

# “INDEPENDENT” UNION NEWS

March 2008

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Affiliated -Service Employees International Union -AFL-CIO, CLC  
CT EMPLOYEES UNION INDEPENDENT, SEIU LOCAL 511  
MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES UNION INDEPENDENT, SEIU LOCAL 506



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LOCAL 511  
LOCAL 506



## SEIU & “CHANGE TO WIN” ENDORSE OBAMA

### CHANGE TO WIN ENDORSES SEN. BARACK OBAMA

CTW federation members:

OVER 6.2 MILLION WORKERS STRONG

- International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) 1.4 Million members

- Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) 700,000 members
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1.9 Million members
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC) 520,000 members

- United Farm Workers of America (UFW) 27,000 members
- United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) 1.3 Million members
- UNITE HERE (Hotel & Restaurant workers) 450,000 members

### MEMBERS SUPPORT HIGHWAY WORK ZONE SAFETY BILL SENATE BILL 50 MARCH 5, 2008



Pictured above at the Legislative Office Building: Jennifer Berigan, Walter Bert, George Spurlock, Dwight Johnson, Michael Griffin, Paul Kalajian, Chuck Laus, Chuck LaBella, Ron McLellan, Cara Wachsman, Tim Williams and Max Scheller

### CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

The Negotiation Team was last scheduled to meet with the State on January 25, 2008. However, the State cancelled the meeting with the Union because the Union would not agree to accept several of their proposals. The Negotiation Team is continuing to formulate counter proposals as a last effort to resolve the items that are left on the table at this point. We have not filed for Arbitration at this time, but will notify the membership if that decision is made. Please continue to check our website at [www.ceui.org](http://www.ceui.org) for details.

Please see page 2 for a detailed outline of the items still on the table.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Cara Wachsman at (860) 343-8719 or [cwachsman@ceui.org](mailto:cwachsman@ceui.org).

### Testimony of Charles Laus, DOT Maintainer 4 Carpenter, Transportation Comm. Public Hearing on March 5 on SB 500 – An Act Concerning Highway Work Zone Safety

Good afternoon Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Charles Laus. I have worked for the Department of Transportation for 20 years and I am currently a Maintainer Four Carpenter for District Four Bridge Maintenance in Torrington. I appear before you today to ask you to support S.B. 500 – An Act Concerning Highway Work Zone Safety.

On June 23, 2007, I came as close to being killed as anyone could get when the crash truck on which I was working was struck by a careless driver. This accident occurred ten days after another accident sent two of my co-workers to the hospital; one was still hospitalized and the other required surgery. They were out of work for months.

During the ten days between the two accidents there was a conversation one afternoon among a group of my co-workers. Someone said, “Before we're finished [with our careers], one of us is going to be killed. Nothing is going to change. No one will ever do anything [to protect us].”

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we were working on Route 8 southbound near Exit 29 in Waterbury. I was near the end of the work day and I had taken down the “Right Lane Closed” sign. I was going down the ladder on the driver's side of the truck when I saw a car coming straight toward me. There was no time to react. It was over before I even knew what happened.

The car was moving with the traffic, at approximately 50 miles per hour. The car hit the left corner of the truck, popped the tire (continued on Page 5)



Chuck Laus, DOT 4/Torrington Bridge, testifying at the Transportation Committee hearing on March 5, 2008.

### THANK YOU

To My Co-Workers and Associates at the Connecticut DOT:

I have known and worked with many of you through various aspects and events during my career with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. I would like to thank all of you, even those I have never met, for your thoughts, your prayers, your well wishes, and your contributions during this most tragic time in my life.

The most cherished and important thing in my life was taken from me. Until you lose a child, you can never know the impact of the effect it has on the rest of your life. I am forever changed.

Look at your children — hug them, kiss them, and tell them every day how much you love them.

Thank you,  
Michael Choquette, Bolton Maintenance

*Michael lost his 18 year old son, Zak, on December 3, 2007 in a motor vehicle accident.*

NOTE: Please continue to check the website ([www.ceui.org](http://www.ceui.org)) and update line (x905) for info on public hearings.



## NP-2 CONTRACT PROPOSALS

- State cancels last negotiation session scheduled for January 25, 2008
- **State proposals have NOT been agreed to by the Union!**
- All articles not listed below are not subject to negotiations or arbitration and will remain current language.
- DO NOT BELIEVE RUMORS! Get contract updates from your Union! Go to [www.ceui.org](http://www.ceui.org) or the Union Update Line (1-800-622-3359 x905) for up to date information.

STATE PROPOSALS	UNION PROPOSALS
<u>Article 7-Union Rights</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of Union Business Leave (UBL) hours permitted</li> </ul>	<u>Article 7-Union Rights</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase UBL hours permitted and combine all UBL time into one time bank</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 8-Personnel Records</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 3- records "shall be expunged" after 18 months rather than a request to be removed</li> <li>• New section limiting Freedom of Information Requests of member files</li> </ul>
<u>Article 10-Training</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Limit training opportunities</u> to those within "classification series"</li> </ul>	<u>Article 10-Training</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain current training funds amounts-SIGNED OFF ON</li> </ul>
<u>Article 11-Working Test Period</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 month working test period for movement to same/lower pay grade when in a different job class series</li> <li>• 914 hours to 979 for P/T Working Test Period</li> </ul>	NO PROPOSAL
<u>Article 13-Order of Layoff or Reemployment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of cost comparison language when contracting out</li> <li>• Removal of arbitrator's ability to assess compensatory damages when contracting out language is violated</li> </ul>	NO PROPOSAL
<u>Article 14-Vacancies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Want "serious pending discipline" to be used to disqualify members applying for vacancies</li> </ul>	<u>Article 14-Vacancies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practicums-written notification of date, time, &amp; place along with format of the practicum</li> </ul>
<u>Article 15-Transfers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Want to add "and/or campus" to definition of facility</li> </ul>	NO PROPOSAL
<u>Article 16-Grievance Procedure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language to address the grievance backlog</li> <li>• Want to change composition of re-class grievance panel</li> </ul>	<u>Article 16-Grievance Procedure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-class grievance panel composition should include union representation</li> </ul>
<u>Article 17-Dismissal, etc</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the word "counsel" vs. "advise"</li> </ul>	NO PROPOSAL
<u>Article 18-Hours of Work, etc</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOT Short Term Temp. assignments-Involuntary night shift assignments.</li> <li>• Time and one-half over eight hours-eliminate</li> </ul>	<u>Article 18-Hours of Work, etc.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call back to designated work location within 2 hours of receiving phone call offering OT should not be charged "no-contact"</li> <li>• Declaration of Emergency language to be expanded</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 19-Safety</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of support of 'green' cleaning products and Rell's Executive Order</li> <li>• BUJSC time bank to be moved to UBL bank in Article 7 for administrative ease</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 20-Compensation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Wage Increases all three years, A.I.'s on time; 10<sup>th</sup> step 2.5% lump sum bonus; increase shoe money</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 22-Longevity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employees laid off between 11/1/02 &amp; 6/30/03 should have time bridged for longevity pay</li> <li>• Increase in longevity amounts</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 23- Shift &amp; Other Salary Differentials</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shift differential increases</li> <li>• Elimination of 7 day operation language. Working a regular schedule which includes Sat/Sun should get shift differential.</li> <li>• Inclusion of DOC Mail Handlers differentials</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 26-Temporary Service in a Higher Class</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to method of assignment and Union notification</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 28-Vacation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employees laid off between 11/1/02 &amp; 6/30/03 time would count towards increased leave accruals</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 29-Sick Leave</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donation of up to 5 sick days per calendar year in addition to donation of vacation/PL</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 33-Holidays</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employees whose regularly scheduled day off falls on holiday to receive a comp day</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 42-Meals Policy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in meal allowance amounts</li> </ul>
<u>Article 47-Newgate Prison</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to MOU-housekeeping matters</li> </ul>	NO PROPOSAL
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 49-Snow and Ice Assignments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posting of the assignments by November 1<sup>st</sup> for DOT Specialty Crew assignments</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 52-Extended Work Operations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase from 3 to 4 hours for rest breaks</li> </ul>
NO PROPOSAL	<u>Article 53 Snow and Ice Premium Pay</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in premium amount</li> </ul>
<u>DOT QCW MOU</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of section allowing voluntary snow and ice by QCW Plant Facilities Maintenance Unit at Bradley Airport</li> </ul>	NO PROPOSAL
<u>DOC Mail Handlers MOU</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal to add current agreement regarding unpleasant duty stipend with current stipend amount</li> </ul>	<u>DOC Mail Handlers MOU</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union included in proposal for shift differentials, but with an increase in the stipend which has not changed since 80's</li> </ul>

