

March 1, 2005



IMPASSE



The State and the Union negotiating committees, after meeting on eight (8) occasions, did not reach an agreement on anything! At the last negotiating session held on Wednesday, February 23rd, the parties agreed to file for Interest Arbitration.

The arbitrator selected is Connecticut-based Larry Foye. Three dates have been scheduled thus far; they are April 22nd, May 11th and May 16th. To review the proposals pending, see the CEUI January newspaper, pg 6.

Stewards—Information Meeting

Stewards have been invited to attend an "Informational Meeting" to update them on contract negotiations and what the foreseeable future holds. The meeting will have a question and answer segment. Example Question: When was the last time a contract was on time? Answer: The present contract was ratified by the members of the General Assembly in 2002. Question: Has any other state worker union fought as long as CEUI did in contract arbitration (including requests by arbitrators for extensions) without a pay raise? Answer: Yes, presently the Administrators & Residuals (A&R) unit is awaiting an arbitrators award. Their contract expired on July 1, 2003. To date the arbitrator has asked for three (3) extensions. The award could break the pattern of **zero** general wage increase (GWI) in the first year of contracts agreed to by other unions and awarded in one (1) interest arbitration.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

DOT Stewards—Saturday, March 12, 2005, 10am—noon, CEUI Headquarters

Non-DOT Stewards—Saturday, March 19, 2005, 10am—noon, CEUI Headquarters

Members are invited to attend; everyone's input is important! Members interested in attending are asked to advise his/her steward, who will then provide the names to Barbara Nielsen at (860) 343-8721.

Some Important Information to Remember

- March is a three paycheck month—3rd, 17th and 31st
- The April 28th check will include longevity pay for members with 10 years of service and more (see Article 22 [Longevity] for years of service)
- Governor Rell did not include an early retirement incentive in the biennial budget beginning July 2005 through June 2007
- Rumors involving a handshake are false
- Picnic dates for members are as follows:
 - Friday, June 3, 2005—noon—Mansfield/Willimantic—Franco American Club
 - Friday, June 10, 2005—noon—Waterbury—Lake Quassapaug
 - Friday, June 17, 2005—noon—Bridgeport/Stratford—Booth Memorial park
 - Friday, July 1, 2005—noon—East Hampton—Fireman's Picnic Grounds
- General Assembly ends on Wednesday, June 8th. Veto and Trailer Sessions will be held in July. The 2006 General Assembly begins in February and is in session for only four months because of statewide elections, including the Governor's election.

CEUI Scholarship Available for Children of Members

The specifics for qualifying are:

1. You must be a senior in high school about to enter a four-year accredited college by the fall of 2005
2. You must fill out a preliminary application form and postmark it by April 1, 2005.

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.

Do You Know a Member Deserving of a Humanitarian Award?

If you would like to nominate a "special" CEUI member whose efforts are deserving of such an award, please submit his or her name by May 6, 2005 to Tracy Deegan (Confidential), CEUI, PO Box 1268, Middletown CT 06457 or email it to tdeegan@ceui.org.

18th Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Golf Tournament Money Raised Goes Toward the Scholarships

- Thursday, June 23, 2005
- Portland Golf Course
- Shotgun Start 9:30am
- Cost per Player \$100
- First come, first served. To register for the tournament, please call Tracy at the Union at (860) 343-8712 or (800) 622-3359, x712 and request a registration form.

Health Insurance Negotiations

The week of March 1st, the Health Care Cost Containment Committee (HCCC) began meeting with a dozen vendors for medical, dental and prescriptions. The plan is to have the carriers selected for open enrollment beginning in May, with an effective date of July 1, 2005. At this time the exact rate increase is unknown, but should be approximately 10 percent.

Get the Facts on Social Security

MYTH: "It makes sense for younger workers to hold their own account, because when they pass on they can leave their own assets to whomever they choose." President Bush, 2/16/05

FACT: Under President Bush's plan, money saved in a private account must be used to buy an annuity, which provides a monthly income check for the rest of your life, leaving nothing to leave to your heirs. Should you die immediately after retirement, an annuity cannot be passed on to anyone. While the idea of leaving money to heirs is the most appealing to middle and lower income workers, it is these same workers who are most likely to spend all of the money in their private accounts for the annuity because of the expected cuts in guaranteed benefits. And if you die before you retire? As with most details in President Bush's plan, that is still unclear. (Center for Economic and Policy Research, www.cepr.net)

May Membership Meetings

The nine (9) statewide May 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 meeting are as follows:

Sunday, May 1, UConn/Storrs, St. Thomas Aquinas, 2:00pm

Monday, May 2, Oliver Wolcott Tech, Torrington, 4:30pm
Kaynor Tech, Waterbury, 7:30pm

Tuesday, May 3, DPW Trade Shop, 309 Buckingham Street, Hartford, 12:00pm
UConn/Storrs, St. Thomas Aquinas, 3:30pm
Yantic Firehouse, Norwich, 7:30pm

Wednesday, May 4, Norwalk Community College, Norwalk, 7:30pm

Monday, May 9, CEUI Headquarters, Middletown, 7:30pm

Tuesday, May 10, Gateway Community College, New Haven, 7:30pm

**Sunday, May 8 is MOTHER'S DAY—the one day a year husbands and sons
must never forget**