

the **4**WORD

The Voice of Council 4 AFSCME Connecticut

April 2011

What's Inside



CAMPAIGN FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

The middle class is under attack, but we're fighting back. Story on p. 3.

Executive Director Opinion p. 2

Local 1303 College Scholarships p. 2

Local Leadership Profiles p. 4

Fighting For Services in New Haven p. 5

Lending A Helping Hand p. 7

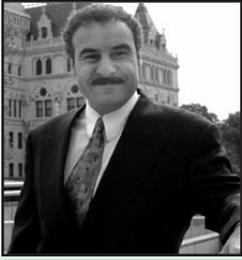


"We All Live in Wisconsin"



Wisconsin, the birthplace of AFSCME, is the crucible in the fight to protect workers' rights and the middle class. Story on p. 7.

Enough is Enough



To paraphrase a famous line from the movie *Network*, we're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore.

You've seen the recent images of thousands of demonstrators rallying against their oppressive governments. Except the pictures were not from Egypt, Libya or Bahrain; they were from

Wisconsin, USA. But the message was the same in all instances – enough is enough.

Wisconsin's home-grown tyrant, Republican Gov. Scott Walker, is trying to wipe out workers' rights and turn back the clock to the 19th century. Thousands of public employees hit the streets and the state capital to protest against this oppression. This is the culmination of an orchestrated attack on public service employees and unions happening nationwide.

On February 23, we were out in force at the State Capitol, rallying to show solidarity with the workers of Wisconsin, not to mention Ohio, Indiana, New Jersey and *New Haven*, where Mayor John DeStefano has slashed public service jobs left and right without regard to their impact on the city or its taxpayers.

Everywhere, public employers are trampling on the rights of union members and stripping public services from the middle

class. Enough is enough, indeed. Our message must be loud and clear: we are not going to be the scapegoats for the economic mess and high unemployment caused by Wall Street, the rich and years of lax government regulation. Enough is enough.

We have a concrete plan to strike back against this tide of lies. It is our Campaign for the Middle Class. It's a blueprint for action, starting at the job site and moving out to the communities where our members live and work.

An important objective of the campaign is to reverse the tide of myths and fabrications that make public service workers and their unions the scapegoats for the current economic ills. This is going to be an on-going effort. We need the help of every member of our union to make our fight successful.

We are going to use all means at our disposal — rallies, earned and paid media, social media — to mobilize our on behalf of our ideals and get our message across. We are going to set the story straight and help restore the American Dream to the middle class. This is our line in the sand – enough is enough.

In solidarity,

Sal Luciano

Sal Luciano, Executive Director

New Haven Kids Get Coats from Local 1303-424

New Haven children received hundreds of items of warm clothing to the Coats for Tots drive spearheaded by AFSCME Local 1303-424, representing workers at the Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority.

“We did this for one reason and one reason only: to keep as many children warm

this winter as we could,” said Local President Bill Idarola, who himself knew the cold streets of New Haven when he was growing up on Wooster Street. “Coats were always my parents concern and parents still work hard to purchase warm clothing for their kids. Sometimes they need help. That's what we are trying to do.”

Idarola thanked Local 818-54 Chapter President Luigi DiMonaco; Local 1303-424 Secretary Bridget Buckley; and Local 1303-424 Treasurer Jim Zarro for serving on the Coats committee. He also praised GNHWPCA Director Sid Holbrook for his support, who in turn lauded his workers for their commitment to Coats for Tots. “I am extremely proud of our employees for stepping up to the plate to help those who are less fortunate in our surrounding community,” Holbrook said. “I hope we can support this project again next year.”

The drive collected 200 items of winter clothing that were delivered to the Christ Presbyterian Church in the Hill. “Every coat, glove, hoodie, sweater, vest and hat that was donated will warm a child this winter,” said Rev. Tolivar Willis. “We are grateful to the AFSCME workers and all the staff who donated so generously in a time of need for our community.”



L-R: Bill Idarola; Pastor Tolivar Willis and Assistant Maxine Harris of the Christ Presbyterian Church in the Hill of New Haven; and Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority Director Sidney Holbrook.

