



# ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL FIGHT FOR AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES



## WHY BUSH GOBBLES

By any account Bush's presidency so far has laid an egg.

- Bush's war on work has led to more than three million lost jobs.
- Bush has shifted the tax burden from the wealthy to the working class.
- Bush has no plan to win the peace in Iraq.
- Bush is attempting to contract out one million civilian federal jobs.
- Bush has signed new rules that will eliminate overtime pay from eight million working Americans.



## THE GOVERNOR IS JUST AS BAD

The State Budget is either \$2 million or \$400 million in the red.

- The Governor planned on major savings in Medicaid and prescription drug subsidies for children and seniors.
- Cancellation of health insurance for poor adults is being challenged in federal court.
- Contract arbitration awards for two state employee unions could add \$10 million to this budget. Expect the Governor or his designee to fight their approval...let's not forget two months ago in October the Governor approved a 5.5% raise for non-union state workers.
- The budget in this fiscal year is still counting on the Governor cutting \$77 million in unspecified agency cuts that have not yet been announced.

When you compare President Bush's actions with that of the Governor's, working families aren't very important.

## Want to help change everything above?

Active and retired members, mark your calendar: Saturday, January 17, 10:00 a.m. at CEUI Headquarters. Two hours of your time will do it.

## CONTRACTING OUT UPDATE

- **Print Services**—Department of Administrative Services (DAS) recently issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) for private contractors to bid on the "Management of State Print Operations." At a December 8<sup>th</sup> pre-bid meeting, DAS officials explained the intent of the five-year contract.
- DAS wants to consolidate all print operations (executive branch agencies only) into DAS Print Services and to focus on printing needs while reducing costs. Higher Education, UConn, Judicial and the General Assembly are not included

in the plan. The State has not indicated if layoffs are planned in the NP-2 bargaining unit. Responses to the RFP are due Monday, January 5, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

- **Mail Handler/Supervisor vacancies** in all agencies are again being filled. In August, DAS was looking into privatizing some or all of the work presently performed by CEUI members in these job titles.
- As of December 12, **DAS Fleet Operations** has not contacted CEUI to meet and evaluate a contract involving a private vendor performing the servicing and maintenance of the state's automobiles.

## UPWARD MOBILITY—SPRING COURSES

"Nothing Wrong With Learning Something New"

Below is a listing of nine technical training courses for maintenance members that begin April—June.

- 5-Day OSHA Training for Workplace Safety
- Beginning Word
- Conflict Resolution
- Ergonomics Awareness
- Fire Safety & Emergency Evacuation
- First Aid for Stress (*new*)
- HVAC Basic Controls & Troubleshooting (*new*)
- Introduction to Electricity
- Personal Computers: The Basics
- You must register by February 6, 2004.
- For additional information including a brief overview of each course, class dates, time and locations, go to [www.ceui.org](http://www.ceui.org) and click on *Tuition Reimbursement Program*, or attend a January Membership Meeting (see the reverse side for dates and locations).

**Remember, February 6th is the deadline to apply.**  
**APPLY NOW!**

✂-----cut and save-----

## SPECIAL SNOW & ICE PHONE NUMBER

The Union works when you do. During a snow and ice storm with a call out of 50% or more, a staff representative is on duty day and night to answer any questions you may have, or to take care of any problems.

Call the Union office during the day at:

**(860) 344-0311 or (800) 622-3359 x0**

or after hours at

**(860) 343-8715 or (800) 622-3359 x715**

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**BRIEFLY EDITED**

- Annual Increments (AI's) and 10th step payments will be paid to eligible members in the paycheck dated January 23, 2004.
- 2005 Maintenance Contract Negotiations—Questionnaires for members to provide their priorities in the next round of negotiations that begin in January 2005—12 months away—will be initially distributed at the January Membership Meetings.
- Steward Report Cards—In accordance with the Steward Policy, the 2003 Report Cards will be posted on Union bulletin boards by the end of December. Members will have the opportunity to review how their stewards are performing.
- CEUI website—www.ceui.org has been updated. We appreciate your input as to what should be added or provided.
- Big Brother is spying on you. Recently, several Union members were fired for using their state computer for personal business. Agencies have installed software that lists websites, specific time of day, length of visit and any personal business performed. Using a state computer for personal business isn't worth losing your pension, medical insurance and paycheck.
- General Assembly—the 2004 session begins on Wednesday, February 4th and adjourns on Wednesday, May 5th. The session during even numbered years is two months shorter than odd numbered years. Call it coincidental if you

want...in November of even numbered years it is also ELECTION TIME for those in the General Assembly.

- Workers Compensation—Rumor has it that the Department of Administrative Services is preparing some sort of negative public campaign involving workers comp costs and injured state employees. Sure, tax dollars would be better spent hiring private detectives to investigate the Governor's Office and his appointed commissioners for additional illegal kickbacks and abuse of authority.  
Remember: workers compensation fraud is grounds for dismissal.
- Any member in good standing who is interested in serving on the 2005 Successor Contract Negotiations Committee should submit their name to Tracy Deegan at CEUI Headquarters prior to January 23, 2004.

**RETIREES TAKE NOTE: RX COVERAGE**

The Medicare/Prescription Drug legislation signed into law by President Bush does not affect retired CEUI members because health/prescription insurance coverage continues when a retiree qualifies for Medicare and/or Medicaid.

What is interesting is early polls indicate 70% of those age 65 and over disapprove of the changes and blame President Bush and the AARP for selling out to special interest groups.

**JANUARY '04 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

The seven statewide January Membership Meetings have been scheduled. We **encourage active members 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 state happenings affecting you and your family. Please plan to attend.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER ADVISORY**

Please note that meetings will begin at 4:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. for those regularly scheduled meetings. If there is a question whether a membership meeting will be held due to inclement weather, please call the Union and listen to the Union's update line at 1-800-622-3359 x905 for pertinent information. A meeting canceled due to inclement weather will not be re-scheduled. Members may call this number 24 hours a day.

The dates, times and places of the meetings are as follows:

Monday, January 5	Oliver Wolcott Tech, Torrington	4:30 pm
Monday, January 5	Kaynor Tech, Waterbury	7:30 pm
Tuesday, January 6	Gateway Community College, New Haven	7:30 pm
Wednesday, January 7	CEUI HQ, Middletown	7:30 pm
Thursday, January 8	DAS, Fleet Garage, 190 Huyslope Ave., Hartford	Noon
Thursday, January 8	UConn/ Storrs, St. Thomas Aquinas	3:30 pm
Thursday, January 8	Yantic Firehouse, Norwich	7:30 pm

*❁ Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season ❁*