

The

# WORK FORCE



**MARCH  
FOR  
MAIN  
STREET**

Photo by Colleen Brescia

See Pages 3, 4, 10 and 11



## Photo of the Month



This CSEA member proudly displays a whistle bearing the CSEA and AFSCME logos during the rally preceding the March for Main Street at the Times Union Center in Albany. The whistle, one of several giveaways marchers received upon arriving in Albany, was just one of the many ways CSEA activists made themselves heard to challenge Gov. David Paterson's state budget proposal. For more about the march, see pages 1, 3, 4, 10-11 and 20 in this edition. (Photo by Colleen Brescia)

### Westchester Medical Center to cut jobs, close nursing home

VALHALLA — Citing a projected \$70 million loss in aid, Westchester Medical Center will lay off hundreds of workers and close the hospital's public nursing home.

The hospital will cut 400 positions, half through closing the Taylor Care Center, the hospital's nursing home.

In a Jan. 12 staff memo, hospital CEO Michael Israel said the hospital is expected to receive at least \$70 million less in Medicaid and other reimbursements in 2009 and beyond. Despite financial difficulties in earlier years, the hospital has been operating at a profit the past three years.

Israel announced that a voluntary resignation package is being offered for eligible staff.

The Westchester Medical Center cuts are only one more result of the devastating effects Gov. David Paterson's budget is having on not only state, but local government services.

— Jessica Ladlee

## Orange County Unit reaches contract

GOSHEN — Orange County Unit members have a five-year deal in place after a contract fight that lasted two years.

Unit members overwhelmingly ratified the agreement by mail ballot, with votes being recently counted at the offices of American Arbitration Association in Manhattan. Agreement was reached last fall with a Public Employment Relations Board fact finder.

The contract includes wage increases in each year of the contract, improvements in weekend work schedules for licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants and increased uniform allowances for

911 dispatchers.

"We're very pleased with the number of ballots that were cast," said Orange County Unit President Ron Greene. "The turnout was exceptionally high, which gave us an accurate representation of how our members felt."

The ratification brings to an end the second protracted contract fight Orange County Unit members have experienced during the tenure of Orange County Executive Ed Diana.

The Orange County Legislature approved the agreement in January.

— Jessica Ladlee

### America's Middle Class is Falling Apart



America Needs  
the Employee Free Choice Act

To learn more, visit [www.freechoiceact.org](http://www.freechoiceact.org).

## March for Main Street

# Middle class New Yorkers deserve better than paying more, getting less

ALBANY — Chanting “Main Street, not Wall Street,” thousands of working New Yorkers converged on the state Capitol in Albany, Jan. 7 to participate in the March for Main Street.

The march was scheduled to coincide with Gov. David Paterson’s first State of the State address to challenge the governor’s misplaced budget priorities that target middle class New Yorkers.

The participants traveled from every part of the state under difficult weather conditions to be a part of the march. Their enthusiasm was strong as they delivered their message about misguided budget priorities.

Organized by CSEA, PEF, 1199 SEIU, SEIU 200; AFSCME New York, District Council 37, the New York State Nurses Association and the New York State AFL-CIO, the event

stressed that communities, jobs and services are at risk under the

**CSEA President Danny Donohue fires up marchers.**



**CSEA Statewide Treasurer Joe McMullen leads a chant on the steps of the state Capitol as PEF Secretary-Treasurer Arlea Igoe, PEF Statewide Vice President Pat Baker and CSEA Statewide Secretary Denise Berkley keep the crowd fired up.** (Photo by Anand Balasar, Legislative Gazette)

governor’s plan.

“We helped organize the March for Main Street to send a message loud and clear,” said CSEA President Danny Donohue. “All working New Yorkers live on Main Street and it’s time for all of us to stand up and say no to proposals that will have us pay more and get less while the

wealthiest New Yorkers slide by.”

The March for Main Street participants will continue to speak out and advocate for better choices because New Yorkers deserve better than what the governor has proposed.

Within days of the event, a group of more than 30 CSEA activists



**CSEA members are fired up in cold, icy weather during the rally.** (Photo by Colleen Brescia)

challenged the governor’s choices at a public forum in Watertown. There are plans to dog the governor as he travels across the state speaking to the public about his budget. Check the CSEA website at [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org) for information about future events in your area.

## Members make new CSEA ads real

Five dedicated CSEA members are playing a key role in helping to confront Gov. David Paterson’s misguided budget priorities.

In late December, the members took time away from their jobs and braved a

fierce snowstorm to record a series of TV and radio commercials challenging the governor’s proposed budget. All five speak about the work they do and the unfair effect the governor’s



**Casler**

budget will have on services, jobs and communities.

CSEA recently launched the statewide advertising campaign to drive home the union’s message.

Featured in the ads are:

- Michael Casler with the Onondaga County Department of Social Services;

- Sara Barry with the Central New York Developmental Disabilities Services Office in Rome;

- Dashamali Jennings with the Central New York Developmental Disabilities Services Office in Syracuse;



**Barry**

- Mary Buehler with Onondaga County’s Van Duyn Home & Hospital; and

- Don Lynskey with the New York State Unified Court System in Rome.



**Jennings**

“A big part of the credibility of the CSEA’s message is that it is being delivered by real CSEA members who are speaking from first-hand experience,” said CSEA President Danny Donohue. “This current group of featured members did an outstanding job under difficult circumstances and they deserve a lot of thanks from all of us.”



**Lynskey**

“I’m proud to represent other CSEA members and deliver our message to the public,” said Jennings, who has been featured

Lynskey in CSEA ads before. “It was a great experience,” said Lynskey. “It was hard work to get it right and there’s really a lot that goes into the production that never gets seen.”

**The ads are airing on radio and TV stations statewide and can be viewed at: [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org). See page 20 for the print version of the ad.**

## 2009 CSEA ELECTIONS Info *Public Sector Local, Unit elections scheduled for 2009*

### Elections will be conducted for all public sector local officers, delegates and unit officers

The term of office for all current public sector local officers, delegates and unit officers expires June 30, 2009. Public sector officers and delegates will be elected to four-year terms. Balloting for local officers, delegates and unit officers will be conducted between May 15 and June 15, 2009.

Each local and unit executive board must select its own election committee and committee chairperson, or election meeting chair if applicable. The local and/or unit election committee is primarily responsible for conducting the election.

Slate petitioning and slate voting will be an option for candidates for local and unit office (see adjacent information).

Members may run as individual candidates if they wish.

#### **Attention: Public Sector Local, Unit Presidents** ***Did you send the Election Committee Data Form to CSEA Headquarters?***

In early January, registered election committee chairs and election meeting chairs began receiving their election package to help them carry out their election duties.

You must submit your election committee data form before an election packet will be mailed to your election committee chairperson or election meeting chair.

CSEA Headquarters cannot send material and information to any appointed election committee or meeting chair without first receiving the completed election committee data form from the local or unit president.

Inquiries concerning election materials may be directed to the CSEA Central Files Department at 1-800-342-4146, ext. 1261.

### Locals and Units with 150 or Fewer Members

#### Holding an Election at a Special Membership Meeting

Locals and units with 150 members or less may choose to appoint an Election Meeting Chair (instead of an election committee) and conduct an election at a meeting.

Holding your election at a Special Membership Meeting simplifies the election process in that, where there are races (more than one candidate for an office), the Election Meeting Chair calls a Membership Meeting for the purpose of electing officers.

#### Application for Office

Special election rules are available to CSEA locals and units of 150 or fewer members.

In these smaller locals and units, completion of the Application for Election to Office replaces the requirement to obtain signatures on a nominating petition.

In locals or units with 150 or fewer members, any member who submits the application and meets election requirements under the appropriate local or unit constitution will be placed on the ballot.

### **Important information about slate petitioning and slate voting**

#### Local Elections

In local elections, a slate must contain a candidate running for the offices of president, one or more vice presidents as set forth in the local's by-laws, secretary and treasurer.

The slate may also include candidates for other offices that have been created according to the local constitution and by-laws. In locals that have created the combined position of secretary-treasurer in their by-laws, the slate must include a candidate for that office.

#### Unit Elections

In unit elections, a slate must contain a candidate running for the offices of president, one or more vice presidents as set forth in the unit's by-laws, secretary and treasurer.

The slate may also include candidates for other offices that have been created according to the unit constitution and by-laws. In units that have created the combined position of secretary-treasurer in their by-laws, the slate must include a candidate for that office.

#### Candidates should know the following:

- A member cannot be a candidate for officer and for delegate on the same slate. An officer candidate must circulate a separate nominating petition in order to appear on the ballot also as a candidate for delegate. The member will appear on the ballot as a candidate for office as part of the slate and as an individual for the position of delegate.
  - Candidates who run as a slate must complete a Slate Eligibility and Consent Form and a Slate Petition Request Form. By petitioning as a slate, candidates who appear as part of a slate need to submit only one set of the required number of signatures to qualify as a candidate. Individual petitions are not necessary for slate candidates.
  - Candidates who withdraw from a slate must complete a Slate Withdrawal Form and return the form to their election committee.
- More detailed information about election slates will be available from local and unit election committees.

### **Break in membership affects eligibility for union office, voting privileges**

A break in union membership status can have long-term future implications. Your membership status affects your eligibility with respect to:

- seeking or holding union office;
- signing nominating petitions for potential candidates;
- voting in union elections, and;
- voting on collective bargaining contracts.

Only members "in good standing" can participate in these activities. To be in "good standing," your dues cannot be delinquent.

If you go on unpaid leave or for any other reason have a break in your employment status, your dues will not continue to be paid through payroll deductions. You must make arrangements to pay your dues directly to CSEA to continue your membership status. If you are either laid off or placed on leave without pay status due to becoming disabled by accident, illness, maternity or paternity, you may be eligible for dues-free membership status for a period not to exceed one year. If you are called up for active military duty you may also apply for dues-free status.

Note, however, you **must** continue to pay dues to run for office. Dues-free or gratuitous membership allows members to continue their insurance coverage while out of work. It does not protect your right to run for or hold office. This does not apply to members who are on leave due to being called up for military duty. Members on active military duty, upon return, are considered to have had continuous membership status for all CSEA election purposes.

Please notify the CSEA Membership Department at 1-800-342-4146, Ext. 1327, of any change in your status and what arrangements you are making to continue your membership in CSEA.



Giving back to those who served

# Suffolk Retirees Local gives veterans chance to see memorial

Since 1910  
**CSEA**  
FAMILY, FRIENDS AND  
NEIGHBORS  
New York's LEADING Union

**C**SEA  
Suffolk  
Retirees

Local members decided to forego their 2008 holiday party and donate the money initially intended for that purpose to Honor Flight Long Island.



**Reynolds**

Honor Flight is a nonprofit organization devoted to ensuring all surviving World War II veterans have the opportunity to visit the Washington, D.C. World War II memorial.

“The money we contributed to Honor Flight Long Island will enable World War II veterans in our local to travel to our nation’s capitol to see the



**The World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.**

memorial in person,” said Suffolk Retiree Local President Barbara Reynolds.

The national World War II Memorial was dedicated May 29, 2004.

— Richard Impagliazzo

**FACT: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that more than 1,000 World War II veterans pass away each day.**

## More about Honor Flight

- Honor Flight is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing World War II veterans with free trips to visit the war memorial in Washington, D.C.
- Want more information on Honor Flight Long Island? Contact the Honor Flight chapter by phone at (631) 702-2423 or by e-mail at [info@honorflightlongisland.org](mailto:info@honorflightlongisland.org)
- Similar programs are available in the Albany and Buffalo/Niagara areas.