LOCAL 1303 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 2011-2012

AFSCME Local 1303, representing 8,000 members, is once again offering scholarships to help defray the cost of college. Applicants must:

Have a parent who is in good standing with AFSCME Local 1303.

Be a graduating high school senior.

Complete an essay on the benefits of being part of a union family.

Be enrolled in an accredited university, college or technical school for the fall 2011 semester.

Have (2) signed letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant. All applications must be received by the final deadline of April 15, 2011.

For information and application forms, contact AFSCME Local 1303 at (860) 612-3847 or local1303@gmail.com. You can download the application form at www.council4.org/Local1303.

Council 4 Launches the Campaign for the Middle Class

Council 4 AFSCME has launched a multi-faceted grassroots campaign to combat the conservative forces seeking to reverse the progress of the middle class, while making public service workers the scapegoat for the current economic crisis.

The Campaign has as its major goal nothing less than restoring the American Dream for Connecticut's middle class, the workers and the unemployed who have suffered from the ravages of the current economic crisis. The campaign aims to repel attacks designed to cut middle-class jobs, depress wages and weaken workers' rights.

Council 4 unveiled the campaign before 200 members who attended our legislative conference on January 28 in Meriden.

The Campaign provides a blueprint for action, starting at the job site and moving out to the communities where our members live and work. The campaign is aimed at benefiting the middle class and public service workers. The three pillars of this campaign are: An Affordable Healthcare System, Retirement Security for All Workers and Fair Taxes to Fund Public Structures.

An important objective of the campaign is to reverse the tide of myths and fabrications (such as purported "high salaries" and "unsustainable health care and pensions") that have made public service workers and their unions scapegoats for our economic ills.

"I think the perception is that pensions are killing the country, which is obviously not the case," said Local 2945 President Travis Cromack, a truck driver for the Simsbury Department of Public Works. "I think it's more of what Wall Street did to the country." Cromack attended the conference with 200 other union members, many of whom offered their opinion on the current coordinated attacks on public service employees and the services they provide.

"A lot of the employees are making less than \$20,000 a year. So to say that it's the unions that have cushy jobs with their pay – we don't have the pay," said Local 3429 President Tonya Gonsalves, a paraprofessional at the New Haven Public Schools Head Start program.

"When I hear people bashing public employees I get upset," said Thomas Stough, a member of Local 991 and a custodian at Manchester High School. "We're here to work with the public. We're not here to work against the public."

Council 4 members have embraced the Campaign for the Middle Class because it speaks to their concerns.



Congratulations to our members who received a special recognition award for their volunteer work during the 2010 election. Back row, l-r: Godfrey Ferguson (Local 2663); Chuck Flynn (New London Police); Clarke King, Local 1716; Anna Montalvo, Local 1522; Tom Stough, Local 991; Cherlyn Poindexter, Local 3144. Bottom row, l-r: Gil Bironi, Local 184; Joe Horvath, Local 538; Steve Curran, Local 1565; Jay Bartolomei, Local 714; and Blair Bertaccini, Local 269.

"When I see public service workers attacked for the current economic conditions, it bothers me greatly because I know we do a wonderful service," said Dawn Tyson, President of Local 538 (State Administrative Clerical), who works for the Department of Social Services. "We are the front line workers. Without us, the state would be in a far worse condition."

The Campaign for the Middle Class will tap into the energy and enthusiasm of our union members, using a variety of tactics to enlist support for our message. **Be sure to look for us on our special website, www.campaignformiddleclass.com, where you can sign our electronic petition. You can also join us on our new Facebook page or tweet us @c4mc.**



AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer Lee Saunders, center, signs a partnership agreement with Council 4 Executive Director Sal Luciano, left, and Council 15 Executive Director Jeff Matchett. (Council 15 represents police officers.) The agreement pledges resources from our International Union in the fight to defend Connecticut's middle class workers. Saunders was the keynote speaker at our legislative conference introducing The Campaign for the Middle Class.

