

September 9, 2003



THIS BUDGET WORSE THAN LAST—EXPECT CUTS



The state budget for July 2003 through June 2005, which does not include an agreement with CEUI/SEBAC and was signed into law by the Governor on August 16th, is significantly worse than the budget that ended June 30th—yes, just 3 months ago.

- Budget allows the Governor to make up to \$55 million in additional cuts to the 2004-05 budget, on or after October 1, 2004. By law, the governor can already rescind up to 5 percent of the total appropriations from any fund. The authority is repealed if Connecticut receives more federal aid next fiscal year.
- Requires the governor's budget director Marc Ryan to save \$14 million in both years in personnel services. No explanation is given.

Repeat performance by the Governor regarding budget deficit and the need for further cuts most likely will occur within 72 hours of the Municipal Elections on Tuesday, November 4th. Expect the Governor to announce layoffs before the holidays, exactly what he did less than 12 months ago.

WHO IS WORSE? PRESIDENT OR GOVERNOR

On Wednesday, August 27, 2003, President Bush announced that due to a national emergency involving terrorist attacks, he will cut the pay raises of federal employees in January 2004 to 1.5%. This is the second time since his election with the swipe of a pen he denied workers a raise.

Private companies will begin to compete for nearly half the 1.8 million jobs Federal workers (clerical, maintenance, etc.) employed in the Defense Department may join workers in the Justice and Homeland departments and airport screeners by having their right to collective bargaining stripped from them.

Would you "vote" for either—again?

ERIP Grievance—Arbitrator reply briefs were submitted to the arbitrator on August 26, a decision could come as early as October. Price tag \$450 million.

Federal Lawsuit—waiting for a decision from the judge on when depositions will begin.

CONTRACTING OUT— DAS FLEET

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) finally contacted CEUI on July 11 for the purpose of contracting out the work done by approximately 55 state employees, 48 of whom are CEUI members and are responsible for the care and maintenance of the State's 3800 automobile fleet.

Layoff letters were issued to the state workers on Tuesday, September 9th.

The Department of Administrative Services has also put state agencies and CEUI on notice that Print and Mail Services job titles are under review or being considered for contracting out. Until a decision is made, agencies cannot hire into these positions.

The Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) sent a letter informing CEUI of its intention to contract out custodial work at Lower Fairfield Regional Center. The reason given was due to OPM not approving the refilling of ERIP positions and per the legislative budget.

VACANCIES AND REEMPLOYMENT

OPM has and will continue to refuse agency requests for refilling a vast majority of positions left vacant from the ERIP—don't be misled by supervisors/managers who make promises they have no authority to make.

Any and all vacancies that are approved to be refilled must first be offered to members who were laid off and then to other state workers from other bargaining units that are qualified to fill.

DATES—REMINDERS

- October 3—3 payday month (3rd, 17th & 31st)
- October 17—paycheck will include longevity payment. See Article 22 on page 47 of the contract for the schedule
- Snow and Ice—November 1st
- Restaurant selection is by mutual agreement of the employer and steward. See Article 42, Section 5.
- Prior to November 1st, the employer designates those employees with Snow and Ice assignments. See Article 49, Section 1
- Snow and Ice premium pay—\$1.40 per hour for all hours outside the normal work schedule. See Article 53 (please note: the contract should read “other than during the regular shift schedule.”)

6TH JOB FAIR—THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

Since the first Job Fair held on May 12th, OPM has approved 200 of the 1,100 positions vacant.

A Job Fair will be held:

- Thursday, September 25
- CEUI Headquarters
- 8:30 am

There will be 30-40 positions from various state agencies. Ninety (90) permanent DOT positions have been approved to fill. The vast majority are in the Maintainer 1 classifications. Laid off members electing a job in a garage more than 15 miles from their home cannot be required to move.

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