## BLUMENTHAL BLASTS \$80 MILLION WORKERS COMP PRIVATIZATION DEAL

By Don Michak, Journal Inquirer

Taxpayer funds were spent "needlessly and heedlessly" on an \$80 million "Rowland-era deal" that privatized the payment of certain worker compensation claims, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal charged Thursday. He said the state probably overpaid ACE Financial Solutions, the company the Department of Administrative Services hired to assume the financial liability for nearly 700 of the state's workers compensation files.

He also said that the 2001 deal, which he emphasized was done "off budget" and paid for with state bonding money, probably failed to save the state money.

Blumenthal's comments came as he issued a blistering 50-page report summarizing his investigation of a whistleblower complaint lodged by a constituent of Sen. Anthony Guglielmo, R-Stafford.

He said DAS officials botched the deal by hiring a contractor "lacking the experience to properly evaluate" the claims slated for privatization.

He said that contractor, MRM Consulting Inc., hired college interns - including high school friends of its owner's son "with no experience whatsoever in the insurance industry" who were paid \$105 per hour-to do key parts of what was supposed to be a highly specialized analysis.

DAS officials were only concerned that MRM's billing statements described the young people as "interns," he said, and instructed the consultant to refer to them subsequently as "junior staff."

Blumenthal added that DAS then used MRM's flawed analysis and "highly questionable advice" to hire ACE Financial.

That hiring, which the attorney general said was done without competitive bidding, was supposed to result in a \$13.5 million reduction in the workers compensation budget in both 2002 and 2003.

At issue were workers compensation cases filed by state employees or their families for work-related injuries. The DAS was "looking for quick answers" to handle the claims that had "deeply troubled" it for years, and its solution was to pay the private insurance company to resolve them, Blumenthal said.

"The immediate motivation for the deal was to move the cost of settling the claims 'off budget' and create the appearance of a budget reduction," he said.

But Blumenthal said the when the department made its loss portfolio agreement with ACE Financial, it "apparently had little or no reliable data on whether the state would receive any benefit from the transaction."

He also said the agreement was structured around "claims, not claimants," which allowed multiple claims filed by one person to remain with the state even if one of that person's claims was settled by ACE.

"Everyone, including MRM, agrees that this egregious misstep should never have happened," Blumenthal said. "Well-established and longstanding experience teaches that workers compensation cases are most economically resolved when all of an individual's claims are settled at the same time."

Similarly, Blumenthal said that while last-minute adjustments reduced from 726 to 660 the number of cases transferred by the state under the agreement, no adjustment was made to lower the \$80 million premium to account for the smaller number of claims transferred.

While MRM projected that it would take more than 40 years to settle 600 claims, ACE's records show that 160 were closed immediately and 545 were settled or closed within three

years, Blumenthal said.

"There is no way to know at this time how much the remaining claims will cost ACE and how much ACE will profit from this deal," he said. "ACE retains all that may be left from the \$80 million premium after all the claims are closed, but also had full investment use of the \$80 million - collecting additional revenue from the investment proceeds from the first day" of the agreement.

Blumenthal recommended the state hold MRM responsible for its failure to properly evaluate the claims and that it strictly adhere to laws requiring careful cost-benefit analysis before privatizing any activity.

"This debacle demonstrates privatization run amok," he said, "and my office will aggressively explore possible actions to hold accountable the companies."

MRM, which the report indicates was established by Adrien Theriault, a former consultant (continued from page 2) for Marsh & McLennan Cos., determined that the loss portfolio agreement could be sold to an insurance company for \$80 million, and Marsh & McLennan brought ACE Financial, a subsidiary of the Bermuda-based ACE Group of Cos., to the DAS, according to Blumenthal's report.

ACE hired Berkley Administrators of Connecticut Inc. as its third-party administrator after striking its deal with Department of Administrative Services.

ACE already has paid the state \$40,000 to settle a civil complaint brought by Blumenthal that alleged it paid an illegal \$50,000 commission to Marsh & McLennan to get the workers compensation contract and a similar lawsuit against March & McLennan over the deal is pending, the Associated Press reports.

### LABOR BOARD RESTRICTS UNION USE OF E-MAIL

By Steven Greenhouse, NY Times, 12/23/07

The National Labor Relations Board has ruled that employers have the right to prohibit workers from using the company's e-mail system to send out union-related messages, a decision that could hamper communications between labor unions and their membership.

In a 3-to-2 ruling released on Friday, the board held that it was legal for employers to prohibit union-related e-mail so long as employers had a policy barring employees from sending e-mail for "non-job-related solicita-(continued from page 1) -tions" for outside organizations.

The ruling is a significant setback to the nation's labor unions, which argued that e-mail systems have become a modern-day gathering place where employees should be able to communicate freely with co-workers to discuss work-related matters of mutual concern.