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**...AND JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN
FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS**



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Public Employees Weather The Storm



Local 2930 President Joe Cirigliano getting ready to plow the streets of Newington

Winter 2011 was particularly harsh to Connecticut, but thousands of public service workers like Joe Cirigliano worked around the clock to keep our streets plowed and our communities safe.

Cirigliano is a public works employee and president of Local 2930 of Council 4, which represents Newington town workers. He and his co-workers logged 20-plus consecutive hours at a time, maneuvering snow plows to clear up the more than four feet of snow that cumulatively pounded towns like Newington.

"I'm really proud of the way town workers responded to the storms this winter," Cirigliano said. "It's our job as public employees to keep the streets clear and safe for residents and businesses. That's what we did."

Cirigliano has been on the job for more than 8 years. "I'm proud to serve Newington. I live in this town and raised my family here. Doing the job right and efficiently matters to me."

A registered Republican, Cirigliano has little patience for politicians and others who have jumped on the anti-public employee bandwagon. "People are playing the blame game," he said. "All I know is, we didn't create these economic problems, but we're the ones you can count on to take care of your town no matter what the weather."

A Strong Voice for Her Union Members

State Correction Officer Lisamarie Fontano broke new ground when she became the first female elected to head a Council 4 AFSCME Correctional Local since state employees gained collective bargaining rights in 1978.

Members of Local 387 elected Fontano to serve as union president. The local represents nearly 800 front-line prison employees at the Cheshire Correctional Complex.

"I understand the significance of my election but I never looked at this as a gender issue," Fontano said. "We're all on the front lines, walking the most dangerous beat in Connecticut. We're all equals."

Fontano has worked for the Department for more than 17 years. She has been involved in many capacities, serving on the executive board and negotiating teams, and volunteering as a grass-roots lobbyist at the state legislature, where she has testified on many issues, including hazardous duty workers compensation benefits.

Fontano said it's important for the public and elected officials to grasp the challenges faced by prison employees on and off the job:

"We do positive things that the public is not aware of. At the same time, people need to understand the stress and the dangers inherent to our job. Nationally, the average life expectancy of a correction officer is 58 years. We have a high divorce rate, more long-term illness and injury issues. People don't want to talk about that."

A married mother of young children, Fontano has embraced the opportunity to fight for her union members.

"I'm excited and nervous at the same time," she said. "I'd like to think I'm setting a good example for my children and for the people who will walk the beat after me. You should never be afraid or intimidated if you believe in something."



Local 387 President Lisamarie Fontano is the first woman to serve as president of a correctional bargaining unit

Governor's Budget Calls For Tough Choices

On Feb. 16, Gov. Malloy outlined his budget proposal for the next two years. While we may not see eye-to-eye on everything, we recognize that for the first time in 20 years we have a governor who is willing to talk with us, rather than dictate to us. Unfortunately, the governor's budget asks middle class working families to contribute to balancing the budget far more as a percentage of their income than the millionaires, Wall Street financiers and big corporations (like Bank of America) who profited during the economic downturn.

The governor's proposed budget even suggests it's fair for middle class families who happen to work for the state not just to pay more in taxes like other middle class families, but to lose \$1 billion dollars a year in their wages and benefits. That's over \$20,000 a year each. Additionally, the budget proposes measures that disproportionately and adversely affect the middle and working class. It proposes to eliminate the property tax credit; to increase the sales tax; and to add new income taxes that also leave the very rich almost untouched, as people making over a million dollars a year will only be required to pay 0.2% on income over that million dollars.

Council 4 is working through the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) to find short term and long term savings that make the ideas of front-line public service workers part of the permanent process of transforming state government to better serve the families of this state. Gov. Malloy has asked public employees for \$2 billion in concessions and cost savings over the next two years. While SEBAC handles negotiations on pensions and healthcare, any discussion regarding additional concessions would take place within individual local unions.

