

The

# WORK FORCE

## On the firing line



Photo by Jessica Ladlee

***Workers at Westchester Medical Center, other facilities at risk.***

***Story, Page 3***



## Photo of the Month



Clarence Highway Department workers Keith Albrecht, left, Dennis Raquet, Chip Moore, Tim Norris, Clarence Blue Collar Unit President Bill Metzger and Rick Weitz are among the many volunteer firefighters who responded to the crash of Flight 3407 in Clarence Center, northeast of Buffalo. Fifty people lost their lives in the crash: 49 on the airplane and one on the ground. "I thought I might need to respond to a plane crash someday but I never thought it would be here," Moore said.

*See next month's Work Force for full coverage of how CSEA members responded to the crash.*

## Town of Hempstead Local President Bill Flanagan, 65

HEMPSTEAD — Hempstead Local President Bill Flanagan, 65, passed away Jan. 29.

He had been employed by the town as a locksmith since 1990 and was first elected local president in 1998.

Local 880 Executive Vice President Charlie Sellitto said Flanagan will be sorely missed.

"It will be impossible to fill his shoes," he said. "His vigor for the job was a driving passion for him. Even his opponents on the other side of the bargaining table expressed great respect for Bill. He was a tenacious fighter who feared no one."

## Former Erie County Local President Michael Bogulski, 63

BUFFALO — Longtime CSEA officer and activist Michael Bogulski, 63, died Feb. 4.

Bogulski was a four-term Erie County Local president, first elected in 1995. He also served as the Erie County AFL-CIO political action coordinator.

Bogulski began his union life in 1967 with the Grain Millers union while he was working for Agway. He was employed as a corrections officer when first elected to CSEA office.

He was named Polish-American of the Year in 1995 by the Am-Pol Eagle and also served in the Army Reserve as a medic from 1969 to 1976.

# Unions, lawmakers oppose combined economic programs

ALBANY — CSEA joined forces with the Public Employees Federation to offer an alternative to Gov. David Paterson's plan to merge the state's major economic development programs into a public benefit corporation. Key state lawmakers also voiced concern about ensuring better oversight and accountability for the state's economic development programs.

"At a time when taxpayers should be demanding more accountability and transparency in government, the governor's plan will only move us deeper into the shadows," said CSEA President Danny Donohue.

Paterson is proposing to merge the Department of Economic Development (DED) and the New York State Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) into a shadow agency — the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC). Donohue noted

that despite news of a \$780 billion federal stimulus plan being passed, CSEA members should not be complacent in thinking it will solve New York's problems.

"Proposals like this are something we will be fighting for some time," Donohue said.

In testimony prepared for the Senate Finance Committee and Assembly Ways and Means Committee, union leaders reminded lawmakers that a similar proposal was rejected by the Legislature in 1997 because of concerns over public accountability, the transfer of agency regulatory powers to a public benefit corporation and the elimination of legislative oversight.

The unions were joined by Assembly members Richard Brodsky, Susan John, Peter Abbate and several lawmakers who indicated they have similar concerns.

— Ed Molitor

## Private-sector Guild negotiates first contract

BROOKLYN — After months of negotiations and despite an economic climate that threatened to derail an agreement, CSEA members at the Guild for Exceptional Children recently negotiated their first contract.

"We fought hard for a year at the negotiating table so that all of us can have better working conditions and a real raise," said negotiating committee member Shannon Wade.

The two-year agreement includes wage increases, provides health insurance for all full-time employees, additional benefits for part-time employees, seniority for promotions and transfers, dues check-off and full grievance and arbitration language.

"We think the contract is great

since it will bring clarity along with disciplinary procedures that are not arbitrarily decided by management," said Bill Freude, a counselor and negotiating committee member.

The Guild is a non-profit, social service agency offering comprehensive services to people with developmental disabilities. It receives the bulk of its funding from the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

"I think that we need to shift our focus now to the next contract and realize that we have made considerable gains in the first contract and that we can only make more in the next contract," said Freude.

— David Galarza

# Westchester Medical Center stung by layoffs

VALHALLA — A sign of things to come across the state if Gov. David Paterson's budget cuts are passed, CSEA members at Westchester Medical Center were recently hit with an announcement of massive layoffs.

Hospital management said a projected \$70 million shortfall in state aid meant they would be eliminating 400 jobs, half of which would come through the closure of the hospital's public nursing home, the Taylor Care Center.

"These cuts are devastating," said CSEA Southern Region President Billy Riccaldo. "So many of the members who are impacted by these cuts have dedicated their careers to the patients they serve both in the main hospital and in the Taylor Care Center."

## Short notice

What infuriated workers, on top of the actual layoffs, was the brief time frame management gave for them to decide whether to take a hospital resignation package, retire (if eligible), or risk layoff. Management did not specify who was being let go, but rather offered a list of titles at risk of layoff and opted to wait to see how many retired or took the resignation package.

"The whole process has been very confusing," said CSEA member Barbara Kerr, a unit clerk in the Taylor Care Center. "There are people here who might not have actually been laid off who took the resignation package because they are nervous."

## Lack of planning

CSEA leaders criticized hospital management's approach to the layoffs. Despite the original projected closure date of April 1 at the Taylor Care Center, management at press time had yet to release a complete list of workers to be laid off, making it impossible for the state Department of Labor to plan a job fair for those workers.

"There have been so many instances of management not being forthcoming during this process," said Westchester County Local President Jack McPhillips. "Meanwhile, you have hundreds of people who are trying to make ends meet and do not know what their next step is going to be. The management at Westchester Medical Center should be ashamed."

— Jessica Ladlee

# Union members dog governor's visits



Above, CSEA members confront Gov. David Paterson in Binghamton. In middle photo, Paterson is asked about proposed Office of Children and Family Services closures by Capital Region activists, including Capital Region President Kathy Garrison, third from left. In bottom picture, Central Region activists, including Central Region President Colleen Wheaton, middle, confront the governor.



## Getting the Word Out

CSEA remains guarded that the \$780 billion stimulus package approved by President Barack Obama will help New York out of the state's current crisis.

CSEA members should not be complacent in thinking attacks on raises, contracts benefits and pensions are going away any time soon.

Read CSEA's testimony to state lawmakers and download fliers for your workplace at:  
[www.csealocal1000.org/2009\\_state\\_budget.php](http://www.csealocal1000.org/2009_state_budget.php).

# THE WORK FORCE

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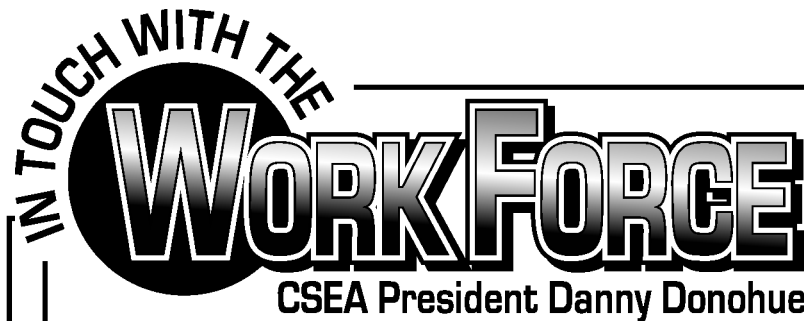
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## Governor Paterson's credibility problem

**S**hocking is the only way to describe the recent media revelations that Gov. David Paterson secretly gave huge pay raises to top staff in his office at the same time he was sounding the alarm about the drastic state fiscal situation.

The governor and his top staff ought to be ashamed of themselves. Their actions are the height of hypocrisy. Unfortunately, it's just the latest example of our enormous disappointment with the Paterson administration.

For nearly two decades, state *Sen.* David Paterson was an individual who stood up for working people, advocated fair and progressive public policy, and seemed to understand just how important your work really is.

Now *Gov.* David Paterson wants to impose dozens of new taxes and fees on working New Yorkers, cut aid to schools and localities that will undermine jobs, services and increase property taxes. At the same time, his administration has so far refused to consider overhauling New York's personal income tax, which would be the fairest way to address the state's revenue issue.

This is also the same administration that's threatening state employee layoffs whether or not CSEA agrees to another five-day payroll lag along with reopening fairly negotiated state contracts! (For the record, we're not going to agree). Keep in mind that months ago CSEA offered the administration numerous alternative suggestions for generating or saving hundreds of millions of dollars that have largely been ignored.

Scores of dedicated CSEA activists have raised these issues at every town hall meeting the governor has held in recent weeks. Each time he hears what we say, but not what we mean.

It all adds up to a serious credibility problem for the Paterson administration. Gov. Paterson has a long way to go to re-earn our trust.





Since 1910



## Unfairly dubbed “queen of overtime”

# Worker not into royalty, just a hard-earned check

**“We need to consider the safety of workers.”**

BROOKLYN — When the *New York Daily News* published Kingsboro Psychiatric Center worker Edith Alexandre’s overtime payments, the article erroneously suggested she had done something wrong.

The newspaper also needlessly frightened a hard-working state employee.

The tabloid exploited Alexandre’s work situation, not putting it into proper context. The article also failed to note the short staffing that often

forces workers into overtime.

“It made me feel very scared,” said Alexandre. “They put our lives in danger. They might try to kidnap me or my family.”

She worries that people with bad intentions may read about her in the newspapers, think she’s wealthy and take to take advantage in a sinister way.

And in fact, Alexandre’s daughter recently received a threatening telephone call.

**Hard work, sacrifice**

“You spend all your time here, some 16 hours every day and including your pass days because you have goals you want to achieve and you have people that depend on your support,” said Alexandre. “People are making an honest living by making these sacrifices every day and this is what you

**“People are making an honest living by making these sacrifices every day and this is what you get.”**

get.” “We don’t see this as a matter of public record, but as a matter of public safety,” said Kingsboro President Fitzroy Wilson. “We

need to consider the safety of workers.”

“They see the amount of money you are paid and think it’s a joke,” said Alexandre. “They don’t see how you’re drained sometimes. They never think about how hard you’ve worked.”

While she admits she often volunteers for overtime, Alexandre has also been mandated for extra shifts. “If they want me to work, they call me because they know that I am reliable,” she said.

Alexandre wonders why corporate CEOs and others who earn millions of dollars each year don’t face the same kind of scrutiny. “I work very hard to make this money,” she said.

— David Galarza



**“The budget cuts the governor proposes unfairly target the middle class and the elderly. We had a patient who left the home to have surgery and almost ended up in Massachusetts because beds were unavailable locally. We eventually ended up getting him back here. But it proves the point that we need more beds, not fewer. His family lives near here and they should be able to stop by and visit with him, maybe bring him a coffee. Closing county homes means that more and more people will get turned away and be forced to live far from family.”**

— **Ralph Sorrentino, registered nurse, Glendale Nursing Home, Registered Nurses Unit President and 16-year CSEA member, on how state budget cuts will affect his work site.**  
*(Read more on pages 10-11.)*



Freezin' For A Reason

**POLAR  
 PLUNGE**

# Frosty, frigid and friends of Special Olympics

ROCHESTER — CSEA members from the Western Region took a frosty dip Feb. 8 in slushy Lake Ontario as part of the Polar Plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics.

Team CSEA Region 6 members dodged ice chunks at Ontario Beach Park (Charlotte Beach) as they waded through the lake.

Rescue personnel watching the bathers prevented any from going too deep, due to the icy Lake Ontario conditions.

“Freezin’ for a Reason” from the Western Region were Delia Bertrand, John Bieger, Robbie Ellis (wearing a dress on a fundraising challenge), Fran Falzone, Joe Michaels, Susan



**Livingston County Local President Robbie Ellis and Wyoming County Local President Delia Bertrand emerge from Lake Ontario. Team CSEA Region 6 raised more than \$3,000 for the Special Olympics on their Feb. 8 plunge.**

Newman, Yvonne Sirkin, Misty White, Kim Wentworth and Jamie Arena. Team Captain was Western Region President Flo Tripi.

The team raised more than \$3,000 in pledges for the Special Olympics.



**Special Olympics**  
 New York

## Helping Across the State

CSEA members on track to raise more than \$10,000, more than last year, to help send athletes to the New York Special Olympics.

CSEA members not only raise money, but volunteer their time as coaches to Special Olympics teams, and help as staff volunteers at Special Olympics events.

**To learn more, visit:**

[http://www.csealocal1000.org/polar\\_plunge.php](http://www.csealocal1000.org/polar_plunge.php)



Team CSEA Region 6 members, at left, pose before plunging. Missing from the team photo is Western Region President Flo Tripi, team captain, who hosted the team at her home for coffee and doughnuts before the plunge and hot soup afterward.

## Coming next month

CSEA members on Long Island will take the plunge at North Hempstead Beach Park (formerly Bar Beach), Port Washington while Southern Region members will brave the Fishkill Polar Plunge.



# Librarians' services expand amid shrinking resources

**"We're working with fewer resources and we are stretched thin."**

ALBANY — Against a backdrop of state and federal budget cuts and pressures on local communities to reign in spending, librarians are being forced to do more with less.

People need library services more than ever in this tough economy, yet there is more work involved in delivering services and fewer resources for the librarians who do the work.

"We are definitely seeing more people coming through the doors every day," said Albany Public Library Branch Librarian and CSEA member Melissa Wasilewski. "Perhaps they are looking to check out a book instead of buying one. Maybe they are searching for a job and need to access online resources."

Any federal, state or local cuts affect libraries and the demand for services.

Wasilewski said librarians are increasingly spending more time on individual tasks such as walking people through online job searches, teaching basic computer skills, or helping



**New technologies and the economy are increasingly leading library staff such as Albany Public Library librarian Melissa Wasilewski, here on the job, into new work tasks.**

download tax forms from the IRS website.