The ruling involved The Register-Guard, a newspaper in Eugene, Ore., and e-mail messages sent in 2000 by Suzi Prozanski, a newspaper employee who was president of the Newspaper Guild's unit there. She sent three e-mail messages about marching in a town parade and urging employees to wear green to show support for the union in contract negotiations.

During the years that this case was pending, many companies were uncertain whether they could bar union-related e-mail. But the labor board's decision gives companies nationwide the green light to prohibit union-related e-mail as part of an overall non-solicitation policy.

"An employer has a 'basic property right' to regulate and restrict employee use of company property," the board's majority wrote. "The respondent's communications system, including its e-mail system, is the respondent's property."

Labor leaders attacked the decision, calling it part of board rulings that have favored employers and undercut workers.

"Anyone with e-mail knows that this is how employees communicate with each other in today's workplace," said Jonathan Hiatt, general counsel for the AFL-CIO. Outrageously in allowing employers to ban such communications for union purposes, the Bush labor board has again struck at the heart of what the nation's labor laws were intended to protect — the right of employees to discuss working conditions and other matters of mutual concern."

The ruling comes as the nation's labor unions continue to struggle to reverse their membership declines. They represent just 12 percent of the nation's work force, down from 35 percent in the 1950s.

The two board members who dissented asserted that the employees' interest in communicating with other employees about union activity and other collective concerns should, with regard to the e-mail system, outweigh the employer's property interest.

They wrote, "The majority erroneously treats the employer's asserted 'property interest' in e-mail — a questionable interest here, in any event — as paramount, and fails to give due consideration to employee rights and the appropriate balancing of the parties' legitimate interests."

The majority's decision was dated last Sunday, the day the board's chairman, Robert J. Battista, stepped down because his term expired. President Bush has not renominated Mr. Battista, with many Democrats threatening not to reconfirm him because he has been part of so many anti-union rulings.

The board overturned several decisions it had made in ruling that an employer does not illegally discriminate against pro-union speech if it lets employees use e-mail for personal communications but bars them from using e-mail for solicitations for outside organizations.

Adopting the reasoning of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, involving two cases concerning the use of employer bulletin boards, the labor board distinguished between personal non-work-related postings like for-sale notices and wedding announcements, on the one hand, and group or organizational postings like union materials on the other.

In many past cases, the labor board ruled that employers engaged in illegal anti-union discrimination if they barred workers from engaging in union-related speech on bulletin boards or telephones when they allowed workers to communicate on bulletin boards or telephones about other matters.

In its new ruling, the board's majority wrote that employers can allow workers to use e-mail for personal communications while barring them from organizational-related communications. The majority redefined the meaning of discrimination and wrote that the Seventh Circuit's approach "better reflects the principle that discrimination means the unequal treatment of equals."

Adopting another new policy, the board appeared to allow employers to bar e-mail for certain organizational activities, like promoting a union or Avon products, but not organizational activities related to charities.

The dissenters said the majority's decision, in allowing employers to bar solicitation with regard to some activities and not others, "would allow employees to solicit on behalf of virtually anything except a union."

# Service to Members by Stewards & Staff

## DISCIPLINE

**Tony Paventi, Custodian, DCF/Riverview Hospital**, was issued a written warning of alleged insubordination. Following a Step 2 grievance conference, DCF management accepted that the manner in which the discipline was issued was abrupt and without precedent. Additionally, it was agreed by management that the lines of communication within the Maintenance Department were poor and required immediate remedy, so that such claims and accusations will be prevented in the future.

## DISABILITY RETIREMENT

**Gloria Barry, Maintainer, UConn/Storrs**, was awarded a non-service connected disability effective August 1, 2007.

**Steven Divinetz, QCW Electrician, DOT/Montville Electrical**, with the assistance of the Union, was awarded a disability retirement retroactive to June 1, 2007.

**Steven Donato, Maintainer 2, DOT/Mansfield**, was awarded a disability retirement effective January 1, 2007. He was assisted by the Union.

**Mark LeSage, Maintainer 1, DOT/Newington**, with the assistance of the Union, was awarded a disability retirement effective July 1, 2007.

**Steven Zinewicz, Maintainer 4, DOT/Franklin Bridge**, was awarded a disability retirement effective July 1, 2007.

**Michael Anderson, Maintainer, Middlesex Community College**, was granted a disability retirement due to a non-service medical condition effective September 1, 2007.

## WORKERS COMPENSATION

**Lincoln Breault, Maintainer 2, DOT/Marlborough**, was injured in the face with a log while performing his duties as a Maintainer. Mr. Breault was denied medical treatment. With proper medical documentation, the Union was able to prove that medical treatment was appropriate and necessary. The insurance carrier was instructed to restore time and coverage.

**Richard Donofrio, QCW Carpenter, DDS/North Region**, developed carpal tunnel in his wrists while working as a Carpenter for 11 years. He was denied medical treatment by the insurance carrier. With medical documentation, the Union was able to prove that the injury was work related. The insurance carrier accepted the claim.

**Pilar Edman, Maintainer, DCF/Connecticut Juvenile Training Center**, was injured while working as a Maintainer. Due to her injury, she was not able to continue working and had to request a disability retirement. Due to the disability, the Union was able to obtain a continuance of her workers comp benefits until her disability is approved.

**Joseph Gullage, QCW Auto Mechanic, DAS Fleet Operations/New Haven**, received an injury while working as a QCW Auto Mechanic. The insurance carrier denied him his claim and stated that it wasn't work related. The Union assisted Mr. Gullage, and he received his time back and the payment of all medical treatments.

**Nancy Harper, Maintenance Supervisor 2, Eastern Connecticut State University**, was injured at work. GAB Robins refused the claim, stating the injury did not occur at work. With assistance from her doctor, the Union was able to have the denial reversed and her injury was covered under workers comp.

**William Nitchke, Maintainer 2, DOT/Rocky Hill Ferry**, was injured while working as a Maintainer 2. GAB Robins refused ongoing medical treatment that was originally agreed upon. The Union requested a hearing and after presenting information that showed medical treatment was originally agreed to, the insurance company was instructed to allow Mr. Nitchke to get treatment.

**Steven Rockwell, Maintainer, DCF/Riverview Hospital**, injured his back while removing food trays from the van. He was denied coverage by the insurance carrier. After obtaining medical document, the Union was granted a hearing and was able to have Mr. Rockwell's time restored.

**Lorri Lynn Wilson, Head Cook, Education/Bullard Haven**, injured herself while performing her duties as a Head Cook. She was denied medical treatment. With medical notes, the Union was able to get the insurance carrier to reverse their decision and cover treatment for Ms. Wilson.

