Advocating for working people and their families in New Hampshire.

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An SEA Feature with House Representative

DIANNE SCHUETTE

It’s not often in American politics that a lawmaker is also an active union member who spent decades serving as a state employee, but that’s precisely the situation with Representative Dianne Schuett (D-Pembroke). Serving in her 6th term in the New Hampshire State House, Dianne is an active member of SEA/SEIU Local 1984 Chapter 1 and the Political Education Committee. We interviewed her to get her story and talk to her about how that story influences her work in Concord.

Dianne originally hails from Southern California. She was always interested in politics, with her first introduction being the 1960 Presidential campaign of John F. Kennedy. Though too young to vote for him, Dianne worked on JFK’s successful run for President. “My generation was when John Kennedy was running, and it was very exciting to see a young family move into the White House.” Following the assassination of President Kennedy, Dianne didn’t work for another campaign until 1968, when Bobby Kennedy was running for President. She was nearly at the Ambassador Hotel the night RFK was assassinated. “My mom and I both worked on the campaign, so we were invited to be there, but the Dodgers were playing, so we went to the ball game first and decided with work in the morning to just go home and watch the speech, and ultimately I'm glad I wasn't there.”

While in California, she began her career with The Phone Company, where she worked for 15 years. She became a member of Communication Workers of America (CWA) and learned firsthand the value of being part of a union.

Dianne met her husband in 1972 and married him in 1973. They moved to New Hampshire in 1977, where her husband held a few different positions before settling into law enforcement, working for the Pembroke Police Department and the Merrimack County Sheriff. He also worked within the County House of Corrections, and as a result, was a member of SEA, serving as a steward and even being a delegate to a few conventions.

Dianne had hoped to continue working for The Phone Company after moving to New Hampshire but instead took an open position with the Office of Legislative Services at the New Hampshire State House. After a year and a half as a full-time temporary, a job opened in the Clerk’s office, and Dianne was offered the job. 

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
Convention 2021 Highlights

Overall this year's convention went well and was a success. We had a special guest appearance by Senator Maggie Hassen, pictured to the right, who joined us for a few minutes to speak about the importance of labor and unions and what's happening next for her in Washington.

One point to take note of is that a Constitutional Amendment was passed specific to Membership.

**Article III, Section 5**

A member in good standing of a Retired Members chapter shall be a member whose chapter dues and applicable Association dues are current. In addition, a member whose dues are not current shall be considered in good standing if the member meets an exception specified in the currently adopted Chapter one(1) bylaws.

This was amended since the current practice of the retiree chapter (Ch. 1) is documented in their bylaws. This change will document this process in the constitution. This change will also give the retired members exceptions to the in good standing clause similar to the exceptions for regular Membership.

And, a big congratulations to all the new and reinstated Board Members (shown on the next page). This level of commitment and engagement is what makes this organization a powerhouse in the state and fosters new and innovative ideas.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR

Newly Elected Officials

Rich Gulla
President (two-year term): Rich Gulla, Ch. 54

Mary Fields
1st Vice President (two-year term): Mary Fields, Ch. 45

John Hattan
2nd Vice President (two-year term): John Hattan, Ch. 45

Cindy Perkins
Secretary (two-year term): Cindy Perkins, Ch. 37

Brenda Thomas
Treasurer (two-year term): Brenda Thomas, Ch. 20

Germano Martins
State, Director: Germano Martins, Ch. 45

Mike Derderian
State, Director: Mike Derderian, Ch. 54

Dave Honeman
State, Director: Dave Honeman, Ch. 255

Ralph Mecheau
State position: Ralph Mecheau, Ch. 54

Deborah Haskell
County/Municipal Director: Deborah Haskell, Ch. 69

Congrats to all!
The Conservative Members Committee is pleased to announce that Representative Karen Umberger, Carroll 2, and the newly installed Chair of the House Finance Committee will be attending our next Zoom meeting. The meeting will occur on Tuesday, November 9th at 5:30. The link to join the event is below.

