



UNION WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER

2019

July 2022 Pension and Retiree Healthcare Changes

Two important changes involving the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) become effective for people retiring after June 30, 2022.

Since 1997, our COLA has been computed as a percentage of the increase in the most common consumer price index, called CPI-W. Currently our COLA is 60% of the increase in the CPI-W up to 6%, and 75% of the increase above 6%, with a minimum COLA of 2%, and a maximum of 7.5%.

The new formula will provide the same COLA as the current formula except in years where the CPI-W goes up less than 2%. In those cases, while the current formula produces a COLA of 2% even if the CPI-W increase is less than 2%, the new COLA would provide an increase equal

to the CPI-W increase.

The State will continue to reimburse the full standard Medicare Part B premium charged by the feds. However, there is an additional premium charged by the feds for wealthier retirees, and a small number of our retirees are charged some of that extra premium. Starting with people retiring July 1, 2022 or later, the State will split the extra cost the feds charge to wealthier retirees. In other words, the State will pay the full standard premium, plus half of any extra.

For more complete information about these COLA adjustments, go to the UCPEA website.

Call for Amendments: Constitution and Bylaws

The deadline for proposing amendments to the UCPEA's Constitution is April 1, 2020. The due date, along with the requirement for posting this call for amendments and criteria for submitting a proposed amendment is outlined in Article XII of the UCPEA's Constitution. The current Constitution and Bylaws can be viewed on the UCPEA webpage: www.ucpea.org.

Proposed amendments can be submitted two ways: through the

Constitution and Bylaws Committee or by an individual member in good standing with signatures of support from at least 3% (currently 59 members) of the membership in good standing.

Any and all proposed amendments or ideas for the committee to consider should be sent to Sheila Kucko, committee chair at Sheila.Kucko@uconn.edu. Please contact the UCPEA Office with any questions: ucpeaoffice@ucpea.org or 860-487-0850.

Sick Leave Bank is Safety Net for Members with Health Issues

One of UCPEA's most important contractual benefits is the Sick Leave Bank, which provides an essential safety net for members who are struggling with serious and catastrophic illness or injury. Members will be asked to consider donating holiday or vacation time when completing the Dec. 6-19 timecard.

the bank.

"It is my sincere hope that you will consider making a contribution this year," says President Michael White. "A donation of even one vacation day by each of our nearly 1,900 members can go a long way toward helping UCPEA members in times of trouble."

Since the inception of the Sick Leave Bank 22 years ago, a total of 5,479.75 vacation days and holidays have been donated by our members to the bank. To date, 87 UCPEA members have used a total of 2,013.50 days from

For more detailed instructions, you can call the UCPEA Office at 487-0850 or consult the Sick Leave Bank web site at <http://hr.uconn.edu/ucpea-sick-leave-bank/>.

2019 UPCEA Holiday Parties

Dec. 10	Avery Point	Noon - 1 p.m.	Mort's Glass Room
Dec. 12	Storrs	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Rome Ballroom
Dec. 13	Stamford	11:45 a.m.-1:30	Cask Republic
Dec. 16	Hartford Area	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Starr Reading Room
Dec. 18	DSS	Noon-1:30 p.m.	Elizabeth's Restaurant
Dec. 20	Waterbury	12:30 p.m.	Drescher's Restaurant

UCPEA Office Holiday Closures

The UCPEA Office will be closed for the holidays on Monday, Dec. 23 and re-open Thursday, Jan. 2. The office will also be closed Monday, Jan. 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. For emergencies email the UCPEA Office at ucpeaoffice@ucpea.org.

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Storrs, CT 06268

Connecticut Science Center Discounted Tickets

Discounted tickets to the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford are again available for UCPEA member in time for the holiday season.

Tickets are \$15 (cash or check) and are available at the UCPEA Office, 18 Dog Lane, during office hours Monday through Friday.

The current featured exhibition is "Our Changing Earth," which examines the impacts of our changing climate, the hands-on "Mazes & Brain Games" exhibit and the 3D "Superpower Dogs" film.

Special Offers from BJ's Wholesale Club

BJ's is making special offers available to UCPEA members for renewals and new memberships.

Current BJ's members may extend their membership for \$40 Inner Circle Memberships or \$80 for a 13-month Rewards Membership. New memberships are available for \$25 (Inner Circle) and \$50 (Rewards).

For complete details, go to the UCPEA website.

Nominate an Outstanding Colleague for a UConn Spirit Award

Do you have outstanding colleagues that deserve recognition? Nominate them now for a UConn Spirit Award.

The University of Connecticut established the UConn Spirit Awards to honor staff and faculty at our Storrs and regional campuses for stellar contributions and dedication to civility in the workplace. The goals of the UConn Spirit Awards are to:

- Build community within the University and University departments;
- Provide an opportunity for employees to be recognized for their

contributions to the University, which are not specifically academic but related to teamwork and civility; and

- Create an event that acknowledges the efforts of all employees, especially staff members.

Winners will be chosen for the following award categories: Rising Star, Unsung Hero, Team, University Citizen, and Excellence in Inclusion.

Learn more and submit a nomination at spiritawards.uconn.edu. Nominations will be accepted through Jan. 17.

Dates, Deadlines, and Things To Do

- **Professional Development applications are reviewed at the beginning of each month**
- **Childcare Deadlines: Jan. – April (Due May 15); May – Aug. (Due Sept. 15); Sept. – Dec. (Due Jan. 15)**

Dependent Tuition Waivers

The benefit applies to Fall & Spring semesters only

Deadlines

Fall Semester – June 1

Spring Semester – Nov. 15

Employee Tuition Waivers

The waiver applies to the Fall and Spring semesters only.

Deadlines

Fall Semester – Oct. 15

Spring Semester – Feb. 28

Tuition Reimbursement

Reimbursements apply to summer, fall and spring course work

Summer: Sept. 15

Fall Semester: Jan. 15

Spring Semester: June 1