## ATTENTION: REGION, LOCAL & UNIT TREASURERS

Starting with the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2008, **ALL** Regions, Locals & Units regardless of size, will be required to file an annual return with the IRS. **This is a new requirement.** The size of your income and assets will determine what form you will file. The annual return choices are 990, 990EZ or 990N. Most of CSEA’s Regions, Locals & Units will file the simplest form, the new 990N. The filing deadline is Feb. 15, 2009. Instructions were mailed to all Treasurers in early November. The CSEA instructions and links to the IRS can be found on CSEA’s web site, [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org) in “My Officer Resources.” If you have any questions, please call 1-800-342-4146, ext. 1256, 1316, 1317, or 1318.

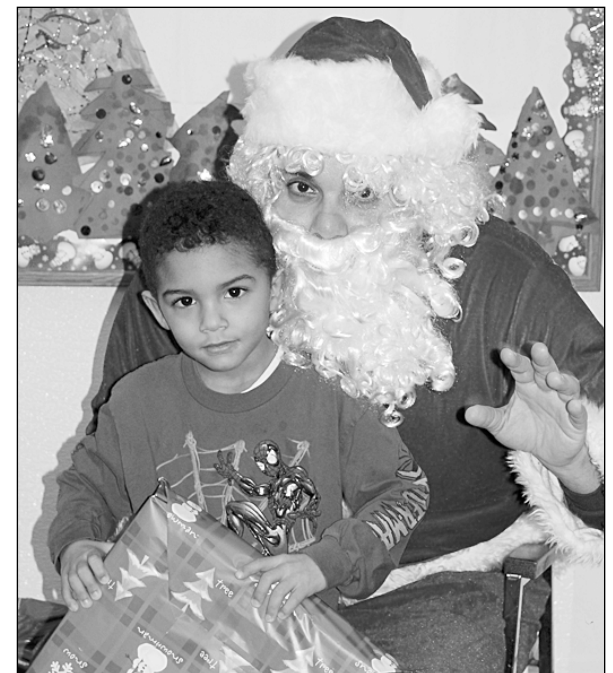
## Sullivan County Local members reach out to area children

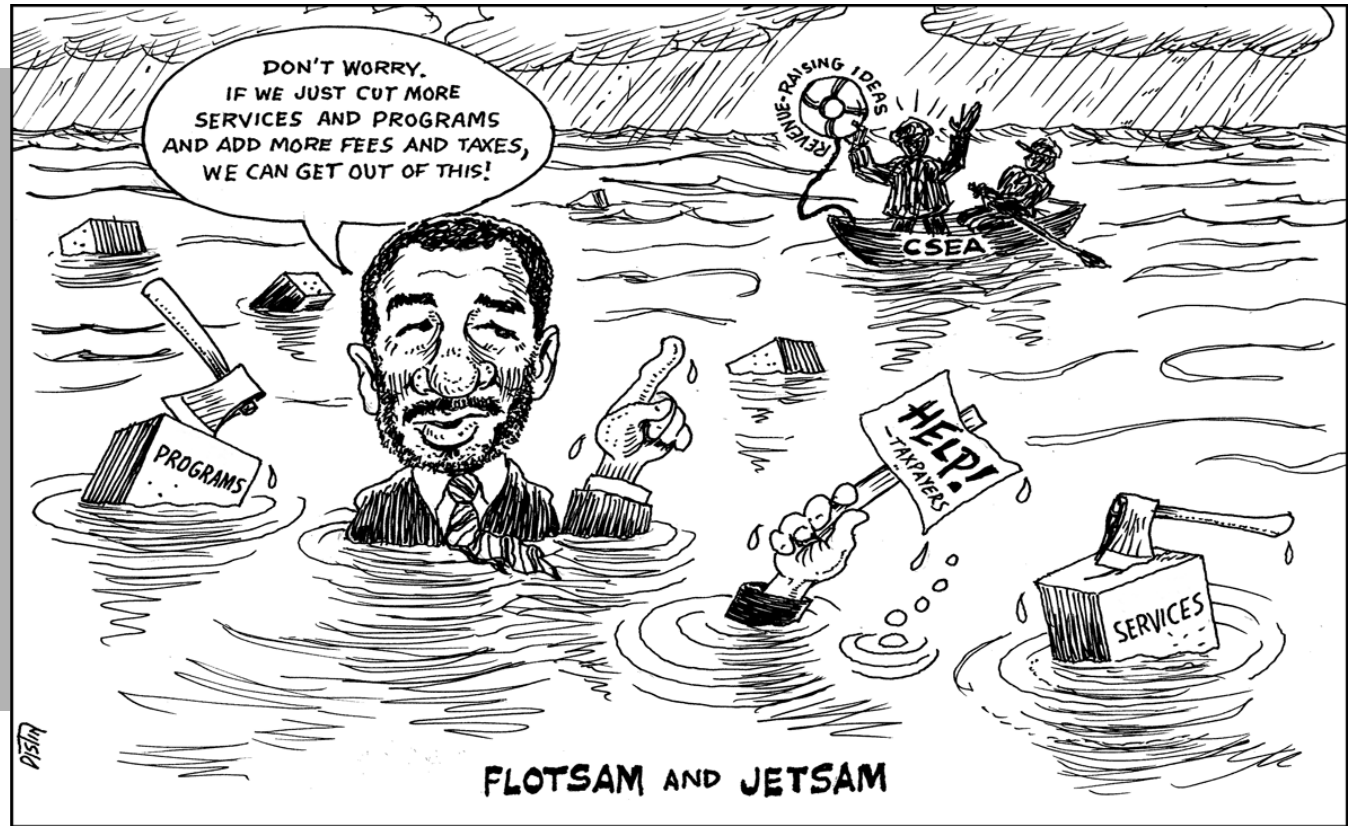
Members of the Sullivan County Local make it an annual tradition to play Santa Claus to young students at Sullivan County Head Start in Woodbourne.

The local adopted a class again this year, purchasing holiday gifts for the children, many of whom come from underprivileged families.

Right, Santa, as portrayed by Fallsburg School District Unit member Angelo Pacheco, visits with a student.

— Jessica Ladlee





## 2000 More than 20,000 CSEA members "got the power"

### 9 years ago ...

CSEA's recent March for Main Street isn't the first occasion the union has demonstrated during a governor's State of the State speech. In 2000, more than 20,000 CSEA members converged on the State Capitol in Albany to fight for a fair state contract after Gov. George Pataki refused to negotiate livable raises and benefits.



CSEA members fight for a contract outside the State Capitol Jan. 5, 2000, as state troopers stand in front of barricades.

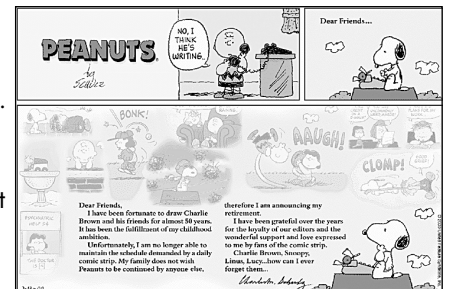
CSEA members across the state had been mobilizing for months, demonstrating in their own communities and appearing at Pataki events wearing a "Peanut Man" costume to symbolize the scant raises he initially proposed.

The momentum culminated on Jan. 5, 2000, when CSEA members arrived in the capital on more than 200 buses. They braved sub-zero temperatures, last-minute attempts by state and local officials to stop the demonstration and Pataki's assignment of more than 500 state troopers in riot gear to the demonstration to make their voices heard as the governor delivered his annual speech to the legislature.

CSEA's efforts convinced the governor to eventually return to the bargaining table and settle a fair agreement.

### Also in 2000 ...

- George W. Bush and Al Gore face off in the closest U.S. Presidential election in decades. While Gore wins the popular vote, Bush is victorious after the U.S. Supreme Court rules 5-4 to stop the manual recount in certain Florida counties that had deadlocked the election for more than a month.
- Cuban boy Elián González, 6, at center of an international dispute, is reunited with his father after a federal raid of his Miami relatives' home where he had been staying.
- Yemen terrorists bomb the U.S. Navy destroyer U.S.S. Cole, killing 17 sailors.
- Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milosevic is overthrown from power during a nationwide uprising after years of war.
- Mad Cow disease alarms Europe.
- *Peanuts* creator Charles Schulz dies Feb. 12, the day before his last new comic strip ran in newspapers.
- The N.Y. Yankees defeat the N.Y. Mets in what was known as the "Subway" World Series.



The last new *Peanuts* comic strip, published Feb. 13, 2000.



# CSEA names McDonough scholarship recipients

**C**SEA recently awarded \$1,000 Thomas H. McDonough Memorial Scholarships for Continuing Studies to union members' children or dependants.

The recipients are college students who had previously received CSEA's Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial, Met Life or Pearl Carroll scholarships. CSEA wishes the winners good luck in their future endeavors.

#### Long Island Region:

**Lauren Andersen**, whose mother, Elizabeth Andersen, is a teaching assistant at the Bayport-Blue Point School District.

#### Metropolitan Region:

**Nadira Persaud**, whose father, David Persaud, is an addiction counselor I at Kingsboro Addiction Treatment Center.

#### Southern Region:

**John N. Veras**, whose mother, Justina Veras, is a patient accounts clerk at Helen Hayes Hospital.

#### Capital Region:

**Sarah E. Furman**, whose mother, Cheryl Furman, is a secretary II at the state Department of Labor.

#### Central Region:

**Avni Patel**, whose father, Rajesh Patel, is a bus driver at the Salmon River Central School District.

#### Western Region:

**Brian House**, whose father, David House, is a teacher aide at the West Seneca Central School District.

## CSEA history fact: Who was Thomas H. McDonough?

Thomas H. McDonough, a clerk at the Department of Motor Vehicles in Albany, served in nearly every key leadership position in CSEA during his 25 years as a union activist, including as statewide executive vice president under President William McGowan for eight years until his unexpected death on Jan. 16, 1983.

McDonough was an active, vocal participant in virtually all of the major decisions that helped shape the union in the 1970s and early 1980s. He was known as a fighter who was proud of his reputation as a hard-nosed advocate of public employees and their rights and earned respect from both labor and management for his efforts on behalf of workers. In addition to the annual scholarship, CSEA's annual Spring Workshop is named for him.



McDonough

## Did you know?

CSEA and AFSCME offer numerous scholarships for our members' dependents – and even our members themselves – to help them complete their education?

Learn more about available scholarships at the scholarship page on CSEA's website at:

[www.csealocal1000.org/wi/scholarships.php](http://www.csealocal1000.org/wi/scholarships.php)



Visit your Company Store at  
<http://cseastore.sm-pm.com>  
 or [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org)

All Products are Union-Made in the USA



## First Quarter Specials

### CSE-143 Micro Poplin Jacket

- 65% polyester / 35% soft cotton
- full zip jacket with drawstring & cordlock
- lightly lined with nylon
- self elastic cuffs and waistband
- features an embroidered logo

COST/SIZE:  
 \$42.05  
~~\$49.50~~ (M-XL)  
 \$44.55  
~~\$51.25~~ (2X)  
 \$45.95  
~~\$52.85~~ (3X)

COLOR: black



### CSE-152 Navy T-Shirt

- red embossed CSEA logo
- 100% cotton

COST/SIZE:  
 \$12.80  
~~\$14.25~~ (M-XL)  
 \$14.10  
~~\$16.79~~ (2X)  
 \$15.40  
~~\$17.19~~ (3X)  
 \$16.65  
~~\$18.59~~ (4X)

COLOR: navy



In-Stock Items - Order in quantities as small as 1 item  
 Special-Order Items - Imprint with local information - Minimum quantities apply

888.372.3487x212  
 While Supplies Last

# EBF Prescription Co-Payment Reimbursement Benefit: important benefit change for 2009

**B**eginning in 2009, the CSEA Employee Benefit Fund will no longer accept original receipts for claims submitted for the Prescription Co-Payment Reimbursement Benefit.