This is an exciting addition and it's really important that we all try to connect in some way with our representatives with Republicans in the majority of the House, Senate, and Executive Council, not to mention the Governor's office. To find out who your representatives are, go here.

Just sending an email or making a call can make a difference to your representatives. Let them hear your concerns regarding your employment, your family, and your communities. This DOES make a difference. Remember, they are your neighbors and may have many of the same concerns.

Join us for what will be an interesting and educational discussion at our next Zoom meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 5:30 PM.

To join our Zoom meeting, please use the link below or if you have any questions please reach out to Mason Petit at mpetit@seiu1984.org, (603) 717-1983.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84570817559?pwd=NDYzcWFDZ3IZMmw0cTVhTEZxdFdxUT09

https://www.seiu1984.org/conservative/

Tonight

At 7:00 PM tonight, the NH Faith & Labor community will be hosting Love & Solidarity. To pre-register, visit https://bit.ly/loveandsolidarity.
On July 16, 2020, the FCC adopted an Order (FCC 20-100) approving 988 as the 3-digit abbreviated dialing code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, starting July 16, 2022.

Implementation of this Order requires all providers to make 10-digit dialing mandatory for all local calls in the entire New Hampshire 603 area code. Every customer with a number from the 603 area code will change to mandatory 10-digit dialing for local calls. Dialing 7 digits for local calls will be prohibited for all customers in the entire area code.

Who:
This affects all POTs, Centrex, cellular, FAX line users. This will not affect calls dialed by NH VoIP users.

What:
Beginning October 24, 2021, you must dial 10 digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls. On and after this date, local calls dialed with only 7 digits may not be completed, and a recording will inform you that your call cannot be completed as dialed. If you get this recording, you must hang up and dial again using the area code with the 7-digit telephone number. To complete local calls, the new dialing procedure requires callers to dial the area code + telephone number. This means that all local calls in the entire 603 area code that are currently dialed with 7 digits will need to be dialed using the area code + telephone number.

NOTE: DoIT-Statewide Telecommunications will continue to allow 5 digit internal calls AND 7 digit dialing (which we translate on the backend to 10 digits before sending to our service provider). However, NH VoIP users CAN also dial 10 digits to complete calls.

When:
October 24, 2021

Why:
The FCC ordered that any area code that has the 988 prefix and has 7-digit local dialing be transitioned to 10-digit local dialing to ensure everyone is able to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline using the 3-digit 988 code.

What to Expect:
On and after October 24, 2021, all State of NH cell phone and non-NH VoIP users making local calls dialed with only 7 digits will note that the calls may not be completed, and a recording will inform you that your call cannot be completed as dialed. If you get this recording, you must hang up and dial again using the area code with the 7-digit telephone number.

What to Do:
To complete any local calls, the new calling procedure in the entire 603 area code that are currently dialed with 7 digits, requires callers to dial using the area code + telephone number.
Behind every public pension, there is a story of a person who has chosen public service and has dedicated their life and career to serving our cities, towns, and state. The NHRSC has been working to collect stories from our retired public employees over the past few months and this week they have started to release them as part of a blog series. In this edition, we share a story from one of our own Constance Cascini. Please take a moment to read her comments below.

To read more, you can also go to their FB page at https://protectpensions.org/2021/10/14/stories-new-hampshire-public-employees/?fbclid=IwAR1_yiUna6Gwg9ImLzZrGuWMBU-Xvr2gW14trdOGS3yRUrcaIjMUKG7xgX8.

Retired State Employee – Constance Cascini

Tell us a little bit about yourself, anything you’d like to share!

Retired public health nurse

If currently working, where? If retired, from where and how long did you work there?

Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) for 17 years. Retired since 2011.

What do/did you like most about your job?

I enjoyed educating healthcare providers, school nurses, and parents about the importance of immunizations. Later, I worked with Special Medical Services and then the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. Working with underserved populations was an honor and a privilege.

How does/did your job affect the community? Would you say what you do/did helps people?

I felt all my positions at DHHS were critical to the mission of public health in the state of New Hampshire. Each position fulfilled a need of utmost importance to those receiving our assistance. From administering flu vaccines to snowplow drivers, providing support to parents of multiple handicapped children to assisting women newly diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer, these positions touched many average citizens of our state.