While the workload and demand for services increase, libraries are forced to defend their mission and continue to press for ever-elusive funding. Libraries

have traditionally been unfairly targeted, said Wasilewski, because libraries are thought of as an "easy place to cut."

"We won't turn our back on anyone and we will continue to try to meet

everyone's needs," she said. "But we are working with fewer resources and we are stretched thin."

— Therese Assalian

## FACT:

The New York Library Association recently reported that workers in 80 percent of libraries across the state have helped patrons search for a job within the last three months.

## Library workers to fight state spending cuts

ROCHESTER — A proposed 18 percent cut in state library funding would absolutely devastate the important services libraries provide and harm the workers who provide them.

That's the message longtime CSEA activist Ove Overmyer hopes to get out to state, county and local



**Overmyer**

lawmakers — before it's too late.

Overmyer, president of the City of Rochester Library Unit, and other library workers from the city and Monroe County plan to travel to Albany March 10 to meet with state lawmakers to discuss the funding crisis.

"It is just plain foolish not to properly fund libraries," Overmyer said. "We are just as critical to many people as

police and fire protection. The public expects us to be there to provide services."

As the economy sours, library usage increases dramatically, Overmyer said. Libraries help residents with resume creation, job searches and employment issues. Their vast collection of books and DVDs also provide a free source of entertainment for financially strapped families.

"Libraries are and will

always be the best possible investment for the taxpayers of (Monroe) County and for New York state," he recently told the Monroe County Legislature. "(Libraries) are part of the solution to our local economic recovery. A vibrant library system is necessary to the vitality and growth of our region."

— Lynn Miller

# Clients, community would hurt from proposed closure

MANHATTAN — Closing the 52-bed Manhattan Addiction Treatment Center on Ward's Island makes no sense.

"My concern is for the Hispanic community," said Rafael Del Valle, an addiction counselor assistant. "We meet a specific need and if we close, people will have nowhere else to go."

## Safety net

The center provides 24-hour, 7 days a week inpatient rehabilitation for alcohol and substance abuse. Near East Harlem (also known as Spanish Harlem), which has a large Latino population, the center is the only state-operated, bilingual facility in the city.

The center also serves many under-represented people; lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender community members and offers a special program for women.

The program, typically 28 days, provides individual, group, and

family therapy treatment, and many other services to help people recover.

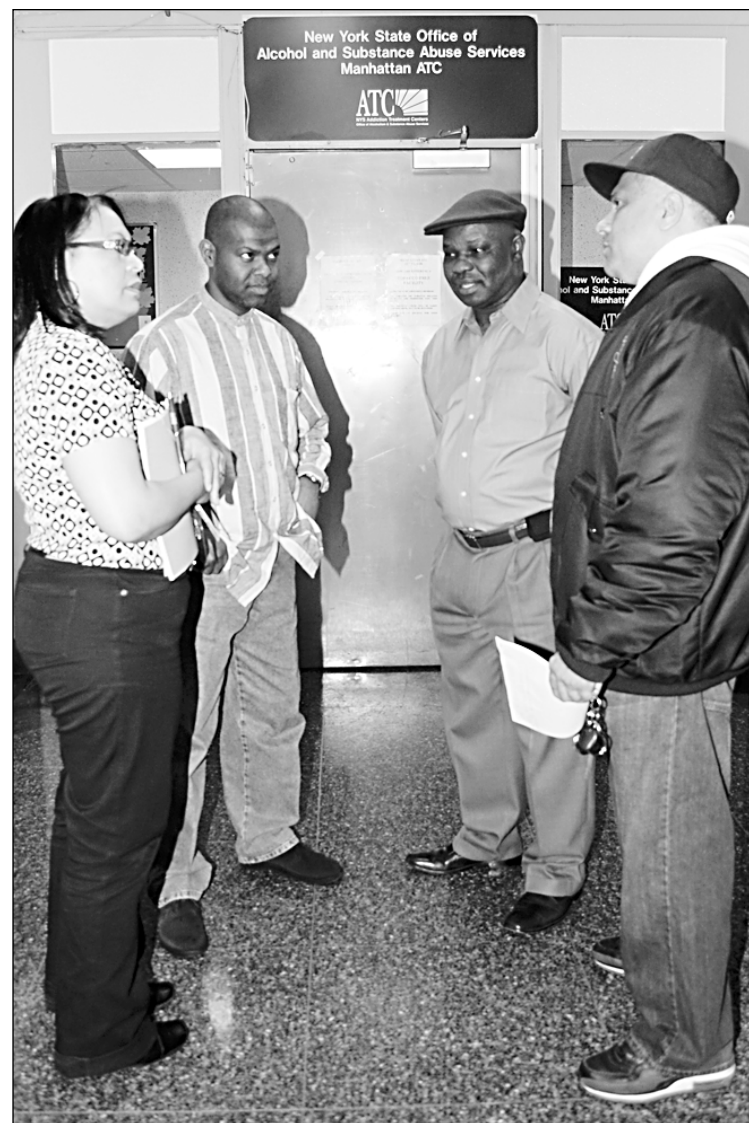
"If we let this program disappear, people will never have anything like it again," said Manhattan Psychiatric Center President Sam Koroma. "We've seen this happen before."

## Safety risk

Koroma and center workers fear the facility's closure also poses a safety risk because some of the clients come from psychiatric or criminal facilities.

"The governor's budget cuts will create a problem not only for the clients and the program that serves them, it will also create a danger to the community," said Koroma.

Despite talk that the facility could be moved to another borough, Ruth Henriquez, an addiction counselor assistant, said, "my clients don't want to go to Queens or the Bronx for these services."



From left, CSEA members Ruth Henriquez, Arnold Elliott, Manhattan Psychiatric Center Local President Sam Koroma and Rafael Del Valle discuss the proposed closure of Manhattan Addiction Treatment Center.

Workers are scheduling visits to local legislators, writing letters to the governor and planning other actions.

"God only know what can happen if this facility closes," said Koroma.

— David Galarza

**"If we let this program disappear, people will never have anything like it again. We've seen this happen before."**



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— Kate Bronfenbrenner, Cornell University director of Labor Education Research, quoted in *The Nation*, "Can Labor Revive the American Dream," an article about the Chamber of Commerce and other business interests fighting the Employee Free Choice Act.



# BOCES merger meets strong opposition

LIBERTY — A state-funded study recommending Sullivan County BOCES merge with Orange-Ulster BOCES is meeting with fierce opposition from CSEA and other groups in Orange and Sullivan counties.

The study, conducted by the state-funded Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, recommends merging the two facilities but does not offer concrete details on how such a merger would save money or improve educational opportunities.

“Our preliminary research is showing that merging the two BOCES locations would likely cost taxpayers more,” said Southern Region President Billy Riccaldo. “It appears that there was selective use of data in the study which skewed the results in favor of a merger.”

Under the recommendations from the study, classrooms would be maintained in Sullivan County while clerical staff would all be located at

the Orange-Ulster site in Goshen, an hour southeast of the Sullivan campus. While no mention of layoffs appeared in the study, Riccaldo said a merger could hurt the 145 members CSEA represents at Sullivan County BOCES.

“Even if our members were to be offered jobs in Goshen, how feasible would it be for the clerical workers to be forced to drive as much as 65 miles each way to work?” said Riccaldo. “For our members living in northern Sullivan County, this could potentially force them out of a job.”

Riccaldo and Sullivan County BOCES Unit President Joanne Kraack recently spoke about their concerns at a public hearing on the proposed merger. Kraack pointed out the study’s recommendation that students have equal access to BOCES programs negates the cost savings piece.

“The only way to allow for the merged BOCES students to have equal access or benefit is to create



**CSEA Southern Region President Billy Riccaldo speaks at a public hearing regarding merging Sullivan County BOCES with Orange-Ulster BOCES.**

duplicate programs in their own geographic areas,” Kraack said. “How will this be cost effective?”

— Jessica Ladlee



## Don't believe everything you read

The statewide news media recently reported that New York’s taxpayers are footing the bill for a 100 percent increase in pension payments to local and state government workers.

The story stated that pension payments in 1998 were \$3.4 billion, and that figure has “ballooned” to \$7 billion.

Here’s the rub: During the go-go ‘90s, local and state government were making only token payments to the pension system because stocks and bonds that back the funds were going through the roof.

The law was changed in 2005 to require public employers at least make a baseline payment to ensure the system’s adequate funding.

Those who complain about the pension system usually forget that the state and local governments avoided their obligation for nearly a dozen years.

At the same time, most public employees were still required to contribute 3 percent of their salary to their retirement fund.

## Summary of January Board of Directors meetings



*Editor’s Note: The Work Force publishes a summary of actions taken by CSEA’s Board of Directors. The summary is prepared by CSEA Statewide Secretary Denise Berkley for union members.*

ALBANY — CSEA’s statewide Board of Directors met on Jan. 15. In official business, the board:

### Berkley

Employees of New York (UUE-NY);

- Designated dates and locations for upcoming Retiree Delegates Meetings: 2009: Aug. 27 - 30, Crowne Plaza, White Plains; 2010: Oct. 18 - 22, Albany, to coincide with CSEA 100; 2011: Aug. 18 - 21, Crowne Plaza, Niagara Falls Conference Center and 2012: Aug. 16 - 19, Holiday Inn, Wolf Road, Albany;
- Adjusted fees affecting statewide Board of Directors meetings;
- Approved 2009 maximum miscellaneous allowances for upcoming CSEA events;

- Renewed lease for office space at 366 North Broadway, Jericho, for Local 882 (Nassau County Municipal Employees);
- Appointed Donna Miller (Monroe County) to the Board of Directors;
- Changed the name of Local 441 from Binghamton Psychiatric Center to Greater Binghamton Health Center;
- Appointed Faye Wilkie-Fields, Ramon Lucas and Fitzroy Wilson to the Metropolitan Region Political Action Committee;
- Appointed Kathy Johnson, Andy Mantella and Pamela Shear to the Central Region Political Action Committee; and
- Placed into administratorship Amsterdam Head Start Local 733, Long Term Care Hospital Unit 7800-05/Local 834, Town of Brookhaven Unit 8752-02/Local 852, Village of Lake Success Unit 7220-00/Local 882;

*Questions concerning the summary should be directed to Statewide Secretary Denise Berkley, CSEA Headquarters, 143 Washington Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210 (800) 342-4146 or (518) 257-1253.*



# Care facility workers struggle with tight staffing ratios

STRETCHED TOO THIN

## Old standards more difficult to match

In his 25 years caring for consumers with developmental disabilities, Developmental Aide II and CSEA Broome Developmental Center Local member Dave Brown has seen big changes at his work site.

Brown said budget cuts have affected his co-workers' ability to care for their consumers.

"Things have been cut back quite a bit," he said. "We used to have two recreation therapists, and now we're down to one for four units, so it's left to the staff to do recreational activities when we're already working at minimum staffing levels every day and doing mandatory overtime about every other day."

Brown oversees 21 consumers and five staff who work the evening shift.

Those in his care are adult males, quite a few with behavioral problems, and most have lived at the center for a long time. "The cutbacks have stopped us from putting more houses in the community," he said. "I've got a consumer who's been waiting about a

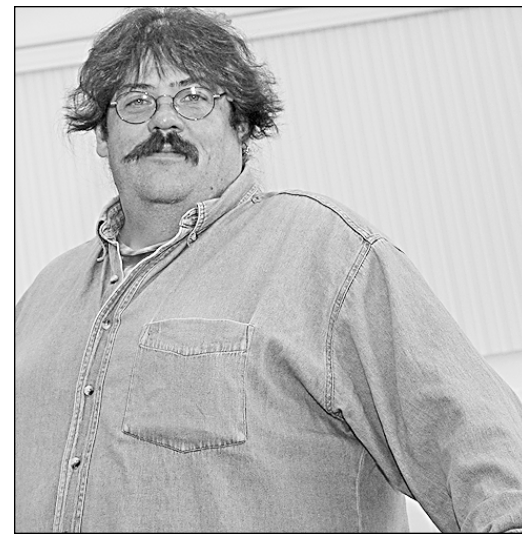
*"We can't afford to lose more staff. We're there for the consumers and I don't think people understand that."*

year and a half to be placed in a home."

Brown said he can't believe the governor is proposing more cuts to OMRDD.

"We've already seen cutbacks," Brown said. "Who could tell what further cutbacks would do? We can't afford to lose more staff. We're there for the consumers and I don't think people understand that. They are the ones who are suffering."

— Mark M. Kotzin



Dave Brown at Broome Development Center.



*"We're already short-staffed. Budget cuts will impact staffing levels. County homes take the most challenging patients and we can't go any lower with respect to staffing."*

— Linda Depaula, registered nurse supervisor, Glendale Nursing Home, Scotia.

## Keeping a community jewel from becoming a 'rusty nail'



Doug Goodman works hard to keep things shipshape at Genesee County Nursing Home.

Doug Goodman doesn't plan to sit back and let Gov. David Paterson's state budget proposal harm the residents of the Genesee County Nursing Home.

Instead, Goodman, a building maintenance mechanic, plans to do whatever it takes to make sure the important safety net remains open and public for the people who call the facility home.

"This facility is a jewel in the community; we don't want it to become a rusty nail," said Goodman, an 11-year employee at the nursing home. "This is a community asset. The governor's budget threatens the viability of the facility."

Like so many other public nursing homes throughout the state, the Genesee County Nursing Home struggles with budgeting. Management and the employees "get along great" and everyone works together to keep the residents' best interests at heart.

