

GOLDEN HANDSHAKE?

There is **NO** ERIP (Early Retirement Incentive Program) offered by the State at this time.

This is a Republican proposal to push their version of the State Budget for the 08/09 fiscal year. This budget does NOT include funding for many line items that are important to our members.

We would support an ERIP IF it is negotiated with SE-BAC and includes payouts for vacation, sick and chips. Most importantly, an ERIP must not allow contracting out jobs that would be left vacant by retirees!

CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP

Despite tremendous opposition from the insurance and business lobbies, legislation to open the state employee health insurance plan to municipal employees, non-profit organizations and small businesses, **H.B. 5536**, has been passed by both chambers and must now be signed by Governor Rell before it becomes law. *The plan would expand the size of the state plan and use its increased bargaining power to negotiate lower insurance rates for everyone.* Municipalities could pass the savings on to taxpayers in the form of property tax relief. Fearful of losing profits, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association and the insurance lobby are counting on Governor Rell to veto this bill.

RELL ORDERS HIRING FREEZE

With state revenues slumping, Gov. M. Jodi Rell is ordering certain state agencies to freeze any new hiring.

The freeze also includes restrictions on using outside consultants.

Rell says the state must cut spending by \$53 million to break even before the fiscal year ends June 30. She says the new fiscal year, which begins July 1, is about \$150 million in the red, mostly due to slumping income and other taxes. The hiring freeze does not affect jobs involving public health and safety.

Rell is asking state-run colleges and universities, the legislative branch and judicial branch to take similar steps to reduce spending. (reprinted from AP)

REMINDERS

- June 13: Picnic at the Falcon's Grove, Middletown
- June 20: Picnic at Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury
- June 26: 21st Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament, Portland

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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, 8:30-5:00
PHONE: (860) 344-0311 OR 1-800-622-3359



May 30, 2008

RELL: HIRING FREEZE



CONTRACT ARBITRATION UPDATE

CEUI has been in negotiations for a successor contract with the State since October 30, 2007. We have met numerous times attempting to resolve the issues on the table, but the Negotiation Team cannot accept what the State has proposed. We have filed for arbitration as of March 28, 2008 in order to protect your contract.

We were unable to reach an agreement with the State on a suitable arbitrator and therefore we used the American Arbitration Association (AAA) to select one. Per AAA guidelines, both the State and the Union submitted its list of acceptable names to AAA. As soon as an arbitrator and hearing dates are finalized we will post them on the website and list them in the next newspaper as well.

As a reminder, as we proceed on with the arbitration hearings, we will need support from all of our members. We will likely call on many of you to come as witnesses during some of the hearings, as well as look to you for information we may need to support our case. Please see the "Important Points" below as a reminder as to what we are fighting against!

IMPORTANT POINTS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- The State has offered **ZERO PAY RAISES** for any year of the contract.
- The State has offered **ZERO ANNUAL INCREASES** for any year of the contract.
- The State has offered **ZERO PAY DIFFERENTIAL INCREASES OR SHOE MONEY INCREASES** for any year of the contract.
- The State wants the ability to **INVOLUNTARILY TRANSFER** DOT employees to Temporary Night Shifts.
- The State wants the ability to make **UNLIMITED TRANSFERS** of building work assignments by extending the definition of "facility" to include the entire campus.
- The State proposes to **ELIMINATE THE PAYMENT OF TIME & ONE-HALF** after 8 hours worked.
- The Union has offered reasonable counter proposals

to many of the State's issues but the State refuses to extend the same courtesy to the Union.

- The Union will not settle for language changes that compromise the contract that we have fought long and hard for.
- Once again, the State has failed to bargain in good faith with the Union and once again the Union and its members will fight back!
- For a full list of the issues and updates, visit our website at www.ceui.org

If you have questions regarding contract negotiations please contact Cara Wachsman at (860) 343-8719 or 800-622-3359 x719.

CDL MEDICAL CARD UPDATE

Our first negotiation session regarding CDL medical cards was held on May 22, 2008. The next scheduled negotiation session will be held on June 30, 2008. We will continue to provide updates, as they are available, via the website and update line.

If you have questions regarding CDL Medical Card Negotiations please contact Cara Wachsman at (860) 343-8719 or 800-622-3359 x719.

HIGHWAY WORK ZONE SAFETY BILL HEADS TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

Thanks to the efforts of many committed CEUI members and Jennifer Berigan (CEUI political director), our union was able to pass legislation to improve highway work zone safety this year. The bill, **S.B. 285**, creates the offenses of "endangerment of a highway worker" and "aggravated endangerment of a highway worker" and provides stiff fines and penalties for drivers who violate traffic laws within a work zone. The bill also establishes a Highway Work Zone Safety Advisory Council to make ongoing recommendations for improving work zone safety.

S.B. 285 passed the Senate and House of Representative unanimously. It now goes to Governor Rell's desk to be signed. If she signs S.B. 285, it becomes law. If she vetoes the bill, we have to start all over again next year.