



# UNION UPDATE

Connecticut Employees Union Independent • April 2014

## **“WE ARE NOT WISCONSIN” WRAP-UP**

On April 5th, approximately 700 members from nearly all public-sector unions came to the “We Are Not Wisconsin” event at Middletown High School. CEUI and MEUI members were able to hear directly from Wisconsin workers about the way their lives have been affected by their “Wisconsin Moment” which was the destruction of collective bargaining and public-sector unions. The event allowed speakers to talk about the national attack on labor, how public-sector bargaining rights were taken away in Wisconsin, how it could happen here, and how we are going to make sure it never does. Here are some important points made by the Wisconsin speakers:

- Powerful and well-financed groups across the country are trying to take away public-sector bargaining rights
- Wisconsin union members have seen cuts in pay, frozen retirements, and increased healthcare costs since 2011
- Families, communities, and the economy in Wisconsin have all been negatively affected by the actions taken in 2011
- The Wisconsin disaster happened because union members were focused on issues other than their pay, pension, and healthcare which allowed for an anti-union Governor and an anti-union legislature to get elected
- Working together, we will be able to elect candidates who support collective bargaining

This event was the first in our 2014 campaign to protect bargaining rights for our members and all public-sector employees. We will keep you informed about upcoming events and actions. There will also be video from the April 5th event on the website in the near future.

## **NEW COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**

Please welcome CEUI Communications Coordinator Zak Leavy to the Union. He can be reached at the Union office at 860-343-8731, on his cell at 203-589-9502 or by email at [zleavy@ceui.org](mailto:zleavy@ceui.org). You'll be hearing from Zak in the future regarding upcoming Union events, updates, and important issues that impact our members.

## **NEW CEUI WEBSITE!**

The first project Zak worked on was the new CEUI website. It went live on March 26th. The site, [ceui.org](http://ceui.org), will be a great interactive resource for information that is important to our union families. Take the time to look through the menu items and become familiar with your new website.

In addition to the updated website, we have started a Facebook page. You can find us on Facebook by searching for “Connecticut Employees Union Independent.” This will be a place to get updates and news about what is going on in the Union as well as other labor stories. Please “like” us on Facebook!

## CDL MEDICAL CARD RENEWALS

As a reminder, effective May 2014, all CDL medical cards must be signed by "Certified Medical Examiners". In order to be a certified medical examiner, medical providers need to go through a certification process and be on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. As your medical card renewal date approaches, we suggest you contact your doctor and discuss whether they have been certified. Additionally, you can look up certified doctors on the National Registry website located at: <https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/NRPublicUI/home.seam>. If you have questions about this matter, please contact General Counsel & Staff Director Cara O'Sullivan at 860-343-8719.

## DENTAL CARRIER UPDATE

- Our Health and Dental plans go out to bid periodically to create competition for our business and keep costs down
- This year, the dental plan went out to bid
- The contract was awarded to Cigna. This plan will go into effect on July 1, 2014
- Currently we have United Healthcare (Basic), United Healthcare (Enhanced), and Cigna (HMO)
- The Cigna HMO plan has always had a better benefit structure but a very small network of dentists
- Cigna will now provide Basic, Enhanced, and HMO plans
- Cigna will have larger networks and an equal benefit structure to the United Healthcare plan it replaces
- You only need to make a change during open enrollment if you want to switch your current choice of Basic, Enhanced, or HMO
- This applies to both active and retired members

A question & answer document can be found on the Union website at [www.ceui.org](http://www.ceui.org); click on the "health insurance" quick link. If you don't have access to a computer and would like a copy of the Q&A mailed to you, please contact Retiree Staff Rep George Spurlock at 860-343-8722.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD

The month of May is the open enrollment period for healthcare. Documents will be distributed by the State soon and open enrollment fairs will be scheduled. Open enrollment documents will also be available on the Comptrollers website ([www.osc.ct.gov](http://www.osc.ct.gov); click on "employee resources"). Please be sure to keep these important items in mind:

- Do you have a POS or POE plan? The major difference is that the POS has out of network benefits and POE has NO out of network benefits. If you anticipate that any family member will need medical services outside of the network for your plan we urge you to enroll in a POS plan. If you enroll in a POE-G plan, keep in mind you'll need a referral for ALL medical services and there is a limited network of doctors who participate
- Do you have dependents that need to be added to your health plan or removed? Review the dependent eligibility requirement document to ensure everyone on your plan is eligible. Having a non-eligible dependent on your plan could subject you to full payment for medical services and disciplinary action. Qualified dependents who won't be in HEP compliance can be dropped during this period. Members who have recently divorced and may have former spouses on their plan should pay attention to this notice.
- Are you changing carriers? Although the plan coverage for Anthem and United Healthcare/Oxford are identical, the networks are not. If you plan to change from one carrier to another it is advisable to make sure that the doctors for you and your family members are in that carriers network before making the change.
- Are you compliant with the Health Enhancement Program? To review your personal HEP compliance status, go to [www.CTHEP.com](http://www.CTHEP.com) or contact HEP Customer Service at 877-687-1448.  
**\*\*HEP compliance does not apply to those who retired prior to 10/1/2011.**

# MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The May membership meetings have been scheduled. Active members and retiree members are encouraged to attend. Attendance at these meetings guarantees you the most up-to-date information on the issues affecting you and your family.