**Tight ship**

"We run a tight ship here, from dietary to nursing to maintenance," Goodman said. "People who have loved ones here sing our praises. The residents like it here."

Goodman assists with the day-to-day operation of the facility, repairing and maintaining a variety of equipment. His position allows him to frequently interact with the residents.

"Over the years I've gotten to know many of the residents and their families. I like knowing I make a difference in the lives of the people here."

"Everything comes down to the residents," he said. "They are why I work here. This is their home. We can't continue to be overburdened by unfunded state mandates and Medicaid benefit cuts. There has to be a place for people to go to maintain a good quality of life in their end years."

— Lynn Miller

## Saying 'thank you' with quality care

Sgt. Felize Gigante served our country with valor as an Army tank commander during World War II.

Now 84, he is a resident of the Long Island State Veterans Home, where aging veterans rely on — and receive — quality care and compassion from the 324 CSEA members employed there.

One of those CSEA members is Certified Nursing Assistant Charles Nolan, who has worked at the home since September 2000 as a frontline

*"We give back to our country by providing the nursing care our residents require to keep them healthy and happy in the twilight of their lives. The governor should keep that in mind."*

provider of nursing care. He is a key member of the nursing team involved with day-to-day care, which focuses on assisting residents in activities of daily living such as feeding, bathing, dressing and transferring.

"I have noticed that the residents have become more dependent upon my care over the years," he said. "They enter the nursing unit these

days appearing older and frailer than in years past. As a result, the care they require is much greater."

And it may soon be a greater challenge for Nolan and other CSEA members employed at veterans' homes across the state to provide that care.

Gov. David Paterson has proposed a \$6.9 million reduction in Medicaid reimbursements to the Long Island State Veterans Home, which could force

administrators there to make decisions that are disadvantageous to residents because an estimated 80 percent of the residents living at the home rely on the Medicaid program.

CSEA members, whose job titles include barbers, housekeepers, certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, unit clerks, groundskeepers, maintenance workers and painters, make a difference to the residents' lives at the Long Island State Veterans Home as well as their families.

"I'm proud to be a CSEA member and will never take for granted the sacrifices made by the veterans I serve each day," said Nolan. "We give back to our country by providing the nursing care our residents require to keep them healthy and happy in the twilight of their lives. The governor should keep that in mind."

— Richard Impagliazzo

**Certified Nursing Assistant Charles Nolan hands veteran Felize Gigante a cane at the Long Island State Veterans Home.**





## 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.

# CSEA

#### ***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.

Since 1910



New York's LEADING Union

# CSEA expands legal services to members carrying firearms for work

CSEA is pleased to announce an expansion of its Legal Assistance Program to provide legal services to all our CSEA members who carry firearms as part of their CSEA covered job requirements, for certain job-related incidents requiring legal counsel.

This new Legal Assistance Program coverage was approved by the CSEA Board of Directors at the Board's January 2009 meeting. Numerous CSEA members carry firearms in the course of their jobs, including those who work in investigations, probation, and other areas of law enforcement.

There are times during the course of an employee's duties when physical force, including the discharge of a firearm,

may be used to affect arrests.

Sometimes these events come into question by others, including the District Attorney covering the county in which the incident occurs. If such an investigation should arise, our Legal Assistance Program will now be able to provide expert legal representation.

As part of our Legal Assistance Program, CSEA-provided representation to a CSEA member involved in the use of force will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our pilot program coverage is as follows:

**1. Covered Incidents:** Gun discharge, use of baton or other weapon

dispensed by, or at the employer's direction, or other use of force in the line of duty in such fashion as to result in the commencement of a law enforcement agency investigation that could result in criminal charges against the employee.

## **2. Attorney Contact:**

Covered employees can contact the CSEA funded attorney for advice and appearance on their behalf. The attorneys assigned to each region are as follows:

### **Regions 1, 2, 3:**

Jim Moschella, Esq.,  
Karasyk & Moschella, LLP  
225 Broadway, 32nd Floor  
New York, N.Y. 10007  
(212) 233-3800  
(24 hours)

### **Region 4:**

Eugene Grenz, Esq.  
113 Great Oaks Office  
Park, Albany, N.Y. 12203  
(518) 464-1700  
(24 hours)

### **Region 5:**

Edward Dunn, Esq. Dunn  
Law Office  
333 East Onondaga St.,  
2nd Floor, Syracuse, N.Y.  
13202  
(315) 474-4648 (Office)  
or (315) 427-5881  
(After hours)

### **Region 6:**

Dan Henry, Esq.  
Villarini & Henry  
16 Main Street Hamburg,  
N.Y. 14075  
(716) 648-0510 (Office)  
or (716) 361-3520  
(After hours)

## **3. Scope of Coverage:**

Attorney would be available to respond to a "call out" by an employee

facing the initial phase of an incident investigation that occurs immediately after a "covered incident."

Upon receiving a "call out," the attorney would determine whether his/her presence is necessary and, if so, proceed to the site of the initial investigation.

Attorney would also appear at subsequent meetings, if any, with district attorney while matter is being considered for presentation to grand jury. Attorney would also appear at any grand jury convened to consider criminal charges against the employee.

If criminal charges are issued, CSEA funded representation would cease. Employee would be responsible for his/her costs of continued representation by the attorney and/or securing other representation for his/her defense.

CSEA funded attorney would be permitted to represent employee, at employee's request, with the cost of such continued representation being agreed to in writing by the employee and the attorney under terms clearly providing that once criminal charges are issued, the employee is fully responsible for the costs of his/her representation.

*If there are any questions or comments regarding this program, please feel free to contact CSEA Legal Assistance Program at 1-800-342-4146 extension 1443.*

## **Did you know?**

The CSEA Board of Directors created a Special Veterans Committee in 1991 to address the special needs of members who are veterans. The Veterans Committee became a standing committee in 2004. SUNY New Paltz Local activist Len Beaulieu is the committee chair.

## **Foster honored for statewide Veterans Committee service**

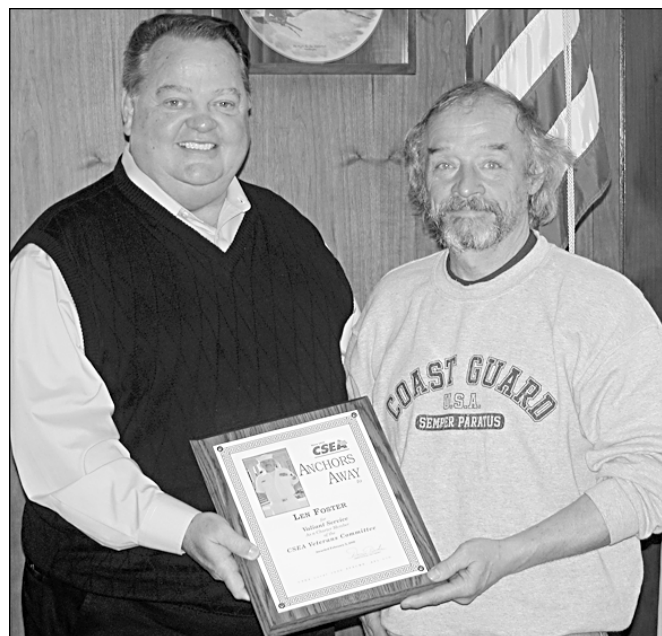
CSEA President Danny Donohue recently honored Onondaga County Local Executive Vice President Len Foster for his valiant service as a charter member of the union's Veterans Committee.

Foster, a 36-year member, will retire at the end of March. He served as a "Seabee" for a combined 20 years of active and reserve duty in the U.S. military.

The Special Veterans Committee was created in 1991 to address concerns unique to veterans.

The Veterans Committee became a standing committee in 2004.

— Jill Asencio



CSEA President Danny Donohue, left, presents charter Veterans Committee member Len Foster with a plaque honoring his service to the committee.



Since 1910

**CSEA**

New York's LEADING Union

1910 - 2009  
99 years

YEARS OF PROGRESS



## 1929 The Great Depression brings great opportunity to CSEA

### 80 years ago ...

The Great Depression was a time of great challenge for the United States. It was also a time of great opportunity for the Association of State Civil Service Employees, as CSEA was known at that time, and its leaders seized the moment.

Gov. Al Smith's overhaul of New York state government approved by voters in 1926 was a major shift, as it centralized and expanded state responsibilities while consolidating power for the first time with the governor. The reforms provided an environment in which job classification and function could be standardized under a merit system.

While many of these reforms still took years to be established, the association vigorously advocated for their implementation and established powerful alliances with the state's leaders to ensure they would come to pass.

Many factors accounted for the association's dramatic growth in the 1930s, most notably the dynamic leadership of William McDonough and Beulah Bailey Thull. (See page 18 for more on Thull.) Their organizing skills, savvy and tireless efforts helped the association membership balloon from about 600 in 1929 to 8,500 by the end of 1930.



Thull

The association would continue to grow rapidly throughout the rest of the decade, along with scores of accomplishments to benefit members.



McDonough

### Also in 1929 ...

- The Great Depression begins when the stock market crashes on Oct. 29, a.k.a. "Black Friday."
- The Lateran Treaty establishes an independent Vatican City.
- The Museum of Modern Art opens in New York City.
- CBS, then an acronym for Columbia Broadcasting System, is founded by William S. Paley.
- *Broadway Melody* becomes the first major release of the talking picture era.
- Motorola introduces the first car radio.
- U.S. Admiral Richard Byrd is the first person to fly over the South Pole.
- Penicillin is first used to fight an infection.
- German psychiatrist Hans Berger develops the electroencephalogram (EEG) for recording brain waves.



CBS founder William S. Paley, circa 1929

## Protecting Your Benefits

# Diabetic shoes — a negotiated Empire Plan benefit

Effective July 1, 2008, one pair of custom molded or depth shoes per calendar year is a covered expense under the Empire Plan if:

- You have a diagnosis of diabetes and diabetic foot disease;
- Diabetic shoes have been prescribed by your provider; and
- The shoes are fitted and furnished by a qualified pedorthist, orthotist, prosthetist, or podiatrist. Shoes ordered by mail or from the Internet are not eligible for benefits.



### Network benefits

When you use a Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP)-approved provider for medically necessary

diabetic shoes (including work boots), you receive a paid-in-full benefit up to an annual maximum benefit of \$500. To ensure that you receive the maximum benefit, you must make a pre-notification call to the Home Care Advocacy Program.

You must call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447), choose United HealthCare and then the Benefits Management Program. The Home Care Advocacy Program will assist you in

making arrangements to receive network benefits for diabetic shoes.

### Non-network benefits

If you do not call for pre-notification or you do not use a Home Care Advocacy Program-approved provider, benefits will be considered under the Basic Medical Program subject to the annual deductible with any remaining covered charges paid at 75 percent of the network allowance with a maximum annual benefit of \$500.

**See more Health Benefits articles on page 16.**

## Promoting Good Health

### Join the 40-Hour FAST

The Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State will hold its 14th annual 40-Hour FAST from Wednesday, March 4 at 8 p.m. to Friday, March 6, at noon.

This year's FAST, with the theme "Coming Together for the Common Good," will include prayer, education and action.

For specific FAST events in your region, contact the state coalition at (518) 213-6000 or visit the coalition's website at [www.labor-religion.org](http://www.labor-religion.org).



**Did you know that over \$15 million in disability claims were paid out to CSEA members just like you in 2008?**

And according to the Health Insurance Association of America, nearly 30 percent of Americans age 35 - 65 will suffer a disability lasting 90 days or more,\* taking them out of work and eliminating their ability to earn their normal paycheck. To most people their ability to earn income is of vital importance, and those who suffer a disability are faced with the challenge of paying everyday bills once their sick time runs out. Are you prepared if such a disability happened to you?



There are ways to supplement your income in the event that such a disability did occur. Short-term disability insurance can cover up to 26 weeks of benefit time, and long-term disability insurance can cover longer periods of time. By choosing one of our two types of disability insurance, you are giving yourself and your loved ones financial peace of mind should an injury or illness keep you from working.

Don't risk the chance of losing your income due to a prolonged injury or illness. Contact the people of Pearl Carroll for more information on disability insurance coverage by calling 1-877-VIP-CSEA (1-877-847-2732) or by going to our website, [www.pearlcarroll.com](http://www.pearlcarroll.com).

\*source [cnmney.com](http://cnmney.com)

## Protecting Your Benefits

# Empire Plan enrollees: New mental health and substance abuse insurer and administrator

Effective  
Jan. 1,  
2009,

**Health  
Benefits** 

United HealthCare Insurance Company of New York (UHICNY) began insuring and OptumHealth Behavioral Solutions (OptumHealth) started administering The Empire Plan's Mental Health and Substance Abuse (MHSA) Program.

It is important to note that while the *benefits available under the plan are not changing, there may be differences in the provider network*. OptumHealth has a large national provider network and is also actively recruiting additional providers who currently treat a high volume of Empire Plan enrollees.

### Transition of care benefit

To help ensure  
Empire Plan

enrollees in outpatient treatment have access to network benefits throughout the transition process, a 90-day transition of care benefit is available for care received through March 31, 2009. The transition of care benefit also applies to alternate levels of care, including partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient treatment and group home.

If you or your eligible dependent(s) received outpatient care under the MHSA program on or after July 1, 2008, the transition benefit allows you to continue medically necessary

treatment with your provider through March 31, 2009, regardless of whether or not the provider is in the OptumHealth network.

In addition, if you or your eligible dependent(s) were receiving care at a 24-hour facility or program for inpatient or residential treatment on Dec. 31, 2008, and remained confined on or after Jan. 1, 2009, the care will continue to be managed and paid for by ValueOptions/GHI

until you are discharged to a lower level of treatment.