## MEDICAL BILLS

**Gloria Barry, Maintainer (retired), UConn/Storrs**, contacted the Union seeking assistance in getting a \$100 medical bill paid. The Union contacted the insurance company, and the bill was paid in full.

**Sandra Brindamour, Custodian, UConn/Storrs**, contacted the Union seeking assistance in getting a medical bill in the amount of \$55 paid. The Union contacted the insurance company, and the bill was paid in full.

**Leonard Gatson, Custodian (retired)**, contacted the Union seeking assistance in getting a bill of \$47.10 for medical supplies paid. The Union contacted the insurance company, and the bill was paid.

**Jerry Haas, DOT Maintainer 2, Glastonbury Maintenance**, contacted the Union seeking help in getting a medical bill for \$148 paid. The Union contacted the insurance company and the bill was paid in full.

**James Kowalyshyn, QCW Plumber/Steamfitter, UConn/Storrs**, contacted the Union seeking help in getting a \$146.20 hospital bill paid. The Union contacted the hospital and the insurance company. According to the insurance company, their portion of the bill had been paid and the member had a zero balance and could not be balance billed. The Union contacted the hospital to inform them Mr. Kowalyshyn should have a zero balance, and after much discussion they finally agreed.

**Luciano Lauria, QCW/Electrician (retired), DMHAS/CVH**, contacted the Union seeking assistance in getting \$134 in medical bills for his dependent child paid. The Union contacted the insurance company and as a result the bill was paid in full.

**Francis Lepage, DOT/Maintainer 3 (retired)**, contacted the Union seeking help in getting a medical supplies bill of \$57.21 paid. The Union contacted the medical supply company and the insurance company, resulting in the bill being paid.

**David O'Hara, DOT Maintainer 2, Orange Maintenance**, contacted the Union seeking assistance after receiving court papers saying he was being sued for \$508.50. The debt was for a hospital bill for a dependent child from June of 2004. The member was unaware of the bill until receiving the court documents. The Union contacted the insurance company, and learned the hospital did not send the claim to the insurance company in a timely manner, through no fault of Mr. O'Hara. Therefore he cannot be held responsible since the hospital was in the insurance network and should have submitted the claim timely. The court papers were withdrawn, and the members credit is in good standing.

**Vincent Tiberi, Custodian (retired)**, contacted the Union seeking assistance in getting \$755 in medical bills for his dependent child paid. The Union contacted the insurance company and the bills were paid in full.

**Steven Porter, GTW, Education/Ella Grasso Tech**, contacted the Union seeking

assistance after receiving court papers saying he was being sued for \$927 for medical treatment rendered. Mr. Porter was unaware of the bill until receiving the court papers. The Union contacted the insurance company. The bill was paid in full by the insurance company after it was learned that the hospital had not sent the claim to the insurance company.

**Doreen Brown, Custodian/UConn**, sought the Union's assistance when a medical bill for her son was denied. The Union negotiated a settlement of the bill on her behalf.

**Richard Provencher, Custodian (retired), Education/Ellis Tech**, contacted the Union seeking assistance in getting \$786 in medical bills paid for himself and his spouse. The Union contacted the insurance company whereupon the bill was paid in full.

**Stephen Rice, DOT Crew Leader, Beacon Falls Maintenance**, contacted the Union after his insurance company refused payment for needed medical equipment. The Union advised the member to get a prescription from his doctor and present it to a medical supply company in his pharmacy network. The member received the needed medical equipment. *Note: claims for medical equipment and supplies are submitted to the pharmacy carrier and not medical insurance carriers.*

## THANK YOU'S

Mr. Spurlock,  
Thank you for all of your help this past year. Hope you had a heart warming holiday. Wishing you a Joyous New Year.  
Richard & EllenMarie Provencher

Dear Mr. Ron McLellan,  
My name is Christopher Corvino and I work in the Maintenance Department at Housatonic Community College. I just wanted to drop a note on behalf of my Union rep, Steve Koch. I have had many Union reps that have come and gone, but Steve has been great. He is always proactive on my account, either returning phone calls, showing up for meetings or informing me of new job opportunities. He does everything a Union rep should do and more. Thank you for your time.  
Christopher Corvino

George,  
Thanks for the help with my medical bills.  
Sincerely,  
Ron Schlehofer

Dear Loyola,  
I attended a Basic Welding course taught by Steven Goodrow at Windsor Locks High School. I wanted to let you know how impressed I was with Mr. Goodrow's excellent instruction in welding. Many of us in the course had little or no previous welding experience. I actually believe out of eight of us there was one guy who had some welding experience.

By the end of the 3rd day we were all welding in three types of welding and utilizing the plasma cutter as well. In 18 years of in-service training, I have never attended a block of instruction that was so well taught by its instructors (Steve and Dave). In fact, I hope to attend his eight week course that he teaches in the summer, when time allows.

John Boudreau, Stationary Engineer,  
Capital Community College



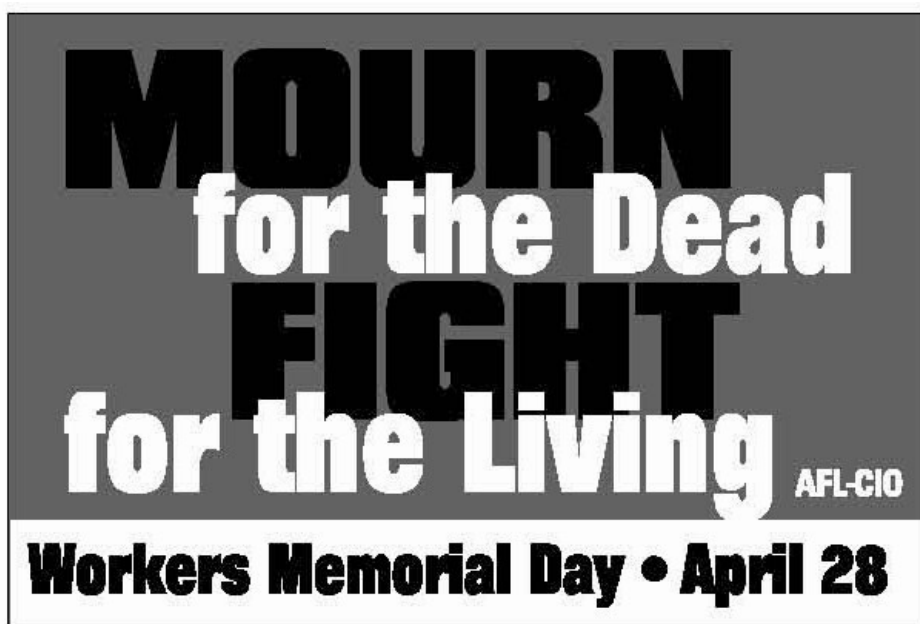
## CEUI SAFETY REMINDER

**ALWAYS WORK SAFE!** DOT members have been increasingly spotted not following the safety regulations involving the use of Personal Protective Equipment, placement of chock blocks, and improper lane movement. Please be aware that the DOT safety personnel are doing an increased number of spot checks and reporting violations. Please ensure that you and your fellow members are following all safety precaution measures in order to avoid discipline as well as accidents!