We feel the governor is right to seek additional revenue to protect the vital public services that benefit Connecticut's citizens. But the budget must be fair and moral document. In the coming weeks we will need you to contact your legislators to ensure that the sacrifices they are asking people to make are being shared equally. Be sure to check www.council4.org for the latest news on the economic crisis and the budget fight.

The Fight For Public Services in New Haven

New Haven public services workers are standing up against the efforts of Mayor John DeStefano to close New Haven's budget gap through layoffs, privatization and service cuts. On Feb. 17, DeStefano laid off 86 city employees, including 42 represented by Council 4 unions, along with 16 police officers represented by Council 15 Local 530.

Kristin Barber of Local 3144, a disability services coordinator, was among those laid off. She was about to visit a suicidal client when she received her layoff notice and was told to clear out. "There's nobody else doing my job," she said. "I work with people who are totally ostracized from other services," said Barber, a New Haven resident.

The layoffs ranged from clerical, security, truancy prevention, drug prevention and paraprofessional employees on the school side to library aides, nurses, a housing inspector, and a park ranger on the city side. DeStefano also wants to privatize dedicated public school custodians, which would destroy 200 family-supporting jobs in the New Haven community.

The job cuts came less than a week after Council 4 and New Haven Local Union leaders met with DeStefano and offered nearly \$5 million in immediate savings, including increased pension contributions. DeStefano and his staff walked out of the meeting. "This is becoming a little like Egypt now. We have a dictator. We no longer have a mayor," said Local 884 President Ron Hobson, whose union represents police dispatchers, school security officers and nurses, public library aides and many more.

Council 4 filed labor board charges against the city for attempting to deny our members their right under law and has mounted a community campaign to protect services. As this newsletter went to press, AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer Lee Saunders and veteran civil rights activist the Rev. Al Sharpton led a rally to support our workers.



Kristin Barber of Local 3144 was among more than 80 workers laid off in New Haven. Photo courtesy of New Haven Independent.

Juvenile Detention Workers Speak Out

State Juvenile Detention Officers said that chronic understaffing of employees in the state's three juvenile detention facilities in Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven imperils workers and juveniles in the system. The workers, who are members of Local 749 of Council 4, made their statement during a Feb. 11 press conference outside the Bridgeport Juvenile Detention Facility. Local 749 represents more than 1,500 Judicial and Criminal Justice employees.

"I never forget that I'm here for the kids, my co-workers and the taxpayers," said Jay Pelletier, an officer at the Hartford Juvenile Detention Center. "I take pride in my work so it bothers me when I see something that needs fixing. And I think our juvenile detention centers and transportation units need fixing."

Juvenile detention workers have been repeatedly mandated to work overtime because of short staffing. The longer hours mean more injuries and workers' compensation claims, lower morale and a less positive and constructive environment for the juveniles.

"I am proud of the work I do," said Jennifer Puffen, who works at the Bridgeport Juvenile Detention Center, "but the juvenile detention system needs fixing. We need more resources to do our jobs and to be there for the kids."

The Judicial Branch responded by hiring more permanent part-time staff (who are part of the Local 749 bargaining unit). "It's a start, but only a start," Puffen said.



Jay Pelletier, left, in green shirt, and Jennifer Pelletier of Local 749 speak to reporters in Bridgeport.

Red Cross Workers Keep Fighting

Our members in AFSCME Local 3145, who work for the American Red Cross Blood Services Region, continue to press their fight for fair treatment and a safe blood supply. Local 3145 leadership recently completed a federal Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) trial with the National Labor Relations Board.

Council 4 provided the expertise of Attorney William Gagne throughout the trial, with support from Council 4 Staff Representative Kip Lockhart. The administrative will make her ruling on the ULP charges once she has reviewed testimony and briefs. Our union filed several ULP complaints last year over the Red Cross's refusal to bargain in good faith – behavior that prompted a three-day ULP strike in June.

Local 3145 members headed by President Christine Holschlag also testified on House Bill 6277, An Act Concerning the Operation of Blood Drives. Our union supports this bill, which would require a licensed nurse at every mobile blood drive.

