

President's Message

Our endorsement is worthless without votes on election day

At a recent meeting I attended, one of our members approached me and said, "McGowan, where does this union get off, telling me who to vote for. I've been voting on my own for the last 40 years and I don't need any advice."

Circumstances at the meeting didn't lend themselves to a thoughtful answer of that lady's question, so I would like to try to answer it in this column.

First of all, I firmly believe that the union has an absolute duty to advise its members as to how to vote. As public employees, we are the only employees across the country who elect our bosses. Who those bosses are and how they view public employees plays a critical role in each of our working lives every day.

I am proud of the fact that unlike many unions, CSEA has an open process which actively seeks to involve as many members as possible in formulating our endorsements of political candidates. Candidates for the New York State Senate and Assembly, for example, attend Candidates Nights, or other screening functions where they can be asked questions by local members and by members of our Regional Legislative and Political Action Committees. In addition to encouraging our locals and regions to actually interview candidates, CSEA's Legislative and Political Action Office provides our regional committees with voting records and synopses of candidates for legislative seats. These voting records allow our members to know how candidates have voted on CSEA legislation in the past.

The primary consideration in obtaining the CSEA endorsement is how a candidate has voted or intends to vote on union issues. These issues could be as wide-ranging as Occupational Safety and Health for public employees, Agency Shop, Snow Days for certain groups of affected workers, our Cover-In bill for Judiciary employees, or retirement system membership for our Sheriff's units. In addition to screening candidates' views on public employee issues, we also try to look at the general competency and quality of the legislative candidates involved.

One thing that is not important in obtaining the CSEA endorsement is party affiliation. It is our belief that party affiliation is much less

important than how a candidate stands on the issues and whether or not he or she can be expected to be a friend of CSEA, public employees and other workers. We firmly believe that what your legislator does is much more important than which party that legislator belongs to.

During the legislative session, many different groups of our membership come to CSEA and ask us to petition the legislature to take favorable action on bills which affect that portion of the membership. We do this through the work of our lobbyists and through the grass-roots lobbying which is done by our members. When legislators react favorably to our requests on legislation, they expect that CSEA will act favorably towards them when they seek election. I believe that they have every right to expect this kind of support from CSEA just as we have every right to expect that those legislators who receive that support will in turn support us.

Once a candidate is endorsed, CSEA is prepared to go all out to secure his or her election. We put both our money and our manpower where our mouth is. The union makes campaign contributions to candidates who need those contributions. But I believe, more importantly, we try to provide rank and file volunteer help for candidates either for phone banks, literature distribution, by inviting the candidates to address union meetings and publicizing our endorsements in the local press and *The Public Sector*. This kind of effort has allowed CSEA to achieve enormous legislative gains in the past four years, gains that we have been unable to achieve in the prior 66 years of our existence before our active entry into the political process.

In the last four years, we have secured the passage of legislation providing for Occupational Safety and Health for all public employees, the Agency Shop, the PERB Powers bill, which finally, for the first time since the inception of the Taylor Law, allows

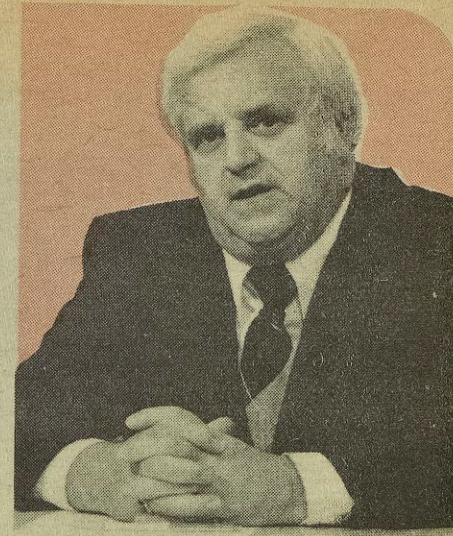
the Public Employment Relations Board the authority to enforce orders against employers who bargain in bad faith, the Cover-In bill for our judicial employees, pension supplementation, the repeal of the probationary penalty of the Taylor Law, which used to subject employees to summary dismissal in the event of a strike, a bill that prevented public employers from withdrawing from the Social Security system (this bill was passed after 11 public employers in New York State had notified the Federal Government of their intention to withdraw from the Social Security System) the bill to extend "preferred lists" so that those public employees who were laid off in 1974 and 1975 will have a chance to regain employment, the Deputy Sheriff's Re-opener bill which will allow our sheriffs, under-sheriffs and deputies to elect participation in §89-a or 89-b, a bill to insure that individuals transferred from the Division For Youth to Youth Support, Inc., would not lose the benefits of State service, etc.

The passage of these and other important member legislation was achieved because CSEA has an active, modern, sophisticated political action program that is able to demonstrate the clear benefits of supporting legislation which is supported by CSEA. The most important single aspect of that program is the ability of the union to convince its members to support the union endorsed candidates. We understand that this is a difficult job, that most of our members were Republicans or Democrats before they were Union members. Nevertheless, I believe that our members are becoming more and more aware of their ability to influence their own working conditions, wages, and benefits through the use of effective political action and the support of union endorsed candidates.

Does the union have the right to urge you to vote for its endorsed candidates? More than a right; it has a duty.

William L. McGowan

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President



the Public Sector

Official Publication of
The Civil Service Employees
Association

Vol. 2, No. 44 (ISSN 0164 9949)

Wednesday, August 27, 1980

Union opens campaign to restore pension hike

ALBANY — Vowing to override Governor Carey's veto of modest pension increases the union won for retirees in the state legislature this year, CSEA has fired its first salvo in the veto override battle.

An initial mailing to all members of the Legislature asking for their support when the body reconvenes this fall, points out, "At a time when our nation's economy is reeling from the effects of recession and inflation, it is incumbent upon the leaders of government to aid those who are least able to aid themselves."

The pension supplementation bill passed by the legislature in the closing

weeks of the session would have provided a three percent increase in the pensions of public employees who retired since 1976; a seven percent increase for those who retired between 1976 and 1970; and a three percent increase for those who retired prior to 1970. It would have been the very first supplementation for New York State Retirement System members who retired since March 1970.

"Those people have had their purchasing power cut in half by inflation," President William L. McGowan pointed out. "The veto of this bill was a cruel denial of basic economic dignity to a group of people who served our state for many years."

False "nepotism" charge brings job loss, anguish

LINDENHURST — Karla Kienle still shakes her head in disbelief and tosses her sun-bleached blonde hair when she recalls being fired from her CETA-funded job at the Lindenhurst Youth Center for "nepotism" because her father was an unpaid volunteer at the same Center that employed his daughter. Her blue eyes flash and light up her tanned face when she tells how the Suffolk County Department of Labor tried to force her to pay back \$5,000 in wages she earned as a youth worker.

Nepotism, from the Italian word, nepotismo, for nephew, describes the practice by Popes and other ecclesiastics of showing special favor to nephews in the past. Today, it means the practice of giving unfair preferment to relatives and is prohibited by CETA regulations.

