority.
15. Members laid off upon return to state service can buy back vacation time.
16. Members laid off who did not complete their initial working test period will be placed on a preferential hiring list.
17. There shall be no layoffs in the fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.
18. On December 31, 2004, OPM will certify the amount of savings and increase property tax credit up to a maximum of \$450. The Governor, in budget negotiations, was successful in reducing the tax credit from \$500 to \$350.

MEMBERS WILL VOTE

When an agreement is reached, members will immediately be mailed a complete copy of the text. Q and A meetings will be held at various sites throughout the state.

Approximately one week following the completion of those meetings, members will VOTE to accept or reject the proposal.

NEXT JOB FAIR

TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 13TH

A job fair has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 13th beginning at 8:00 a.m. at CEUI Headquarters. Members on the re-employment list will receive confirmation of the date and a list of most vacancies prior to the job fair.

As of print time (August 4), DOT has not received approval from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to fill NP-2 vacancies.

SEPTEMBER 2003 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The eight (8) statewide September Membership Meetings have been scheduled. **We encourage active as well as retired CEUI members to attend** these important meetings. Remember your attendance at these meetings guarantees you the most up-to-date information on issues affecting you and your family. Please plan to attend. The dates, times and places of the meetings are as follows:

Tuesday, September 2

Oliver Wolcott Tech, Torrington	4:30pm
Kaynor Tech, Waterbury	7:30pm

Wednesday, September 3

Gateway Community College, New Haven 7:30pm

Thursday, September 4

DAS Fleet Garage, 190 Huyshope Ave., Hartford
12:00pm

UCONN, Storrs, St. Thomas Aquinas Center 3:30pm

Yantic Firehouse, Norwich 7:30pm

Sunday, September 7

UCONN, Storrs, St. Thomas Aquinas Ctr 2:00pm

Monday, September 8

CEUI HQ, Middletown 7:30pm

Union Secretary Treasurer Leslie Maddocks issued a call for the 36th Annual CEUI Convention. The Convention will be held at the Falcons Pavilion in Middletown on Friday, October 10, 2003. Delegates will be selected at the September Regional Membership Meetings. If you are interested in being a delegate, be sure to attend one of the meetings listed above.

Just a reminder that this is an election year. The Union Constitution states that any member in good standing for a period of two years who wishes to run for an elected office must forward their name in writing to the Secretary Treasurer, Leslie Maddocks, CEUI, PO Box 1268, Middletown CT 06457, and which notice must be received by the Secretary Treasurer no less than thirty (30) days (September 10, 2003) before the Convention. You must also clearly identify the position that you are seeking.

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