

February 24, 2011



# BUDGET BATTLE BEGINS



As you are aware, Governor Malloy gave his first budget address on Wednesday, February 16, 2011. His proposed framework for balancing the \$3 billion dollar deficit is a combination of savings, cuts, and revenue enhancements. We were all alarmed at the scope of concessions from state employees that he proposed. In fact, many questioned why we supported Malloy in this past election.

Even though our members will have to organize and campaign for more of the burden to be shifted to the wealthy and big corporations, and less to the working families of Connecticut, his proposed budget does make some efforts to split the pain. By contrast, Republican governors and legislators around the country are taking a no tax increase/all cut approach. Even worse, they are using the budget debate to eliminate collective bargaining rights for public workers! It is one thing to ask for concessions, but permanently destroying workers rights to have a voice in the workplace is another thing.

Our union is organizing members in Connecticut and around the country to stand up for worker's rights and a fair economy. We are educating working families, union and non-union, that these attacks on workers will devastate the middle class and we will not stand for it. Here in Connecticut, our members and other working families must be involved in the budget debate by talking to their legislators and attending the Governor's town hall meetings. Our message is: we all deserve a fair economy, with good jobs for Connecticut's working families, including adequate healthcare and retirement security. For too long, corporate greed has taken these essential benefits from workers and lined the pockets of CEO's and company owners. For example, the money received by Connecticut's top 1% income earners (\$2.5 million and above per year) from the extension of the Bush tax cuts equaled the amount of money needed to balance our state's budget.

We are hoping the Malloy administration will continue to look to front line workers for savings ideas, work with us to improve our health plan (making us healthier and saving the state money), healthcare pooling (allowing municipalities, non-profits, and small businesses to join our plan) and make the multiple layers of management more efficient before talking about concessions. State workers will pay tax increases just like everyone else in the state. We are willing to be part of the solution; however putting a double burden

on us to solve a problem we did not create is not reasonable.

As of now, the only discussions that union leadership has had with the Malloy administration are in regard to savings ideas. Malloy's team has requested to meet with leadership for an initial discussion on the budget. This meeting will be held on March 2, 2011. We will inform the membership every step of the way during this difficult budget process. Keep in mind that no changes can be made to our NP-2 contract without a vote of the membership. Also, any changes to the SEBAC Healthcare & Pension Agreement (1997-2017) would require a vote of the SEBAC member unions.

**Another thing to keep in mind is that if we did not have a union, collective bargaining or contracts, the changes and cuts proposed would be made without any discussion or possible recourse –just like they do in the non-union private sector work force.** This is why Wisconsin's fight is our fight! The Republican governor of Wisconsin, Scott Walker, soon after his inauguration, manufactured a budget deficit by handing out tax breaks to private sector companies. He quickly put the blame for the shortfall on the backs of state workers.

Governor Walker is using this opportunity to conspire with the Republican majority in the Wisconsin legislature to eliminate the collective bargaining and other union rights from state workers. This is a politically motivated attack to destroy union member support for Democratic candidates that oppose them. Democratic legislators have taken a stand by leaving Wisconsin and preventing a vote on a bill to take away public workers rights. The situation in Wisconsin is a great opportunity to talk to co-workers, family, and friends about how working people need to support each other. If one worker is hurt, we all feel the pain. Solidarity and action are the keys to winning this fight in Connecticut, Wisconsin, or anywhere in the world.

The quickest way to get updated information on the budget battle or anything important to union members and their families is to sign up for email updates or go to [www.ceui.org](http://www.ceui.org). On our website, you can also check out the links to [www.inthistogetherct.org](http://www.inthistogetherct.org) and [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org).

**If you wish to be added to our email listserv, please call Tracy Deegan at (860) 343-8712 or email her at [tdeegan@ceui.org](mailto:tdeegan@ceui.org).**

## CEUI SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN OF CEUI MEMBERS

Applications are now available for the 2011 Salvatore Perruccio Scholarship. CEUI offers four \$2,500 scholarships to a deserving child (note: grandchildren are excluded) of an active (not retired) dues paying member of CEUI. Qualifications are:

1. You must be a senior in high school about to enter a four-year accredited college by the Fall of 2011.
2. You must fill out a **preliminary application** and return it by April 15, 2011.
3. You must return a **final application** postmarked by May 13, 2011.
4. Qualifying students will be individually interviewed by the Scholarship Committee.
5. Winners will be expected to attend the 24th Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Golf Tournament held June 23, 2011.

To obtain a preliminary app please call Tracy at 860-343-8712. You may also request an application by email: [tdeegan@ceui.org](mailto:tdeegan@ceui.org). Be sure your email indicates both the name of the parent and the child.

### HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Salvatore J. Perruccio Humanitarian Award is presented to a member for outstanding recognition of his/her time spent serving the community by volunteering and/or providing his/her leadership and lending a helping hand whenever needed. If you would like to nominate a "special" CEUI member please submit his /her name by May 13, 2011, to Tracy at the Union or email it to: [tdeegan@ceui.org](mailto:tdeegan@ceui.org).

## CEUI MEMBERS KEEP THE STATE RUNNING

We want to recognize the incredible job our snow and ice crew members did to keep our highways, roads, colleges, schools, and state buildings open and safe for our families, during record snowfalls this winter! Despite low staffing levels and long hours, they got the job done! In addition we recognize the members who reported for work despite the nasty weather to feed clients, clean buildings, run power plants and provide many other services the people of Connecticut depend on! Great job! Another example that public service workers do it better! We are proud of you all!

## NEW INTERIM EXECUTIVE BOARD TRUSTEES

Effective January 14, 2011, long-time Executive Board Trustee Marion Wright and Retiree Executive Board Trustee George Spurlock resigned from the Executive Board. We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Marion and George for their efforts, past, present and future, in their service to the members of our Union.

Per the CEUI By-laws, the Executive Board voted to appoint two interim Executive Board Trustees who will serve on the Board until the next Board election in the Fall of 2011. The new interim Board Trustees are John Birtwistle from Southbury Training School and Angela Maggi from Western Connecticut State University. John and Angela are both long-time stewards and leaders in their workplace. Please join in welcoming them to CEUI's Executive Board.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 5 — Fair Economy Conference, CCSU
- March 11 — Steward training
- April 15 — Preliminary scholarship applications due
- May 13 — Final scholarship applications due
- May 13 — Humanitarian nominations due
- June 23 — 24th Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Golf Tournament, Portland Golf Club
- June 25 — Rock Cats Baseball Labor Night, New Britain

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