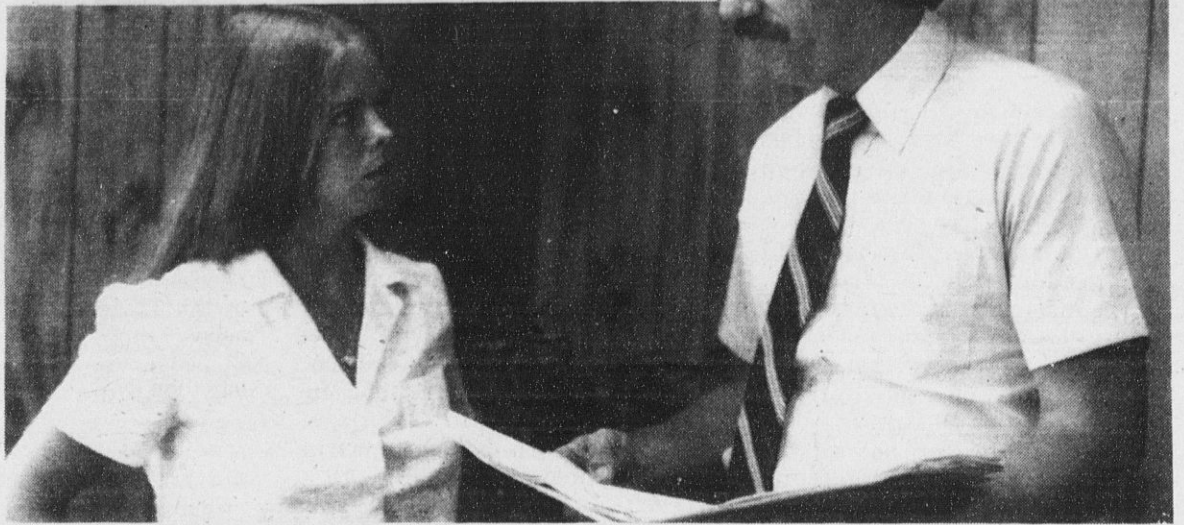
Her firing was a shock when it happened, Ms. Kienle said. She holds a college degree in recreation and exceeds the qualifications for her position as a youth counselor. Her record was excellent and no one had challenged her about nepotism before, she said. Another shock came when the Suffolk County Department of Labor, which administers the Youth Employment Training Program that employed Ms. Kienle, ordered her to pay back the wages she had earned.

The shock soon turned to anger. "I signed those time sheets; I did a hell of a job and they aren't going to take it away from me," Ms. Kienle said in an interview in the Suffolk County Local 852 offices recently.

Ms. Kienle contacted Frank Kost, grievance representative of Local 852, who secured the help of CSEA staff attorney Marge Karowe, an expert on CETA regulations. Both Mr. Kost and Ms. Karowe accompanied Ms. Kienle to a hearing at the Department of Labor on Aug. 4 and are awaiting a decision from the Department.

"There is no nepotism," Mr. Kost said. In her job application, Ms. Kienle had answered "no" to a question on a nepotism affidavit which asked if she had any relatives "working" for the agency.

Edward Kienle, Ms. Kienle's father, is a coordinator of physical education and recreation and a



HER FATHER'S VOLUNTEER WORK at the Lindenhurst Youth Center cost CETA youth counselor Karla Kienle her job. Last May, she faced orders from the Suffolk Dept. of Labor to pay back \$5,000 in wages. But with the help of Frank Kost, (right), a local 852 grievance representative, the charges were dropped. Action is pending concerning Ms. Kienle's CETA job.

member of the Board at the Youth Center. He helped set the facility up several years ago. He has worked for the past seven years without pay at the center during his free time and during summers when he is not working as a physical education teacher at Lindenhurst High School.

"His interest in youth. He works with them at school and wants to help kids out after school. Suffolk County selected him to start the program in 1974," Ms. Kienle said. She followed in her father's profession and has an Associate Degree from SUNY at Farmingdale in Recreation.

After she joined the Suffolk County Youth Training Program everything went well for almost a year until a CETA monitor came to check payroll records. "He saw an annual report. My photo and name was in it next to the program I ran. My father's name was in the book as a member of the Board of Directors. He told me that it was through screening that he detected the relationship but it

was only after he saw the Annual Report that the trouble started," Ms. Kienle said.

A second monitor came to the center on April 3. "He told me not to worry, he had to check it out. The next day I got a mailgram saying I was fired," she said.

"Then I got a call. Don't you know you violated the nepotism rule, I was asked. Don't you know you will have to pay back the money you earned," Ms. Kienle recalled. The demand for the return of money has never been put in writing and was dropped from the charges against Ms. Kienle at the Aug. 4th hearing.

"Since I lost my job I have been unemployed. It was too late to get a job at a camp and most of the other jobs in my field were taken for the summer by then," she said.

Ms. Kienle decided to take her case to her union. "I'm glad I pursued it. CETA officials discouraged me from fighting them."

Sponsor an Athlete

The Special Olympics is truly **Special**.

During the International Special Olympics held last year at Brockport, some two-hundred New York Special Olympians represented our state.

CSEA is proud to have been a continuing sponsor for the Special Olympics — for the International Special Olympics alone, we raised over \$12,000. But now the Special Olympics need you to become personally involved. There are over 40,000 Special Olympians here in New York who continue to need your support.

You can personally sponsor a Special Olympian in the 1980 program of training and competition for only \$19.50! Think of it... for roughly the price of dinner out for two, you can make a very real contribution to those who need it most.

Whoever said you can't buy joy has never looked into the faces of Special Olympians as they run their races, jump their jumps, do their pushups and win their medals. And the joy won't stop there. Because everyone who helped — from the volunteers to each financial contributor — shares a special joy quite unlike anything else.

Even if you can't afford the \$19.50 by yourself, you can **SPONSOR AN ATHLETE** with several co-workers or friends. For example, it would cost only \$9.75 apiece for two people; only \$3.90 each for five people. Of course, you can contribute more.

Each sponsor will receive the name and address of his or her athlete and information on when and where the Olympian will compete. And so you'll have something special to remind you of your help, you'll receive a certificate from

New York Special Olympics, Inc. that you'll be proud to keep.

Please help. For your convenience, use the attached coupon. Send your tax-deductible contribution to:

CSEA Supports Special Olympics
33 Elk Street
Albany, New York 12224

I/We would like to participate in the CSEA "Sponsor-an-Athlete" program for the New York Special Olympics.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> President's Club (\$380) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Medal Club (\$55) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Medal Club (\$185) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Sponsors (\$19.50) |
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Make checks payable to: "New York Special Olympics, Inc."

School units ratify new contracts

Peekskill has a 2-year pact

PEEKSKILL — The new CSEA contract for the 40-member Peekskill School District Custodial and Maintenance Employees Unit calls for several improvements in benefits and working conditions, as well as a substantial pay hike.

CSEA Collective Bargaining Specialist Emanuele Vitale, who assisted the unit's negotiating team, said the two-year pact, overwhelmingly ratified by both sides, call for across-the-board pay raises of \$1,125, plus increments, in each year.

It gives employees a full 10% differential for working the night shift. It also calls for out-of-title pay for all out-of-title work, no matter how long the work is performed.

Under the new contract, accrued vacation time will be credited on the employee's anniversary date. Also, the employer's contribution to the welfare fund increased from \$150 to \$200 in the first year of the pact, and to \$250 in the second.

Finally, pay for up to 165 days of unused sick leave will go towards each employee's pension, and any unused sick leave beyond that will be paid to the employee in cash, upon retirement.

"The negotiating committee did a good job," Mr. Vitale said. "They won a fair and equitable settlement, which was recognized by the membership."

Committee members were Frank Miozzi, President of the unit, who chaired the committee; Florence Sanca; John Batts; and Joseph Urbanowicz.

3 pay raises for Rondout Valley

RONDOUT VALLEY — Custodial employees of the Rondout Valley School District have just ratified a new, three year contract, according to Unit President Vincent Sickles.

The three-year agreement includes annual pay raises of 8.5 percent, 8.75 percent, and 9 percent, respectively.

Other highlights include

- extending salary schedule to nine steps,
- including school chauffers and security guards in the unit,
- increasing sick and personal leave to one and a half days each month,
- establishing a sick bank,
- increasing uniform allowances, and
- improving grievance procedures.

Collective Bargaining Specialist John Naughter assisted in the negotiations.

Valley Central pact ups mileage payment

ORANGE COUNTY — A new, three-year contract has been ratified by custodial employees of the Valley Central School District, according to Unit President Robert Aidala.

The pact includes an annual salary hike of seven percent plus an increase in mileage allotments.