Council 4 Wins Grievance Arbitration Over Unjust Termination

Thanks to successful representation from Council 4, a state correction officer is back on the job after being unjustly terminated in 2008. Arbitrator Susan Halperin agreed with Council 4 that Arthur Rosado of Local 387 was dismissed without just cause by the Department of Correction. The state had alleged Rosado "engaged in excessive use of force" when breaking up an inmate-on-inmate assault at Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire. The inmate, who was a boxer, resisted Rosado and punched him in the face. It took three officers, including Rosado, to finally subdue the assaultive inmate.

Council 4 Service Representative John Little represented Rosado in arbitration, successfully arguing that Rosado's actions were not in "willful disregard" of DOC's policies; that his use of force was mitigated by the dangers posed by the inmate; and termination of his employment represented disparate treatment.

On Jan. 6, 2011, Halperin ordered Rosado reinstated with no loss of seniority or benefits and reimbursed all lost wages less a 30-day unpaid suspension.

Lending A Helping Hand In Our Communities

Council 4 members across the state reached out during the 2010 holiday season to remember those who need a helping hand. Here are some highlights:



Pat Sisson, AFSCME Local 1303-37 (Waterford Public Works/Town Hall) collects food during his refuse runs.

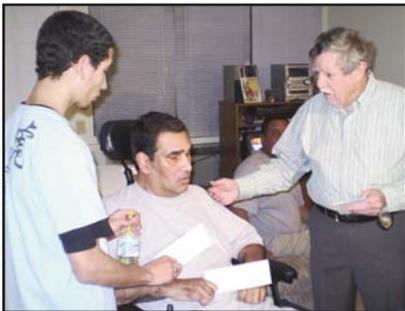
For the last three years, Pat Sisson of **Local 1303-37 (Waterford Public Works/Town Hall)** has collected bin after bin of non-perishable food items for donation to residents in need. With the support of his union and DPW management, Sisson takes time out during sanitation routes to collect the food. "Every Christmas season, a light bulb turns on in my heart," Sisson explained. "I really want to help people because a lot of them are hurting, losing their jobs, having trouble paying bills."

Members of **Local 1214, (Charter Oak State College in New Britain/CT Distance Learning Consortium in Newington)**, donated an industrial-sized food freezer (worth \$1,000) to the Friendship Service Center in New Britain, along with an additional \$250 to purchase food. Local 1214 also donated \$1,000 to the Newington Food Bank to help feed local residents in need. "We organized a Charitable Giving Committee in response to the strong desire to give back to our local community. I am very proud of our members for their generous donations," said Local 1214 President Carolyn Rogers.



L-R: Donna Bergin and Sandy Hart of the New Britain Friendship Service Center; AFSCME Local 1214's Nancy Taylor, Paul Morganti and Carolyn Rogers.

Responding to an article in the New Haven Register, the **New Haven County Marshals Association, AFSCME Local 2193**, donated \$1,000 to help Gilberto Cosme, a New Haven resident with Lou Gehrig's Disease re-equip his special needs van, which was stolen Dec. 7 and later found stripped of special equipment he needs to move around.



Richard Krueger, right, presents a \$1,000 donation to Gilberto Cosme and his son Gilberto, Jr.

"I read the article about Gilberto and was very moved," said Marshals Association President Richard Krueger. "Gilberto's plight grabbed our members' attention." Cosme and his family were grateful. "I don't know how anyone can stoop so low to do this to a man," said Cosme's son, Gilberto Jr., "but we say thank you to the Marshals' Association for helping us out during a bad time."

CBTU Helps Striking Workers

The Connecticut Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) with assistance of National CBTU and UFCW Local 919 delivered some holiday cheer to striking SEIU 1199 members in West Hartford in the form of \$50 Stop & Shop Gift Cards.

Close to 400 nurses, nursing assistants and support staff at four nursing homes operated by Spectrum Healthcare went on strike last April. Spectrum Care refuses to bargain in good faith over wages and insurance.