If you or your eligible dependent(s) will be seeking mental health or substance abuse services in 2009, or if you have any questions about the transition process, including seeing if your provider is in the OptumHealth network, call 1-877-7NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and select the 2009 MHSA option.

## We want your feedback....

**The Health Benefits Department is interested in your feedback regarding the transition of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program. Please call our office at 1-800-286-5242 to tell us what you think.**

## Empire Plan deadline for 2008 claims is March 31

Empire Plan enrollees have until March 31, 2009 (90 days after the end of the calendar year) in which to submit medical expenses that 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 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.

Enrollees can call the Empire Plan at 1-877-7NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) with questions or to get 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 and 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.

## Promoting Good Health



## \$350 million settlement reached against health care insurer

ALBANY — In a major victory for working New Yorkers, CSEA took part in a \$350 million settlement against UnitedHealth Care for a scheme to defraud union members by manipulating reimbursement rates.

CSEA was among the plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit against United, which is the nation's second largest health insurer. It is the largest cash settlement in the history of health care litigation.

"This is a historic milestone that will have long-term benefits for the health care industry," said CSEA President Danny Donohue.

United set inaccurate reimbursement rates for "usual and

customary" charges for medical services. This resulted in consumers paying higher rates for their share of expenses when using out-of-network health care.

Excess fees fraudulently were calculated because the company that determined the rates was owned by United.

Under the settlement, a claims process will be implemented for consumers to recover the excess fees.

The settlement will now go to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York for approval. Given its terms, union officials are optimistic of approval.

## Procedure protects rights

AFSCME's constitution includes a rebate procedure to protect the rights of members who disagree with how the union spends money for partisan political or ideological purposes.

Article IX, Section 14 of the International Constitution, which establishes the procedure for dues rebates for members who object to AFSCME's partisan political or ideological expenditures, was amended at AFSCME's 33rd International Convention.

The amended language requires those persons who object to the expenditure of dues for political or ideological purposes submit their objection in writing to both the International Union and CSEA Local 1000 by certified mail between April 1 and April 16 (dates inclusive) each year for the prior year ending Dec. 31.

The timing of the steps in the procedure is tied to the International's fiscal year. The procedure, including the requirements for submitting a proper rebate request, is spelled out in Article IX, Section 14 of the International Constitution. THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

Here's how it works. Members who object to the expenditure of a portion of their dues for partisan political or ideological purposes and want to request a rebate must do so individually in writing between April 1 and April 16, 2009. That request must be timely filed by registered or certified mail with: the International Secretary-Treasurer and the CSEA Statewide Treasurer. The requests must contain the following information: name, Social Security number, home address and the AFSCME local to which dues were paid during the preceding year. This information must be typed or legibly printed. The individual request must be signed by the member and sent by the individual member to: International Secretary-Treasurer at AFSCME Headquarters, 1625 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-5687; and CSEA Statewide Treasurer, Empire State Plaza Station, P. O. Box 2611, Albany, N.Y.

12214-0218. Requests for more than one person may not be sent in the same envelope. Each request must be sent individually. Requests must be renewed in writing every year the member wishes a rebate.

Upon receipt by the International of a valid rebate request, an application for partisan political or ideological rebate will be sent to the objecting member. The objecting member will be required to complete and return the application in a timely manner. In accordance with the constitutional amendment adopted at the 1998 International Convention, the application will require the objecting member to identify those partisan or political or ideological activities to which objection is being made, and no rebate will be made to any member who fails to complete that portion of the application. In determining the amount of the rebate to be paid to any member, the International Union and each subordinate body shall have the option of limiting the rebate to the member's pro-rata share of the expenses for those activities specifically identified in the application.

Upon receipt by CSEA of the valid, certified request, the constitutional maximum of 3 percent rebate will be processed. No phone calls or e-mail correspondence will be accepted.

Any member who is dissatisfied with the amount of the rebate paid by the International Union may object by filing a written appeal with the AFSCME Judicial Panel within 15 days after the rebate check has been received. Appeals should be sent to the Judicial Panel Chairperson at the AFSCME International Headquarters at the address listed above. The Judicial Panel will conduct a hearing and issue a written decision on such appeals, subject to an appeal to the full Judicial Panel. If dissatisfied with the Judicial Panel's ruling, a member can appeal to the next International Convention.

## What's In It For You?

## Retirees: Let EBF help you make dental care easier

Since July 2002, the CSEA Employee Benefit Fund has successfully administered a retiree dental plan for CSEA-represented New York state and local government employees.

More than 1,300 participating dental offices across the state accept the fee schedule as full payment for covered services.

If you are a local government employee whose employer has signed a Retiree Dental Memorandum of Agreement with EBF, you are eligible to participate if you meet the following eligibility criteria:

- You were previously covered by an EBF dental plan on or after July 1, 2002.
- Your previous employer has signed a retiree language side letter to its contract with EBF.
- You have had continuous dental coverage from retirement,



through a date not more than 90 days before enrolling

Premiums are offered in three categories: individual, retiree and spouse and

family coverage. To make paying premiums easier, EBF offers a voluntary direct payment program that provides many benefits. In this program, regularly scheduled payments are automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the first of every month.

**For more information on this valuable program, please contact EBF at 1-800-323-2732 and speak with Linda Saxby at ext. 803 or visit our website at [www.cseaebf.com](http://www.cseaebf.com).**

## An Ever Better Future

### Westchester Local announces scholarships

WHITE PLAINS — The Westchester Local is again offering two scholarships for children of local members, the Westchester Local 860 scholarship and Westchester Local 860 Grace Ann Aloisi Scholarship.

The local will award 12, \$1,000 Westchester Local 860 scholarships. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors who plan to further their education and are children of active Westchester Local members and agency shop fee payers.

One Westchester Local 860 Grace Ann Aloisi Scholarship, a \$1,000, four-year renewable scholarship, will also be awarded. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors who are pursuing degrees in either labor relations or a labor-

related field of study (such as history, economics, law, political science, sociology or journalism) or in public service and who are children of active Westchester Local members or agency shop fee payers.

Scholarships will be renewed for a maximum of four years provided the student remains enrolled in the specified full-time degree program (12 credits minimum). Applicants must have maintained a 3.0 or higher grade point average.

To request applications, please call the Westchester Local 860 office at (914) 428-6452. The deadline for filing applications is April 15, 2009. Successful candidates will be notified by May 22, 2009.

# Leading Edge



## Beulah Bailey Thull: a union groundbreaker

**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 a profile of Beulah Bailey Thull, one of the most significant and influential individuals in all of our years of progress.

In CSEA's nearly 100 years of history, Beulah Bailey Thull stands out among the union's leaders. Her 1934-35 tenure as association president was the only time a woman served in that position. Despite that short term, her years as a union activist were significant and substantive.

Born in Troy in 1891, she was a 1912 graduate of Cornell University at a time when few women even attended college. She later earned a degree from the State Library School and pursued graduate work at Columbia University.

### Active suffragette

Thull was an activist for women's right to vote, a founder of the New York State League of Women Voters, Rensselaer County historian, and by the time of her involvement in the Association of State Civil Employees (as CSEA was then known), a leading expert on tax policy.

It was through this expertise that she cultivated contact with Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt that led to his tacit recognition of the association as a legitimate representative of state employees, paving the way for tremendous growth and accomplishment. There are several letters on association business between Thull and Roosevelt

from the early 1930s that suggest growing mutual respect.

Thull's work with one of her predecessors as association president, William McDonough, dramatically advanced the association's agenda and credibility. Through their dynamic leadership, the association membership ballooned from about 600 in 1929 to 8,500 by the end of 1930. Growth would continue to be rapid throughout the rest of the decade.

### Statewide reorganization

Deep in the Great Depression, Thull helped establish *The State Employee* magazine and open an adult education center for civil service employees. She was also deeply involved in reorganizing the association to ensure chapter representation across the state

"The successful leadership of Miss Bailey is assured by the fact that she understands the needs of the rank and file of state employee, men and women. Her work as vice president, particularly that which had to do with educational activities, commends her to all," McDonough said at the time of her nomination for association president.

### Enduring pioneer

During Thull's term of office, the association pioneered the voluntary group insurance program, enrolled state institutional employees and made strong advances in improving their working lives along with legislative progress on establishing standard state job classifications and compensation rates – all milestone achievements that endure to the present day.

During World War II, Thull served on a state



**Union groundbreaker Beulah Bailey Thull, circa 1934.**

commission investigating the situation of women working in war industries. It was also reported that she won an 11-lap women's sports car race at Watkins Glen in 1959 at age 68. Thull passed away in 1975.

CSEA's official archives are housed at the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives at the University at Albany. Learn more at <http://library.albany.edu/speccoll>.

## March CSEA calendar of events

### Statewide:

• March 31: **AFSCME/CSEA Lobby Day**, Albany. Contact your region political action coordinator for details.

### Long Island Region:

• March 4-5: **Contract Negotiations II: Negotiating Team Training**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., Oyster Bay Local Office, Syosset  
 • March 10-11: **Advanced Grievance Training: Power in Numbers**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., Suffolk Educational Local Office, Medford  
 • March 11-12: **Defensive Driving**, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Long Island Region Office, Commack. Call 800-942-6874 to register.  
 • March 21: **Defensive Driving**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Long Island Region Office, Commack. Call 800-942-6874 to register.  
 • March 24-25: **Local Government Discipline and Interrogation: Representing Members In Interrogations**, 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., Oyster Bay Local Office, Syosset

### Metropolitan Region:

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

### Southern Region:

• March 21: **An Overview of the Family and Medical Leave Act**, Sign-in: 9:30 -10 a.m., Workshop: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Southern Region Office, Beacon

### Capital Region:

• March 10-11: **Steward Workshop**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., Ballston Spa Middle School Library, Ballston Spa  
 • March 10 & 12: **Defensive Driving**, 5:30 -

8:30 p.m., Capital Region Office, Latham. Call 800-942-6874 to register.

• March 21: **Conducting Successful Meetings**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., CSEA Headquarters, Albany  
 • March 24-25: **Contract Negotiation Strategies: Maximizing Our Leverage**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., Cairo Elementary School, Cairo

### Central Region:

• March 3: **An Overview of the Family and Medical Leave Act**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., Holiday Inn, Elmira  
 • March 4: **Inside the Time and Attendance Process**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., Howard Johnson's, Norwich  
 • March 11: **Sexual Harassment: What Union Officers & Activists Should Know**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., Jefferson County Local Office, Watertown  
 • March 24-25: **Steward Workshop**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., Jefferson County Local Office, Watertown  
 • March 31-April 1: **Steward Workshop**, Sign-in: 5:30-6 p.m., Workshop: 6-9 p.m., Binghamton Satellite Office, Binghamton

### Western Region:

• Visit the Western Region page at CSEA's website at [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org) for more on region events.

*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.*

## 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.

## SUPPORT FOR NURSING HOME — CSEA



## TODAY

members and Schenectady County residents packed a special committee hearing at Glendale Nursing home Feb. 12 to unanimously support the proposed construction of a new 200-bed Glendale Home. Speakers told legislators of the continued need for a county facility and many praised the skilled and dedicated staff (*See pages 10-11 for more*) ... **WYOMING CONTRACT** — The Wyoming County Employees Unit ratified a new three-year contract that includes annual raises retroactive to Jan. 1, and other features including bi-annual issuance of a winter jacket and hoodie to all Highway Department Employees; and the ability to grieve the employee handbook ... **LIBRARY PACT** — CSEA members in the Oyster Bay East Norwich Library Unit unanimously ratified a new four-year contract that provides for annual salary percentage increases and a step schedule reinstatement ... **SCARSDALE**

## LIBRARY RATIFIES — The Scarsdale Library Unit has a new contract in

place. The four-year agreement includes wage increases in each year of the contract, longevity increases, the addition of an extra floating holiday, and improvements in retiree health insurance. CSEA represents 25 workers at the Scarsdale Public Library ... **MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S COMMAND** — Monroe County Sheriff's Command Unit overwhelmingly ratified a new, four-year agreement with annual raises and a small increase in health insurance contributions. No changes were made to health insurance at retirement ... **GENEVA CONTRACTS** — CSEA has reached a tentative agreement with the City of Geneva and the new City of Geneva DPW Unit. The four-year pact includes annual raises plus a wage re-opener if the CPI-U Index is greater than 3 percent for 2011. All workers have been moved into a health plan with generous HRA amounts.

## Townsend is PEOPLE Recruiter of the Month

**B**asil Townsend of the Hudson Valley DDSO Local in the Southern Region is PEOPLE Recruiter for the month of January. He recruited 27 new PEOPLE members at the MVP level.

Townsend serves as chair of his local's PEOPLE and political action committees. He has also volunteered for local and national political campaigns, including President Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

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.



