

January 27, 2009



ECONOMIC CRISIS



Across the country, states are facing massive budget deficits due to a US economy that has slowed to a crawl. State revenue sources, such as income taxes, sales taxes, business taxes, etc. have dropped dramatically. This is not a problem specific to Connecticut. In California, Maryland, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New Jersey, governors have asked or ordered workers to accept furloughs, salary reductions, reduced work-weeks or benefit cuts.

In Connecticut, the Office of Policy and Management has projected a deficit for the 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008—June 30, 2009) of \$900 million dollars. For the two year budget (fiscal years 2010 and 2011), the projected deficit is \$8 billion dollars. While we do not know how accurate these numbers will prove to be, it is safe to say that Connecticut, along with almost every state in the US, is in a financial crisis.

How do we weather this storm and protect the public services that the citizens of Connecticut will need more than ever in the months and years ahead?

CEUI/SEIU Local 511 was part of an historic presidential campaign in 2008. SEIU put more resources (money and volunteers) into this election than any labor organization in history. Electing Obama and Biden, who are committed to helping working families, was only the first step. In order to repair the damage inflicted on working people over the past few years, SEIU is launching an aggressive “**Change That Works Campaign**” to effect change in these three critical areas:

1. Pass a bold and comprehensive federal economic stimulus package directed to assist state and local governments in protecting public services and creating jobs;
2. Pass national healthcare reform to provide cost effective, quality healthcare for all. Getting care for a sick family member is a right not a privilege; and
3. Pass the Federal “Employee Free Choice Act” to give all workers a fair chance when the majority of workers want to organize and form a union.

The goal is to make these historic changes in this session of Congress!!

State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC)

The SEBAC member unions negotiated the 20 year pension and healthcare agreement that spans from 1997-2017. SEBAC has also worked with the State to protect public services and find solutions to economic problems in past years. In 2003, SEBAC proposed a savings package of \$1 billion dollars which Governor Rowland rejected so he could proceed with layoffs.

In the fall of 2008 SEBAC launched a campaign to protect public services in the following areas:

1. **Response to Negative Messages:** The Governor, the media, and some legislators have sent negative messages to the public that the workers are the cause of the problem and must be cut. A communications and media team was put in place to promote an accurate and positive message about public service workers. ***The SEBAC message is that quality public services are the centerpiece of a healthy economy in Connecticut.***
2. **Training and Mobilization:** SEBAC is mobilizing its members, training some to appear on TV and radio to tell their story about what they do and how they serve the citizens of our state. Additionally, we are mobilizing members to write letters, contact legislators, and talk to friends and neighbors about public services.
3. **Meeting with Legislators:** Talking with our members of the US Congress, as well as our State senators and representatives ***about protecting the vital services we provide for Connecticut.***
4. **Meeting with the Governors designees:** Meeting to discuss solutions to the economic crisis. The media has said these discussions were going on many weeks ago. The truth is that they are just beginning. ***The SEBAC philosophy is that we are willing to be part of the solutions if they improve the economy, but we are not willing to make the economic situation worse.***

IN ANY CRISIS THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY!

Our opportunity is to become educated and informed! Mobilized and vocal! To work toward some long term solutions that will improve the quality of life for working families for many years to come!

Call (860-343-8700) or email (tdeegan@ceui.org) the Union office to give us your updated phone and email for member mobilization and information updates

DO NOT BELIEVE RUMORS!

At press time there are no ERIPS, layoffs, or furloughs.

As soon as information becomes available that impacts our members, we will get it to you. . (continued on reverse)

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

Volunteer some time to write a letter, talk to a legislator, attend an event, or be enrolled in our media communication training program.

For the most up-to-date info, go to www.ceui.org or www.seiu.org, or call the Union Update Line at 860-343-8705.

DO YOU KNOW A MEMBER DESERVING OF A 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. The award is presented to a CEUI member who demonstrates qualities such as being humane, kindhearted, public-spirited, idealistic, generous, merciful, considerate and exceptionally kind.

If you would like to nominate a "special" CEUI member whose efforts are deserving of this award, please submit his or her name by May 15, 2009 to:

CEUI / Tracy Deegan
P.O. Box 1268
Middletown, CT 06457
or email it to: tdeegan@ceui.org

The Humanitarian Award will be presented at the 22nd Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Golf Tournament on Thursday, June 25, 2009.

**SAVE THE DATE:
22ND ANNUAL SALVATORE J. PERRUCCIO
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

- **Thursday, June 25, 2009**
- **Portland Golf Course**
- **Shotgun 9:30 a.m.**
- **Cost per player \$100**

First come, first served. Call Tracy at the Union Office for registration material (860-343-8712)

EMAIL ADDRESSES REQUESTED

In order to provide you with up-to-date information, we need your current/correct email address! Please send an email to tdeegan@ceui.org requesting to be added to our email list. Be sure to include your name and agency/location.

PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS FOR CEUI SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Applications are now available for the 2008/2009 Salvatore J. Perruccio Scholarship. CEUI offers four (4) \$2,500 scholarships to deserving children of active dues paying members of CEUI. The specifics for qualifying are:

1. Your child must be a senior in high school about to enter a four-year accredited college by the Fall of 2009.
2. Your child must fill out a preliminary application form and postmark it by April 17, 2009.
3. Your child must complete and submit a final application postmarked by May 15, 2009.
4. Qualifying students will be individually interviewed.
5. Winners will be expected to attend the 19th Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Golf Tournament held June 25, 2009.

To obtain a preliminary application form, please call Tracy at the Union at 1-800-622-3359 x712 or locally at (860) 343-8712. You may also request an application by email at tdeegan@ceui.org. Please be sure to specify your name and agency/location in the email.

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CONNECTICUT EMPLOYEES UNION INDEPENDENT, SEIU LOCAL 511
110 RANDOLPH ROAD, P.O. BOX 1268, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
OFFICE HOURS: M-F, 8:30-4:30
PHONE: (860) 344-0311 OR 1-800-622-3359