Collective Bargaining Specialist John Naughter assisted in the negotiations, and noted that most of the custodians are already at the top step of their salary schedule.

We salute you
America's working
force!
You're what makes
us strong and
prosperous. You
keep us going

**LABOR
DAY**
SEPTEMBER
1st



ON HAND FOR THE SIGNING OF THE contract between CSEA and the Village of Hempstead are, from left, Village of Hempstead Unit President Ed Plummer, CSEA Field Representative Harold Krangle, Hempstead Mayor Dalton R. Miller, Unit Negotiating Committee member Bobby Clark, Nassau County Local 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello, Unit Negotiating Committee member Joseph Simone and Village Clerk Frank De Setto. The unit is part of Local 830.

Delegate meeting notice

ALBANY — In preparation for the annual delegates convention in Niagara Falls next month, the CSEA Office of Member Services is trying to head off any misunderstandings about employee organization leave for the meeting. Jack Carey, CSEA Director of Collective Bargaining, urged that Local presidents and delegates acquaint themselves with contract provisions which apply to leave for the annual meeting.

Contracts between CSEA and the political subdivisions differ in regard to this issue, while Article 4.7(a) of the Administrative, Institutional and Operational units' contracts cover procedures for delegates from the State Division.

Basically, the state contracts grant employee organization leave for one delegate meeting per year, not to exceed five days. Also provided for is reasonable travel time.

This time off is extended to delegates based upon the voting strength of the local. That formula provides for one delegate for each 100 members or fraction thereof.

Carey stressed that Local presidents should carefully follow procedures for notifying the state agency involved. The president is required to submit to the agency in writing the names and work locations of the selected delegates, as well as the date, time and location of the delegate meeting.

He reminded delegates that the granting of this leave is subject to the reasonable operating needs of the state. In other words, where good and sufficient reason exists, the employer is under no obligation to allow employees to attend a delegate meeting.

Although Carey noted that there have been very few denials over the years, he urged anyone denied leave to attend the delegate meeting to appeal the denial to him immediately.

Meanwhile, union officials are preparing the convention schedule, which will include nearly a dozen departmental meeting chaired by departmental representatives. The full convention agenda will appear in a future edition of The Public Sector prior to the September 28-October 3 annual meeting.

In conjunction with the upcoming delegates meeting, CSEA Statewide Secretary Irene Carr has issued a reminder to delegates to prefile, if possible, motions which delegates intend to present during the convention. While motions may be made from the floor at the meeting, it is easier and more convenient if the wording of intended motions are pre-filed. Prefiling of motions may be made by sending the wording of the intended motions to Irene Carr, Civil Service Employees Assn., 33 Elk Street, Albany, N.Y. 12224.

Calendar of EVENTS

September

- 5—CSEA Tax Local 690 will host its 22nd annual clam steam with Insurance Department Local 66 at Krauss Halfmoon beach, Crescent. 12:00 p.m.
- 11—Saratoga County, 846 Shop Stewards Meeting, Solar Building, High Street, Ballston Spa 5:00.
- 13—Saratoga County 846 Annual Clambake 12:00 noon Eagles Club, Lake Lonely.
- 13—Metropolitan Region II annual meeting, 9-11 a.m., Playboy Resort, McAfee, N.Y.
- 13—Long Island Region I legislative and political action seminar, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Holiday Inn, Hauppauge.
- 15—Saratoga County 846 Executive Board Meeting, Solar Building, High Street, Ballston Spa 7:00 p.m.
- 17—Buffalo Local 003, general membership meeting, 5:30 p.m., new Buffalo Hilton on the waterfront.
- 19—Local 335 all-holiday dinner dance, Town and Country Restaurant, Walden and Union Road, Cheektowaga. Cocktails 6:30 p.m., dinner 7:30 p.m.
- 19-20—Region VI meeting, Sheraton Inn East, Walden Avenue, Buffalo.
- 20—Hudson Valley Armory Employees Local 252, Annual Banquet and Awards Dinner, Capri II restaurant, 152 Washington Street, Peekskill, New York 8:00 p.m.

October

- 4—"Run for your Health" road race, 10 a.m., Central Islip Psychiatric Center, Central Islip.
- 16—Saratoga County Local 846 Shop Stewards meeting, Solar Building, Ballston Spa, 5 p.m.
- 17—Nassau County Local 830 annual dinner dance, Salisbury Inn, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow.
- 20—Saratoga County Local 846 Executive Board meeting, Solar Building, Ballston Spa, 7 p.m.
- 23—Saratoga County Local 846 general membership meeting, Solar Building, Ballston Spa, 7:30 p.m.
- 24—Westchester County Local 860 annual dinner-dance, 8 p.m., Colony Club, New Rochelle.

The Public Sector

Official publication of
The Civil Service Employees Association
33 Elk Street, Albany, New York 12224

The Public Sector (445010) is published every Wednesday weekly except for Wednesdays after New Years, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day for \$5 by the Civil Service Employees Association, 33 Elk Street, Albany, New York 12224.

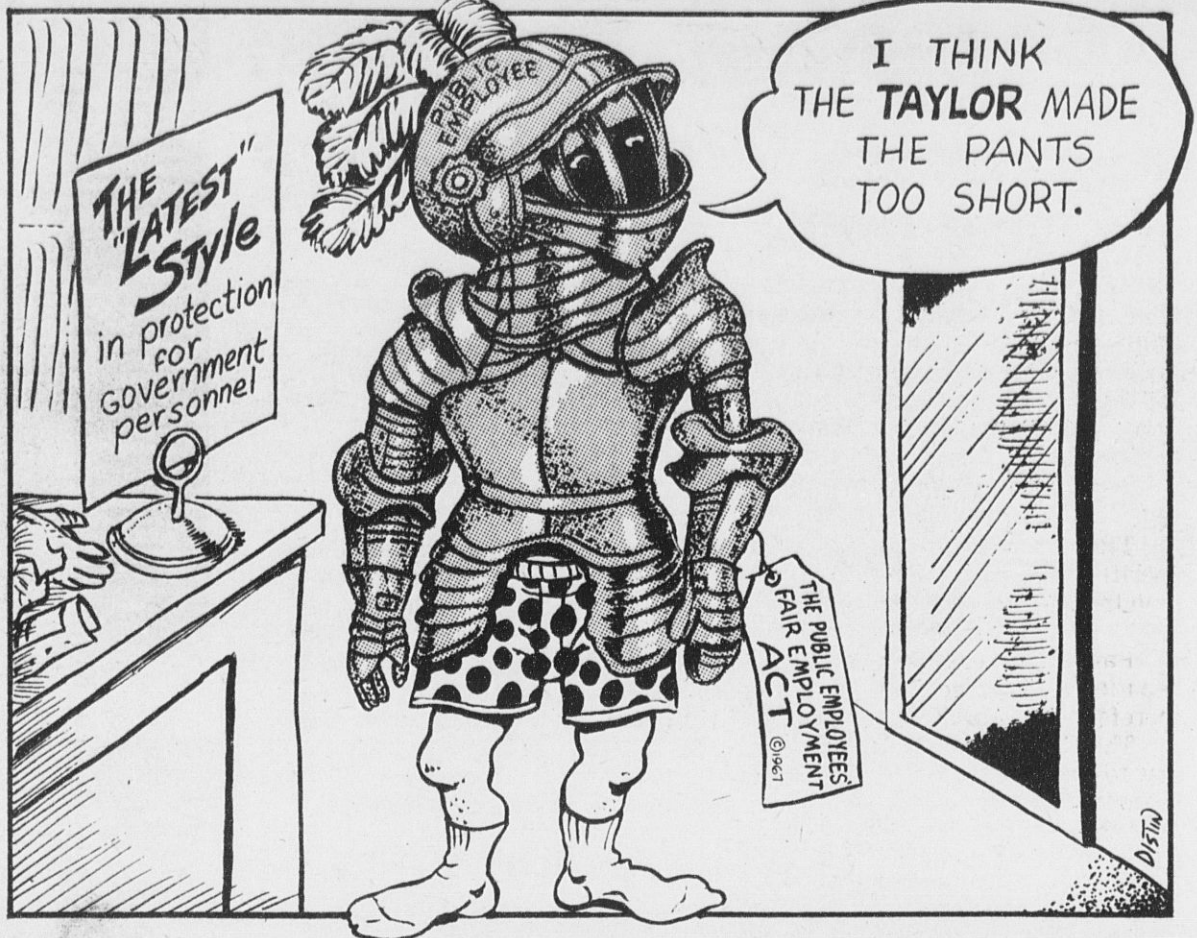
Second Class Postage paid at Post Office, Albany, New York. Send address changes to The Public Sector, 33 Elk Street, Albany, New York 12224.