**SAFETY STEWARDS:** A subcommittee of the Executive Board is currently reviewing the role, training, and use of safety stewards. The subcommittee will also be revising the current steward policy to include guidelines specific to safety stewards. All current safety stewards have received a questionnaire to complete and return to the Union hall to assist the subcommittee. If you have not returned this questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.

If you have submitted your name to be considered for a safety steward in the past few months, your request will be reviewed based on the updated safety steward guidelines once they are approved. As soon as the new guidelines are approved by the Executive Board, all current and potential safety stewards will receive a letter explaining the changes.

*If you have any questions, concerns, or wish to suggest a safety topic for the next newspaper, please contact General Counsel Cara Wachsman at (860) 343-8719.*



### CEUI CHIEF STEWARDS: WHO ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

According to the CEUI By-laws, the Executive Board has appointed five experienced stewards to serve as Chief Stewards. These stewards represent agency locations that have 80 or more members.

The five Chief Stewards currently working in this position are Leslie Maddocks representing UConn Storrs, Bill Burton representing Southern Connecticut State University, Pat Christadore representing Eastern Connecticut State University, John Birtwistle representing Southbury Training School, and John Marchese representing DOT.

What is the role of the Chief Steward? The Chief Steward is appointed so that agency locations with large numbers of members will have someone on site to assist the other stewards in their duties as stewards. Chief Stewards work closely with their Staff Representative and have the skill and experience to represent members at fact finding meetings. They also assist in the process of filing grievances.

The five Chief Stewards meet monthly for training and education. During the past year, the Chief Stewards have been working with the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut to promote the use of safer cleaning alternatives in work locations in Connecticut.

The Chief Stewards also meet regularly with Bill Kluytenaar, the CEUI Staff Representative who handles grievance arbitrations. At these meetings, they perform the function of deciding on the merit of the Union's proceeding with a grievance to Step 4 Arbitration.



The Chief Stewards perform a vital role in seeing that the work of representing CEUI members gets done.

Chief Stewards John Birtwistle, Patrick Christadore, Leslie Maddocks, Bill Burton and John Marchese

## SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION ENDORSES OBAMA

By JESSE J. HOLLAND – Feb 15, 2008

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Barack Obama won the support Friday of the 1.9-million member Service Employees International Union, his second endorsement in as many days from large labor organizations and a fresh sign of momentum in the Democratic presidential race with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"There has never been a fight in Illinois or a fight in the nation where our members have not asked Barack Obama for assistance and he has not done everything he could to help us," Andy Stern, the union's president, told reporters in announcing the decision.

Stern said that in the months since union leaders met with several Democratic candidates last fall, "the excitement has been building and building for Obama."

The politically active union represents workers in health care, building services and other industries. It has donated more than \$25 million to candidates in the past two decades, most of it to Democrats.

For Obama, the endorsement offers a chance to increase support in the primary states that are scheduled to vote in the next few weeks, particularly Ohio and Texas on March 4 and Pennsylvania on April 22.

On Thursday, Obama collected the support of the United Food and Commercial Workers, a politically active union with significant membership in the upcoming Democratic battlegrounds. The 1.3-million member UFCW has 69,000 members in Ohio and another 26,000 in Texas. The food workers also have 19,000 members in Wisconsin, which holds a primary Tuesday.

The union is made up of supermarket workers and meatpackers, with 40 percent of the membership under 30 years old. Obama has been doing especially well among young voters.

The SEIU delayed a national endorsement for months after inviting Obama, Clinton and other Democratic candidates to speak to its members in Washington.

In the interim, several state affiliates swung behind candidates, many of them choosing former Sen. John Edwards.

Edwards dropped out of the race just before the Super Tuesday primaries and caucuses on Feb. 5, leaving the field to Obama and Clinton. Sarah Swisher, a superdelegate and member of the SEIU from Iowa City, had committed to Edwards. After he quit the race, she switched to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, but she changed her mind again after her union endorsed Obama. "That will be kind of cool," Swisher said. "I will have supported all three."

Stern said in a telephone interview that siding against Clinton was not an easy thing to do.

"It is hard because Senator Clinton is both a great senator and a good friend to the SEIU," he told The Associated Press shortly after the announcement.

Stern said the union waited this long to endorse a candidate because there was a lot of support for John Edwards and "we didn't want to look like we were bouncing between candidates." The Obama endorsement came after careful consideration, he said, and polling of the membership.

"Our members and leaders really feel that American needs profound change and something that engages the next generation," Stern said, adding that Obama fits the bill.

Last October, the union said it would hold off on an endorsement in the primary because of divisions that had been apparent among SEIU supporters of Edwards, Clinton and Obama. "Given the importance of this election, we are encouraging members and leaders to act on their passion for the candidates and get involved on a statewide basis," Stern said at the time.

(**Testimony**, continued from Page 1) and dislodged the rear wheels from the truck. It bent the ladder that I was standing on, struck my left foot, brushed my rear end, and then crossed the exit and rolled over. The conversation I had with my co-workers earlier was my only thought: "I'm going to be the one." I think about this accident every day. I'm so lucky to be alive today.

This was the fourth truck hit in a two-week period, statewide. There have been many more since and there will be many more unless someone does something soon. Without your help, the prediction of my coworkers will come to pass. I am here to testify today, but someone else may not be as fortunate as I. We need your help. Please don't let our blood be on your hands. I strongly urge you to support SB 500.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I welcome any questions you may have.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The General Assembly convened its 2008 session on February 6 and is scheduled to adjourn on May 7. Though it is a short session, many issues important to CEUI members are being considered by our elected representatives.

**HIGHWAY WORK ZONE SAFETY – S.B. 500:** CEUI represents more than 1,500 members who work for the Department of Transportation maintaining our state roads. Much of their work is performed in highway work zones and they face risk of injury, and even death, when they encounter hazardous drivers. By in large, motorists ignore work zone signage and speed limits. They drive aggressively and inattentively, undeterred by doubled fines for work zone traffic violations. As a result, dozens of work zone accidents have been caused by private motorists every year.