"CBTU members will continue to stand with our sisters and brothers in District 1199 until their struggle for a dignity and respect is won," said CT CBTU President and Council 4 Service Representative Kathy Jackson. You can support the workers by making a contribution to: The 1199 Strike and Defense Fund, 77 Huyshope Ave., Hartford CT 06106



Council 4 Service Rep and CBTU President Kathy Jackson at a recent rally for striking Spectrum nursing home workers.

Grant Bergeron, Union Stalwart, Retires from Mattabassett District



Congratulations to Grant Bergeron (holding a certificate of recognition from Council 4) who retired after 35 years of distinguished service to the Mattabassett District wastewater treatment facility in Cromwell. Grant spent most of his career as a member of Local 1303-218. He was a past president and helped build the union's bargaining strength. At the time of his retirement he was a member of the Local 818 supervisory unit at Mattabassett. "The union has meant stability and security for me and my family," Bergeron said.

Pictured here, in the front row: Local 1303-218 President Andrew Purchia and Vice President Giofranco Macri. Back row, l-r: Local 818 President Shane McCannon, Council 4 Executive Director Sal Luciano, Local 818's Grant Bergeron, Local 1303-218 Treasurer Tom Karpinski, Mattabassett District Executive Director Brian Armet, Council 4 Staff Representative Donald Sevas, Local 818 Secretary-Treasurer Liz Walters and Local 1303-218 Secretary Brian Warmen.

“This Is What Democracy Looks Like”

Will Diaz of Local 714 traveled to Wisconsin with other Council 4 members and staff to demonstrate support for Wisconsin workers. Also on the trip were Godfrey Ferguson and David Drzal of Local 2663; Roberta Price of Local 610; and Luke Leone and Steve Curran of Local 1565. They were joined by Council 4 staffers Joe Aresimowicz, Joyce Evoy, Wayne Meyers, Patrick Sampson and Scott Soares. Diaz provided this reflection:

On the morning of Thursday Feb 17 I was listening to WNPR NEWS and heard that 14 Senators fled the State of Wisconsin to avoid having a quorum to vote on a bill that would strip union members of their rights to collectively bargain. I immediately got the chills, and the first thing that came to my mind was “Finally! We’re rising up!” My next thought was, “I have to be there.” The next day I received a call asking me to join other Council 4 members and staff in Wisconsin to fight on the front lines. My answer was a resounding yes.

By Saturday afternoon I was on a flight to our generation’s March on Washington. We met up with some sisters and brothers from AFSCME in Wisconsin and canvassed in Green Bay, going door to door in a snow blizzard asking the citizens to contact their local Republican state senator to vote against this bill. We also phoned banked all night when the snow got too thick for driving.

On Monday we headed out to The Center of the Universe for the Middle Class...Madison!

When we walked into the Capital Building we were met with thundering drums and a deafening chant of “THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!” I felt my heart exploding with gratitude for that moment and for the thousands of people surrounding me, standing up in unity for working families around the country. It was as if I had been on a spiritual pilgrimage and arrived in the Holy Land.

Never have I seen a more respectful, civil, well-organized

protest of this scale. Even though Gov. Walker exempted the unions of the firefighters and police from the bill, they stood in solidarity with the rest of us and were treated with chants of “Thank You!” every time they marched through the building. We all agreed with a huge AFSCME banner that read, “Enough is Enough!”

When the rest of our Connecticut brothers and sisters headed back to Green Bay that night, Dave Drzal of Local 2663 and I decided to stay behind and join the hundreds of university students, firefighters, steelworkers, teachers, police, and every other type of working people you could imagine. We all slept on the floors of the Capitol. The marble floors were cold and hard but the unity in that building seemed to comfort us all.

The next morning we marched through the streets with our Wisconsin brothers and sisters from the DOC. There were over 70,000 people in and out of the Capitol at this point and the feeling was at a fever pitch. We stomped through the streets all day and when we got hungry there were plenty of pizzas that had been donated by people all over the world through a website set up by the local restaurants. Donations came from all over the country and the world, including supporters in France, Denmark, Spain, Egypt, Brazil and the United Kingdom.