What does your pension mean to you?

My pension and adjoined health insurance coverage for both me and my spouse are critical to both of our retirement incomes. We appreciate the insurance coverage more than anything. It has contributed in a major way to our peace of mind and security.

Do you plan to stay in New Hampshire when you retire or if you are retired do you currently still reside in NH?

My spouse and I plan to continue to reside in New Hampshire during retirement.
Update on Contract Books

Good News!

The contract books are in the process of being printed!

This is a large project and will take some time, however, we expect to have them late next month.

Stay tuned for more information on how you can get yours!

Have you joined our Facebook page or followed us on Twitter?

Write on our Facebook wall, join our Facebook community, or add your union photos to our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter for everything NH politics!

There are many reasons to visit to check out both; community updates, upcoming political happenings, and local events! There is something new every day!

The New England Consortium (TNEC) is a regional worker health and safety training project funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and based at the University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML) in partnership with MassCOSH, RICOSH, ConnectiCOSH, NHCOSH, and CSEA (Local 1000, AFSCME). Since 1987, TNEC has delivered training in hazardous materials operations, emergency response, infectious disease preparedness, disaster preparedness, and general workplace health and safety.

For the month of October TNEC is offering the following workshops.

**COVID-19 and its Variants: Latest Workplace Protection Strategies**
Wednesday, 10/27/21, 1:00PM-3:00PM
This no-cost, 2-hour virtual zoom course, is intended for workers and employers on the latest on the fight against COVID and its variants. It addresses ventilation issues, vaccine updates, and hazard/risk analysis & workplace exposure prevention.
CLICK HERE to register for the 10/27/21 course.

**HAZCOM – Hazard Communication**
Wednesday, 10/27/21 @ 9:00AM-11:00AM
This is a no-cost, 2-hour virtual zoom course is intended to inform workers and employees of their rights with the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard and how it is designed to protect employees from hazardous chemicals used or stored in the work setting.
CLICK HERE to register for the 10/27/21 course.

**Stress on the Job: Prevention Strategies**
Thursday 10/29/21 @ 1:00PM-3:00PM
In this no-cost, 2-hour virtual course, we will discuss how COVID-19 has changed the way we all work. Some of us never stopped physically going to work, while others have been working remotely since March 2020. No matter where we are, working during a pandemic has added stress to our daily lives and impacts our health & well-being. The course will cover a stress assessment, resilience and healthy ways to cope with stress.
CLICK HERE to register for the 10/29/21 course.

**Disaster Preparedness**
Thursday, 10/29/21 @ 9:00AM-11:00AM
This no-cost, 2-hour virtual zoom course focuses on decreasing the risk of worker and community resident injury and illness in responding to severe weather events, such as storms and floods, and planning next steps in preparing for disasters in the participants’ own work setting and in their communities.
CLICK HERE to register for the 10/29/21 course.
Welcome to the October edition of Health Coach Highlights!

Fall has begun! The cooler nights, colorfully changing landscape, and the ability to cuddle in comfortable clothing next to a fire brings comfort and excitement to this time of year. Many of us have taken advantage of the amazing fairs throughout our state and New England and now will be shifting our focus to our Fall cleanups. With all of these activities, we need to make sure we are continuing to be vigilant about protecting ourselves from sun exposure, as we did through the summer, even on those cool Fall days. Skin cancer prevention is important and one component of our Cancer Awareness and Prevention topic for this month.

Cancer Awareness and Prevention is so important in allowing us to live healthy lifestyles and reignition of our risk factors or have any signs of disease. Early detection of any type of cancer is key in stopping disease progression or minimizing the ability for the disease to spread beyond the “local” place it started in the body.

Cancer has and will continue to touch a large number of lives throughout the world. There are many different types of cancers and many different and advancing treatment options. Research continues to make amazing breakthroughs in increasing survival rates from many cancers. Through early detection, we are able to better understand what our treatment options are, how to get help, and what impact this could and will have on our future. Being a step ahead is key.

