



## UNPRECEDENTED ATTACKS ON WORKERS RIGHTS

The beginning of the 2017 legislative session is off to a historically bad start. A barrage of anti-worker bills were submitted and sponsored by Republican legislators. These bad bills would remove pensions from collective bargaining. Other bills seek to take overtime pay out of pension calculations. For a full list of these bills, go to [www.ceui.org](http://www.ceui.org). On February 21st a public hearing was held at the Capitol on some of these bills. Over 4,000 union members packed the legislative office building to oppose these anti-worker bills.

**On March 24th there will be a public hearing for another long list of anti-worker proposed bills.** The goal of public sector unions is to double the number of workers at the LOB to send a loud and clear message that we will not stand for this. In Wisconsin, the crowds came after it was too late. We are NOT going to be Wisconsin! The hearings will start at 10am and run into the evening. **Members should plan to spend all or part of the day at the Capitol on Friday, March 24th!**

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## MEMBER COMMUNICATION UPDATE

### GET FAST, REAL TIME UPDATES FROM YOUR UNION

The Union has invested in a state of the art communication software program that allows us to send phone, text and email messages. This is the fastest, most effective and efficient method to communicate with our members.

If you get a call or text from CEUI/ONE CALL please follow the prompts and opt-in to get real time updates from your Union. There is also the ability to opt-out if you choose. If there are any issues with the system, please contact us.

***TO OPT-IN TO THE TEXT MESSAGING NOW,  
SEND THE WORD "ALERT" TO 22300.***

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## NEW POLITICAL DIRECTOR -- SHANE HENRY

Shane's background as a Union carpenter, Political Science major, and work experience at the General Assembly give him a unique perspective and skill set to represent CEUI families at the Capitol! His goals are to:

- Advocate for good legislation
- Lobby against bad legislation
- Educate members & help us fight for our safety, paychecks, pensions, healthcare, & retirement security!

Shane works for you! Contact him and become active in this fight. Shane Henry: "I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of our members." He can be reached by phone at 860-343-8736 or by email at [shenry@ceui.org](mailto:shenry@ceui.org).

## WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

On April 28, the unions of the AFL-CIO observe Workers Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job, and to renew the fight for safe jobs. The event will be held at the Workers Memorial in Bushnell Park on the north side of the State Capitol (time to be determined). Please join us there.

## CONTRACT NEGOTIATION UPDATE

The CEUI Negotiation Committee has been engaged in mediation with the Office of Labor Relations since the contract expired on June 30, 2016. As of this publication, the parties have had seven mediation sessions aided by Mediator Cathy Serino of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration. An eighth mediation session is scheduled for mid-March.

Since beginning mediation, the parties have signed off\* on 29 contractual articles and/or sections. (\*sign off means agreed upon language between the parties to be included in the next contract). Additionally, the parties are close to sign off on approximately five more issues and an agreement to resolve part of the Grievance Backlog. The State has still not offered any compensation proposals and they have indicated that they are still not prepared to do so for the next mediation session. The same holds true for all the other units in negotiations. The Legislative Session opened in January and we are keeping a close eye on the budget and other important bills as they relate to the NP-2 unit contract and the right to collectively bargain for State employees.

Questions related to contract negotiations can be directed to General Counsel & Staff Director Cara O'Sullivan at (860) 343-8719.

## **FIGHTING FOR A SAFER WORKPLACE**

CEUI-SEIU 511 members at the University of Connecticut (Storrs) Animal Care unit have been notified by ConnOSHA that many of the safety concerns that they have raised were justified. On February 19, 2017 ConnOSHA issued eight citations (seven of which are categorized as "serious") which included:

- lack of hazard labeling on animal cages
- lack of adequate training for workers and students
- lack of proper respiratory protection
- lack of fit-testing for N-95 respirators
- annual respirator training not provided
- did not maintain material safety data sheet for hazardous materials
- workers not provided effective information and training on hazardous chemicals
- workers not provided training on information on safety data sheet
- carts and red bags positioned in ways that restrict movement

The total fine for these workplace hazard violations was only \$2,880. An unresolved question regarding the citations is why does training, educating and empowering workers about the hazards that they face have less value than providing the protections from those hazards?

The workers and the Union are still pushing for:

- Revised standard operating procedures (SOP) to protect workers from hazards
- Establishment of appropriate medical monitoring for exposure to hazardous materials
- Revision of the UConn anti-retaliation policy
- Establishment of a permanent and effective ACS health and safety committee
- UConn to adopt best practice SOP for health and safety training
- An increased Union role in training workers including hazcom, hazmat and respirators
- An annual audit of SOPs to determine effectiveness
- An evaluation of anti-retaliation policy annually

The NP-2 members will not stop organizing until they are assured that they will go home each day as healthy as they were in the morning.

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE**

CEUI awards four \$2,500 scholarships to deserving children of members. The applicant must: be the child of a dues paying, actively working member of CEUI; be a senior in high school about to enter a four-year accredited college in the fall of 2017; complete a preliminary application and return it by April 7, 2017; return a final application postmarked by May 5, 2017. Qualifying students will be individually interviewed by the Scholarship Committee sometime in May/June. To obtain a preliminary application contact Tracy at 860-343-8712 / tdeegan@ceui.org.

## **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The Third Annual CEUI/MEUI Golf Tournament, which is the primary fundraiser for our scholarships, will be held on Monday, June 12th at the Farmington Woods Golf Club. Please contact Tracy at the Union office at 860-343-8712 / tdeegan@ceui.org for registration material. We hope you'll join us!

## **UNION PICNICS SCHEDULED**

Friday, June 2 - Willimantic, French Club

Friday, June 30 - Ft. Hale, New Haven

Friday, June 9 - Middlebury, Quassy Amusement Park

Friday, July 14 - Middletown, Falcons Grove

## **HARTFORD YARD GOATS / ORGANIZED LABOR NIGHT**

The Hartford Yard Goats will be hosting an Organized Labor Night at their new stadium in Hartford on Saturday, July 29th. The game against the Reading Fighting Phils starts at 6:35pm. We will have 100 tickets available for this game, which will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Call Tracy at 860-343-8712 to reserve your tickets.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

CEUI will be holding a 50th anniversary celebration on October 28th at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. Tickets will go on sale in late summer. Please plan on joining us for an evening of dinner and dancing.

## **COMPENSATION**

Longevity payments will be made to those applicable members in the check dated April 28, 2017. Safety Shoe Money (\$135) will be issued in July, per Article 19, Section 6(b) of the NP-2 contract. This is paid to those required to wear safety shoes on the job.