Printouts from your pharmacy clearly indicating the co-payment amount will be the **only** acceptable proof.

EBF wants to ensure you receive your reimbursement as soon as possible. On this page is more information about this money-saving benefit.

## What is the Prescription Co-Payment Reimbursement Benefit?

A benefit, negotiated in your collective bargaining agreement that reimburses co-payment and costs less than your co-payment for prescription drugs.

Up to \$100 is reimbursable if you qualify for this benefit *and* work for New York state, or variable amounts if you work for a local government employer.

EBF seeks to help members and their dependents defray some of the costs associated with co-payments for prescription drugs by offering this valuable program.

### Who is eligible for this benefit?

CSEA-represented state employees who are enrolled in the New York State Health Insurance Program (either the Empire Plan or a health maintenance organization) are entitled to reimbursement once annually for NYSHIP prescription drug co-payments and covered prescriptions less than the co-payment once annually.

Local government units such as towns, villages and school districts may have also negotiated this benefit in their collective bargaining agreements.

Check your contract to see if your unit has negotiated this benefit.

### I am eligible. How do I qualify to receive the \$100?

**State employees:** Once your co-payments and covered prescriptions less than the co-payments for the year (January-December) reach \$300, the next \$100 in prescription drug co-payment is reimbursable. To obtain the maximum benefit of \$100, wait until your co-payment expenses reach \$400 before filing your claim. If you do not accumulate \$400 before the end of the year, submit your claim after Dec. 31 for what you paid over \$300. See the examples below:

Family	Rx Co-pay Totals	Minimum Amount	Benefit Reimbursement	Notes
Andersons	\$278	\$300	\$0	Do not meet requirements
Smiths	\$385	\$300	\$85	Not max benefit, but some money is reimbursed
Williams	\$478	\$300	\$100	Max benefit is reimbursed

### What do I need to do to properly file a claim?

#### Four easy steps to file your claim:

• Get a Prescription Drug Co-Payment Reimbursement Claim Form from a CSEA EBF representative or your union or personnel office. You can also call EBF at (800) EBF-CSEA, or visit EBF online at [cseabf.com](http://cseabf.com). On the website, click on "Library," then "All EBF Forms" from the main menu. Complete the form.

• Make a photocopy of your Empire Plan or HMO insurance card.

• Get a pharmacy printout clearly indicating the co-payment amount.

• Mail the completed claim form, the copy of your card and the pharmacy printout in an envelope to:

**CSEA Employee Benefit Fund**  
P.O. Box 516  
Latham, N.Y. 12110-0516



# Empire Plan members: New administrator for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program

Effective Jan. 1, 2009, the Empire Plan Mental Health and

**Health Benefits** 

MHSA option for OptumHealth). To receive the highest level of

Substance Abuse (MHSA) Program is administered by OptumHealth Behavioral Solutions/United HealthCare. The former administrator was ValueOptions/GHI.

The benefits available under the Empire Plan will not change as the result of this transition, but the provider network will be different and therefore the status of providers may change. To find out if a provider is in the OptumHealth network, enrollees may check the provider's network status at [www.EmpirePlanMHSA2009.com](http://www.EmpirePlanMHSA2009.com) or call 1-877-769-7447 (press Option 3, then select the 2009

benefits, enrollees should call the toll-free number before beginning any new mental health and/or substance abuse treatment. Empire Plan participants will have a three-month transition period in which enrollees currently receiving care with a MHSA provider that participated in the ValueOptions network can continue to receive network level benefits through March 31, 2009 (even if the provider is not yet in the Optum network).

On this page are some questions and answers that will help Empire Plan enrollees better understand this transition from ValueOptions to OptumHealth.

## Questions about Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program transition of care

### **What is the transition of care benefit?**

The transition of care benefit allows you to continue to receive network benefits even if your provider has not joined the OptumHealth network as of Jan. 1, 2009. All levels of care are covered under the transition of care benefit.

### **How do I access my transition of care benefit?**

You do not need to call or complete any forms to access the transition of care benefit. If you received network benefits between July 1, 2008 and Dec. 31, 2008, you will automatically be given the transition of care benefit through March 31, 2009, for services received from the same provider, even if that provider is not in the OptumHealth network. Please note that these benefits apply to covered services received between Jan. 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009.

### **What if I need treatment after the beginning of the year and I am not eligible for the transition of care benefit?**

To find a network provider for treatment on or after Jan. 1, 2009, call 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and press Option 3 and select the 2009 MHSA option for OptumHealth.

## Empire Plan deadline for 2008 claims is March 31

**E**mpire Plan enrollees have until March 31, 2009 (90 days after the end of the calendar year) in which to submit medical expenses which were incurred during the 2008 plan year to:

**United HealthCare Service Corp.**  
P.O. Box 1600  
Kingston, N.Y. 12402-1600  
For the Empire Plan Basic Medical Program, the Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP) and for non-network physical therapy or chiropractic services.

**Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield**  
For assistance with the claim filing process of inpatient or outpatient hospital services contact Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield at 1-877-7NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447).

**ValueOptions**  
P.O. Box 778  
Troy, N.Y. 12181-0778  
For non-network mental health and substance abuse services received in 2008.

**Medco**  
P.O. Box 14711  
Lexington, KY 40512  
For prescriptions filled at non-participating pharmacies or at participating pharmacies without using your New York Government Employee Benefit Card.

## Questions regarding Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program participating providers

### **I just checked the website and my provider is not in the OptumHealth network. What are my options?**

The transition of care benefit allows you to receive network benefits, even if the provider you were seeing in 2008 is not part of the OptumHealth network. When the transition period ends on March 31, 2009, you must use an OptumHealth network provider to receive the highest level of benefits. You may call at any time to access network benefits. If you continue treatment with your provider after March 31, 2009 and your provider is not part of the OptumHealth network, your treatment will be covered under the non-network benefit and you will have higher out-of-pocket costs.

### **How can my provider become part of the OptumHealth network?**

If your provider is not currently in the OptumHealth network, you may nominate your provider by calling 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and press Option 3 and select the 2009 MHSA option, or your provider may call OptumHealth directly at the same number.

Enrollees can call the Empire Plan at 1-877-7NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) with questions or to obtain claim forms. As a reminder, when using the Empire Plan's toll-free telephone number, please pay extra attention to the choices offered by the automated system.

Network providers/pharmacies will submit claims directly to the

appropriate insurance carrier on your behalf when provided with all necessary information. If you have a non-network claim submission, make sure you complete the requested subscriber information on the claim form, include the original billing or receipt (if requested), and don't forget to sign the claim form.

# Leading Edge

## Jimmy Gripper: A man of many firsts

**Editor's Note:** CSEA will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2010. Throughout this year The Work Force is devoting the Leading Edge to a look back at some of the key individuals who have helped shape our extraordinary history. This month we feature an interview with Jimmy Gripper. Gripper began his career in state service at what was then known as the Brooklyn Developmental Center in 1972. An activist in CSEA for 30 years, Gripper was the union's first African-American region president when he was elected to lead the Metropolitan Region in 1980. Now retired and living in Virginia, Gripper recently spoke with The Work Force about his experiences.

### **Work Force: How did you get involved in CSEA?**

**Gripper:** When I went to work at Brooklyn Developmental Center in 1972, it was a brand new facility and we didn't have any representation. A good friend of mine, Ronnie Smith, was the CSEA leader at Willowbrook on Staten Island, so I called him up. We put our heads together and he helped me start Local 447 (Brooklyn Developmental Center Local). We had an election and I became the first president – the charter president.

I started getting more involved in the region and eventually decided to put my name in for regional office. I ran for vice president of the region in the mid-1970s and I lost, but I stayed involved. In 1980, I ran for region president and I won.

### **WF: How did you get elected?**

**Gripper:** It was being in the right place at the right time, I think. I was an activist in the region and

I got involved with the state contract negotiating team and built a lot of relationships. That was a big stepladder. By that time I was also an elected mental hygiene representative on the CSEA Board of Directors and that also helped. It all happened so fast.

### **WF: What was the reaction when you were elected? Was it seen as an important symbol?**

**Gripper:** It seemed very natural because I kept setting firsts with everything I did from the time I first got involved.

### **WF: What are you proud of in your time in CSEA?**

**Gripper:** I really don't have anything bad to say about CSEA. It was a growing experience all the way through. I had the chance to be involved with the affiliation with AFSCME. Even when the politics got kind of rough, it was exciting.

What I always felt was that CSEA provided work for people and that was the best part about the union.

Another thing that I enjoyed was doing orientation for new hires at the local level. I can remember talking to people about what the union was all about and then years would go by and I'd be doing an orientation with their kids! The kids would come into the office looking for Mr. Gripper and tell me that their parents had sent them in to see me. That was one of the best parts and made me feel like it was all worth it.

I'm also very proud that one young lady from my local who I helped along the way, Denise Berkley, is now the statewide secretary of CSEA.



**Longtime CSEA activist Jimmy Gripper in a 1998 photo.**

### **WF: You had a reputation in CSEA for not backing down from a fight. How did that help your activism?**

**Gripper:** I always felt those were fights that had to be had. Usually they were campaigns for issues that meant something. I enjoyed the fights, if you want to know the truth. I enjoyed getting out in the street campaigning for what was right, for the little guy. I always thought that I was the little guy; I never felt like I was a big guy.



## February CSEA calendar of events

### Long Island Region:

- Feb. 9-10: **Defensive Driving**, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Long Island Region Office, Commack
- Feb. 10: **An Overview of the Family Medical Leave Act**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop 6-9 p.m., Suffolk County Educational Local Office, Medford
- Feb. 11: **Conducting Successful Meetings Training**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop 6-9 p.m., Long Island Region Office, Commack
- Feb. 21: **Defensive Driving**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Long Island Region Office, Commack

### Metropolitan Region:

- Visit the Metropolitan Region page at CSEA's website at [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org) for the latest information on region events.

### Southern Region:

- Visit the Southern Region page at CSEA's website at [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org) for the latest information on region events.

### Capital Region:

- Feb. 24-25: **Steward Workshop**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop 6-9 p.m., Holiday Inn Express Skyline, East Greenbush

### Central Region:

- Feb. 10-11: **Steward Workshop**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop 6-9

p.m., M-C-M Training and Activity Center, Marcy

- Feb. 10-11: **Contract Negotiations II: Negotiating Team Training**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop 6-9 p.m., Holiday Inn, Elmira

### Western Region:

- Feb. 3-4: **Local Government/Private Sector Grievance Representation Workshop**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop 6-9 p.m., Batavia
- Feb. 17-18: **State Government Discipline & Interrogation Workshop**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop 6-9 p.m., Rochester Satellite Office
- Feb. 17-18: **Contract Negotiations II: Negotiating Team Training**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop 6-9 p.m., Western Region Office, Amherst
- Feb. 21: **Defensive Driving**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Western Region Office, Amherst

*For more information on the listed events or to participate, contact your region office (phone numbers are listed on Page 4) or visit your region page at CSEA's website at [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org). Please note that additional events may be scheduled in your region, so check your region calendar page on the website.*

## ULSTER HEAD START RATIFIES

— Members of the



# TODAY

private sector  
Ulster County Head Start Local have ratified a new three-year contract. The agreement includes improvements regarding the use of personal leave, an increase in vacation days and improvements in seniority ... **NEW PACT** — CSEA members in the Village of Westbury overwhelmingly ratified a new contract. The agreement provides that incumbent members will not pay a contribution toward their health care insurance premiums. New members hired after the date of ratification will pay 12 percent for the life of this five-

year agreement ...  
**AMITYVILLE LIBRARY PACT** —

CSEA members in the Amityville Public Library Unit overwhelmingly ratified a new three-year contract. The agreement is retroactive to July 1, 2008, and provides for incremental salary increases as well as enhanced longevity payments ... **CATTARAUGUS CONTRACT** — Members of the CSEA Cattaraugus County General Unit recently overwhelmingly ratified a contract. The agreement runs through the end of 2012.