Publication office, 75 Champlain Street, Albany, New York 12204. Single copy Price 25¢

Thomas A. Clemente—Publisher
Roger A. Cole—Executive Editor
Dr. Gerald Alperstein—Associate Editor
Gwenn M. Belcourt—Associate Editor
Deborah Cassidy—Staff Writer
Dawn LePore—Staff Writer
John L. Murphy—Staff Writer
Arden D. Lawand—Graphic Design
Dennis C. Mullahy—Production Coordinator



Published every Wednesday by Clarity Publishing, Inc. Publication Office, 75 Champlain Street, Albany, N.Y. 12204 (518) 465-4591



Local 836 enjoys picnic



HAVING A GOOD TIME AT THE Orange County Local 836 picnic in Goshen are Local 836 members from left, Joanne Golden and Vera Green.



ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL 836 Picnic Committee Chairman Arthur Tuthill, left, is joined by Southern Region III President James Lennon and Local 836 member Sophie Kwiakowski at the Local 836 picnic recently held in Goshen.

KEEP CSEA INFORMED ON MAILING ADDRESS

In the event that you change your mailing address, please fill out the below form and send it to:

CSEA, Inc., P.O. Box 125, Capitol Station, Albany, New York 12224. This form is also available from local presidents for CSEA members, but is reproduced here for convenience.

Change of Address for 'The Public Sector'

Please allow 3-4 weeks for change to take effect.
My present label reads exactly as shown here (or affix mailing label)

Name _____ Local Number _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Agency where employed _____
My social security no. _____ Agency No. _____



SUFFOLK COUNTY LOCAL 852 President Ben Boczkowski, second left, installs the officers of the local's Data Processing Unit in Hauppauge, recently. From right are Harold Schoppman, vice president; Roni Stanford, secretary; Ruth McLaughlin, treasurer; and Leah Besserman, president. Also at the installation was Local 852 First Vice President Frank Kost, left.

Rensselaer Sheriffs: A dark profile

Confidential interviews reveal frustrations with anti-union sheriff, poor pay

By Gwenn Bellcourt
Associate Editor
and Deborah Cassidy
Staff Writer

TROY — Over the past few years, the employees of the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department have come to regard County Sheriff Eugene Eaton — a man they helped get elected to office — as a feudal lord. That is the best term, they feel, to describe the total power and control he holds over their jobs.

Part of the reason one man has so much power is because the Rensselaer deputies and corrections officers do not have civil service status and are therefore not afforded the protection it provides other public employees.

The Civil Service Employees Assn. has been struggling for several years now to convince the county legislature of the need for this protection. Until the measure is approved, Eaton's power cannot be limited.

"He's overwhelmed by his own power," one employee said, referring to Eaton's "gross misuse" of authority such as threatening to eliminate the jobs of the highway patrol division.

It is Eaton who hires and fires. It is he with whom the employees must negotiate a contract. It is in his power to grant tenure or job security rights to the employees. Sheriff Eaton has even told the workers that they must have his approval to hold a part time job; and due to low wages, most of those with families must work extra jobs to make ends meet.

When he assumed his new role as sheriff four years ago, as one employee tells it, Eaton promised the men he would make the Rensselaer county Sheriffs Department, "the best law enforcement agency in the country." He assured the employees he would boost their wages to the highest possible amount. Eaton soon forgot about these promises. And has since broken many others.

When asked if the sheriff is known for keeping his word, one employee said, "Definitely not." Another claimed, "He makes several statements, but he seems to change his mind at a moment's notice."

This accusation is grounded in fact. During his last election, Eaton publicly supported the need for civil service protection in his department. Yet when it came time to sign the contract, Eaton sent a letter to the county legislature stating that he was opposed to the union effort. Consequently, an Improper Practice charge was filed and Eaton was found guilty of bad faith bargaining.

Members of The Public Sector staff recently conducted confidential interviews with a deputy sheriff and a corrections officer from the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department. The interviews were confidential for a very important reason — the two said they fear retaliation by the sheriff if their identities were revealed. In the interview, which follows, they tell what it's like to work for Sheriff Eugene Eaton. The answers are excerpted direct quotes of their responses to the questions asked.

Recently, CSEA Capital Region received complaints from unit members that Sheriff Eaton threatened to fire his employees if they dared to touch a picket sign or take part in any activity that would attract attention to the labor problem in the department. Is this true?

"He initially said that if anybody went out on strike they would be fired or if they went out for any reason or picked up any sign they would be terminated immediately." "It's technically illegal for Eaton to fire us on an informational picket."

Yet when the media tried to verify these complaints, the members would not come forward. Why?

"The members are afraid to come forward, afraid of their jobs." "If he (Eaton) found out what their names were, they would be fired."

The sheriff keeps saying that by law he does not have to provide road patrol coverage to Rensselaer County. Is this true?

"By law, Sheriff Eaton only has to provide a jail and a civilian-deputy administration." "His statement is that the highway patrol is a luxury and it could easily be disregarded. I'm sure the people in the county don't think its a luxury. They think its a necessity."

Did your wife get a job because you couldn't live on your salary?

"That's the truth if I ever heard it."

—Deputy Sheriff

"If my wife didn't work, we would have to apply for welfare."

—Corrections officer



FOR FEAR OF LOSING HIS JOB, this man asked to remain anonymous. If any of the 77 employees of the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department were discovered speaking out against the sheriff, he said, they would have to pay the consequences. Without civil service status, these men are subject to harrassment, threats of job loss and welfare-level pay.

What would happen if the patrols were cut? Would Rensselaer county residents be left unprotected?

"Absolutely, they would have no protection at all." "It would be a gross disservice to the people of the county . . . residents know a sheriff patrol car would be on the scene in 5 or 10 minutes, whereas they would be lucky to get a state trooper in an hour." "The people of the county would be up in arms if the highway patrol were terminated."

Just what power does the sheriff hold over the department employees?

"Basically all powers. The power of job security, the power of hiring and firing." "He is the supreme power in the county as far as law enforcement goes." **Editors Note: The employee's contract now has a tenure clause, covered by Article 75 of the Civil Service Law, whereby an employee is granted a hearing before disciplinary action can be taken.**

Is the sheriff known for keeping his word?

"Definitely not." He makes several statements, but he seems to change his mind at a moment's notice." "He made the statements to the papers that he would have no problem with job action or picket lines unless it interfered with the function of the department. When something was organized, he got quite irate. . ."

How much do corrections officers and deputy sheriffs earn a year compared to the sheriff?

Editor's Note: Both men confirmed the factfinders report which states that corrections officers take home approx. \$6400 after taxes. Deputy sheriffs take home a little more, \$6800 after taxes. In contrast, the sheriff has an established income of \$24,000. Yet the deputy questioned this figure.

Despite your low salary, it has been stated that Sheriff Eaton refuses to allow his men to work part time. Is this true?