CEUI is pushing a comprehensive package of legislative reforms to improve highway work zone safety that include prevention, enforcement and expanded penalties. S.B. 500 would:

- Establish a Highway Work Zone Safety Advisory Council to make ongoing recommendations to improve highway work zone safety for workers, public safety officers and motorists.
- Expand funding for *Operation Big Orange* so more state troopers can enforce traffic in more work zones
- Create the crime of "Endangerment of a Highway Worker" for motorists who violate work zone patterns "Aggravated Endangerment of a Highway Worker" for motorists who injure or kill highway workers.

More than 30 CEUI members attended a public hearing for S.B. 500 on March 5. President Ron McLellan, Vice President Michael Griffin and two members from Torrington Bridge, Chuck Laus and Tim Williams, testified in support of the bill. Kathy Mugford and her daughter, Kim, also testified in memory of Robert Mugford, who was struck and killed by a motorist in a work zone in August 2005.

The Transportation passed S.B. 500 unanimously on March 7. The bill will now be referred to the Judiciary and Appropriations Committees before being sent to the House and Senate chambers.

S.B. 500 enjoys a great deal of support among a broad based coalition of allies that includes the Connecticut State Police Union, the Operating Engineers, the Machinists Local 700, the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters of Connecticut, AFSCME Council 15, the Connecticut Construction Industries Association and the Connecticut AFL-CIO. The Department of Transportation also supports the legislation.

Now we need our members to come out and support S.B. 500. If you want to make your job safer, call or write your legislators and tell them to vote for S.B. 500. You can also write a Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper. It's going to take all of us working together to get this bill through the General Assembly.

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**SPLIT DOT INTO 2 AGENCIES – H.B. 5041:** In 2007, Governor Rell convened the Commission on the Reorganization of the DOT and gave it a bold mission to create a new DOT that was more responsive and responsible to the people of our state. In her budget address on February 6, Rell responded criticism that the report lacked bold recommendations and proposed a bold idea of her own – splitting the Department of Transportation into two separate agencies; the Department of Highways and the Department of Public Transportation, Aviation and Ports.

CEUI opposes the Governor's proposal to split DOT because it only divides one troubled agency into two troubled agencies. The last thing needed to reform DOT is more bureaucracy. What the Department lacks more than anything is solid leadership, adequate staffing and sufficient resources.

With three commissioners in less than two years, DOT has had no continuous or committed leadership to guide the agency, inspire employees or articulate a clear vision. Since its peak in the mid-1990s, the Department has lost approximately 1,000 workers. Too often it has replaced that lost workforce with an over reliance on expensive private contractors. Recent state budgets have provided funding for some new employees, but only in very small numbers. If the state wants to improve DOT's performance, it needs to invest in the agency, giving it the resources it needs to hire hundreds more employees to implement its mission.

Dividing functions into multiple agencies will make it more difficult to create and implement a master transportation strategy. Public transportation is important and should arguably merit a stronger focus within the DOT, but the state cannot create bus lanes or increase rail ridership without safe roads leading to bus and train stations. These are all pieces of the same puzzle. To break them up into separate agencies would create greater fragmentation within current transportation planning.

**FUNDING FOR NEW POSITIONS - Budget:** On a positive note,

Governor Rell's proposed budget included hiring 30 new DOT Bridge Maintainers in order to deliver on her promise to perform necessary repairs and maintenance based on two year inspections of all state bridges with at least a 20-foot span. CEUI will advocate keeping those positions in the final budget that will be negotiated by members of the General Assembly.

**UCONN HEALTH CENTER:** Last session, CEUI and other labor unions representing employees at UConn Health Center worked with management to successfully lobby for \$55 million in additional funding for the Health Center. While that was a great achievement that saved hundreds of jobs, the General Assembly has still failed to act on the structural problems at the root of the Health Center's budget problems – the tiny, outdated John Dempsey Hospital. This year, the Health Center is already running \$11 million in the red and is expecting a year-end deficit of \$20-22 million. So far, the Governor has responded to the most emergent needs and budgeted \$10.8 million in her budget to cover the current deficit.

On March 18, The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) will release the preliminary findings of a study it began late last year on the need and regional financial impact of a new or expanded John Dempsey Hospital. The recommendations in this study are expected to provide a roadmap for making the Health Center structurally and financially sound.

In order to protect the jobs of the 200 CEUI members who work at UConn Health Center, CEUI will be lobbying the General Assembly to fund the entire expected deficit and implement the recommendations of the CASE report.

### OTHER KEY ISSUES

**CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP– H.B. 5536:** CEUI supports House Majority Leader Chris Donovan's legislation to save cities, towns and municipal employees significant amounts of money by expanding the state employee health insurance pool to include municipal employees, small businesses and non-profit organizations.

**MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX CAPS – H.B. 5028:** CEUI opposes Governor Rell's proposal to cap municipal property tax caps. Not only will the proposal put cities and towns in the difficult position of providing public services with fewer resources, but it will severely erode municipal binding arbitration.

For more information about these or other legislative issues, please contact CEUI's Political Director Jennifer Berigan at 860-343-8736.

## THANK YOU COPE CONTRIBUTORS

The following members have begun **new** COPE contributions via payroll deduction:

- Anthony Sousa—Manchester Community Technical College
- John Knight—Quinebaug Valley Community College
- Robert Therrian—Quinebaug Valley Community College
- Brenda Pierce—Vinal Technical School
- Abedin Balanca—Western Connecticut State University
- Paul Mondor—UConn/Storrs
- Robert Caine—DOT, Bolton Maintenance
- Robert Jacques—DOT, Colchester
- Craig Mitchell—DOT, Cornwall Maintenance
- Jefferson Tatro—DOT, East Great Plains Maintenance
- Ewa Zych—DOT, East Great Plains Maintenance
- Jeremy Cote—DOT, East Hartford Signs & Markings
- Eri Lees—DOT, East Hartford Maintenance
- Salvatore Spada—DOT, Farmington Maintenance
- Robert Smith—DOT, Groton Maintenance
- James Spicer—DOT, Marlborough Maintenance
- Richard Wojciak—DOT, Occum Maintenance
- Louis Budney—DOT, Old Saybrook Maintenance
- Robert Peterson—DOT, Old Saybrook Maintenance
- Robert Wright—DOT, Southington Maintenance
- Alan Gough—DOT, Vernon Maintenance
- Isaiah Holloway—DOT, Waterford Maintenance
- Marlene Rogers—DOT, Branford Maintenance
- Dennis Piscatelli—DOT, New Haven/Boulevard Maintenance
- L.B. Mickens—Secretary of the State, Hartford
- Geovani Ramirez—DPS, Meriden Training Complex
- Kathleen Perkins—Social Services, Sigourney Street
- Allen Ryan—Social Services, Sigourney Street

The following members have **upgraded** their COPE deductions:

- Thomas Pecora—DMV, Norwalk
- David Doyle—DOT, North Haven Maintenance
- Robert Sperry—DOT, Occum Maintenance
- Bill Utermarck—DOT, West Willington
- David Arena—Social Services, Sigourney Street

Join this list of members who are building CEUI's political program! See your Steward or Staff Rep for a payroll deduction form to begin your COPE contributions today. Contributors who give \$3 per pay period will receive a CEUI t-shirt; \$4 will receive a CEUI sweatshirt.