## Mims is PEOPLE Recruiter of the Month

**R**uby Mims of the Erie County Local in the Western Region is PEOPLE Recruiter for the month of December. She recruited 19 MVP and four VIP PEOPLE members.

CSEA's PEOPLE program protects and improves our jobs, benefits and pensions in Washington, Albany and in your community. Your support and participation in PEOPLE strengthens CSEA's clout in the workplace, in the legislature, in your community and in the labor movement.



Mims

## May 15 is deadline for submitting proposed resolutions, changes to CSEA's Constitution & Bylaws

Proposed resolutions and proposed amendments to the CSEA Constitution & By-Laws for consideration by CSEA delegates to the union's 2009 Annual Delegates Meeting **must be submitted by May 15, 2009.**

Proposed resolutions may be submitted **only** by a delegate and **must** be submitted on the proper forms. Forms for submitting resolutions are available from CSEA headquarters and region offices.

Proposed resolutions and proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws must be submitted no later than May 15 to Statewide Secretary Denise Berkley, CSEA Headquarters, 143 Washington Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210-2303.

The 2009 CSEA Annual Delegates Meeting will be held Sept. 14-18 in Buffalo.

## Go Orange with CSEA and save more green!



CSEA is again partnering with the Syracuse University Men's Basketball program to offer our members special savings on certain home games this season.

CSEA members can get the discount rate of \$15 adult/\$7 youth tickets for Non-Conference games. For Big East Conference games, members can get tickets for \$24 adults/\$11 youth.

To get your CSEA members-only discount rate, download and mail/fax in our discount order form, or call SU Group Sales Office at (315) 443-3212.



An Extended Message from Your President Jerry Laricchiuta

## CSEA Members Got What They So Greatly Deserved

Let me start off with a greeting of Happy New Year to all of you. Then, it's on to some business at hand. Why is it that *Newsday* feels compelled to attack CSEA and all of its members whenever they believe they have the opportunity? The two articles written by *Newsday* in direct reference to the new CSEA contract painted a clear picture that this newspaper loathes Nassau County workers. Why is it that my four attempts to have a written rebuttal to those two stories was ignored and never printed? Why did reporter Rita Ciolli write that "*The union's no-layoff provision was allowed to expire. Sounds good...*" Really Rita, is it a good thing that some of Nassau County's lowest paid employees can be laid off? I have just one more question regarding *Newsday*. Why would any county worker (CSEA member) still have a subscription to *Newsday*? I dropped my subscription months ago.

CSEA members need not apologize or feel as though they robbed the cookie jar. I'm so tired of hearing about how our contract will cause so many financial problems in 2009. Hogwash, folks. Our contract was a fair one with concessions in it that everybody, except our members, seems to have forgotten. Anybody remember getting a raise in 2008? No, because the arbitrator felt that Nassau County had screwed up their books so badly that we needed to help them out with a zero in 2008. That saved Nassau County \$13 million! Most of the enhancements we were awarded come in later years beginning in 2010, so how is it that we caused this great recession?

In fairness to the county, the economic crisis we are in right now was not caused by just the county. This mess is made from a huge stew of bad management from the federal government, to the state and then down to our local governments. One thing is clear to me — it was NOT caused by public employees. We come in every day and do our jobs. We make this county run 24/7 and we make them money in many departments to boot. We didn't get anything from Nassau County that we were not entitled to. We simply worked and were compensated by an agreement signed five years ago. That's how it is supposed to work, right? While we were

*... CSEA is preparing to fight for our members like never before. In such uncertain times, I am extremely thankful for being a CSEA member.*

taking 2.5 percent COLA raises in July 2007, the average ordinance worker (non-union, at will, patronage jobs) received 7 percent increases! Can anybody here ever remember CSEA-represented workers getting a 7 percent COLA raise in one year? Not in my lifetime, anyway.

### Fight for our future

The future in Nassau County is full of peril and there are going to be many hurdles for us to clear. Each new day brings more bad news from this county and CSEA is preparing to fight for our members like never before. In such uncertain times, I am extremely thankful for being a CSEA member. Our statewide President Danny Donohue has been there for us before, and I know we can count on him again. His guidance, leadership and experience were a priceless asset for me and our team during the arbitration process for our contract. In the coming months, we will need him and his staff in Albany to help us fight for our Local 830 members. CSEA is the largest public union in Nassau County and we are one of the largest public sector unions in New York state. With nearly 300,000 members statewide, I can think of no other union I'd rather be a part of when we begin our tough battle here in Nassau County.

Another fine leader will be Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, who will no doubt be harassed by me as we navigate through the mess. Nick has given me great advice and counsel over the years and I am thankful we will have him when we will need him most.

There is so much going on right now that I am invoking some executive privilege this month by basically taking up most of the white space here in this newsletter to speak with you. Please read on, as there are some important issues I need to communicate to my members.

### Update for County Employees from Jerry Laricchiuta

#### Crossing Guards

In October 2008, County Executive Tom Suozzi proposed a 2009 budget that took Nassau County crossing guards off payroll during weeks when school would be closed. The legislators passed the budget by a vote of 10-9. In that budget, Suozzi was also successful in consolidating Police Fleet Services and Building Maintenance into the Department of Public Works. The Police IT Unit was also transferred to the County IT department.

All of these transfers were fought by CSEA for three years in a row. This year, however, the looming budget crisis caused the 10 Democrats in the legislature to vote the transfers in as well as to cut the funding for crossing guards during non-school days.

The first holiday that was to come into play would have been for the week of winter recess. This is in February, also the week of the federal holiday

*Please See County Continued on Page 2*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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- *CSEA Pays Respects to Martin Luther King Jr.*



The  
Work Force

CSEA Nassau County Local 830

**EXPRESS**

Feb. 2009 • Vol. 14 No. 2

A Monthly Publication of CSEA Nassau County Local 830  
JERRY LARICCHIUTA, PresidentRyan Mulholland, Editor  
(516) 571-2919 Ext. #13

www.csea830.org

## NASSAU LOCAL 830

## Executive Officers:

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 RON GURRIERI, Executive Vice President  
 ROBERT CAULDWELL, 1st Vice President  
 DEBRA IMPERATORE, 2nd Vice President  
 SCOTT MULHOLLAND, 3rd Vice President  
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 JOHN ALOISIO, 7th Vice President  
 RAY CANNELLA, 8th Vice President  
 MARLA ROWE, 9th Vice President  
 ROBERT ARCIELLO, 10th Vice President  
 KEN NICHOLSON, 11th Vice President  
 SUSAN COHEN, Secretary  
 DEBBIE O'CONNELL, Treasurer

## Unit Presidents/Executive Board:

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 JOHN ALOISIO III, Treasurer's Office  
 ROB ARCIELLO, Deputy Sheriff's  
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 STANLEY BERGMAN, Comptroller's Office  
 ROBERT CAMPO, Public Works Department  
 RAY CANNELLA, Civil Service Commission  
 MARIE CATALANO, Consumer Affairs Unit President  
 ROBERT CAULDWELL, Social Services  
 STEPHEN COHEN, Medical Examiner's Office  
 CAROL CONTI, County Clerk  
 CAROL CROSTON, Nassau Community College  
 VIVIAN CROWLEY, General Services  
 KENNETH DASH, SR., Board of Elections  
 MARY DELMARE, Crossing Guards  
 KATHLEEN FOSTER, Senior Citizens Affairs  
 KEN HAMEL, Sheriff's Support  
 NANCY IANSON, Drug & Alcohol  
 DEBRA IMPERATORE, Police Civilian  
 ROBERT JOHNSON, Health Department  
 LARRY LOISELLE, AMT  
 STEVEN KORNFELD, County Attorney/District Attorney  
 ROBERT McLAUGHLIN, Nassau University Medical Center  
 ELIZA MOON, Assessment Department  
 JOHN RINALDO, Parks, Recreation & Museums  
 MARLA ROWE, Probation Department  
 LISA SINAGRA-TIRPAK, Public Safety  
 GARY VOLPE, Police Communications Operators  
 RUDY WATSON, BMU/Fleet Services  
 JOSEPH WHITTAKER, Fire Marshal's Office

We welcome reader suggestions: Please address your comments to Ryan Mulholland, Editor, Nassau County EXPRESS at CSEA Nassau Co. Local 830, 400 County Seat Dr., Mineola, NY 11501-4137.

## ATTENTION CSEA MEMBERS! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

CSEA Assessment Unit President Eliza Moon recently lost her home due to a fire.

CSEA Local 830 will be taking up a collection for Eliza. We are asking members to donate any money that they can spare to help out.

Please drop off any donations with your unit president.

Call (516) 571-2919 for more information.

## Update for County Employees

Continued From Page 1

Presidents Day. On Jan. 9 2009, I had a conversation with the county executive and he agreed to allow the crossing guards to work during the February break.

The next school recess is scheduled for spring break in April. As of the writing of this article, we have still not worked out an agreement. We firmly believe that all of the consolidation of those above mentioned police units and the furloughing of our crossing guards is a huge mistake by the county. The crossing guards perform thousands of hours of clerical work each week when they are not at their crossings. Who will replace them, or will the work simply not get done? Police Commissioner Mulvey stated on the record at the legislature that crossing guards performed "nice to have work," but the police department would have to "suck it up" and get along without them. Those were his actual words and I was stunned and amazed the day he said them, and I am just as taken back as I type them here. Shame on this commissioner, who by the way is on a 211 waiver and collecting a full pension while also getting a hefty salary as the commissioner, to tell our lawmakers that his department, which carries a \$500 million budget, must lay off the lowest paid employees he has to make his budget work. So, we will continue to fight and negotiate to see if we can get our crossing guards back to work all year long.

### Health insurance

**Buy-back:** In our new contract, the buy-back between couples who are married to other county employees is now mandatory. What has changed is that in the old contract the buy-back was only mandatory if a CSEA member was married to another CSEA member employed by the county. Now if a CSEA member is married to any other county worker, one of the two members must sell their plan back to Nassau County for \$2,000. This buy-back is improved however so that if any co-payments go over the \$2,000 buy-back amount, the county will fully reimburse the member. Also on the table is a study into increasing the money going

to the buy-back plan. If Nassau County can get enough employees who are married to others outside of county employment to use the buy-back, they will increase it to an amount yet to be determined.

**Fully Paid or Not:** Since the contract was signed, I have received a few e-mails and letters from members who are paying a premium for their health insurance. The reason for this is because they have chosen an option other than the Empire Plan. I am told 97 percent of our members choose the Empire Plan, which is full coverage with allotted co-payments. The other 3 percent have chosen HIP or HIP/VYTRA. HIP has raised their rates this year so for some members they may be paying a premium for the first time. HIP/VYTRA, I am told, has always charged a small premium to those members who decided to choose them. In any case, all members can take the Empire Plan and pay nothing. It's all a matter of choice. Please call the local office 516-571-2919 and we will have somebody explain it to you.

**Retirees:** If a member retires between Jan. 1, 2008 and Dec. 31, 2015, they can be assured that they will leave with fully paid health benefits for the rest of their life, as long as they have at least 10 years of service and have reached their 55<sup>th</sup> birthday. If a member retires at age 54, then they would need to carry the premiums (group rate, but still expensive) until they reach age 55, then they will receive the fully paid benefits.