**Townsend**



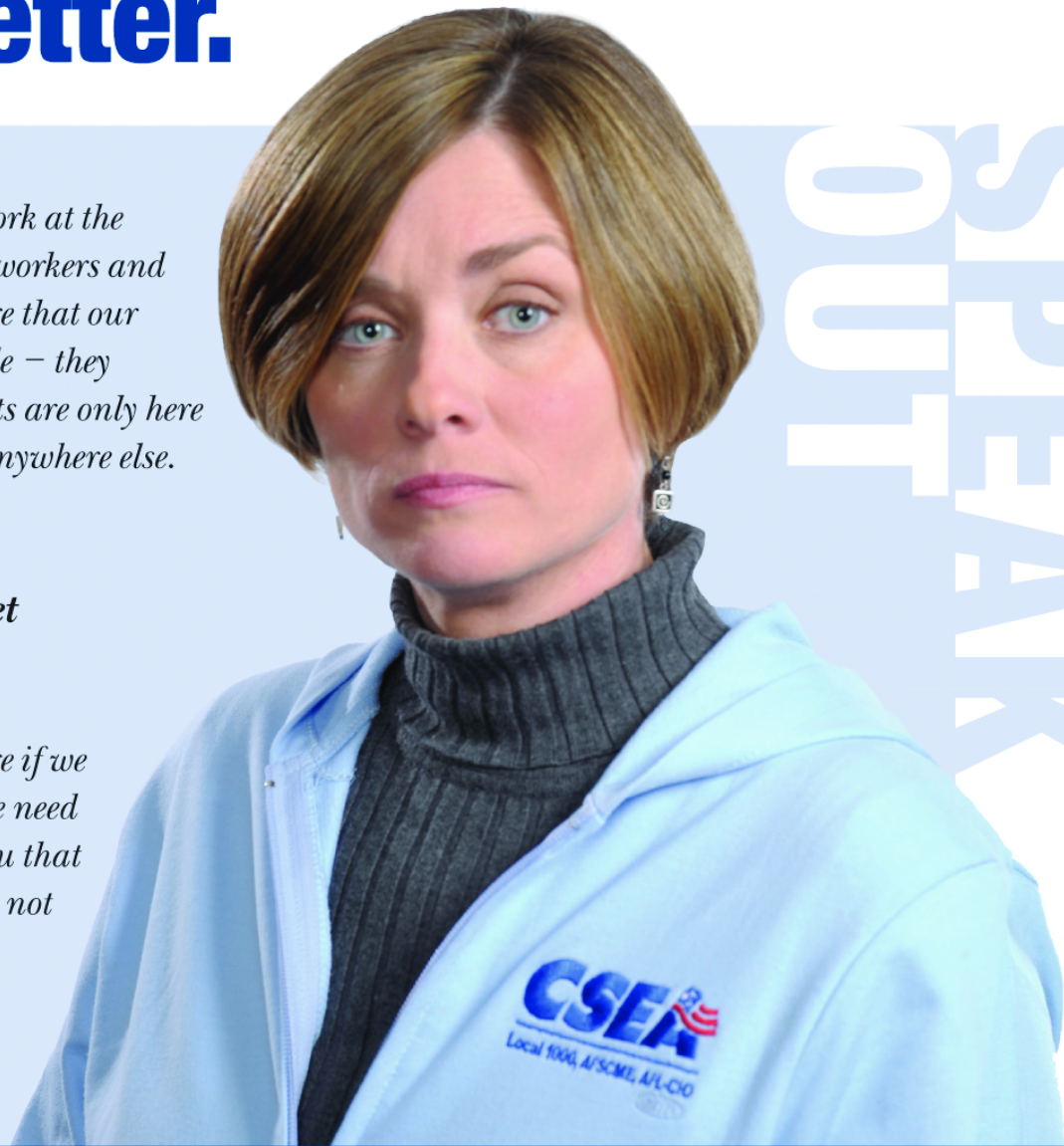
# Working **New Yorkers** Deserve Better.

*My name is Mary Buehler. I work at the county nursing facility. My co-workers and I all work very hard to make sure that our residents get the best care possible – they deserve it. Many of our residents are only here because they can't afford to be anywhere else. This is essential service.*

*Governor Paterson's budget is going to hurt.*

*We can only provide the best care if we have the people. That means we need adequate funding. I can tell you that the governor's proposed cuts are not adequate funding.*

*It's just not right.*

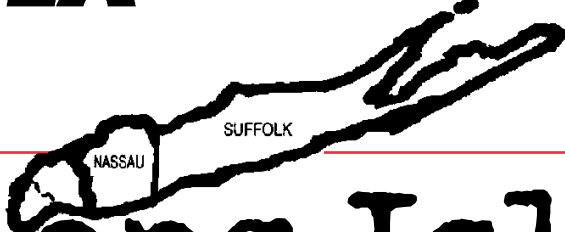


**Governor Paterson, these are tough times, but there are better ways than making it so much harder for people who do the work every day.**



Danny Donohue, President  
[www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org)

**A Positive Force  
Throughout New York State  
For Nearly A Century.**



# Long Island Reporter

## CSEA and Babylon officials share common ground



**Above, LaMorte addresses the Babylon Town Board.**

**Above, left to right, Local 852 President Bill Walsh, Babylon town Supervisor Steve Bellone, Babylon Town White Collar Unit President Joanne Salvia, Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte and Labor Relations Specialist Jimmy Wall.**

CSEA and Babylon town officials met recently to resolve some confusion about the unit's previously negotiated contract.

This development represents a positive outcome for each side and is evidence of the respect between CSEA Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, Suffolk Local 852 President Bill Walsh and Babylon town Supervisor Steve Bellone.

The contract at issue now officially goes

into effect retroactive to Jan. 1. CSEA officials and members attended the last board meeting at town hall to express confidence in the continued relationship between the union and the town.

"We want to commend Supervisor Bellone for his willingness to resolve this matter fairly," said LaMorte. "It just goes to show that reasonable people can always find common ground."





### PHOTO OF THE MONTH

SUNY Stony Brook Local 614 recently staged an information fair at the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation, located on the north end of the Stony Brook campus. Members visited with representatives from Member Benefits, EBF and PEOPLE. Many other vendors were also on hand. Local 614 members Berthanne Murkowski, left, and Nancy Pinamonti planned and coordinated the information fair.



### Message from Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte

Thousands of working New Yorkers united in Albany Jan. 7 to join the "March for Main Street," which was timed to coincide with Gov. David Paterson's first State of the State address and designed to challenge his misplaced budget priorities that target middle class New Yorkers.

The event was organized by CSEA, along with other unions and sought to convey the message that the governor's plan will place communities, jobs and services at risk. Our members traveled from Long Island and every other part of the state in the cold and snow to take part in the march.

We helped organize the "March for Main Street" to deliver this message: Working New Yorkers live on Main Street, not Wall Street, and we will stand up to proposals that will have us pay more and get less while the wealthiest New Yorkers are unaffected.

The governor's proposed 2009-10 budget includes destructive cuts in state services and the state work force while ignoring cost-cutting options that can save the state billions. Our members are already doing more with less and have endured massive cuts to state agencies. It's time our legislative leaders look elsewhere to balance the budget.

CSEA members employed in state service, including hospitals, parks, youth centers, motor vehicles, Department of Transportation, state universities, offices of mental health, and homes for the developmentally disabled are regularly working over and above their normal duties to provide adequate service and care.

DOT and local government snowplow crews are spread very thin but have managed to keep our roads clear this winter, even in the face of frequent storms. The Labor Department is

scrambling with every available staff person to meet a workload four times the volume of a year ago. And these are just a couple of the daily realities faced by our state employees.

We are getting hit equally hard in local government. We are trying to save the jobs of public safety dispatchers in Riverhead, and Southampton has switched to the less expensive Empire Health Plan and threatens closure of the waste transfer station.

Do I have to tell you what's going on in Nassau County? The possibility of layoffs hangs heavy over our heads as the specter of a permanent 7 percent wage reduction looms. We did not create this problem, but once again CSEA members, working class people, are asked to sacrifice.

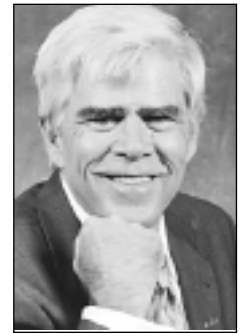
It is disappointing that our elected leaders apparently do not know or do not want to believe that the vast majority of public employees are already working in stressful circumstances caused by inadequate staffing. Clearly, we must take our message directly to the people on Long Island and throughout New York state.

The March for Main Street was a good start, but we have to follow it up on an individual basis as well. Contact your state senator or Assembly member. Tell them you live on Main Street, not Wall Street. Let's continue to speak out and advocate for solutions other than those proposed by the governor. We deserve better than that. We are CSEA!

Yours in unionism,

Nick LaMorte, president  
Long Island Region

## CSEA mourns loss of Bill Flanagan



The Long Island Region is mourning the loss of Hempstead Local 880 President Bill Flanagan, 65, who passed away Jan. 29. He had been employed by the town as a locksmith since 1990 and was first elected local president in 1998. He is survived by his wife Joanne; sons John, Kevin, Bill Jr. and Dennis and four grandchildren.

Local 880 Executive Vice President Charlie Sellitto said Flanagan will be sorely missed. "It will be impossible to fill his shoes," he said. "His vigor for the job was a driving passion for him. Even his opponents on the other side of the bargaining table expressed great respect for Bill. He was a tenacious fighter who feared no one."

## Nassau and Suffolk Education Locals Career Development Conference March 28

HUNTINGTON — The Nassau and Suffolk Education locals are hosting the 14th annual School District Support Staff Career Development Conference March 28 at the Huntington Hilton.

Two workshop sessions and the conference luncheon will highlight the day's activities.

Monica Berkowitz is president of Nassau Educational Local 865, and Harry Ader is president of Suffolk Educational Local 870.

## Veterans Committee Memorial Day event planned

COMMACK — The Long Island Region Veterans Committee will again be placing U.S. flags at Pinelawn National Cemetery and Calverton National Cemetery for Memorial Day.

CSEA members who would like to have a flag placed on the grave of a union member or loved one interred at either of the national cemeteries should send the veteran's name and grave site to Veterans Committee Chair Maryann Phelps.

She may be reached by mail at CSEA Long Island Region, 3 Garet Place, Commack, N.Y. 11725; by e-mail to maryann11@optonline.net, or by telephone at (516) 971- 4629.



# Long Island Region adds seven new units



**The addition of seven new units was a topic of discussion at the recent Long Island Region executive board meeting.**

Long Island Region membership totals increased significantly in recent weeks with the successful organization of seven new units consisting of municipal employees in the villages of East Hills and Old Westbury, security personnel in the Port Washington and Rockville Centre school districts, custodial and maintenance workers in Valley Stream school districts 13 and 30, and safety officers in Brookhaven.

These additions add about 275 members to the Long Island Region. Of course, such a positive outcome is rarely achieved without the combined and sustained efforts of people with varied and essential skills and abilities, including CSEA Statewide Organizer Vinny Castaldo, who coordinated the ground effort, and Lead Organizer

Geordie Pierce, who had general responsibility for the comprehensive campaign and did fine work coordinating its many complicated aspects.

However, they were not alone in this team effort. Credit must also be given to Suffolk Local 852 President Bill Walsh, Nassau Local 882 President John Shepherd, Nassau Educational Local 865 Monica Berkowitz, Long Island Region Director

Ron King, Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte and Legal Deputy Counsel Steve Crain.

“This was a collective triumph for CSEA and for all who worked so hard in this shared effort,” said LaMorte. “It just goes to show the tremendous resources CSEA can bring to bear and what can be accomplished when everyone is pulling on the same rope.”

## CSEA Endorses Mazzei for Brookhaven Supervisor

Suffolk Local 852 Political Action Committee Chair Charlie Chierchio has announced that Tim Mazzei received the CSEA endorsement for Brookhaven Town Supervisor.

A special election is scheduled for March 31 to fill the seat vacated by the election of Brian Foley to the state Senate.

The unanimous committee vote came after the 10 members met with Mazzei and his opponent Mark Lesko to determine which of the two candidates would better fight for working families.

Mazzei opposed Foley’s plan to spend more than \$1 million to install global positioning system (GPS) devices in town vehicles and also took a principled stand against the effort to eliminate financial support for the Employee Benefit Fund.

“Tim Mazzei is a passionate advocate for the causes of labor and his election as Brookhaven town supervisor would be in the best interests of town workers,” said Chierchio. “He’s a local guy with strong ties to the community and a loyal friend to CSEA. We urge all our members to vote for him.”



**Above, members of Suffolk Local 852 gather in front of Brookhaven Town Hall before the announcement of the Mazzei endorsement.**

**Left, Charlie Chierchio explains the rationale behind the CSEA endorsement of Tim Mazzei.**





# Inside Reporter



Above, Long Island DDSO Human Relations Committee Chair Sherry Qualls cites King's most memorable quotes during her welcoming remarks.

Below left, State Office of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities Commissioner Diana Jones Ritter with Local 430 President Daryl Wilson.

Below right, Local 430 activist and PEOPLE Committee Statewide Chair Rutha Bush kicks off the Martin Luther King Jr. tribute.



## Long Island Developmental Center Local 430 honors King's legacy

**B**RENTWOOD — CSEA Long Island Developmental Center (LIDC) Local 430 President Daryl Wilson presented scholarships to Kaliym Sarden, the grandson of CSEA Statewide PEOPLE Committee Chair and LIDC Local 430 activist Rutha Bush, and Bianca Cannon, the daughter of LIDC Local 430 Treasurer and activist Gloria Cannon, during the 29th annual tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. at Suffolk Community College.