Monday, May 12     Oliver Wolcott Tech, Library, Torrington / 4:30 pm  
                              Naugatuck Valley CTC, Rm L501, Waterbury / 7:00 pm

Tuesday, May 13    Public Works Garage, 309 Buckingham St, Hartford / Noon  
                              UConn/Storrs, St. Thomas Aquinas basement / 4:00 pm  
                              Yantic Firehouse, Norwich / 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 14 Operating Engineers, Local 478, 1965 Dixwell Ave, Hamden / 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 15    CEUI Headquarters, Middletown / 7:00 pm

## COMPENSATION

In July, members will receive a 3% general wage increase (GWI). Members who began retiree health-care contributions in 2013 will increase their contribution by 1.5%. Also, per Article 19, Section 6(b) of the NP-2 contract, safety shoe money (\$135) will also be paid in July to those who are required to wear safety shoes on the job.

## OJE UPDATE

Negotiations with the Office of Labor Relations have begun regarding our SCOPE (OJE) appeals. Negotiation sessions are currently scheduled through the end of May, with more sessions possible if needed.

As a reminder, the following classifications were appealed during this process:

QCW (Auto), QCW (Locksmith), GTW, Environmental Controls Maintainer (NEW), Master Gardener (NEW), and University Arborist (NEW).

Additionally, we submitted a request to negotiate over the following sub-classes/issues related to OJE: DOT "Trainers", DOT Service Patrol, CAA positions (in particular to FAA regulation/clearance and runway clearance), Landscaping/Grounds Work (misuse of NP-2 classes performing this work), Storekeeper Series (utilization in relation to current needs of stockrooms and issues relative to MSS positions), Maintenance Series (GTW misuse, non-use of intern positions, and upward mobility issues), Water Reclamation Plant (new plant at UConn), Q-Items (denial for certain class series), New Job Classes (disagree with them being UConn specific), and Exempt Classes (request they be studied before next report).

Questions related to this process should be directed to General Counsel & Staff Director, Cara O'Sullivan at 860-343-8719.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for a research study of health and personal protective equipment use among custodians.

Men and women who are currently employed as custodians working with cleaning chemicals are needed for a focus group study being conducted by the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the UConn Health Center. ***Participation is voluntary, and your individual information is confidential.*** This single session will last approximately two hours. Total compensation is \$50. For further information, call Dr. Jennifer Garza at UCHC at 860-679-5418. This study is approved by the University of Connecticut Institutional Review Board (IRB).

# WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

## MONDAY, APRIL 28

Join CEUI and the Connecticut AFL-CIO Health and Safety Committee on the North Steps of the State Capitol in Hartford at noon on Monday, April 28th to honor the men and women who were killed or injured on the job. Following the ceremony at the Capitol, wreathes will be laid at the Workers Memorial in Hartford's Bushnell Park. This is held rain or shine.

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

It's time to start thinking about playing some golf! The 27th Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Golf Tournament will be held on June 26th at the Portland Golf Course. We are looking for golfers and sponsors. Please contact Tracy at 860-343-8712 or via email at [tdeegan@ceui.org](mailto:tdeegan@ceui.org) to request registration material. This tournament is the major fundraiser for the scholarships the Union awards to members' children who will begin their freshman year in college in the fall. Applications for the 2015 scholarships will be available in December.

## HUMANITARIAN AWARD NOMINATIONS

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 16th to Tracy at the Union office or email it to: [tdeegan@ceui.org](mailto:tdeegan@ceui.org). The Humanitarian Award will be presented at the 27th Annual Salvatore J. Perruccio Golf Tournament on June 26, 2014.

## UNION PICNICS

The picnics are offered to Union members and are held from noon to approximately 4pm as follows:

- Friday, May 30 – Willimantic – French Club
- Friday, June 13 – Middlebury -- Quassy Amusement Park
- Friday, June 20 – New Haven – Fort Hale Park Main Pavilion
- Friday, July 11 – Middletown – Falcon's Grove

## NEW BRITAIN ROCK CATS ORGANIZED LABOR NIGHT

The New Britain Rock Cats Baseball Club will again be recognizing the union members who make up the backbone of this country by hosting their 6th Annual Organized Labor Recognition Night at New Britain Stadium on Saturday, **June 21, 2014 at 6:35pm** against the Reading Fightin' Phils. The night will feature live music outside 90 minutes prior to the game, pre-game ceremonies and a Rock Cats giveaway for the first 1000 adult fans. CEUI will be distributing free tickets to this baseball game beginning in May. Please contact Tracy ([tdeegan@ceui.org](mailto:tdeegan@ceui.org) or 860-343-8712) at the Union to reserve tickets for you and your family. Please provide your name, work location and number of tickets requested.