**New York State Disability:** Although this was a great benefit for our members and we are the only union to have achieved this insurance in Nassau County, it must be noted that this insurance should not replace other insurance you may have. The reason is simple. This is more of a supplementary plan to help you with by giving you some income if you are out of work with an injury. The maximum amount allowed today is \$170 per week. Certainly that's not bad to have as a supplement, but nobody could ever afford to survive in Nassau County with that little of an income. If you have other disability insurance (like the

various plans offered by Pearl Carroll for CSEA members), I advise you keep it. The insurance offered by Pearl Carroll has a much better benefit payment than the \$170 per week offered by New York state Disability and that's the maximum amount. The plan pays its benefits by using a sliding scale of salaries, so the more you make on the job, the higher the payment on disability.

### IN-TIME

Well, IN-TIME is not working out so well as of this writing. In Social Services, we have seen a traffic jam at the end of the day as members wait in line to swipe out. Perhaps even more daunting is the fact that supervisors are spending a good part of their day entering data into the system instead of supervising their subordinates. In some cases, very important work performed by our supervisors is falling behind as they try to catch up to the IN-TIME demands.

All of this was predictable and in light of the current fiscal crisis we all have to wonder out loud how the county can justify such a costly expense. My concern now is that the contract is not being broken. One of my concerns is that members who are staying at their desks after their official day ends to finish their work must be compensated for that time. If Nassau County is so concerned that their employees are "stealing time," as I heard one official put it, then why shouldn't we be so concerned about members working for nothing? I have instructed our grievance reps to file multiple class-action suits for units in which our members are required to finish the day after their shift ends and are not being paid overtime. If you fall into this category, please let your unit president and/or their board knows about it so we can file a class action on your behalf.

# Local 830 Joins March for Main Street

ALBANY — Thousands of New Yorkers from CSEA, PEF, SEIU, District Council 37 and the New York State Nurses Association, visited the state Capitol Jan. 7 to take part in the March for Main Street.

The march was scheduled to coincide with Gov. David Paterson's first State of the State address to challenge the governor's misplaced budget priorities that target middle class New Yorkers.

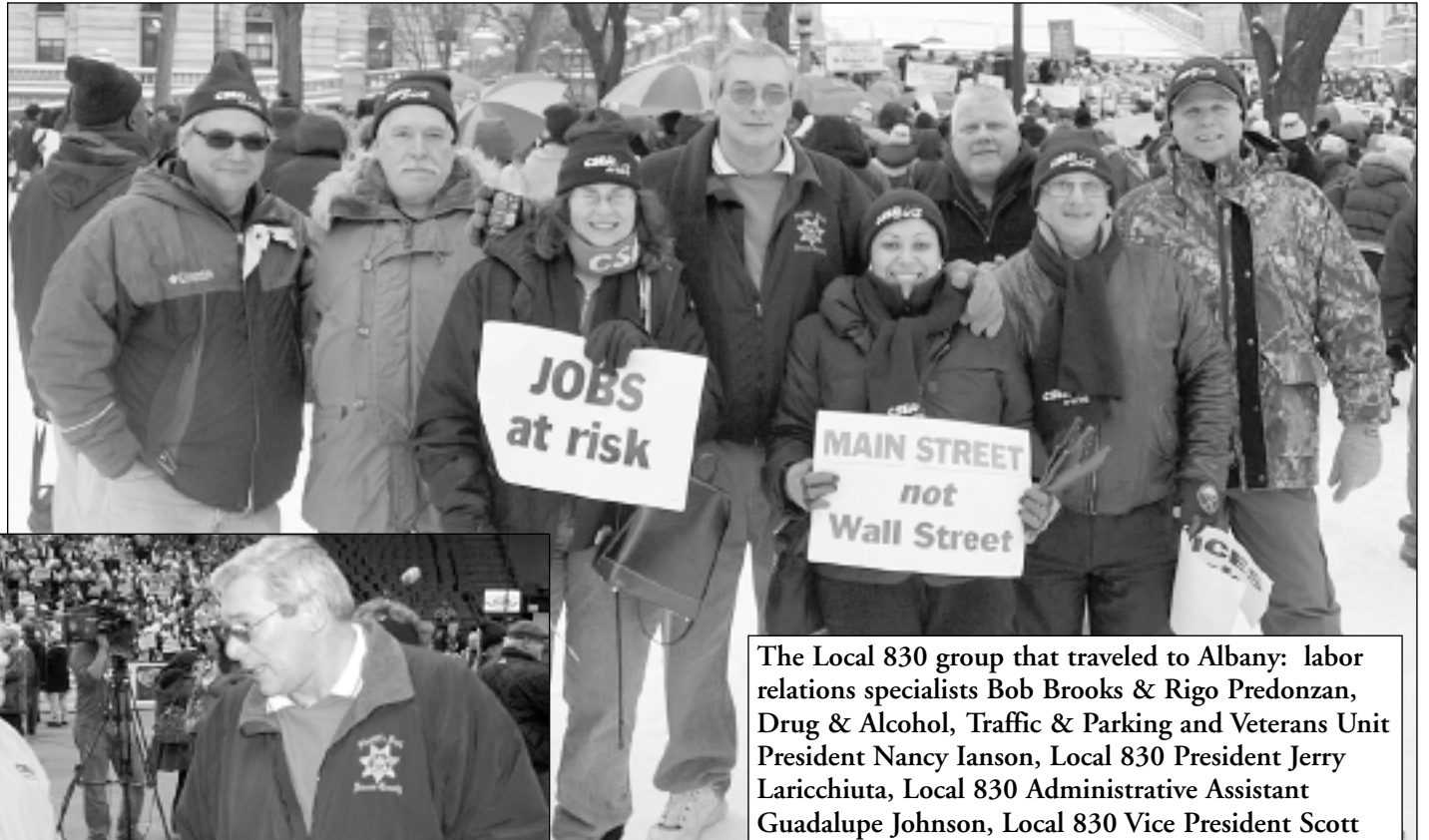
The day began in the Times Union Center, an indoor arena that was filled with enthusiastic union members and union leaders. Members were chanting, cheering and using noisemakers provided by the CSEA, to

build up the momentum before the march to the Capitol. Many union leaders spoke, including CSEA President Danny Donohue, who spoke last, just before the march.

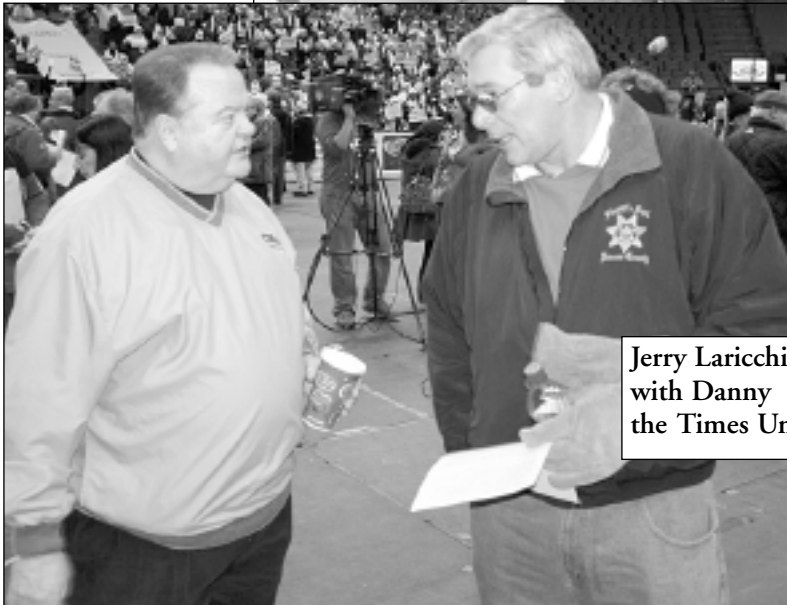
"We helped organize the March for Main Street to send a message loud and clear," said Donohue. "All working New Yorkers live on Main Street and it's time for all of us to stand up and say no to proposals that will have us pay more and get less while the wealthiest New Yorkers slide by."

Thousands then marched from the arena to East Capitol Park, just outside the Capitol Building, at 1 p.m., just in time for Paterson's speech. Many representatives from CSEA Local 830 joined the charge, including President Jerry Laricchiuta and Vice President Scott Mulholland.

CSEA thanks all that braved difficult weather conditions to come from all six regions in the state to participate in the march.



The Local 830 group that traveled to Albany: labor relations specialists Bob Brooks & Rigo Predonzan, Drug & Alcohol, Traffic & Parking and Veterans Unit President Nancy Ianson, Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta, Local 830 Administrative Assistant Guadalupe Johnson, Local 830 Vice President Scott Mulholland, Comptrollers Unit President Stan Bergman and Parks, Recreation and Museums Unit President John Rinaldo.



Jerry Laricchiuta speaks with Danny Donohue at the Times Union Center.



CSEA members from all across the state make noise and gain momentum before the march.



Danny Donohue makes his speech at the Times Union Center.

# Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon is Again a Success

## *Scholarships Awarded to Members' Children*

BALDWIN — The CSEA Nassau Local 830's Unity Committee hosted its 15th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon at the Coral House Jan. 10.

More than 250 attendees packed the room and were treated to a wonderful afternoon of music and dancing entertainment, food and raffle prizes.

Music was provided once again by Carolyn Harding, who performed the "Black National Anthem" and "Wind Beneath my Wings." CSEA member Concetta Walker also performed musical selections.

Another CSEA member, Fred McFarland from the Correctional Center, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and another song.

A seven-member band, "Tones of Joy," serenaded the audience during lunch, followed by a wonderful display by the "Praise Dancers." The day concluded with awarding several raffle prizes.



CSEA was proud to award four Local 830 members' children with \$500 scholarships. All four are either high school seniors or college students with better than a 'B' average, and have shown active personal involvement in the advancement of the principles of human rights within the community.

The scholarship winners were Ashley C. Middleton, Deborah Gooden, Jazmyne M. Garvin-Archer and Tamasia Nicole Williams.

Middleton is a freshman at Hampton University in Virginia and maintains a 3.0 grade point average while studying biology, with a minor in childhood education. Gooden is a senior at Uniondale High School who has been very active in the community by volunteering at her local church. She coordinated a club that raised more than \$8,000 in gifts and money for the homeless on Christmas. Garvin-Archer is a senior at Portledge School in Locust Valley, and has earned a 3.8 grade point average while racking up 100 hours of annual community service. Williams is a freshman at John Jay, majoring in criminal justice, and has won many awards through school activities and community service.

CSEA also had the honor of presenting awards to three tremendous community volunteers, Laret Williams, Kathleen Zoeller and Nigel Gretton.

Williams worked for many years as CSEA's retirement counselor and serves Local 830 members on a part-time basis. For 17 years, she has cared for people with mental disabilities through

the Family Care Program, for which she has received certificates of appreciation from former Gov. George Pataki. She also has traveled to Nicaragua as a missionary for the First Baptist Church of Freeport, where she serves on the Board of Trustees.

Zoeller is a CSEA member who has been working in Nassau

County for 18 years, 17 of those in the Department of Drug and Alcohol. She has become involved in the community as a committee person, signing up people to vote, painting over graffiti and learning about local government. She participates in many community organizations.

Gretton has spent more than 20 years as a music director and educator. He has been an asset to the community on a local level, directing choirs on Long Island, while being successful on a national stage, with musical performances on HBO Sports boxing presentations and NBC's "Showtime at the Apollo."