That afternoon we headed back to Green Bay for a Town Hall meeting with the citizens of Green Bay. Turnout is normally about 30-40 people for these meetings; we were astounded to see over 600 people in attendance. What an amazing sight.

As I flew back home on Feb. 23, I reflected on an unforgettable, life-changing experience. Thank you people of Wisconsin and thank you AFSCME for the opportunity to make history. The Fight for the Middle Class continues and is far from over, but we’ve certainly put more than a few dents in our enemies’ armor.

Connecticut Labor Rallies for Wisconsin

With chants of “We Are One!” punctuating the air, nearly 700 supporters turned out Feb. 23 for Council 4’s “We All Live In Wisconsin” solidarity rally on the State Capitol steps in Hartford. Wisconsin is the birthplace of the American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees, but all that has been built in the last 75 years could be jeopardized by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s radical legislation denying nearly 200,000 union members their collective bargaining rights.



L-R: Council 4 Retiree and Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) National Vice President Carol R. Censki, Terri Farrar (Local 749) Mary Robinson of the Machinists Union and Council 4 Service Rep Maria Alfonso at the Feb. 23 solidarity rally.

Public and private sector workers, along with students and retirees, joined in the rally to support Wisconsin workers and the middle class. Gov. Dannel Malloy kicked off the event by saying, “There is no reason for a full assault on the right to organize, the right to negotiate. I am proud to stand with you and with the workers in Wisconsin and with the workers across this state.” State Senate President Don Williams and House Majority Leader Brendan Sharkey also pledged to stand with us.

Council 4 Executive Director Sal Luciano said Wisconsin workers are leading a fight that has galvanized workers nationwide — a sentiment shared by many, including David Drzal of Local 2663 (State Human & Social Services), who traveled to Wisconsin to show his solidarity for workers there. “What’s happening in Wisconsin is a huge attack on the middle class,” said Drzal. “This is pivotal. If employees lose their collective bargaining rights, it undermines the entire middle class of this country.”



Council 4 members stand in solidarity with workers in Wisconsin, Ohio and elsewhere.



Local 391's Marie DeSousa talks to Manchester Patch Reporter David Moran.

Part-Time Custodians Join West Hartford Local 1303-039

In West Hartford, 24 part-time school custodians showed their solidarity when they voted unanimously to join Council 4 in a union representation election. The custodians, who work 20 hours a week, will become part of Local 1303-039, which currently represents full-time custodians.

“We may be part-time workers, but we’re entitled to be treated fairly and with respect,” said Deanna Johnson, who works at Duffy Elementary School. “Joining the union will help us keep our schools clean, safe and sound.” Added Linda Gilnite, another part-time custodian at Duffy, “The union will benefit us in so many ways. We hope we can get things we don’t have right now, like sick leave rights, medical benefits and better job security.”



l-r: Local 1303-039 President Michael Johnson; new union members Deanna Johnson and Linda Gilnite; and Local 1303-039 Vice President Jacob Gohsler.

Mark Your Calendars:

**Council 4 AFSCME Lobby Day
May 18 - Hartford, CT**

**8th Annual CT Veterans' Memorial Day Picnic
May 28 - Rocky Hill Veterans Home & Hospital**

**Organized Labor Recognition Night @
New Britain Rock Cats Game
Sat, Jun 25 - New Britain Stadium**

Go to www.council4.org and click on the calendar link for the latest events

Retirees Chapter Awards College Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2011 winners of the Council 4 Retiree Chapter Scholarships, which are awarded to the college-bound children and grandchildren of Council 4 retirees. The scholarships are \$500 each. This year’s winners are listed below. (The students’ parents or grandparents who belong to the Retiree Chapter are listed in parentheses):



Kristen Karoll accepts her scholarship award from Retiree Chapter President Lillian Sewell

Marina Cambor (Roslyn Faust, grandparent).

Amy Hambridge (Mary Lee Hambridge, grandparent).

William Hunter (William Hunter, Sr., parent).

Kristen Karoll (Diane Fiske, grandparent).

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