Written Testimony of  
**Ron McLellan, President**  
**Connecticut Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 511**  
Appropriations Committee Public Hearing – Agency Budgets  
February 11, 2008  
**The Department of Transportation**  
- *The Proposed Division of DOT-Highway Work Zone Safety*

The Connecticut Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 511 represents almost six thousand active and retired state employees, including more than 1,500 of whom work at the Department of Transportation (DOT). These employees are highway maintainers, clerks, qualified craft workers, and other service and maintenance workers who make up nearly 50% of the agency's entire workforce.

I will focus my written testimony on two issues facing DOT employees and all Connecticut citizens: (1) the Governor's proposal to split DOT into two separate agencies; and (2) highway work zone safety.

**The Department of Highways & the Department of Public Transportation, Aviation and Ports**

The Governor's Commission on the Reorganization of the DOT began with a bold mission to create a new DOT that was more responsive and responsible to the people of our state. The Governor appointed a diverse group of members to the Commission and even solicited the input of the general public, but fell short when asking the very people who could make the biggest difference to participate – DOT employees. While workers were asked to take part in a written survey, it was done hastily and without the involvement of union representatives. As a result, many employees were fearful and apprehensive about providing information that accurately reflected their true thoughts and sentiments. In some cases, employees were handed survey forms on the day they were due. While collecting employee input was only one item on the Commission's agenda, the top-down manner in which this process unfolded did not yield the kind of broad based information needed to justify the kinds of changes the Governor has proposed. Far different changes are needed.

Had employees been afforded the opportunity to provide meaningful insight into their own roles and work experience, the Administration would be well aware that the last thing needed to reform DOT is more bureaucracy. What the Department lacks more than anything is solid leadership, adequate staffing and sufficient resources.

With three commissioners in less than two years, DOT has had no continuous or committed leadership to guide the agency, inspire employees or articulate a clear vision. We can't condemn 3,200 employees for poor management. The state hasn't had an opportunity of late to witness what DOT can be with an energetic, determined leader who demands the best of all employees, including managers. If we want to see a culture change at DOT, we need to see vibrant, professional leadership that empowers and motivates the agency workforce.

Since its peak in the mid-1990s, the Department has lost approximately 1,000 workers. Too often it has replaced that lost workforce with an over reliance on expensive private contractors. The recent debacle on I-84 reminds us all too well of the value of in-house employees and the ability to hold them accountable for their actions. Recent state budgets have provided funding for some new employees, but only in very small numbers. If the state wants to improve DOT's performance, it needs to invest in the agency, giving it the resources it needs to hire hundreds more employees to implement its mission.

By splitting the DOT into two agencies, the Governor proposes adding another layer of bureaucracy. Dividing functions into multiple agencies will make it more difficult to create and implement a master transportation strategy. Public transportation is important and should arguably merit a stronger focus within the DOT, but the state cannot create bus lanes without building roads. The state cannot increase rail ridership without safe roads leading to train stations across the state. These are all pieces of the same puzzle. To break them up into separate agencies would create greater fragmentation within current transportation planning.

The Governor's proposal to split DOT into two separate agencies is a bad idea. It only divides one troubled agency into two troubled agencies.

**Highway Work Zone Safety**

CEUI is heartened by the Governor's focus on public safety this session. One of Governor Rell's central budget themes is making Connecticut's roads safer and we couldn't agree on a more important priority for our state.

More than 1,200 of the 1,500 DOT employees represented by CEUI are highway maintainers. These men and women keep our state roads safe for the traveling public, performing many of their duties in highway work zones. They face risk of injury, and even death, when they

encounter hazardous drivers. By and large, motorists ignore work zone signage and posted speed limits. Many drive aggressively and inattentively, undeterred by doubled fines. As a result, Connecticut motorists cause dozens of work zone accidents and injure several highway workers every year.

The biggest deterrent to work zone injuries and fatalities is traffic enforcement. Bids for all privately contracted Connecticut highway projects must include the cost of providing work zone enforcement by state police officers. As a result, 100% of private work zones have state police coverage. But public work projects conducted by DOT employees do not enjoy the same levels of protection.

*Operation Big Orange* funds overtime hours for state police troopers to provide traffic enforcement in DOT work zones, but with less than \$100,000 budgeted for the program in each of the last three years, **only about 10% of Connecticut DOT work zones are monitored by state police personnel.** The revenue generated from the tickets written in *Operation Big Orange* work zones is ten times that amount. The program is more than self-funding and as a result, Connecticut can afford to protect every single highway worker - public and private.

This session, CEUI has proposed comprehensive highway work zone safety legislation that would:

- Increase law enforcement coverage in DOT work zones by earmarking revenue generated by *Operation Big Orange* to be directed back to the program
- Create offenses for endangerment of a highway worker and aggravated endangerment of a highway worker for motorists who willfully disobey the law
- Establish a Highway Work Zone Safety Advisory Council to make ongoing recommendations for improving highway work zone safety
- Require DMV driver education materials to include information about highway work zone speed limits, signage, penalties and the impacts of hazardous driving

I urge you to act favorably on this legislation when it reaches the Appropriations Committee and during your budget negotiations. There is no reason why we should send DOT highway workers out on our roads without doing everything in our power to keep them safe. Thank you.

**GOT A GREAT IDEA? IT COULD WIN YOU \$5,000**

SEIU members have a lot of smart ideas for improving public services. When we're able to run with them, it benefits the public, helps our employers, and improves our jobs. Everybody wins.

Do you have a new idea you think will really improve the quality of public services? Or a great idea you already brought to life that could work in other places?

If so, please enter your idea in the "Everybody Wins" contest. Top winners will receive cash prizes and recognition at the SEIU 2008 Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico. If your idea wins first prize, your SEIU Public Services Division local will receive a \$20,000 prize it can use to help bring the idea to life.

Go to [www.PublicDivisionVision.org/Everybody\\_Wins](http://www.PublicDivisionVision.org/Everybody_Wins).



Carl Hill testing out his new prosthetic leg

**WESCONN MEMBER & FAMILY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE**

In June of 2007, Carl Hill, a custodian at WCSU spent a month in the hospital due to complications from a serious illness. Luckily he pulled through but had to have his leg amputated. Carl is back to work at WCWU, but only part-time. The Union is asking anyone who would like to **donate time or money** to help Carl and his family, please contact Ron McLellan at the Union office at 860-343-8718.