CSEA is so proud to once again honor the life and times of Martin Luther King Jr., while rewarding great community activists and young scholars who strive every day to keep his spirit alive. This event would not be possible without the great work of the CSEA Local 830 Unity Committee and co-chairs Kelvin Lewis and Carol Croston.



Top, the four scholarship winners with Unity Committee member Juanita McKinnies, center.

Above, Laret Williams receives her award.

Far left, CSEA Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta addresses the crowd.

Below, left, the CSEA Local 830 Unity Committee.

Below, right, the Tones of Joy perform.







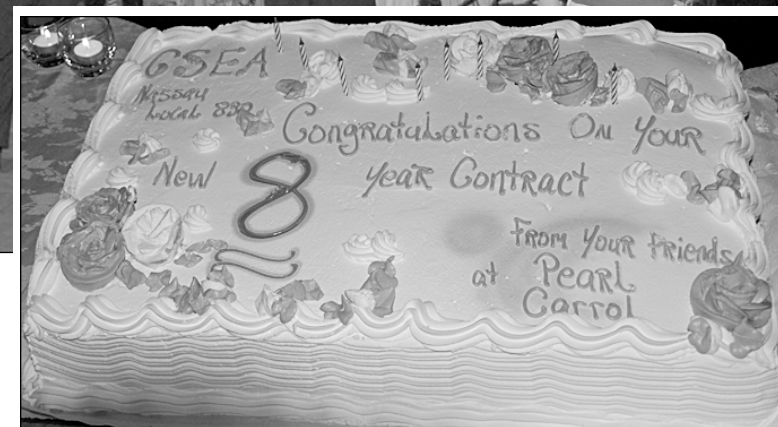
# Hundreds Attend Annual Local Holiday Party

WOODBURY — CSEA Local 830 held its annual holiday party at the Crest Hollow Country Club on the evening of Dec. 17. Nearly 800 CSEA members, friends and supporters attended the five-hour event which entailed a wonderful cocktail hour, lots of raffle prizes and, of course, plenty of dancing.

Raffle prizes included several flat-screen televisions, DVD players, laptop computers and gift cards. In addition, anyone who brought a toy was given one free raffle ticket towards a drawing for four \$50 VISA gift cards. CSEA collected more than 300 toys that night alone from the party's attendees.

CSEA Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte addressed the crowd, followed by Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta. Laricchiuta thanked all the members for attending and for all their hard work during 2008. He also emphasized that he appreciates their patience through the difficult contract negotiations with Nassau County.

CSEA thanks all vendors and supporters who attended, including those from Pearl Carroll & Associates, Davis Vision, AIG Valic and HIP. Several dignitaries also attended including Nassau County Comptroller Howard Weitzman and Nassau County legislators Dave Denenberg and Dave Mejias. The party's success was certainly due to the great work of the Local 830 Social Committee, headed by co-chairs Steve Cohen and Kelvin Lewis.



Photos on this page, clockwise from top left: Fire Communications and Public Security employees enjoy the night; Jerry Laricchiuta introduces his contract negotiations team, from left, Executive Vice President Ron Gurrieri, Laricchiuta, Vice President Scott Mulholland, Treasurer Debbie O'Connell and Labor Relations Specialist Rego Predonzan; Pearl Carroll & Associates commemorated the signing of Local 830's new eight-year contract with a cake; Deputy Sheriffs Unit members enjoy the night; Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte addresses the crowd.

Below, toys donated by party attendees.



# CSEA Collects More than 500 Toys for Local Children



Local 830 officials Kelvin Lewis and Scott Mulholland, back row, center, with Santa Claus and children at Christmas on Jackson Street.

CSEA Local 830's annual toy drive was more successful than ever in 2008, as members and units donated more than 500 toys for local children.

More than 300 of the toys came from the Local 830 Holiday Party, with the remainder coming from members dropping off toys at the local as well as various units collecting and purchasing toys.

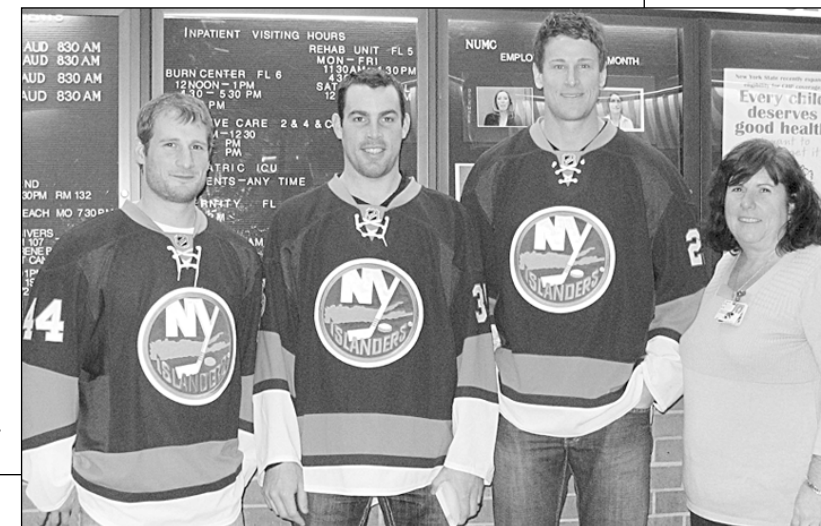
The Police Unit, led by President Debra Imperatore, donated more than 100 toys alone.

This year, CSEA split the toys between two local non-profit organizations. For the third consecutive year, Local 830 donated to the Economic Opportunity Commission's Christmas on Jackson Street in Hempstead. CSEA officials attended the Dec. 24 event and helped distribute the toys to the children. Toys were also given to the Uniondale Early Childhood Center for a group of about 30 children age 5 and under.

UECC Director Mary Cameron said she was "overwhelmed" with the donation and thanked CSEA for their generosity. Mateo Flores of the EOC was equally pleased and will be presenting a plaque to the local.

# New York Islanders Players Visit NUMC Pediatric Patients During Holiday Season

Fred Meyer, Joey McDonald and Andy Sutton, players on the New York Islanders hockey team, visited children who were inpatients at Nassau University Medical Center during the holiday season, providing them with excitement and gifts to cheer them up. The children received toys, as well as signed autographs by each of the three players. They were joined by CSEA member Linda Walsh, pictured at right, director of therapeutic recreation, during their visit.



Event organized annually for 31 years

# Volunteer Services Holds Annual Holiday Party

The Nassau County Department of Volunteer Services, held its annual holiday party Dec. 30.

The party at the Marriott Hotel in Uniondale drew about 300 children, parents and volunteers. Each child received a new, wrapped toy from Santa Claus.

This event has been organized annually for 31 years by Volunteer Services, part of Nassau County Social Services. The group's coordinator, CSEA member Lynne Campbell, along with three part-time workers and many volunteers, worked months to ensure each child attending would have a memorable experience.

*A Special Holiday Tradition*



## Veterans Corner

*By the CSEA Veterans Committee*

### *Veterans to Get First Crack at New Jobs*

On Dec. 30, Nassau County announced a new initiative called "Warriors to Work" that will monitor military veterans returning to Nassau County and put them in contact with employers that are hiring workers.

The unemployment rate for veterans is twice that of non-veterans in the same age group, making this program necessary.

The Nassau County Office of Veterans Services keeps track of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The office has a list of employers who have pledged to hire returning veterans and refers veterans to those companies or unions to find work. Any Nassau County resident who is a veteran of the Iraq or Afghanistan wars is eligible. More than 3,000 county residents have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001.

Unions participating in the effort include the Long Island Federation of Labor, Building & Construction Trade Council, and the Steamfitters and Carpenters.

Thanks to all the members who donated for this year's clothing drive for local veterans. CSEA donated loads of coats, scarves, gloves and other clothing to veterans at the Northport VA and the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook on Dec. 13.



From left, Steven J. Walerstein, M.D., NHCC senior vice president, Medical Affairs and medical director; Joe Farhangian, social work supervisor; Tanya Barros, director, Forensic Mental Health Services; Penna-Donaghy; James Capozziello, vice president of Correctional Health; Rob McLaughlin, president, CSEA NUMC unit and Ken Nicholson, vice president, CSEA NUMC unit.

## CB Op Supervisor Saves Neighbors from Blaze

LAKEVIEW — Lynn Singleton, a CSEA member from the Communications Bureau, saved her neighbors from a relentless fire Dec. 14.

Singleton had just arrived home around midnight that day when her 12-year-old son noticed smoke coming from the house across the street. She promptly ran across the street to check on the situation and called 911. Her daughter yelled from across the street that the fire was coming from the second floor window.

After constantly banging on the front door, the father woke up, came to the door, completely unaware of the fire that was going on one floor below him.

Singleton gathered the mother, father, a 10-year-old girl and 8-year-old boy, and ushered them over to her house, where they saw the top of the house completely engulfed at that point. The top half of the house was completely destroyed, but the bottom is still standing.

The family was unhurt and is living in a trailer on the property.

Luckily, Singleton's family was awake to notice the fire, as Singleton had just arrived home from a dinner for the Nassau County Guardians, an African American organization within the Nassau County Police Department and other village police departments in

Nassau County that reaches out to local families in need. She is the first civilian to serve on the Guardians board, as she was elected treasurer in 2007.

Singleton has been a Communication Bureau supervisor in the alarm section for five years, and has been with the department for 18 years. She's in charge of maintaining all permits for alarm systems in people's houses as well as being on the floor supervising all 911 radio communication. She is the first civilian to serve on the Guardians board, as she was elected treasurer in 2007.

"I am just happy we were awake to notice the fire," she said. "Normally, we would not be. And we are all just so happy that nobody was hurt."



Lynn Singleton

### *Nassau Health Care Corp. Employee of the Month for the Correctional Center Medical Unit*

Gina Penna-Donaghy, a psychiatric social worker at the Nassau Health Care Corp. medical unit of the Nassau County Correctional Center, has been honored as the December Employee of the

Month. She has been providing mental health treatment and discharge planning services to correctional center inmates. A very pleasant and dedicated employee, Penna-Donaghy possesses a strong work ethic and commitment to the correctional health population. She provides supportive psychotherapy to both male and female adults and adolescents throughout their incarceration. Her calm demeanor is another asset, especially when dealing with difficult patients in a jail setting. She is a vital team member and an asset to the Forensic Mental Health Service.

### *Attention CSEA Members at the Nassau Health Care Corp.!*

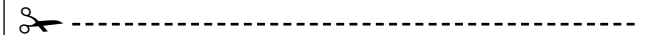
#### **Contract Negotiation Time is Coming up!**

The contract between CSEA Local 830 and the Nassau Health Care Corp. will expire Dec. 31, 2009.

CSEA Local 830 is in the process of forming its contract negotiation team and will soon be meeting internally and with NHCC officials regarding a new contract.

CSEA is looking for proposals from its members on the issues that are most important to you and should be addressed in our next contract.

Please fill out the form below and drop at the union office at NUMC in Room 104, 2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, N.Y. 11554.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Department (NUMC, A. Holly or outlying clinic) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## *A Message From Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte*

# Long Island Region Looks to the Future

As the calendar turned to 2009, the *Nassau Express* spoke with Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte to discuss various topics and get his sense of where the region has been, where it is now and where he wants to take it in the future.

The first installment appeared last month, in which LaMorte discussed how his service to the union has affected the region's past and present. The interview concludes below and focuses on his vision for the future.

**Nassau Express:** What was your vision for the Long Island Region when you were first elected president? How did circumstances transform that vision over the years? What are your immediate goals as you begin your fifth term?