"That's correct. This means no part-time jobs in the security field, which is the easiest for the officers." "He says the men are officers 24 hours a day. Any part-time service would be a conflict of interest."

In your opinion, why did the sheriff want a three-year contract and only a three-year contract?

"I believe he wanted a three-year contract to guarantee labor peace over the upcoming election." "He doesn't want trouble during his election year. (1981) He wants to be re-elected. And he knows he is going to get trouble."

What is the turnover rate in the department? Also, if working conditions are so poor, why don't you resign?

"Probably close to half the department has applications in for jobs elsewhere." "Rather than just give up the ship and get out, I'd rather fight to make it a reasonable job for the next guy." "His (Eaton's) answer to me and everyone else down there is, 'you know what the salary was when you came here . . . if you don't like it, there's the door. Leave your badge on the desk and get going.'"

In light of Eaton's attitude towards his employees and the "bad deal" they feel they got in recent contract negotiations, the 77 deputies and corrections officers of the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department are strongly united in their struggle to improve working conditions.

A crisis committee of employee representatives and CSEA staff members has been formed to investigate allegations against the sheriff and to take action against his dictator-like rule. The committee, says one employee, "is going to show the public and the legislature how Eaton has fallen down in his promise to the people of the county as well as to the employee."

OYSTER BAY

Cleaning up the sanitation mess

Refuse plant walls cracking, floor sinking; town reacting . . . finally

BETHPAGE — "The Refuse Compactor Plant in Oyster Bay is a glaring example of why we needed an OSHA law in New York State. That no one was killed so far is pure luck. Now that we've put on some pressure, the town is finally cooperating," Nicholas Abbatiello said after a meeting with Oyster Bay Town officials where the union leader presented the Town with an engineering report detailing the deteriorating and dangerous conditions of the compactor.

Mr. Abbatiello acted after a member of the CSEA Oyster Bay unit had complained to Oyster Bay officials for months to no avail about: walls cracking, floors sinking and electrical installations which were hazardous to employees.

Ralph Spagnolo, chairman of the Nassau Local Safety and Health Committee and Mr. Abbatiello toured the facility with Domenico Crachi, Jr., a consulting engineer retained by the CSEA. Mr. Crachi prepared a detailed report for the union.

In the upper level of the two-year-old Refuse Compactor Plant located in Bethpage, garbage is pushed into a compactor by a payloader 200 feet above an area where other town employees work. A four-foot barrier wall to prevent equipment, people and refuse from falling through to lower levels was found by Mr. Crachi to appear to be "cracking at its column supports. This type of cracking generates a serious hazard for workmen at lower levels where even the smallest chunk of concrete could cause serious injury."

"It must be noted that, in addition to the wall apparently cracking at column intersections by expansion in hot weather, payloaders and trucks operating at this level could conceivably accidentally strike the barrier wall perhaps causing it to rupture from its floor anchorage or even splitting off a section endangering workmen at a lower level," the report states.

In addition, Mr. Cranchi found settlement of the floor slabs and cracking in the intersections and walls surrounding the bailing chute."

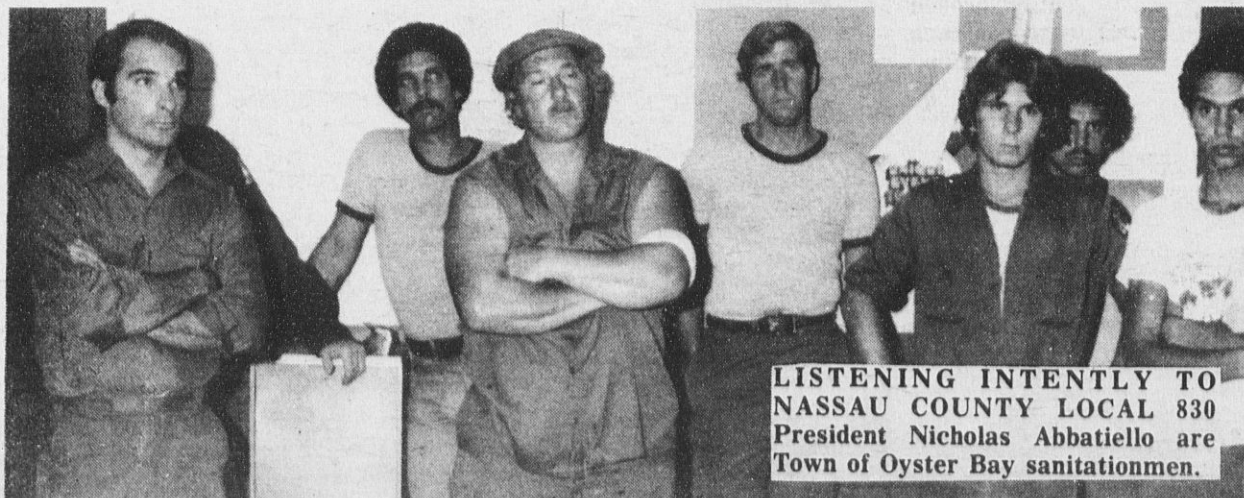
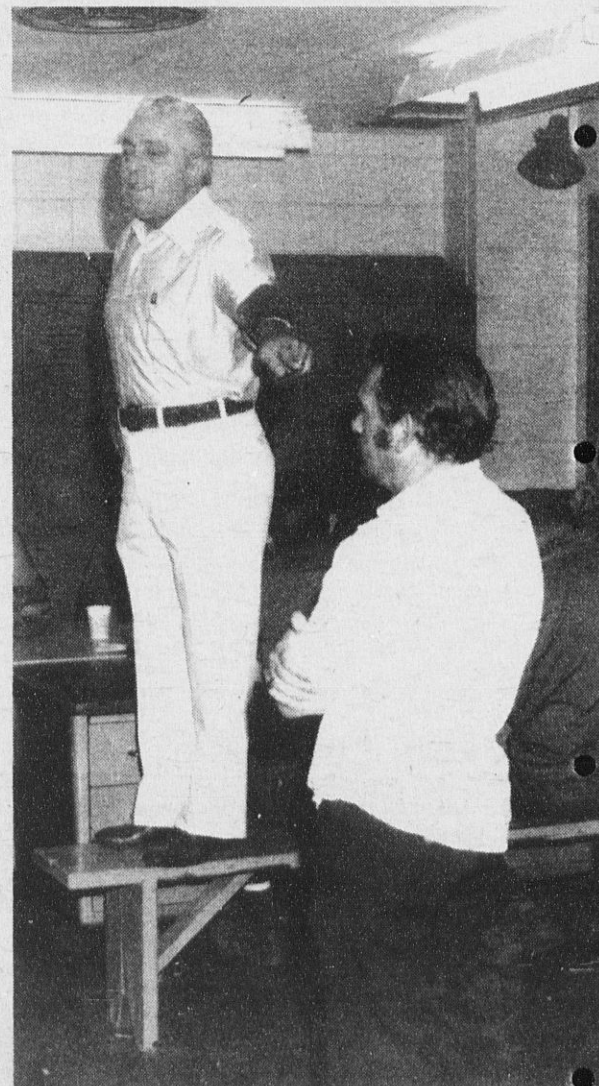
Mr. Abbatiello sent a copy of Mr. Crachi's findings and recommendations to correct the situation to Joseph Colby, Oyster Bay Supervisor which lead to a meeting between the CSEA and Oyster Bay officials. The Town responded to the CSEA initiative with results that didn't surprise Mr. Abbatiello because, he felt, "the CSEA had them cold. We had documented proof that dangerous conditions existed."

The Town agreed to CSEA demands and issued orders for the removal of electrical hazards, a completion of drawings and specifications of the repairs with the work bid out by the end of September. In addition, CSEA representatives and town engineering personnel would jointly monitor the cracks and sinking to detect if it was continuing as suspected.