Cancer awareness is one of the topics that continue to scare people. With much of the research focused on the reasons certain cancers are present, we are able to learn what risk factors. Some risk factors are out of our control but many types of cancer have risk factors that we can immediately impact by making appropriate lifestyle changes. These lifestyle changes are highlighted in the attached flyer this month and is detailed in our monthly webinars. (see attached) By understanding our ability to impact this disease hopefully, we can eliminate some of the fear.

Besides the benefit of learning more about the cancer resources available to you through this month's webinar, you also have the added benefit of earning Health Rewards for certain cancer screenings. To learn more please review your Health Rewards Incentives under Preventive Screening.

Monthly Wellness Webinar Series
This month's wellness webinar focuses on Cancer Awareness and Prevention. In this webinar, we look at understanding different types of cancer, cancer screenings, risk factors associated, and resources that are available. We will also review what your health benefit plan covers and which screening can you earn Health Rewards for.

Please see all topics, dates, and meeting information in Mobile Health under Health Coaching Webinars.

Dates:
Tuesday October 26
Wednesday October 27

Wellness Webinar Log in Information: Click here to join the meeting anthem@m.webex.com, Video Conference ID: 119 854 225 8
Alternate VTC dialing instructions +1 567-249-1745,,344028488# United States, Toledo
Phone Conference ID: 344 028 488#
If you’re already vaccinated, will you need a Booster Shot? Learn More below.

Will I have to get booster shots, too?

There is still more to be learned about whether we will need regular booster shots – just like we do with the flu – to protect us from COVID. Since your coworkers and union siblings are all in on being protected, we will fight to ensure that any recommended boosters are easily accessible to all of us. The recommendation for Booster Shots is to the left.
CFPG will now meet on the first Tuesday of every other month at 5:30 PM. The next meeting will be on November 2, 2021. Join us if you can!

Social Activities Committee will now meet on the first Monday of the month from 5-6 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for November 1 @ 5:00 PM.

The Social Activities Book Club will meet on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM, immediately following the Social Activities Meeting. The next meeting will be on November 1 @ 6:00 PM.

NH Faith & Labor Coalition meets on the third Wednesday of the Month at 12; the next meeting is on November 17, 2021.

Clinicians United NH, Associate Members Chapter meets at noon on the first Monday of the month; the next meeting is on November 1.

Conservative Members Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM; the next meeting is November 9, 2021.

The Organizing Committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month; the next meeting is on November 3rd @ 5:00 PM.

The Board of Directors will meet on November 18th due to the Veterans Day holiday from 1:00 - 5:00 PM.
Are you an imaginative and creative person who wants to share new skills with your peers in a fun and safe environment? One hour a month is all you need to engage with others and expand your horizons while having a good time. The goal is to improve relationships with different agencies to foster goodwill and positivity.

Don't hesitate to contact Rebecca Ladd at 581-5977 (texting is best) for more details if you're interested.

Some of the fun things we are already organizing include Casino Trips, Camping Trips, Book clubs, Game nights, Movie nights, Committee meetings, Decorating the office, Planning new and fun adventures, Motorcycle club, Holiday parties.

This committee is a great escape! Join me to learn about your fellow state employees and build on your networking skills. Check out our latest events below and text Rebecca Ladd if you are interested in participating!

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 1st, from 5 PM - 6 PM.

Social Activities, Book Club

The next book club meeting will be on November 1st from 6 PM - 7 PM, the first Monday of the month. The meeting will be at 6:00 pm, and the next book of choice to read is An Elderly Lady Is Up to No Good by Helene Tursten.

If you are interested in joining the book club and wish to be sent the link to join or added to our email list, please email Andrew Moore at amoore@seiu1984.org.

*Maud is an irascible 88-year-old Swedish woman with no family, no friends, and... no qualms about a little murder. This funny, irreverent story collection by Helene Tursten, author of the Irene Huss investigations, features two-never-before translated stories that will keep you laughing all the way to the retirement home.*

*Over the course of her adventures—or misadventures—this little bold lady will handle a crisis with a local celebrity who has her eyes on Maud’s apartment, foil the engagement of her long-ago lover, and dispose of some pesky neighbors. But when the local authorities are called to investigate a dead body found in Maud’s apartment, will Maud finally become a suspect?*
Looking for something to do for some Halloween fun?