**Nick LaMorte:** My vision for the Long Island Region when I was first elected was two-fold. The first was to

unite the region and the second was to make CSEA the strongest political power on Long Island. I pulled the region together by converting non-supporters into supporters. Once that was accomplished, and with a constitutional change to become more involved in our AFL-CIO central body, CSEA became one of the driving forces of the labor movement on Long Island. My fifth term goal for our region is to keep that power, continue to be a leader in the Long Island labor movement and make CSEA the most influential labor organization in the region.

**Nassau Express:** What challenges does the Long Island Region face right now? How do you plan to mitigate these difficulties?

**LaMorte:** The challenge that we all face right now is the economic downfall of our country. Although I

cannot fix this problem, I believe I can mitigate its effect on our members by delivering the message over and over that labor was not to blame for the failed policies of an administration in Washington, D.C. that deregulated financial institutions, which opened the door for greedy CEOs and companies to make this terrible mess. Working men and women have once again been placed in a position to solve a problem they did not create. I will support and speak for the change necessary to help us move forward.

**Nassau Express:** What is the most unique characteristic of the Long Island Region? What are its strengths and weaknesses?

**LaMorte:** The Long Island region administers over 250 contracts in two counties, including towns, special districts, villages, libraries and more than 100 school districts. These are all condensed into a very populated area, each with its own political structure. Our region strengths are coming together as one political force, be it a state, local government, private sector or retiree issue. Our weakness is displayed when we do not think of the bigger picture and stick together. We dilute our power when locals or units go off on their own and fail to realize it's the sum of all the parts that make the region strongest.

## Employees Assistance Program

In 2009, don't forget CSEA members working for you at the Nassau County Employees Assistance Program.

**EAP provides free, confidential services for you and your family members. If you or anyone related to you suffer from:** marital problems, depression, stress, panic attacks, domestic violence, job stress, medical problems, alcohol abuse, loss, gambling, family problems, drug abuse, legal issues, anxiety or relationship concerns, then **THEY CAN HELP!**

They provide on-site, rapid intervention, assessment and referral to providers that accept your insurance or offer a sliding scale fee.

Call (516) 571-7000 to arrange an appointment.

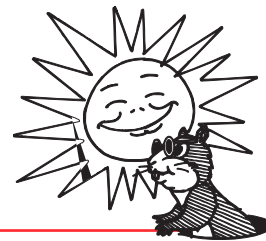
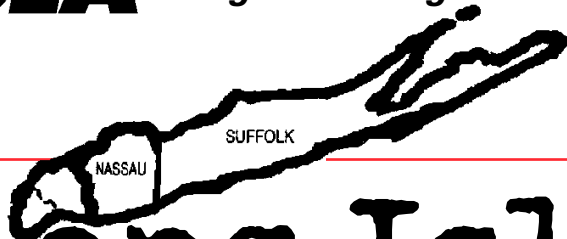
## *This Month From* **Talkin' Labor With Local 830**

Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta and Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte discuss various issues, including the recent CSEA contract with Nassau County and how the economy is affecting CSEA on Long Island, on the Jan. 7 "Talkin' Labor With Local 830." You can listen to this show by logging on to [www.csea830.org](http://www.csea830.org) and clicking on the "Talkin' Labor" link.



*CSEA has come back with all new shows in 2009, so please tune in Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. on WGBB AM1240 for great interviews with local labor leaders and government officials!*





# Long Island Reporter

## Spotlight on SUNY Old Westbury Local 614 workers



Above, Tommy Noble, left, Local 614 1st vice president, speaks with Nick Mangra, a custodian's helper who has worked at Old Westbury for five years.



Alex Florestal, a maintenance assistant, works on renovating a bathroom in the main campus building.

Right, Viola Smith, a janitor in the Natural Science building, will complete 20 years of service at the college in August.

**OLD WESTBURY** — How many members of SUNY Old Westbury Local 614 does it take to change the light bulbs?

And clear the campus of leaves in the fall and snow in the winter? Construct an apartment for a visiting professor? Provide the heating, ventilation and air conditioning and generate most of the electricity? Maintain the streetlights? Keep classrooms and dormitories clean? Make sure that chemicals from the laboratories are disposed of properly? Do the hundreds of carpentry and electrical jobs needed to maintain a college community with 3,200 students and 140 full-time faculty?



How about the 40 CSEA-represented workers men and women in the college's Facilities Management Department? That's all it takes. The remainder of the local's 103 members work in the Academic Affairs, Business Affairs and Student Affairs divisions and the library, supporting the faculty and administrative personnel.

"All of our local members take pride in our jobs and our part in educating the students at Old Westbury," said local President Mary D'Antonio, who is a graduate of the college and president of its alumni association.

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte recently appeared on "Talkin' Labor with Local 830," a weekly radio show hosted by Nassau County Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta on WGBB 1240 AM. LaMorte and Laricchiuta discussed many issues, such as the new Local 830 contract, the March for Main Street and how the current economic and political climate could affect CSEA members on Long Island. The show has been on the air for more than two years and featured prominent local and state political leaders, including State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice, State Sens. Dean Skelos, Kemp Hannon and Craig Johnson, Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto and U.S. Rep. Carolyn McCarthy.



### Message from Long Island Region President **Nick LaMorte**

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## CSEA fires back at supervisor's claims

BABYLON — Babylon Town Supervisor Steve Bellone recently called into question the validity of an eight-year contract negotiated on behalf of CSEA white-collar unit members there and ratified by labor and management more than a year ago.

Bellone now claims the contract is not legitimate because he did not sign it, showing extreme contempt for the collective bargaining process.

This development has blocked the salary increase due to CSEA members in the contract's first year.

"This contract is perfectly legal," said Babylon White Collar Unit President Joanne Salvia. "Steve Bellone has damaged his credibility, the integrity of town board members and the good name of Babylon Town through this action. This sort of duplicity is hard to imagine."

Salvia and Suffolk Local 852 President Bill Walsh recently met with unit members to determine the union's next step.

Union and town officials are meeting to try to resolve the situation. If a resolution can't be reached, CSEA members are making plans to mobilize for the Feb. 3 town board meeting.

"We cannot allow elected officials to ignore the lawful agreements they have made with us or anyone else," said Walsh. "Town residents will be made aware of this sorry state of affairs through the media if we are unable to resolve it amicably."

— Richard Impagliazzo

**Workers cont'd from page 1**

That only 40 union members can maintain the physical campus is testament to both their skills and commitment to their work.

Ike Bryant, a maintenance supervisor with 29 years of service at the college, and maintenance assistants Alphonso Haynes and John Pettway are turning what had been storage space in an Academic Village building into comfortable apartment for a visiting professor from Switzerland.

Edward Sperling, a five-year college employee, handles many custodial tasks. "I do everything," he said. "I clean bathrooms, replace burned-out bulbs, make deliveries of toilet paper and hand towels, and empty garbage cans every day."

In the winter, he clears snow for 50 feet from building entrances. When students put on an event, he is on hand to make sure they have all the chairs or anything else they need.

Alex Florestal, a maintenance assistant, has enjoyed working at the college for 14 years. "It's good to work on the campus," he said as he did carpentry renovations in a bathroom at the Campus Center. He likes being among the college students.

"Kids are our future," he said. He hopes that when his daughters, Kamilah, 11, and Alexis, 7, come to college, they will have helpful people like him and his co-workers on their campus.

He and Haynes are enrolled in a two-year New York State-CSEA Partnership for Education and Training apprenticeship program in carpentry that is given at Belmont State Park. "This way workers can move up instead of (college officials) bringing in workers from the outside," Florestal said.

Viola Smith, a janitor in the Natural Science building, has worked on campus for nearly 20 years. She cleans classrooms and bathrooms and the laboratories, which require particular attention. "You have to be careful in the laboratories because of the dangerous chemicals," she said.

Freddie Lloyd, grounds supervisor, leads the four-member grounds crew, which had 11 workers nine years ago. He is the longest serving CSEA member on the custodial and maintenance staff, having started in March 1973. Asked what his work consists of, he said, "Grass, leaves, snow."

When needed, other local members pitch in to clear snow and leaves on the 604-acre campus.

Tommy Noble, the local's 1st vice president, is the only electrician on the campus. It was different when he started more than 20 years ago. "When I came here in '86," he said, "there were four of us electricians. They haven't been hiring."

Staffing cutbacks have helped make a close-knit staff. That was shown on the day of the holiday party, Noble said. Before the party ended, snow began to fall. "We left the party, got our boots on and got on the trucks. The snow was coming down hard. Everybody got into action. We didn't complain; we worked on the spreaders and plows till 3 a.m."

"We have a bunch of caring, dedicated and committed people," he said. "It's a team-oriented work atmosphere where everybody is somebody."

***(This is the first of a two-part series introducing maintenance and custodial members of SUNY Old Westbury Local 614. The second part will appear in the March issue.)***



**Clockwise from top left: Ike Bryant, a maintenance supervisor, examines a wall of the new living quarters his crew built; Edward Sperling has many tasks in his job on the Old Westbury campus; Alphonso Haynes moves the base of a cabinet into what will become the kitchen of a new apartment for a visiting professor; carpenter Hopeton Townsend has worked at Old Westbury for 18 years; Freddie Lloyd, grounds supervisor, is the most senior custodial unit member. On March 22, he will start his 37th year at Old Westbury; John Pettway paints a wall of the apartment the maintenance crew is constructing for a visiting faculty member.**





# Inside Reporter

## Long Island Region members join the

*More than 400 CSEA members from all over Nassau and Suffolk traveled to Albany Jan. 7 in snow, ice and sleet to tell Gov. David Paterson that his budget priorities should lie with Main Street, not Wall Street.*



The march, which coincided with Paterson's first "State of the State" speech, sought greater fairness for middle class New Yorkers than the governor had proposed in his state budget. Paterson's plan targets middle-class New Yorkers and would put communities, jobs and services at risk.

"Working New Yorkers all live on Main Street and many of them are CSEA members," said Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte.

"The budget proposals made by Governor Paterson will likely lead to significant service losses at a time when state residents need them most; New Yorkers deserve better."

Long Island Region members were a key part of the thousands of CSEA and other union members from

across the state who participated in the march, which closed several streets in downtown Albany due to the imposing numbers of participants.

A pre-march rally was conducted in the Times Union Center immediately upon arrival. Union members soon left the arena to march uphill to nearby East Capitol Park, outside the state Capitol, to conduct a boisterous rally.

"The massive cuts favored by Governor Paterson have the potential to undermine education and health care as well as the operation of state and local governments," said Long Island Region Political Action Committee Chair John Shepherd. "There is no shared sacrifice here; the middle class pay more while the wealthiest New Yorkers slide by."

There was a sense of achievement and camaraderie as the rally ended and march participants went to staging areas to board buses that would transport them home.

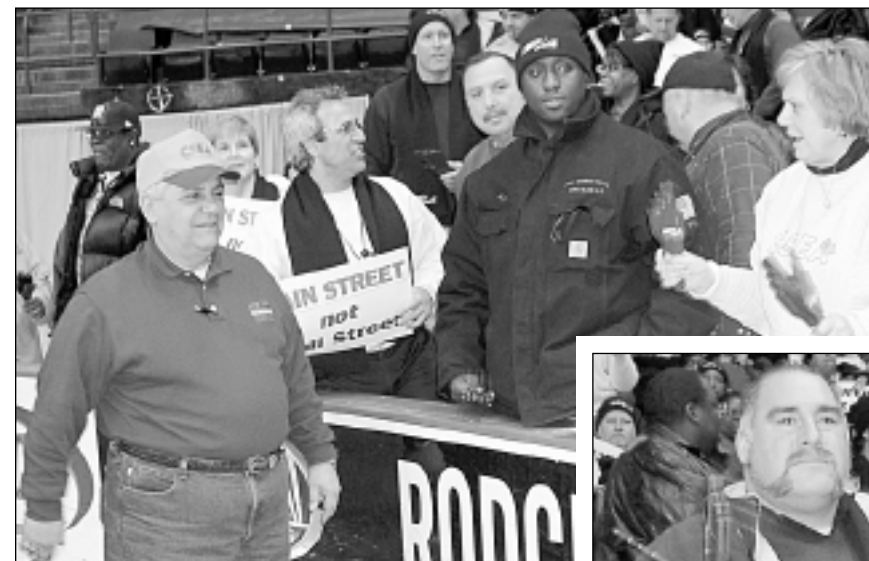
CSEA members had made their point: A series of gimmicky tax and fee increases will not adequately address the state's deficit and will hit working New Yorkers hardest.