NASSAU COUNTY LOCAL 830 is worried about the retaining wall at the Town of Oyster Bay compactor where cracks have developed in the wall. Should the wall collapse, it would fall to the ground floor of the structure where employees most likely would be killed.

NASSAU COUNTY LOCAL 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello, standing on bench, speaks to members of the Town of Oyster Bay Unit sanitationmen at a recent 6 a.m. meeting about problems the sanitation men have been having with management. Among those at the meeting is Unit President Pat D'Alessio, right.



LISTENING INTENTLY TO NASSAU COUNTY LOCAL 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello are Town of Oyster Bay sanitationmen.

Oyster Bay improvements achieved as direct result of union efforts

OYSTER BAY — A year-long campaign by CSEA to improve working conditions of the Town of Oyster Bay sanitationmen is starting to pay dividends as the town appears to be moving to make major improvements in those conditions, according to CSEA Field Representative Rigo Predonzan.

"The Town of Oyster Bay is in the process of acquiring new and better garbage trucks, improving their truck maintenance procedures and will be paving the sanitation lot.

"These and other changes should go a long way towards eliminating most of the labor-management problems CSEA has been working to correct," Predonzan said.

He said the specific changes, which are now or will be in effect shortly, include:

- Eleven new deisel trucks are on order. Those diesel trucks will vastly improve the overall quality of the town's fleet of garbage trucks which should lead to fewer breakdowns.

- The sanitation lot will be paved. Funds for the paving are in the next budget.

- Management agreed to start the workday at 5 a.m. so the men would avoid working in the hottest part of the summer day.

- Management agreed to allow Shop Steward Abe Schneider to inspect all trucks after the trucks are repaired to insure that the vehicles are safe.

- Town garbage trucks will be given priority dumping at the incinerator over private carters when possible instead of being sent to the landfill.

- During summer months, additional personnel will be assigned to foremen who will be able to utilize the men where needed, such as on heavier routes.

- As part of the paving of the lot, a service isle with an attendant will be established for checking gas, oil, fluid levels, etc., when the trucks come in from their routes.

The sanitationmen, members of the Town of Oyster Bay Unit of Nassau County Local 830, went public with their problems with a demonstration in the sanitation lot on Aug. 14, 1979.

Unit President Pat D'Alessio, after he had been unable to get management to move on the problems, went to Local 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello and CSEA President William L. McGowan.

D'Alessio, Abbatiello and McGowan joined the sanitationmen at that demonstration and helped negotiate a number of concessions by management.

The chief reason for the demonstration was the unsafe and deteriorated conditions of the trucks were causing many breakdowns and were forcing the men to be on the job for many additional hours.

When management appeared to be dragging its feet, D'Alessio again called on Abbatiello and McGowan for assistance, Predonzan said.

Abbatiello, McGowan and CSEA Attorney James Featherstonhaugh early this year attended a special meeting of the Unit Executive Committee to inform the CSEA officials of what was believed to be the lack of progress on the part of management.

McGowan put together a task force of Collective Bargaining Specialist Nels Carlson, Legislative and Political Action Assistant Director Thomas Haley, Region I Communications Specialist Hugh O'Haire and Predonzan to provide Abbatiello with the full strength of CSEA to help resolve the Oyster Bay sanitation problems with management, Predonzan said.

He said the task force worked in Oyster Bay in February, gathering information on the problems and setting in motion the groundwork for what appears to be a resolution of most of the problems.

Predonzan said Abbatiello continued the work of the task force, meeting many times with management and with the unit to forge a settlement.

Abbatiello's bargaining position was aided greatly by the record keeping of Shop Steward Schneider who charted the repair record of the truck fleet



TASK FORCE MEMBERS, from left, CSEA Field Representative Rigo Predonzan, Long Island Region I Communications Specialist Hugh O'Haire and Collective Bargaining Specialist Nels Carlson meet in February 1980 to plan strategy to help solve the labor-management problems of the Town of Oyster Bay Sanitationmen.

over several months, including the reasons for the breakdowns, Predonzan said.

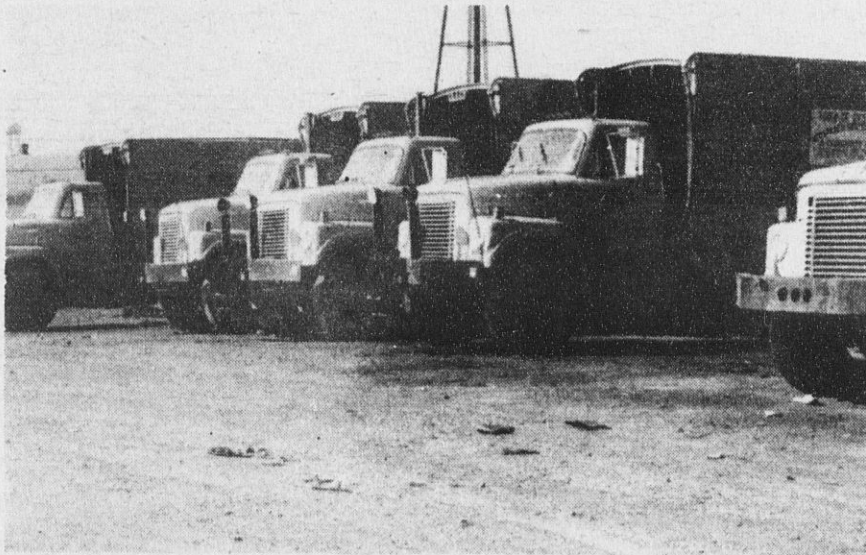
He said Schneider was able to prove that many of the muffler and clutch problems were caused by the trucks having to drive deep into the landfill while private trucks were directed to the incinerator.

Because of Schneider's record keeping, Robert

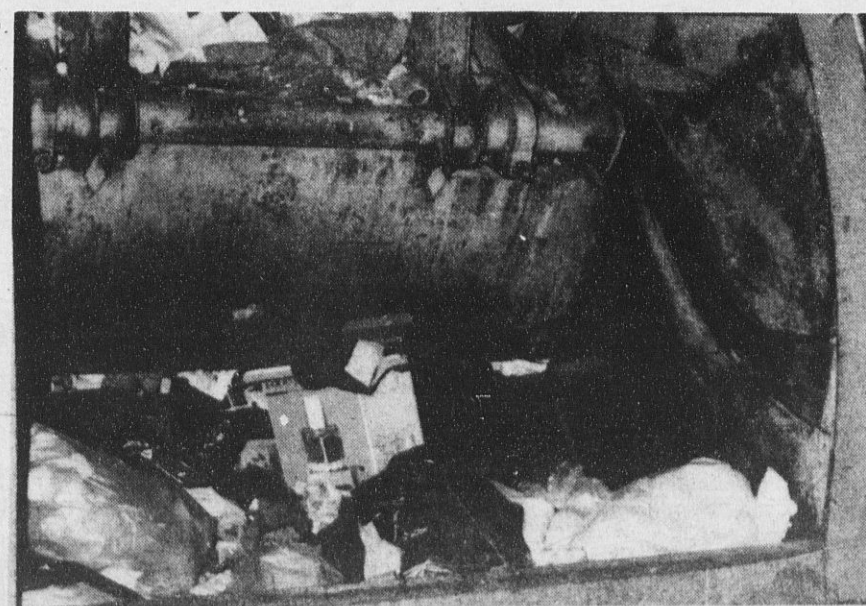
Schmidt, assistant to the Town Supervisor; and Frank Antetomasso, Public Works Commissioner; both personally guaranteed the priority dumping at the incinerator for the town trucks, he said.

Abbatiello said he and D'Alessio "are pleased with what appears to be a constructive response to the problems in sanitation."

THE UNPAVED TOWN OF OYSTER BAY Sanitation Department lot has been a sore point with the sanitationmen. The town is in the process of providing money in its budget to pay for the paving of the lot.