Check out SCREEEMFEST at Canobie Lake Park this Fall with savings up to $20.00! We are now offering Ctix from Canobie Lake Park for all members who are interested. Please call the SEA front office at 603-271-3411 for inquiries.

For 6 weekends Canobie Lake Park is offering Rides, Games, Live Entertainment, and terrifying haunted attractions.

• Ctix are Good Any One Operating Day including Screeemfest through October 30, 2021.

• FREE Reservations are required to attend the Park this season. Free Reservations can be made through canobie.com.

• The Screeemfest price for Guests under 48 inches tall or age 60 years and older is $32 online or at the admission gate. Children age three and under are free! Parking is FREE!

Canobie Lake Park SCREEEMFEST, where FEAR meets FUN!

Regal Movie Theater tickets are available now for $9 per ticket!
Get your now for all the Halloween fun!

Other vendors are working on their offerings as well, and we will keep you posted, but please keep in mind that not all of our past vendors will be able to do so.

For more information, please call the main office line 603-271-3411 and dial zero (0).
INCREASE YOUR SEA PAC CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

Apart from being a union member, there are two other ways you can contribute to a stronger union. Start donating today or increase your current donation amount.

If you are an active member of SEA/SEIU Local 1984, please click the link below and fill out our SEA PAC Authorization.

SEA PAC funds are often used for the following:
- Donations to political candidates, both Democrats and Republicans, who support working families
- Advertisements on TV and radio
- Organizing initiatives on the ground - that's all of you!

It's important to note that dues money is not and cannot be given to candidates running for office; only SEA PAC funds are used for the above.

Why is SEA PAC important?
- Involvement in politics is how we change the structure of power and improve lives
- Money is important to winning political battles - we need to pool our resources to be powerful

Make a donation of $10 or more to SEA PAC or increase your current donation to SEA PAC and receive a SEA backpack!

Donate here today!
Resources for You and Your Family

The New Hampshire Emergency Rental Assistance Program (NHERAP) provides rent and utility assistance to eligible households who have been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Have you experienced at least ONE of these in the past year?
- Reduced income
- Significant costs
- Other financial hardship
- Qualified for unemployment benefits after March 12, 2020

Are you:
At risk of homelessness, paying more than 30% of your income for rent and utilities, or living in unsafe or unhealthy housing, or under a certain income level?

The NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program will cover up to 15 months of:
- Past-due and future rent payments, including late fees and legal fees (back to April 1, 2020)
- Past-due and future utilities and home heating costs (back to March 13, 2020)
- Other housing-related costs such as internet and relocation expenses, including rental application fees, utility hook-up fees, and security deposits

What is the application process for the NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program?
- Apply using the online application, which can be found here on our website: https://www.snhs.org/new-hampshire-emergency-rental-assistance-program-nherap
- Call us if you need assistance in completing the application or need a paper application (603) 668-8010 Local, (800) 322-1073 Toll-Free, (800) 877-8339 Hearing Impaired.

When you apply, we will assist you in identifying the information and documents you need. This may include documentation of unemployment, job loss, or hours being reduced, increased expenses, or other COVID-related income hardships.

We will review applications, and once approved, will process payments for expenses to landlords and utilities. We will make every effort to process each application as quickly as possible. You may also visit https://www.goferr.nh.gov/covid-expenditures/new-hampshire-emergency-rental-assistance-program for more resources.
NEW 2022 Union Plus
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE!

Apply for a scholarship created just for union families!

New and returning applicants: Click here to create a new application or to log in.
Logged in users: Click on the “Continue with Application” link.
Application deadline: **12:00 pm (Noon, Eastern Standard Time), Monday, January 31, 2022.**

Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than $5 million to students of union families. Over 3,500 union families have benefited from our commitment to higher education. This program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation, which Union Privilege sponsors.