— Richard Impagliazzo

**Above left, CSEA President Danny Donohue addresses the crowd at the pre-event rally at the Times Union Center in Albany.**

**Left, Oyster Bay Town Local 881 President Bob Rauff makes his voice heard during the pre-event rally.**

## March for Main Street



**Above, Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte greets region members. Right, Rod Mujica of Oyster Bay Town Local 881 made the trip to Albany.**



**Above, Long Island Region members on the steps of the state Capitol. Left, A. J. Smith from Hempstead Local 880 makes his way to the rally at the Capitol.**



**Top photo, Nancy Ianson of Nassau Local 830 gets into the spirit of the rally. Above, Suffolk Local 852 President Bill Walsh with Long Island Occupational Safety and Health Specialist Jeff Hyman. Right, Local 430 President Daryl Wilson shows his support.**



## Calendar of Upcoming Events: February 2009

- 2 – Education & Training Committee Meeting — 5:30 p.m.
- 7 – Political Action Committee Meeting — 5:30 p.m.
- 9 – Defensive Driving — 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 10 – Defensive Driving — 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 11 – Conducting Successful Meetings Workshop — 5:30-9 p.m.
- 16 – Region Office Closed — Presidents Day
- 17 – PEOPLE Committee Meeting — 5:00 p.m.
- 18 – Safety and Health Committee Meeting — 5:30 p.m.
- 19 – Local 430 Executive Board Meeting — 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 21 – Defensive Driving — 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 26 – Local 430 Shop Steward Meeting — 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 28 – Long Island Region Polar Plunge –  
North Hempstead Beach Park (formerly Bar Beach)  
**Registration begins at 9 a.m.; Plunge is at noon**



## CSEA clarifies point made in *Newsday* article



This month, the *Long Island Reporter* presents the latest installment of “CSEA in Action,” a recurring feature designed to highlight the ways CSEA responds to unjust or inaccurate media accounts about its members and their union.

The following is a response to a *Newsday* article titled “Union to Take Cut in Pay Hike,” in which it was mistakenly reported that CSEA members in Southampton reopened their 2009 contract and agreed to a reduction in the percentage of their salary increase.

*The CSEA response was immediate and appears at right.*

## Southampton contract allows flexible pay raise percentage

We read with great interest the article by Mitchell Freedman titled “Union to Take Cut in Pay Hike,” which appeared in a recent edition of *Newsday*.

While the article was mostly factual, one important point must be clarified. CSEA and the Town of Southampton negotiated a one-year contract with a stipulation that allowed for flexibility in the pay raise percentage for 2009.

The two parties agreed that the salary increase could either be 2 percent for the entire year or two and a half percent for the second six months, depending upon local economic conditions.

The former percentage was initially in place but the town requested the latter provision be adopted soon after the original ratification just a few weeks ago. CSEA members voted to concur in the spirit of goodwill and cooperation.

So, in effect, there was no cut in the pay hike; as is stated in your headline. We make this distinction not to be contentious but to maintain the accuracy of the public record.

## Local 330 member still needs your help

Suffolk County Supreme Court Senior Court Reporter and Local 330 member Diane Hansen still needs CSEA members’ help.



**Judiciary Local 330 President Kevin Ray**

Hansen’s four-year-old daughter Julia was critically injured after a reckless driver broadsided Hansen’s car last year. Julia suffered massive head trauma and slipped into a coma after the collision; the extent of the damage is not yet

known. She is being treated at Stony Brook Medical Center.

Local 330 President Kevin Ray is conducting a drive to solicit donations from members, which has so far met with great success. “I am pleased that our members have contributed generously to help Diane and her family,” he said. “However, we need to get the word out region-wide so that all CSEA members on Long island will have the opportunity to help her out in a time of need.”

Please call Ray at (516) 676-0109 for more information or to make a donation.

## Ciao to U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao

COMMACK — As the Bush administration leaves office, Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte bid a less than fond farewell to departing U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao — “ciao” to Secretary Chao.

“Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao is finally leaving office after eight deplorable years of undermining workers’ rights and protections,” he said.

Calling her one of the worst members of the cabinet, LaMorte said she was a disaster — “stonewalling investigations, embracing

corporate special interests and showing general contempt for working families.”

“We can’t undo her damage overnight,” he said. “But thankfully we should all have hope that, under incoming Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, we will raise the minimum wage, protect workers’ rights, safety and economic security, and pass the Employee Free Choice Act.”

Solis, a Democratic congresswoman from California, has expressed strong support for the Employee Free Choice Act and other legislation backed by labor.

## News 12 visits SUNY Stony Brook

CSEA members employed at SUNY Stony Brook recently spoke out about how Gov. David Paterson’s devastating budget proposal will affect working New Yorkers, in an interview with *News 12* reporter Shari Einhorn. CSEA members participating in the interview, including SUNY Stony Brook Local 614 President Carlos Speight, Executive Vice President Debbi Nappi-Gonzalez, Maryann Phelps, Fran Shaw, Carole Langroth, Lisa Perez and Gwen Coady, also promoted the recent “March for Main Street.” The 60-second item aired repeatedly through the cable station’s evening news cycle. Below, Local 614 President Carlos Speight tells of CSEA’s opposition to proposed state budget cuts to assembled union members in the lobby of Stony Brook University Medical Center as a *News 12* camera crew documents the proceedings.





# Activists and officers promote Polar Plunge in Long Island Region

PORT WASHINGTON — The “Bathing Beauties,” pictured below during the 2008 Polar Plunge, from the Port Washington School District Custodial, Maintenance and Transportation Unit and Oyster Bay Local 881 are leading the charge in the Long Island Region by launching a campaign to encourage CSEA members to participate in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge Feb. 28 at North



Hempstead Beach Park in Port Washington.

“We want to contribute to the success of this event by making sure that all the locals and units on Long Island know about it and lend their support,” said Port Washington uUnit activist Jerry D’Agostino.

It’s no surprise that D’Agostino, Port Washington School District Unit President Rich Acevedo and Oyster Bay Local 881 President Bob Rauff are out in front on the Polar Plunge. They are especially dedicated to community involvement, as evidenced by the annual presence of the Port Washington Unit in the “Pride in Port” parade and a recent bicycle donation charity drive initiated by Local 881.

“It’s a two-way street,” Acevedo said. “The community has been good to us and we want to give back. Charitable initiatives such as this are a great way to do that.”

“This occasion represents a unique opportunity for us to show our deep concern for people with developmental disabilities and make a significant difference in their lives,” Rauff said. “A strong CSEA showing will demonstrate that we are intent on doing our part to improve quality of life for all state residents.”

Special Olympics New York provides year-round sports training for children and adults with developmental disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special

Olympics athletes and the community.

“These ideals and goals are shared by CSEA so please join the many good-hearted persons who will be ‘freezin’ for a reason’ on February 28 at North Hempstead Beach Park,” D’Agostino said. “The discomfort will be fleeting and

you’ll warm up soon after emerging from the water, but those who benefit will not forget your action and the memory will last a lifetime.”

CSEA members can register online or simply show up at North Hempstead Beach Park Feb. 28, but

each “plunger” is required to raise at least \$100 before wading into the frigid waters of the Long Island Sound. More information, directions on how to get involved in the Polar Plunge and guidelines on fund-raising techniques are available at [www.cseainc.org/polar\\_plunge.php](http://www.cseainc.org/polar_plunge.php) or [www.specialolympicsny.org](http://www.specialolympicsny.org).

You may also call D’Agostino at (516) 369-1717, Acevedo at (516) 510-6735 or Rauff at (516) 677-5997. They’ll be happy to help you get your feet wet, if you’ll pardon the pun.

**Above left, the Port Washington Bathing Beauties pose for a photo last year at Bar Beach.**

**Below, Polar Plungers rush into the waters of Long Island Sound. CSEA Long Island participants raised more than \$5,000 for the Special Olympics in 2008.**



**Top photo, Port Washington unit activist Jerry D’Agostino and unit President Rich Acevedo were integral components to fund raising success for the Long Island Region in 2008.**

**Above, Local 882 activist Steve Abramson and Local 881 President Bob Rauff at the 2008 Polar Plunge.**





# Judiciary Local holds annual holiday party

MINEOLA — Long Island Judiciary Local 330's holiday party for its members who work in Nassau County was typical of the parties given by the region, locals and units. Photos of the party given by another local, Local 016, are at right.

There was more than enough to eat, a chance to chat with colleagues not seen in a while, decorations, an information fair and small gifts for everyone attending. There was also a reminder of how CSEA members help others.

There were two speakers as the party wound down. Both touched on the needs of others at the holiday season. Kevin Ray, the local's president, asked for contributions to aid the daughter of member Diane Hansen; Julia, 4, suffered massive trauma when their car was struck by a reckless driver. **See story on Page 7.**

After Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte urged members to take part in the March for Main Street (see Pages 4 and 5), he asked for contributions to the State Employees Federated Appeal. "We are looking to help people less fortunate than ourselves," he said. "CSEA members always have it in their hearts to give."

That was shown by a party that didn't take place. **See story below right.**



Left, held at the Long Island Region office in Commack, Local 330's holiday party drew nearly 50 parents and children.



Above, joining Santa, played by Local 330 President Kevin Ray, are, from left, Local 016 Executive Vice President Lori LaPlaca, Ruth Ambrosecchio, President Andre Sigmone, Treasurer Gail Sottile and Secretary Jackie Mendoza.



Left, kids gathered around Santa, who was assisted by an elf, as portrayed by Barbara Maniscalco of Local 330. Next to her is Local 016 President Andre Sigmone.



Above, helping themselves to lunch at Local 330's party are Judy Cohen, right, and Maxine Estrada.

Above right, Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte talks with representatives of vendors who took part in the information fair held in conjunction with the party. Below right, after signing in, Marianne Eicher got a goody bag from Treasurer Dennis Downer. Below, a fraction of the turnout of Local 330 members attending the local's annual party in Nassau County, held in the Supreme Court building in Mineola.



## Suffolk Retirees Local gives back to veterans

CSEA Suffolk Retirees Local members decided to forego their 2008 holiday party and donate the money initially intended for that purpose to Honor Flight Long Island.

Honor Flight, a non-profit organization with chapters across the United State, is devoted to ensuring all surviving World War II veterans have the opportunity to visit the Washington, D.C. World War II memorial. The organization arranges free trips to the memorial for the veterans and operates on donations.

"The money we contributed to Honor Flight Long Island will enable the World War II veterans in our local to travel to our nation's capitol to see the memorial in person," said Suffolk Retiree Local President Barbara Reynolds.

The national World War II Memorial was dedicated May 29, 2004, nearly 59 years after the war ended. U.S. Veterans Affairs officials estimate that more than 1,000 elderly World War II veterans pass away each day.

For more information about Honor Flight Long Island, contact the chapter by phone at (631) 702-2423 or by e-mail at [info@honorflightlongisland.org](mailto:info@honorflightlongisland.org).

— Richard Impagliazzo



Reynolds