ELEVEN NEW DIESEL GARBAGE TRUCKS, on order for the Town of Oyster Bay, could go a long way to preventing broken garbage-filled trucks such as this one from taking up "permanent residence" in the sanitation lot.



With the presidential nominating conventions of both major parties concluded and Labor Day, the traditional start of serious politicking for the Fall elections, just around the corner, the unique American electoral process is beginning to gather steam.

CSEA has injected itself into the election process very early this year, already interviewing candidates for state Assembly and Senate seats and awarding some early endorsements. More endorsements are anticipated during September, providing the union-supported candidates with the benefit of endorsement by the largest public employee union in New York State.

Later this fall CSEA will be active in congressional races in New York State, and will be a factor in the important presidential race in the state and, indirectly, nationwide as part of AFSCME's nationwide effort. Scores of "meet the candidates night" programs will be conducted across the state this fall, and CSEA's legislative and political action department will be concentrating on getting out the potentially huge vote of public workers on election day to back up the union's endorsements.

The article and photos on these pages are the first in a planned series of features concerning CSEA's very active and influential political action program as we move into and through the campaign period leading up to the November general elections. Over the next several weeks we will be featuring such activities in all six CSEA regions. We begin with this report on political action activities in CSEA's Long Island Region I.



EXCHANGING IDEAS at the meet the candidates night are Danny Donohue of Central Islip Psychiatric Center Local 404 and Brightwater Assemblyman John C. Cochrane, Republican of the Sixth Assembly District.

Long Island Region a political factor in nine Senate, 21 Assembly districts

HAUPPAUGE/EAST MEADOW — With the entire State Legislature up for re-election in November, that means CSEA's regional legislative and political action committees already are involved in the process of selecting political candidates for the union's endorsement and support.

The Long Island Region I Legislative and Political Action Committee (LPAC), which has responsibility for nine senatorial districts and 21 assembly districts, in August completed its process of screening candidates and recommending endorsements to the statewide CSEA Legislative and Political Action Committee.

The process started in Region I on July 30 and 31 with "meet the candidates" nights for Republican and Democratic party candidates, respectively. The two meetings were in Hauppauge.

Attending the two candidates nights were members of the regional LPAC of local LPACs and of Region I locals.

Political candidates were interviewed on Aug. 7 in Hauppauge and on Aug. 8 in East Meadow.

Members of the Region I LPAC taking part in the interviews were Co-Chairmen Nicholas Abbatiello and Michael Curtin, Louis Mannellino, Arthur Loving, Laura Fortner, Raymond Magliulo, Charles Novo, Danny Donohue, Kenneth Cadieux and Gregory Szurnicki.

At the interviews in East Meadow, members of the Nassau County Local 830 LPAC took part, including Thomas Stapleton, Alex Bozza, John Geraghty, Ralph Spagnolo, Ruth Braverman and Dudley Kinsley.

Most of the political candidates from both major political parties attended the candidates nights and the interviews.

"At the candidates nights, we get a chance to chat with the candidates in a relaxed give-and-take atmosphere," Abbatiello said.

Curtin said: "We use the interviews to get specific information on where the candidates stand on CSEA-related issues. Incumbents get a chance to explain their votes from the last legislative session."

Many of the questions asked of the candidates were from a questionnaire

developed by the CSEA Legislative and Political Action Department.

A number of candidates informed the Region I LPAC of the pressure by the Conservative Party against a renewal of Agency Shop in 1981.

The Conservative Party position was expressed by the loss of that party's line to Senator John Caemmerer who voted for Agency Shop in 1979.

Caemmerer received an ovation from the LPAC when he arrived for his interview.

Most of the incumbents who were interviewed gave high grades to the CSEA Political Action Liaison (PAL) Program in the 1980 legislative session.

Curtin said: "The legislators indicated that the individuals assigned to each legislator were most effective and impressive in helping achieve the highly successful 1980 legislative session for CSEA."

"As far as Region I is concerned, the PAL Program is here to stay."



IN THE MIDDLE OF AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION (above) with Nassau County Local 830 members Nicholas Dellisanti, left, and John Geraghty, right, is Wantaugh Assemblyman Frederick E. Parola Jr., Republican of the 12th Assembly District.



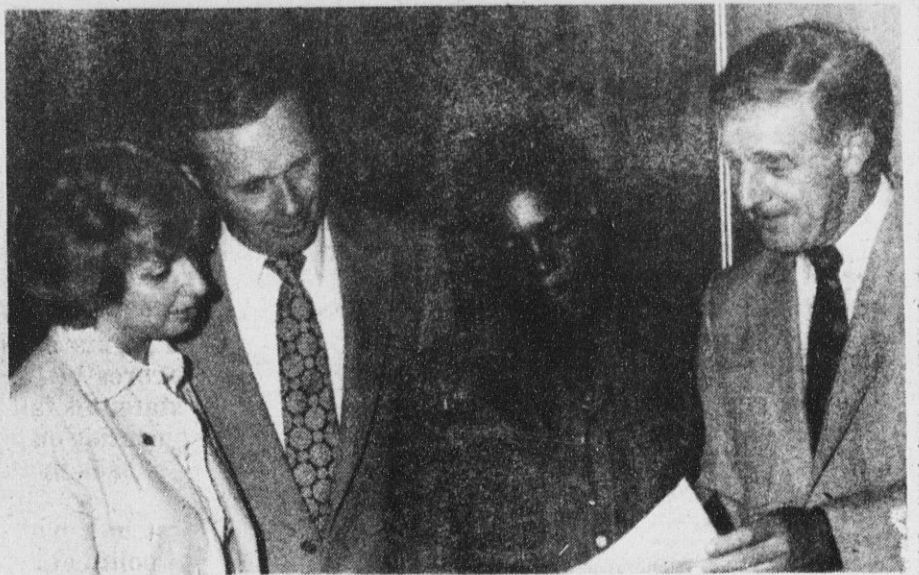
LONG ISLAND REGION I Legislative and Political Action Committee Co-Chairmen Michael Curtin, left, of Suffolk Education Local 870; and Nicholas Abbatiello, right, of Nassau County Local 830; speak with Long Beach Assemblyman Arthur J. Kremer, Democrat of the 20th Assembly District.



ST. JAMES ASSEMBLYMAN Robert C. Wertz, left, Republican of the Fourth Assembly District, speaks with Louis Mannellino of State Department of Transportation Local 508 in photo at right.



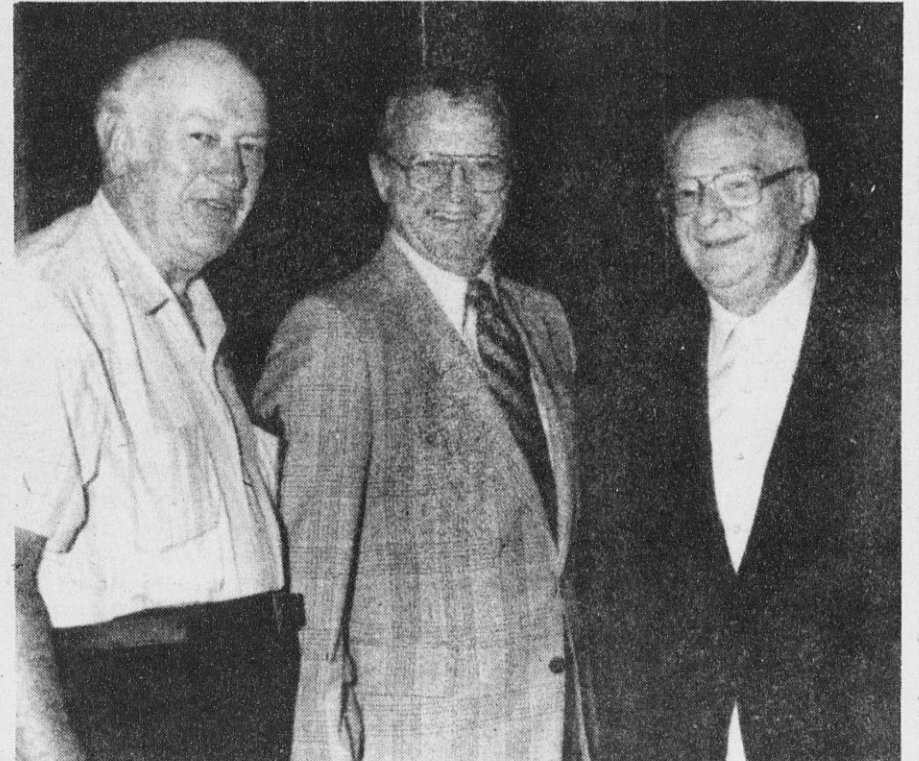
WILLISTON SENATOR John Caemmerer, center, Republican of the Seventh Senatorial District, is flanked by Kenneth Cadieux, left of Nassau County Local 830; and Charles Novo of Suffolk County Local 852.