The Union Plus Education Foundation is funded in part by donations from Capital One N.A., the Union Plus Credit Card (You do not need to be a Union Plus Credit Cardholder to apply for this scholarship.)

**Award amounts:** $500 to $4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2022. Students may re-apply each year.

**Award date:** May 31, 2022. During the first week of June 2022, award recipients will be notified by postal mail, and all applicants will be sent an email notification.

**Eligibility Criteria:**
- Current and retired members of unions participating in any Union Plus program, their spouses, and their dependent children (as defined by IRS regulations) are eligible. Grandchildren are not eligible unless a legal dependent (as defined by IRS regulations).
- At least one year of continuous union membership by the applicant, applicant’s spouse, or parent (if the applicant is a dependent). The one-year membership minimum must be satisfied by May 31, 2022.
- Members of participating unions from the U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Canada are eligible.
- The applicant must be accepted into a U.S. accredited college, university, community college, technical, or trade school when the award is issued. Awards must be used for the 2022 - 2023 school year.
- Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply.
Federal loans, grants, and financial aid packages don't always cover all of the costs of higher education. Let us help you bridge that gap.

**SEIU™ Undergraduate Loan Program**
The SEIU Undergraduate Loan Program can help undergraduate students pay for college so you and they can focus on learning—with less financial stress.
- A special 0.25% interest rate discount.1
- An additional 0.25% interest rate discount with auto-pay enrollment.2
- Coverage of up to 100% of the school-certified cost of attendance.3
- No origination or application fees, or pre-payment penalties.
- Choice of loan terms of 5, 8, 10, or 15 years.4

**TO LEARN MORE VISIT:** [https://www.seiumb.com/education/seiu-undergraduate-loan-program](https://www.seiumb.com/education/seiu-undergraduate-loan-program)

**SEIU™ Graduate Loan Program**
Flexible, competitive private student loans to help pay for expenses financial aid may not fully cover. (For students seeking graduate or professional degrees)
- A special 0.25% interest rate discount.1
- An additional 0.25% interest rate discount with auto-pay enrollment.2
- Coverage of up to 100% of the school-certified cost of attendance.3
- No origination or application fees, or pre-payment penalties.
- Choice of loan terms of 5, 8, 10, or 15 years.4
- **Four repayment options - full principal and interest. Interest-only, flat payment, and deferred payment.**

**TO LEARN MORE VISIT:** [https://www.seiumb.com/education/seiu-graduate-loan-program](https://www.seiumb.com/education/seiu-graduate-loan-program)

**SEIU™ Parent Loan**
The SEIU Parent Loan Program can help a student you care about pay for their degree so they can focus on learning—with less financial stress.
- A special 0.25% interest rate discount.1
- An additional 0.25% interest rate discount with auto-pay enrollment.2
- Coverage of up to 100% of the school-certified cost of attendance.3
- No origination or application fees, or pre-payment penalties.
- Choice of loan terms of 5, 8, 10, or 15 years. You can even have up to $2,500 sent directly to you for education costs outside of tuition and fees.4

**TO LEARN MORE VISIT:** [https://www.seiumb.com/education/seiu-parent-loan-program](https://www.seiumb.com/education/seiu-parent-loan-program)
FREE COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAMS

SEIU℠ FREE COLLEGE BENEFIT

EARN AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE, OR CERTIFICATE, OR COMPLETE YOUR BACHELOR’S DEGREE ONLINE FOR FREE—PAY NOTHING FOR TUITION, FEES, OR E-BOOKS!

- Earn an Associate’s degree or certificate—for free!
- Complete your Bachelor’s Degree—for free!
- Pay nothing for tuition, fees, or e-books—a savings of at least $20,000!
- Open to eligible SEIU members and their families
- Choose from several online programs offered by Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC) and Central State University (CSU)

Your college degree is within reach!

Federal, state, and employer grants don’t always cover the full cost of earning a degree online. SEIU is proud to partner with Eastern Gateway Community College and Central State University to help eligible students fill the financial gap.

https://www.seiumb.com/education/seiu-free-college-benefit