**NP-2 MEMBERS NEED YOUR HELP**

The following members are out of work due to illness, and are seeking Donations of Time from fellow NP-2 members:

- Donna Carta, an assistant cook at DMHAS/Connecticut Valley Hospital
- Bedri Shehu, a custodian with the Dept. of Education/Bristol Satellite

If you have vacation or personal time you'd like to donate to these members, please call President Ron McLellan at 860-343-8718.

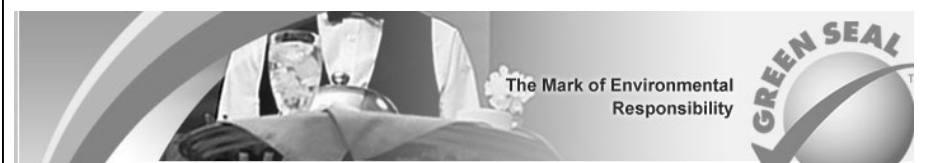
Spring 2008 NP-2 In-Service Courses will be held later this Spring. The catalog is now available at your agency and on the CEUI website ([www.ceui.org](http://www.ceui.org))

## IMPORTANT MEDICARE INFO FOR RETIREES

- **Out of Area Prescription Benefit Coverage for Medicare eligible retirees without permanent Connecticut addresses**....each covered member just satisfy a calendar year deductible of \$100 for their prescription drugs. Once the \$100 individual deductible has been met, prescriptions will be covered at 80%, the member will pay the remaining 20%. Once your 20% combined with the \$100 deductible reaches \$500 for any person in a calendar year, benefits will be paid at 100% of the allowable charges for the remainder of the calendar year. You may contact CareMart (formerly PharmaCare) at 1-800-318-2572 to obtain a list of network pharmacies in your area.
- Retired members **should not** enroll in Medicare Part D because the state prescription coverage provided to retirees is **greater than** the Medicare D coverage.

**Reminder**...When retirees or their spouses receive their Medicare cards (approximately 90 days before turning 65) and/or qualify for Medicaid, you must accept both Part A and Part B and mail a copy of the signed card to Union Headquarters. The pension contract allows for the reimbursement of the monthly premium which rose to \$96.40 on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Retiree Staff Representative George Spurlock can be reached at the Union office 860-343-8722 or 800-622-3359 ext. 722 to answer questions.



### GREEN CLEANING

Eight CEUI members attended the Alternative Products and Green Chemistry Conference on February 7, 2008. Attending were Leslie Maddocks, Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Steward; Nicole Dore and Diane Bartlett, stewards at UConn Storrs; John Birtwistle, Safety Committee and Chief Steward at Southbury Training School; Bill Burton, Safety Committee and Chief Steward at Southern CT State University; Willis Ballard, Bargaining Unit Job Safety Committee and steward at Southbury Training School; Pat Christadore, Chief Steward from Eastern CT State University; and John Marchese, Bargaining Unit Job Safety Committee and Chief Steward from DOT.

The conference focused on the changing global business environment affecting the use of toxic substances. Another purpose of the conference was to explore the needs of businesses, workers, and citizens for moving toward safer alternatives to toxic chemicals.

CEUI has been working to increase awareness of these issues as part of the Union's continued work to make your workplace safer. Watch for more information about the "green cleaning" initiative in your Union publications.

## LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

Nancy Wyman, State Comptroller, has announced that the State of Connecticut Long Term Care Product has been made available through MetLife.

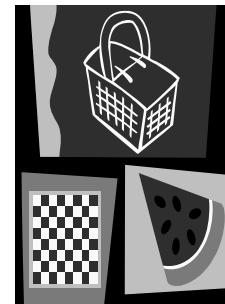
Individual long term care policies are available to meet your needs and those of your family. Highlights of the Long Term Care Product include discounted premium rates and simplified underwriting for active employees during an introductory period. There are policies available tailored to your individual needs and discounts for eligible family members.

MetLife's program enroller will be visiting your agency or Union office in the near future to provide you with information relative to this important benefit. You are encouraged to attend an informational meeting or contact MetLife at 1-800-LTC-CT89 to learn more about Long Term Care Insurance and how you can protect your retirement savings

## 2008 PICNIC DATES

- May 30—Mansfield/Franco American Club—noon
- June 13—Middletown/Falcon's Grove/Crystal Lake—noon
- June 20—Waterbury/Quassy Amusement Park—noon

Members only are allowed to attend.



## FOR YOUR CHILDREN \$10,000

The 21st Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Golf Tournament is scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, June 26, 2008
- Portland Golf Course
- Shotgun tee off—10am
- Registration 8:30am
- Cost \$100—includes 18 holes and a cart, coffee & donuts, hamburgers & hot dogs followed by cocktails and appetizers

The tournament is the primary fundraiser for the scholarship fund. CEUI offers four \$2500 scholarships and MEUI offers one \$1000 scholarship to deserving children of members. Call Tracy at 860-343-8712 for registration materials.

## APRIL/MAY 2008 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The seven (7) 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 meetings are as follows:

### Monday, May 5

Oliver Wolcott Tech, Torrington, Library Media Center, 4:30pm  
Naugatuck Valley Comm. College, Waterbury, Library, 7:00pm

### Tuesday, April 29

DPW Trade Shop, 309 Buckingham St Hartford, 12:00pm  
UConn, Storrs, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 4:00pm  
Yantic Firehouse, Norwich, 7:00pm.

### Wednesday, April 30

Gateway Comm. College, Room 160, New Haven, 7:00pm

### Thursday, May 1

CEUI HQ, Middletown, 7:00pm



## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN OF CEUI/MEUI MEMBERS 2007-2008

Applications are now available for the 2007-2008 Salvatore Perruccio Scholarship. CEUI offers four (4) \$2,500 scholarships and MEUI offers one (1) \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving child (note: grandchildren are excluded) of an active (not retired) dues paying member of CEUI/MEUI. 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 2008.
2. You must fill out a **preliminary application** and return it by April 15, 2008
3. You must return a **final application** postmarked by May 15, 2008.
4. Qualifying students will be individually interviewed.
5. Winners will be expected to attend the 21st Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Golf Tournament held June 26, 2008.

To obtain a preliminary application form please call Tracy at 1-800-622-3359 x712 or locally at 860-343-8712. You may also request an application by email: [tdeegan@ceui.org](mailto:tdeegan@ceui.org). Please be sure your email indicates both the name of the parent and the child.

## 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, kind-hearted, 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, 2008, to Tracy Deegan at the Union office or email it to: [tdeegan@ceui.org](mailto:tdeegan@ceui.org). The Humanitarian Award will be presented at the 20th Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Golf Tournament on June 26, 2008.