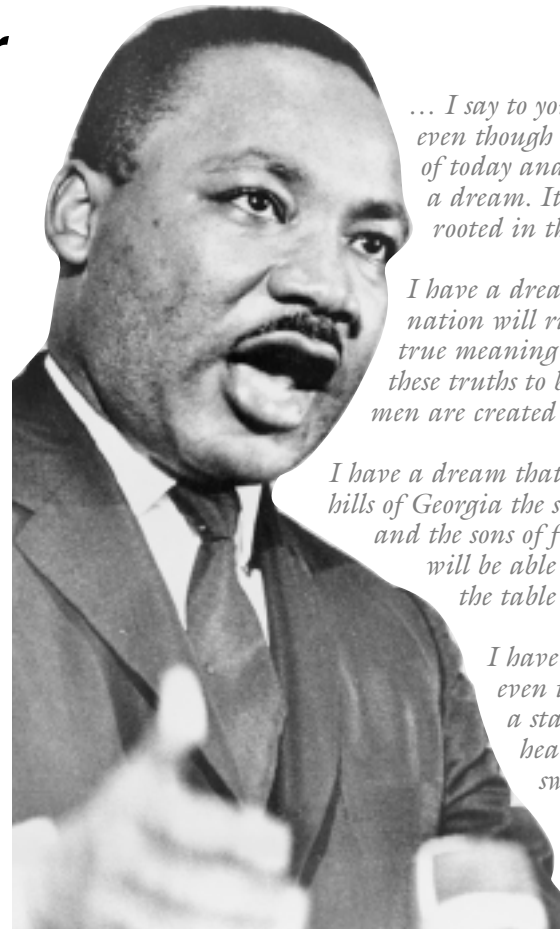
The event was sponsored by the Long Island Developmental Disabilities Service Office's Affirmative Action/Human Relations Committee and chaired by CSEA activist Marian Hester.

Diana Jones Ritter, commissioner of the state Office of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), served as keynote speaker and discussed the positive effects King's life and legacy has had on American society.

Inspirational musical selections were performed by children from the Wyandanch Day Care Center and members of the Copiague Middle School Chorus. Other dignitaries on hand for the proceedings included LIDDSO Director Irene Jill McGinn, Affirmative Action Administrator Jacqueline DeVille and Deputy Directors Barry Ockner and Bob Lopez.

LIDDSO Human Relations Committee Chair Sherry Qualls cited some of King's more stirring quotes during her welcoming remarks.

Lt. Morris Wheeler of the famed Tuskegee Airmen capped the event with a speech detailing the impressive deeds of that memorable group of African-American pilots who served their country so admirably during World War II.



*... I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.*

*I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."*

*I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.*

*I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.*

*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.*

*I have a dream today.*

*I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.*

*I have a dream today.*

*I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. ...*

From the "I Have a Dream" speech Dr. King delivered at the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963.

Right, from left, front row, Lt. Morris Wheeler of the famed Tuskegee Airmen; Diana Jones Ritter, commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities and LIDDSO Director Irene Jill McGinn enjoy the festivities.



Below, Gina Occhiogrosso, left, directs the Copiague Middle School Chorus.



Above, Local 430 President Daryl Wilson presents a scholarship to Kaliym Sarden, grandson of Rutha Bush.



Above, inspirational musical selections were performed by children from the Wyandanch Day Care Center.

Right, Local 430 Treasurer Gloria Cannon cuts the cake at the post-event celebration; her daughter Bianca also earned a scholarship.



## ***Polar Plunge review highlights region executive board meets***

Long Island Region officers, local presidents and committee chairs recently convened at the region office for the region Executive Board's quarterly meeting.

Region President Nick LaMorte called the meeting to order and introduced Special Olympics Development Director Rebecca Keller, who detailed preparations being made for the Polar Plunge at Bar Beach in Port Washington Feb. 28 and explained the critical need for CSEA members to get involved in any manner.

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.

The meeting continued with comprehensive reports from region officers and committee chairs, with a discussion of new and unfinished business items preceding adjournment.



**Above, Long Island Region local presidents and committee chairs tend to business at the executive board meeting.**

**Left, Special Olympics athlete Matthew Schuster speaks to the region executive board about the upcoming Polar Plunge.**

## **Union reps confer on safety and health issues**

Long Island Federation of Labor's Health and Safety Committee recently conducted a meeting at the CSEA Long Island Region office, with Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, CSEA Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Specialist Jeff Hyman and Long Island Region Safety and Health Committee Chair Stephen Cohen in attendance.

New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) OSH Specialist David Pratt opened the meeting with a report on recent worker fatalities in the local area and then introduced Vanessa Crilly from Jobs with Justice, who discussed how health and safety issues factor into contract negotiations and organizing campaigns.

Pratt and Hyman followed with the announcement of a \$20,000 grant recently received by NYCOSH to increase awareness and use of green cleaning products in schools, health care facilities and municipalities through

a combination of training and technical assistance.

Representatives from unions affiliated with the Long Island Federation of Labor were in attendance at the meeting, which concluded with a dialogue on legislative actions related to issues of occupational safety and health and a recounting of the 2009 NYCOSH event schedule.

**Below left, Long Island Region Occupational Safety and Health Specialist Jeff Hyman, right, makes a point as Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte (left) and Long Island Region Occupational Safety and Health Committee Chair Stephen Cohen (center) looks on.**

**Below right, members of the Long Island Federation of Labor's Health and Safety Committee meet at the CSEA region office.**





## Around the Region

### Calendar of Upcoming Events: March 2009

- 2 — Education & Training Committee Meeting — 5:30 p.m.
- 4 — Political Action Committee Meeting — 5:30 p.m.
- 5 — Local 430 Executive Board Meeting — 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 10 — PEOPLE Committee Meeting — 5 p.m.
- 11 — Defensive Driving — 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 12 — Defensive Driving — 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 16 — Women's Committee — 5:30 p.m.
- 17 — Safety & Health Committee Meeting — 5:30 p.m.
- 18 — Region Executive Board Meeting — 5:30 p.m.
- 19 — Local 430 Membership Meeting — 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 21 — Defensive Driving — 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 25 — Veterans Committee Meeting — 6 p.m.



### ***Bridgehampton demo***

From left, Bridgehampton School District workers Linda Kenney, Ava Mack, Thomas Manigo, Carl Johnson, Ninfa Boyd, Erika Bambino, JohnAnn Credle prepare to demonstrate at a Bridgehampton Board of Education meeting. The group was demonstrating over contract discussions.



## ***Long Island labor leaders gather for roundtable***

Members of the Long Island Federation of Labor's Political Action Committee recently met at Infosys International's Plainview office for the Long Island Labor Roundtable, which was coordinated and moderated by state Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel.

State Sen. Diane Savino served as guest speaker for the event and discussed issues of concern to local labor leaders such as public employee compensation, paid family leave and deficiencies in the unemployment insurance fund.

The leaders also had the opportunity to ask Schimel and Savino questions specific to their branch of labor and meet with them when the event concluded.

In attendance on behalf of CSEA were Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, Long Island Judiciary Local 330 President Kevin Ray, SUNY Old Westbury Local 618 President Mary D'Antonio, Oyster Bay Town Local 881 President Bob Rauff, Nassau County Local 830 Executive Vice President Ron Gurrieri and Political Action Coordinator Gretchen Penn.



**Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte at the Long Island Labor Roundtable.**

"It is incumbent upon us as labor leaders to create a dialogue with our elected officials and make them aware of our overall mindset and specific concerns," said LaMorte. "We are gratified that Assemblywoman Schimel provided a forum for this purpose and pleased that Senator Savino lent her expertise to the proceedings."



**From left, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Long Island Region Political Action Coordinator Gretchen Penn, SUNY Old Westbury Local 618 President Mary D'Antonio, Judiciary Local 330 President Kevin Ray, State Sen. Diane Savino and Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte.**

# Spotlight on Local 618

***This is the second of a two-part series introducing maintenance and custodial members of SUNY Old Westbury Local 618.***

OLD WESTBURY — Despite losses of workers over the years, the maintenance staff at SUNY Old Westbury helps ensure the best possible physical environment for the college's 3,200 students and 140 full-time faculty.

"Our members of Local 618 are working harder than ever with less support," said Local President Mary D'Antonio. "But they do their job, which is vital to keeping the college running."

The 40 CSEA-represented workers in the Facilities Management Department perform many tasks on the lovely 604-acre campus, formerly the estate of members of the Clark family of the Singer Sewing Machine fortune.

The other CSEA members who make up the 103-member local are employed in the Academic Affairs, Business Affairs and Student Affairs divisions and the college library, supporting the college's academic and administrative personnel.

Maintenance staff keeps the campus buildings warm in the winter and air-conditioned in the summer. They plow the snow, cut the grass and rake the leaves. They maintain the electrical service, the lights in the buildings and the streetlights. They clean the classrooms and labs, empty the garbage cans and renovate buildings, maintain the college's vehicles and do the dozens of day-to-day maintenance jobs that are needed in any building complex.

Here are photos of a second group of these proud, hard-working CSEA members at SUNY Old Westbury.

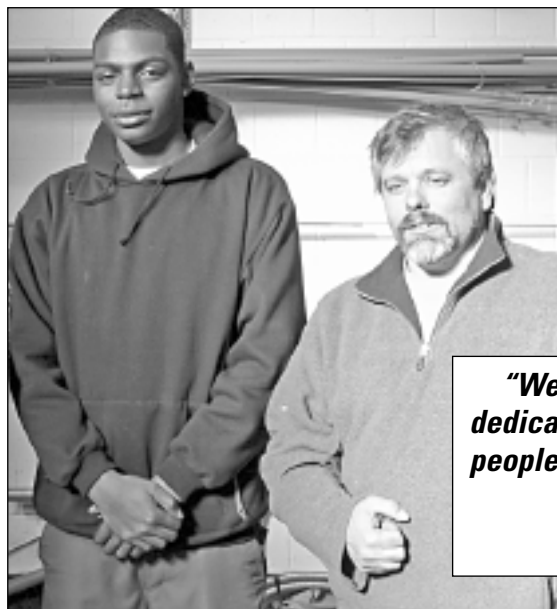
*(Editor's note: We apologize for incorrectly calling the union Local 614 in the last issue. Local 614 represents CSEA members at SUNY Stony Brook.)*

**Left column, top to bottom: Steve Ciurlys, a motor equipment mechanic, works on an auto engine. The college has 125 vehicles and equipment, such as plows and tractors. "We maintain everything from weed whackers to buses," he said.**

**Dawan Dawkins, left, and Art Foure, are groundworkers. Dawkins, who has worked on the campus for nine months, likes working outdoors. "The cold troubles me sometimes, but not much," he said. Foure is a 20-year Old Westbury employee. "Leaves, grass, snow," he said. "Tree work, storms, hurricanes, all that sort of stuff."**

**Michelle Malone, left, a secretary, has worked at the Old Westbury campus for four years; secretary Julia Sweeney has also worked at the switchboard, in central receiving and the mailroom and driven a bus during her 23 years at the college.**

**Dmitri Bardman, left, and Giuseppe Scutiferro are engineers in the heating plant. Ten CSEA members take care of all the heating, ventilation and air conditioning needs on the campus and provide 70 percent of the electricity used on campus.**



***"We have a bunch of caring, dedicated and committed people."***  
**– Tommy Noble, 1st vice president of Local 618**

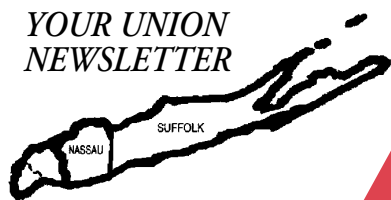


**Above, from top to bottom: Errol Roberts, left, and Edward Moorner, maintenance assistants, cut a 2x4 for a maintenance job. "We lay tile, do sheetrock, do blinds, frame windows," said Moorner.**

**Howard Harleston, a motor vehicle operator, has worked at Old Westbury for five years. "I drive pretty much everything — bus, van, snow plow," he said.**

**Tommy Noble, first vice president of Local 618, is the only electrician left on the maintenance staff; once there were four. Union members work well together and respect each other. "We have a good sense of unity," he said.**





## Message from CSEA Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta

### *CSEA Will Respond to County's Budget Threats like Never Before*

**O**K, so the county is near bankruptcy and apparently most members of the county executive's team seem to think that the work force is to blame. They must be thinking that, since I continue to hear how Nassau County cannot crawl out of this hole unless all unions in Nassau agree to tremendous permanent salary cuts. Let's review the plan set forth by County Executive Suozzi. According to him, there are three buckets.

The first bucket contains federal stimulus money where Nassau expects to realize \$50 million. The second bucket is filled with anticipated revenue coming from state legislation Nassau has yet to receive such as the red light cameras, the cigarette tax and the ticket surcharge. So far, we have lots of promises but nothing of substance. Oh yeah, the infamous third bucket, that's us. Suozzi expects \$50 million from all labor unions or else.....CSEA faces layoffs, CSEA faces a 10 percent furlough for remaining employees, CSEA departments such as Parks will be devastated and great pieces of our Long Island history such as the Old Bethpage Village Restoration will be closed.

The way I see it, CSEA seems to be taking the brunt of the attack on union workers. Isn't that always the case? I say that this is something we will change in the history books of Nassau County. Yes, the county can do all of those terrible things it says it is prepared to do to CSEA. This time, we will have an answer. November is just around the corner and if push comes to shove, this union will respond like never before. I have been in contact with our statewide organization and in fact I met with Statewide President Danny Donohue the week of Feb. 16. We will put into action a political fight like never seen before here in Nassau. Those legislators who vote in favor of layoffs will surely be scrutinized in the upcoming election period. The message will be clear. If you vote to lay us off, we will vote you out! We may not be successful in each district, but we believe we can make a significant difference in Nassau's political layout. I can remember just about each and every one of them answering "NO" to the question "Would you ever support laying off county workers?" during their interviews for endorsements. In fairness, some said it would be a last resort, but very unlikely. Legislators who vote in favor of giving the county executive unfettered power to close the county at his wish, will be called irresponsible and ineffective. After all, if the county executive should have those powers, it would not

be in the county Administrative Code to keep it from him. Legislators who are charged with checking and balancing the executive branch will be handing him a golden dagger to pierce the hearts of not only his work force, but his residents and taxpayers. Nassau County will be closed?

By the time you read this article, I am assuming that either an agreement was made between the unions and the county, or we are heading into the "doomsday scenario" Suozzi painted for us. As of this writing (Feb. 17), there has been no such agreement. We have said recently that CSEA is not oblivious to what has happened here in the United States. We know the state has caused us great financial pain by trimming its budget and continuing with its unfunded mandates. We are also aware that sales tax does play a very important role in supplying our county with the funding needed to feed our budget. Yet, we find our county executive has not pursued the \$100 million a year this county loses to schools and special districts as does every other county in the state. I am speaking about the irrevocable effects the so called "county guarantee" has caused us as a county. We pay refunds to commercial business for their tax challenges despite the fact that Nassau never collected the money in the first place. This county has lost more than \$700 million just since Suozzi has been the county executive. Imagine today's budget with an extra \$700 million in it. OK, most of it would have been spent, history tells us that, but we would surely not be closing Nassau County, laying off workers and demanding labor concessions to the tune of \$50 million! What about the five years without a tax raise? Sound familiar, county residents/workers? Did the county workers cause any of the above problems? Were we in a position to propose tax raises, collect the monies schools owe us? Of course not, but we are being asked to pay for those mistakes.

Over to the troubled Nassau Health Care Corp., we are grinding towards negotiations for our next collective bargaining agreement. Recently we spoke with Larry Slatky, the heir apparent to labor negotiations for the corporation. It seems that CEO Art Gianelli has come down from his original position that in order to survive, CSEA members would have to basically work without a pay increase for years to come. That stated, we are still substantially far apart in just our philosophies and on how to approach these negotiations.

We will continue to speak and negotiate with

management. Our LRS, Bob Brooks, has been assigned from CSEA's Long Island Region office and he comes with a world of experience and knowledge. Bob will work alongside me and our entire negotiating team to fight hard for a fair contract for all Health Care Corp. members. It is still early in the process and in fact we are still collecting proposals from you, the members. The next step in the process will be to go over your proposals and make a final list of them that makes sense for all members. Talks will continue in the meantime to set up the ground rules and policies of these negotiations. We are right on schedule today and as soon as we have something more informative to tell you we will bring it to you. Remember, whatever we bring to you will be voted on by the membership of the Health Care Corporation.

Yours in unionism,

*Jerry Laricchiuta*

Nassau County Local 830 president

**Correction** – Last Month I stated that County Comptroller Howard Weitzman handed out 5 percent raises for his ordinance workers while CSEA members worked without a salary increase in 2008. In fact, Mr. Weitzman gave his ordinance workers a 3.5 percent salary increase in late December after our award was announced. There was one raise for 5 percent which went to one of his most senior ordinance staff. A raise in late December is still a raise but certainly it impacts the next year (2009) much more than it would in 2008. I stand corrected on the issue.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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- *40-Plus Year CSEA Member*



The  
Work Force

CSEA Nassau County Local 830

**EXPRESS**

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 ROB ARCIELLO, Deputy Sheriffs  
 ALICE BARRON, A. Holly Patterson  
 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.

## CSEA Honors NAACP on 100th Anniversary



◀ CSEA Local 830 Administrative Assistant Rudy Bruce, left, presents NAACP Roosevelt Freeport Branch President Doug Mayers with a plaque courtesy of the local at the NAACP's 100th Anniversary celebration on Feb. 4.

## THEY SAID IT:

## Quote of the Month

"I want you to understand, that if this does not work out, we will watch every legislator that votes for layoffs and watch every legislator that votes to close the county, and trust me, we will watch very closely."

— CSEA Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta said in his eight-minute address to the Nassau County Legislature on Feb. 9.

**What's the easiest way to keep up to pace with what's going on in your union?**  
**JOIN WWW.CSEA830.ORG!**



**By signing up, you will automatically be added to our e-mail list, and will receive periodic updates on the latest CSEA news!**

## This Month in LABOR HISTORY

March 15, 1917

The U.S. Supreme Court approved the Eight-Hour Act under the threat of a national railway strike. Union officials representing 400,000 railroad workers threatened a nationwide strike unless their demands for an eight-hour workday and wage parity with their existing 10-hour workday were met.

**Congratulations to January's Contest Winners who received \$25 gift cards to TGI Friday's!**

**Robin Hecht, Social Services**

**Lauren Rubenfeld, County Attorney**

**Nwanneka Amaya, NUMC**

**Michele Zucker, Constituent Affairs**

*Diane Connor, LPN, Employee of the Month for the Nassau Health Care Corp.'s Community Health Centers*



From left, Marge Mauro, RN, nurse manager Freeport Health Center; Diane Connor, LPN; Mitchell Rubin, MD, vice president, Ambulatory Care and Chair of Community Medicine and Karen Dudek, RN, nursing supervisor, ambulatory care and community medicine.

Diane Connor, a licensed practical nurse, has been honored as the January Employee of the Month for the Community Health Centers by the employees of the Nassau Health Care Corp. Connor, of Levittown, started at NUMC in 1983 in the pediatrics department and was reassigned to the ambulatory centers where her good humor and confidence with staff and patients are displayed on a daily basis. She is very conscientious and comes to work with great reliability and a smile on her face every day for patients and staff. Connor is a great mentor for new nurses and student nurses as well. She has a big heart and we are lucky that she shares it with all of us on a daily basis.

*Calvin Garrett, Employee of the Month at Nassau University Medical Center*



Calvin Garrett, a patient care assistant at Nassau University Medical Center, was recently honored as the January Employee of the Month at a reception hosted by the staff. Garrett, of Hempstead, has been employed at NUMC since 1987 in the department of psychiatry and behavioral health services. He is sensitive to patient conditions and circumstances and always working diligently to help others in need, especially in a department with patients suffering from mental health issues. He is reliable and devoted to his patients who have come to rely on him.

From left, Nyapati Rao, MD, chair of department of psychiatry and behavioral health services, NUMC; Geraldine Wilkins, RN, nurse manager, department of psychiatry and behavioral health services, NUMC; Calvin Garrett, employee of the month and Mitchell Rubin, MD, vice president of ambulatory services and chair of department of community medicine.

## 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 free.

Call 571-7000 to arrange an appointment.

**ATTENTION CSEA MEMBERS FROM THE NASSAU HEALTH CARE CORPORATION!**

**CONTRACT NEGOTIATION TIME IS COMING UP!**

- The contract between CSEA Local 830 and the Nassau Health Care Corp. will expire Dec. 31, 2009
- The 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, Att: Ken Nicholson at 2201 Hempstead Turnpike in East Meadow, 11554

✂ -----

NAME (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT (NUMC, A. Holly or outlying clinic)

\_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSAL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## CSEA Fights off County's Proposed Cuts



MINEOLA — In light of the gloomy economic climate across the country and in Nassau County, County Executive Tom Suozzi addressed the Nassau County Legislature and the public Feb. 2 with a three-part solution to save \$135 million in this year's budget.

This solution that has drawn great ire from CSEA Local 830.

Part I involves \$50 million in federal Medicaid increases. Part II is \$30 million that would either come from state legislative items or from various program cuts including youth board, drug, alcohol and mental health and senior citizens.

Part III is the labor aspect of it. Suozzi's proposal is that all county employees, union and non-union, reduce their salaries by 7 percent, which would save \$55 million. If the unions do not agree to that, his solution would be to shut the county down for the equivalent of 26 days per year by opening county business for the day each Wednesday at 1 p.m., as well as laying off 320 civil service employees, 250 police officers, 100 correction officers and 200 additional layoffs.

This proposal would also affect the county's other public unions, including the Police Benevolent Association, Sheriffs Officers' Association, Superior Officers' Association, and Detectives' Association.

"It seems as if we were zero percent of the problem, but now we are 33 percent of the solution," CSEA Local 830 President Jerry

Laricchiuta said. "The 7 percent pay cut is just unrealistic at this time. I have members calling me saying they are foreclosing on their homes, and they can't afford to pay their bills as it is."

The average CSEA member working for Nassau County makes an average of \$46,000 per year. A 7 percent pay cut would come to a \$3,220 annual deduction in salary. "For most members, that is 2-3 months of mortgage payments," Laricchiuta said. "CSEA was the only union that took no raise in 2008, which would make this even more painful for our members. We have already given back."

CSEA has made it clear it is willing to work with county officials, citing the difficult economic times, but the county must respect the union's requests as well. "We understand that there is a global economic crisis and Nassau County is not immune," Laricchiuta said. "But if we are to make concessions, we would certainly seek some sort of retribution."

### The Fallout

On Feb. 9, the county legislature held its full legislative hearing. Laricchiuta was the first

to speak and addressed the legislators with hundreds of CSEA members in attendance. Many of the Local 830 president's remarks drew applause from members.

"I am here today to let everyone know that I am here, and ready to come to the table and speak with the county executive," Laricchiuta said.

Before Laricchiuta's speech, the legislature had agreed to postpone any vote on layoffs until Feb. 23.

"I am pleased that the county has given us two weeks to work things out," Laricchiuta said. "Layoffs will only contribute to the problem and will add to the ranks of public assistance and foreclosure."

"It's time that we stop going after the low-paid workers," Nassau County Legislator Denise Ford said in response to Laricchiuta's speech.

Legislator Dave Denenberg congratulated Laricchiuta on supporting his members and approaching the legislature with courtesy.

### What's Next?

As *The Express* was going to press, CSEA has three scheduled meetings with the county to iron out a solution before the next legislative hearing Feb. 23. For the latest updates, please log on to [www.csea830.org](http://www.csea830.org). Make sure you sign up so you are added to our mass e-mail list to receive instant updates directly to your mailbox.

**Nota especial para nuestros miembros de habla hispana:** Conéctese a [www.csea830.org](http://www.csea830.org) y haga clic en el vínculo Special Features para ver la entrevista de Jerry Laricchiuta's en Univision 41 el 3 de febrero con respecto a las cuestiones del presupuesto del país.

Above, Jerry Laricchiuta addresses the legislators on Feb. 9 with local members in the background.

Left, Laricchiuta addresses the media on Feb. 2.

## Laricchiuta Addresses Legislature on Tax Certiorari Issue

Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta addressed the legislature on Jan. 26 on an issue that has recently generated great interest among government officials, union leaders and media. That is the concept of "tax certioraris."

"Nassau County is breaking the state law every single day by adhering to their policy of refunding 100 percent of residents' tax rebates, and not having the schools or special districts chip in," Laricchiuta said.

When a homeowner pays property taxes, approximately 17 percent of that bill goes to Nassau County, while about 65 to 70 percent goes to your local school district, and the rest to Special Districts and other municipalities.

However, when that homeowner files for a property tax refund, Nassau County pays back 100 percent of the bill, not the 17 percent that they are responsible for. Legislator Dave Denenberg said that this cost the county \$90 million last year alone. It is believed that on an annual basis it costs between \$50 million and \$100 million.

Legislator Roger Corbin has been the one government official holding the torch on this, and said he has not received any response from other public officials. "I turned this over to County Attorney Lorna Goodman, and to Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. I received no answer," he said.

"The bottom line is, we would not be in the predicament we are in today if we have been following this law correctly for the past 30 years," Laricchiuta said. "We are not asking anyone to rewrite the law, we are just asking the county to follow it, just like every other county does."

CSEA believes that no legislation is needed to correct this problem, just a change to the county's Administrative Code.

"How can we even discuss layoffs or furloughs when we have obviously not exhausted all measures of recouping the money that we deserve?" Laricchiuta said.

Stay tuned.

## Crossing Guards Form Special Relationships with their Kids

For a total of 70 years, nearly 13,000 school days, and more than 200 brutal winter months, crossing guards Sue Tirino, Catherine "Kitty" Chiocchi and Aida Cain have been making sure Nassau County children get to and from school safely.

Over that time, what a lasting impression those kids have made on them, and in turn what an effect they have had on their kids.

Cain, who has been doing crossings for more than 30 years, works at Bowling Green 2 Elementary School in Westbury and on the corner of Carman and Stewart Avenue in East Meadow. She is retiring at the end of this school year and is struggling to break that news to her kids. "I'm trying to slowly tell them that I won't be back next year," Cain said.

When someone like a crossing guard becomes a fixture in a young person's life, not having them around anymore could be tough. "I can't even miss a day sometimes, or a crossing," said Chiocchi. "I've had kids come to my house and ask where I was."

She works on the corner of Prospect Place and Hicksville Road in Massapequa and has been on the job for 30 years. When asked if she is eyeing retirement, she said, "No, not at all. I love what I do." That echoes the sentiment of most guards.

Tirino, vice president of the CSEA Crossing Guards Unit, has been on the job just 18 years, but has lots of stories to tell. She crosses seven days a week. Monday through Friday, she works the corner of Chestnut Street and Hempstead Avenue in West Hempstead.

"Over all these years, I've seen them go through graduation, to first boyfriends, to college, and then a lot of times they come back," Tirino says of the special relationship she has with the children. "I was even interviewed by the Secret Service because someone used me as a reference when getting a job with the government."

All three guards maintain that though they have formed these special bonds, they still have a job to do and a very serious job at that. "There are cars going 90 miles per hour on Stewart Avenue sometimes, big buses and



Crossing Guards Catherine Chiocchi, Sue Tirino and Aida Cain with Jerry Laricchiuta.

small, so we have to be careful," Cain said. "I've had a car take my pocket off," Tirino said.

Crossing Guards Unit President Mary Delmare echoed that thought. "Traffic conditions at times can be very dangerous," she said. "The weather, especially in the winter months, can take its toll on you and the fact that today in this fast-paced world we live in, there are times when the guards need to make split-second decisions to not only protect the children but themselves as well."

But through all of that, they have been able to do their job very well and make a difference in young children's lives.

And it's not just the children they affect, said CSEA Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta. "It's teachers, PTA member, neighbors, parents," he said. "They all know the crossing guards and appreciate what they do every day."

And the schools often let the guards know of the gratitude they have for them. The elementary school where Cain has become a fixture over the years recently awarded her with a plaque for outstanding appreciation. She even got a Christmas ornament last year saying "Best Crossing Guard Ever."

Tirino said she was asked recently to come into class for a child's special person day.

"I agree with Kitty, Sue and Aida that you develop a close relationship with the children as well as the parents and guardians," Delmare said. "The teachers come to appreciate all that you do and how much you have to endure."

So, this winter season, don't forget your 450 Nassau County crossing guards who help get your children to school and back home every day, safe and sound.

## Member Spotlight

### Bob Reily: 42 years at Nassau Community College

UNIONDALE — When Bob Reily began working at Nassau Community College in 1967, a stamp cost 5 cents, the median household income was just over \$7,000, Frank Sinatra won a Grammy for his record "Strangers in the Night," and the Green Bay Packers won the first Super Bowl.

Much has changed in the past 42 years, but Reily still works at the college.

Reily has been working with computers at the college since 1967. He is now a programming manager and oversees a group of about eight computer program analysts.

Without Reily and his group, students wouldn't be able to register for classes efficiently or even pay for them. He is responsible for administrative computing of registration, admissions, billing and various student services.

In the world of computers, 42 years is more than a lifetime, so he has seen many details about his job change over the years.

"When I first started, it was the IBM punch card era. We worked on a small main frame and programming work was transcribed to punch cards and read by a card reader," he said.

That was a system of thousands of cards. "If we had 20,000 students, and four cards each, for the amount of classes they take each, then that's 80,000 cards," he said.

Reily was instrumental in moving on from that and helped develop the Legacy Online Registration system. He personally wrote the online registration computer program and continued to develop it throughout the years.

Starting last fall, the new Banner System was implemented, enabling students to register for their classes online. Naturally, that requires a transition process and a long education process through various seminars and courses.

Understandably, the updating of software could be a whirlwind for everyone, but even with nearly 40 years with the college when this came out, Reily still was interested in learning the new system.

"I have enjoyed what I've done over the years," he said. "Management is good to work with, and I enjoy a new challenge."

Reily, is from Oceanside and has two sons. He is a graduate of LaSalle College in Philadelphia.





## Four CSEA Members Recognized as Top Physicians in Metro Area

EAST MEADOW — On Jan. 30, the Nassau Health Care Corp. proudly announced that six physicians from Nassau University Medical Center, four of them CSEA Local 830 members, have been included in the Castle Connolly's 12th edition of "Top Doctors" New York Metro Area.

A New York City research and information company, Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. publishes an annual guide titled *Top Doctors: New York Metro Area*, which lists doctors whom Castle Connolly has determined to be the top 10 percent of the region's physicians. More than 6,000 doctors are listed. The CSEA members listed are:

### **Kenneth H. Hupart, MD**

Before joining NUMC, Dr. Kenneth H. Hupart served as the medical director of the outpatient department at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY. He was a member of the faculty of endocrinology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine where he was an associate professor of clinical medicine. Hupart received his undergraduate education at the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Columbia University and was awarded his Doctor of Medicine degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1982.

Hupart also leads the endocrine, diabetes and thyroid biopsy clinics and is the chief of the new metabolic bone and osteoporosis clinic

### **David Rosenthal, MD**

Dr. David Rosenthal attended medical school at New York University and completed his residency in internal medicine at Wilfor Hall, U.S. Air Force Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. His fellowship in the field of endocrinology, metabolism, diabetes and nuclear medicine was achieved at Boston University Medical

Center. Rosenthal is dually board certified in internal medicine and in endocrinology/metabolism. Before 1972, Rosenthal served as the chief of the department of medicine for the U.S. Air Force in several region hospitals. Upon his return to Long Island in 1972, he joined a private referral practice in endocrinology and also joined the voluntary attending staff at NUMC in the endocrinology division and became actively involved in the NUMC fellowship teaching program. In 2006, he left private practice to devote all his professional time to NUMC as an attending physician.

### **Leonard Octavius Barrett, MD**

After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1974, Dr. Leonard Octavius Barrett entered and graduated Iona College in New Rochelle with a degree in biology and chemistry. He graduated from SUNY Downstate in 1983 with a medical degree. In 1989, he completed his residency in general surgery at SUNY Stony Brook, where he remained an additional year to complete a surgical/critical care fellowship. Since then, Barrett has qualified for board certifications in general surgery, surgical critical care, and thoracic surgery. Only about 2 percent of the physicians in the United States qualify for triple board certification. In 1983, Barrett began his assignment at NUMC as a thoracic surgery attending and as a director of surgical critical care. Due to his outstanding performance, he was appointed in 1995 as chief of thoracic surgery.

### **Dominick Sabatino, MD**

Dr. Dominick Sabatino, director pediatric hematology/oncology is a graduate of the University of Bologna, Italy, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. He is

board certified in pediatrics and pediatric hematology/oncology, and since 1988, has served as director of pediatric hematology/oncology at NUMC. Before joining the medical staff at NUMC, Sabatino was the associate director of pediatric hematology/oncology at the Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn and assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at SUNY Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine in Brooklyn. He is presently a professor of clinical pediatrics at SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine.



## Public Security Officers Receive Patch

Public Security employees, who work under the Nassau County Police Department, have received their police patches for their uniforms. Despite driving patrol cars with the county police logo on it, there was previously no patch on their uniforms. CSEA has been working for several months on this, and thank the Police Department for its cooperation in getting the patches added.

## Defensive Driving Course

Receive 10 percent off your insurance premium for the next three years

Four-point reduction on your driving record

Once you complete the program, you are eligible for an immediate 10 percent discount on your auto liability and collision insurance for a three-year period on all vehicles for which you are the principal operator.

The cost of the six-hour course is \$22 members, and \$27 for non-members.

Saturday, 9am - 3:30 p.m. all days

March 14, 2009 • April 25, 2009 • May 9, 2009

June 6, 2009 • June 20, 2009

400 County Seat Drive, Mineola 11501

*Family and friends welcome*

*No Refunds, No Rescheduling, No Walk-Ins*

To Register, please complete the form below and make out check payable to Nassau Local 830 and send to CSEA Nassau Local 830, Defensive Driving, 400 County Seat Dr., Mineola, NY 11501

Session (Please circle): Mar. 14 Apr. 25 May 9 June 6 June 20

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*For NUMC members:*

Defensive Driving Classes at  
Nassau University Medical Center

Sat. 3/21/09 • Sat. 4/25/09

Auditorium at NUMC • Call 572-6364 to Sign Up!



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

### *Message to Legislative Leaders*

# Look Elsewhere to Balance the Budget

Thousands of working New Yorkers united in Albany Jan. 7 to join the "March for Main Street," which was timed to coincide with Gov. David Paterson's first State of the State address and designed to challenge his misplaced budget priorities that target middle class New Yorkers.

The event was organized by CSEA, along with other unions and sought to convey the message that the governor's plan will place communities, jobs and services at risk. Our members traveled from Long Island and every other part of the state in the cold and snow to take part in the march.

We helped organize the "March for Main Street" to deliver this message: Working New Yorkers live on Main Street, not Wall Street, and we will stand up to proposals that will have us pay more and get less while the wealthiest New Yorkers are unaffected.

The governor's proposed 2009-10 budget includes destructive cuts in state services and the state work force while ignoring cost-cutting options that can save the state billions. Our members are already doing more with less and have endured massive cuts to state agencies. It's time our legislative leaders look elsewhere to balance the budget.

CSEA members employed in state service, including hospitals, parks, youth centers, motor vehicles, Department of Transportation, state universities, offices of mental health, and homes for the developmentally disabled are regularly working over and above their normal duties to provide adequate service and care.

DOT and local government snowplow crews are spread very thin, but have managed to keep our roads clear this winter, even in the face of frequent storms. The Labor Department is scrambling with every available person to meet a workload four times the volume of a year ago. And these are just a couple of the daily realities faced by our state employees.

We are getting hit equally hard in local government. We are trying to save the jobs of public safety dispatchers in Riverhead, and

Southampton has switched to the less expensive Empire Health Plan and threatens closure of the waste transfer station.

Do I have to tell you what's going on in Nassau County? The possibility of layoffs hangs heavy over our heads as the specter of a permanent 7 percent wage reduction looms. We did not create this problem, but once again CSEA members, working class people, are asked to sacrifice.

It is disappointing that our elected leaders apparently do not know or do not want to believe that the vast majority of public employees are already working in stressful circumstances caused by inadequate staffing. Clearly, we must take our message directly to the people on Long Island

and throughout New York state.

The March for Main Street was a good start, but we have to follow it up on an individual basis as well. Contact your state senator or Assembly member. Tell them you live on Main Street, not Wall Street. Let's continue to speak out and advocate for solutions other than those proposed by the governor. We deserve better than that. We are CSEA!

Yours in unionism,

Nick LaMorte, president  
Long Island Region

## Long Island Polar Plunge for Special Olympics



### **North Hempstead Beach Park (Formerly Bar Beach)**

**Port Washington, N.Y.**

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009**

**Registration begins at 9 a.m.**

**Plunge at Noon**

**Go to [www.specialolympicsny.org](http://www.specialolympicsny.org) for more information**

**or call 631-254-1465**

**Help raise money for Long Island Special Olympics Athletes!**

**CSEA is an event sponsor.**

## CSEA Addresses State Assembly on Governor's Budget

SMITHTOWN — CSEA Long Island Region officials, including Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta addressed Republican members of the New York State Assembly Feb. 13.

CSEA is concerned that local government employees across Long Island are taking the hit for the state's budgetary shortfalls. In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, New York will have a \$13.8 billion deficit.

Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte was the first of the CSEA contingent to speak and said, "Working families are being asked to bear the brunt of a problem that is not of their making."

The governor has created 137 increases in taxes, fees, and fines on New Yorkers in hopes of generating nearly \$5 million in revenue. "These taxes unfairly burden the people that

can afford them the least," LaMorte added.

Laricchiuta spoke of the pain that job cuts could create. "Local governments are hurting. The first reaction is to cut services and layoff workers. This will do nothing to help the financial situation we're in right now."

A main concern of Republican Assembly members is the high property taxes on Long Island, and this budget is offering little protection to homeowners. LaMorte echoed that thought while speaking on the record with Assemblyman Rob Walker, and said the slashing of the middle class STAR Program could prove to be particularly devastating.

CSEA will continue to fight against the governor's 2009-2010 budget proposal to protect jobs, while helping maintain the great services CSEA members provide every day.



Addressing the New York State Assembly, from left: State Employee Local 016 President Andre Sigmone, SUNY Stony Brook Local 614 President Carlos Speight, Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta, Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, Nassau Educational Local 865 President Monica Berkowitz and CSEA Political Action Coordinator Gretchen Penn.

### CSEA Speaks with Pearl Carroll & Associates on **Talkin' Labor with Local 830**

Jerry Laricchiuta spoke with Pearl Carroll & Associates' Steve Neithardt Jan. 21 regarding Pearl Carroll's great insurance programs available for CSEA members. Products include Disability Income Insurance, Life Insurance and much more. All products and information are available at [www.pearlcarroll.com](http://www.pearlcarroll.com).

Neithardt spoke of how as of Jan. 1, 2010, the New York State Disability Insurance acquired by CSEA in the recent contract with Nassau County, will be of great benefit to all members, including those who already have Pearl Carroll insurance. "Members can now use Pearl Carroll as a supplement to the New York State Disability Insurance," Neithardt said. "For example, someone who wanted \$2,000 per month of coverage and could not afford it, now would only have to pay \$1,300." The New York state Disability covers you for \$700 per month.

According to Neithardt, one quarter of Local 830 members are enrolled with Pearl Carroll, with those numbers going up 5 percent over the past four years. If you would like more information, or would like to enroll, please call 1-800-681-2654.

If you would like to hear this radio show in its entirety just log on to [www.csea830.org](http://www.csea830.org) and click on the "Talkin' Labor with Local 830" icon.



Laricchiuta with Steve Neithardt

## NUMC and Social Services Participate in Wear Red Day for Heart Disease

UNIONDALE — Dozens of employees from Nassau County Social Services participated in the 2009 National Wear Red Day campaign Feb. 6 in support of preventing heart disease.

Workers raised more than \$1,400 for the American Heart Association. Great prizes were donated by Houlihan's, Panera Bread, Tin Alley Grill, Borrelli's and other local restaurants, as well as gift bags from New York and Company and Lord & Taylor. \$200 was donated by Florion Food Services, which is the catering service for 60 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard, home of Social Services. Those who participated bought raffles to win the prizes.

This is the third year that Social Services has taken part in this program with more money being raised each year. They raised \$1,200 last year. Diane Lorenzo of Social Services coordinated the event.

At Nassau University Medical Center, more than 50 employees participated in "Wear Red" Day of the American Heart Association by purchasing pins that they wore to a lunch and learn lecture provided by Dr. Aloysius Cuyjet, chair of the department of medicine at NUMC. The employees raised \$675 to donate to the American Heart Association.

For more information on heart disease, log on to [www.goredforwomen.com](http://www.goredforwomen.com).



Social Service employees enjoying the Wear Red Day festivities.