DISCUSSING LEGISLATION are, from left, Huntington Assemblyman Antonia P. Rettaliata, Republican of the Eighth Assembly District; Michael Curtin of Suffolk Education Local 870; Arthur Loving of Long Island State Parks Local 102; and Amityville Assemblyman Lou Howard, Republican of the Ninth Assembly District.



NASSAU COUNTY LOCAL 830 members Thomas Stapleton, left, and Dudley Kinsley flank Lawrence Senator Carol Berman, Democrat of the Ninth Senatorial District.



GLEN COVE ASSEMBLYMAN Joseph M. Reilly, second left, Republican of the 14th Assembly District; is joined by, from left, William Drudy of Long Island Retirees Local 919, and Long Island Region I President Irving Flaumenbaum.



OLD BETHPAGE ASSEMBLYMAN Lewis J. Yevoli, left, Democrat of the 10th Assembly District, speaks with Alex Bozza of Nassau County Local 830.



NORTHPORT SENATOR James J. Lack, right, Republican of the Second Senatorial District, discusses the CSEA questionnaire with Gregory Szurnicki of Kings Park Psychiatric Center Local 411.



PILGRIM PSYCHIATRIC CENTER LOCAL 418 members Raymond Magliulo, right, and Jean Frazier greet Brentwood Senator Caesar Trunzo, Republican of the Third Senatorial District.



Union wins election

PHILIPSTOWN — Employees of the town's highway department have voted to keep the Civil Service Employees Association as their bargaining agent.

The Public Employment Relations Board held a special election here August 14 in response to a challenge filed by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. CSEA won approximately 65 percent of the vote, and Regional Director Thomas J. Luposello described it as a, "clear, decisive mandate which strengthens our hand as we go into negotiations."

He also attributed the victory to, "efforts by staff."



NEW OFFICERS for the Town of Philipstown unit were recently sworn in by Putnam County Local President Millicent DeRosa. Taking their oath of office were Vice President Wayne Van Tassel and President William Rigney. Looking on is Regional President James J. Lennon.

CSEA Safety Hotline
800-342-4824

Certificates earned

MARCY — The first in a series of courses entitled Maintenance Fundamentals and Electrical Maintenance was recently completed by employees at Marcy Psychiatric Center, according to Joseph Vrooman, Vice-President of Local 414 at Marcy Psychiatric Center.

The program, funded by an AEP (Agency Experimental Program) grant of \$3,490, was made possible by language in the most recent state contract negotiated by CSEA.

Employees of Marcy and Utica Psychiatric Centers who completed the first 100-hour series of classes were awarded certificates. The program included Basic Blueprint Reading, Reading Schematics and Symbols, and Plant Safety.

The next series of classes is scheduled for September and is open to employees of the Electrical Shop and Powerhouse from Utica/Marcy Psychiatric Centers.

According to John Welter, Electrical Shop Supervisor and Training Activity Coordinator at the Center, "the courses are designed to meet the growing need for better trained maintenance craftsmen and to assist them and newly hired employees to acquire additional technical skills. In addition, the courses aid in preparation for promotion and provide a training program that is closely related to the jobs a craftsman uses in his work," Welter said.



AN AEP CLASS at Marcy Psychiatric Center includes, from left to right, Bernie Gerren, Johnnie White, Ken Gibbs, John Welter (standing), Training Coordinator; Gerald Roach, Tom Mulchy, Charles Williams, Thomas McMahon, Harry Clapper, John Furmanski.

OPEN CONTINUOUS STATE JOB CALENDAR

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--------|
| Senior Medical Records Technician | \$10,624 | 20-102 |
| Pharmacist (salary varies with location) | \$14,388-\$15,562 | 20-129 |
| Assistant Sanitary Engineer | \$16,040 | 20-122 |
| Senior Sanitary Engineer | \$18,301 | 20-123 |
| Clinical Physician I | \$27,942 | 20-118 |
| Clinical Physician II | \$31,055 | 20-119 |
| Assistant Clinical Physician | \$25,161 | 20-117 |
| Attorney | \$14,850 | 20-113 |
| Assistant Attorney | \$12,397 | 20-113 |
| Attorney Trainee | \$11,723 | 20-113 |
| Junior Engineer | \$12,890 | 20-109 |
| (Bachelor's Degree) | | |
| Junior Engineer | \$13,876 | 20-109 |
| (Master's Degree) | | |
| Dental Hygienist | \$8,950 | 20-107 |
| Licensed Practical Nurse | \$8,051 | 20-106 |
| Nutrition Services Consultant | \$13,404 | 20-139 |
| Stationary Engineer | \$10,042 | 20-100 |
| Senior Stationary Engineer | \$11,250 | 20-101 |
| Occupational Therapy Assistant I | \$9,029 | 20-174 |
| Occupational Therapy Assistant I | \$9,029 | 20-174 |
| (Spanish Speaking) | | |
| Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor | \$14,142 | 20-140 |
| Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Trainee | \$11,983 | 20-140 |
| Medical Record Technician | \$9,481 | 20-143 |
| Histology Technician | \$8,051 | 20-170 |
| Professional Positions in Auditing and Accounting | \$11,250 | 20-200 |
| Computer Programmer | \$11,250 | 20-220 |
| Computer Programmer (Scientific) | \$11,250 | 20-222 |
| Senior Programmer | \$14,075 | 20-221 |
| Senior Computer Programmer (Scientific) | \$14,075 | 20-223 |
| Mobility Instructor | \$11,904 | 20-224 |
| Instructor of the Blind | \$11,250 | 20-225 |
| Health Services Nurse | \$11,250-\$12,025 | 20-226 |
| (salary varies with location) | | |
| Senior Heating and Ventilating Engineer | \$18,301 | 20-227 |
| Senior Sanitary Engineer (Design) | \$18,301 | 20-228 |
| Senior Building Electrical Engineer | \$18,301 | 20-229 |
| Senior Building Structural Engineer | \$18,301 | 20-230 |
| Senior Mechanical Construction Engineer | \$18,301 | 20-231 |
| Senior Plumbing Engineer | \$18,301 | 20-232 |
| Assistant Stationary Engineer | \$7,616 | 20-303 |
| Electroencephalograph Technician | \$7,616 | 20-308 |
| Radiologic Technologist | \$8,454-\$10,369 | 20-334 |
| (salary varies with location) | | |
| Medical Record Administrator | \$11,904 | 20-348 |
| Food Service Worker I | \$6,456 | 20-352 |
| Mental Hygiene Therapy Aide Trainee | \$7,204 | 20-394 |
| Mental Hygiene Therapy Aide Trainee | \$7,204 | 20-394 |
| (Spanish Speaking) | | |
| Associate Actuary (Casualty) | \$18,369 | 20-416 |
| Principal Actuary (Casualty) | \$22,364 | 20-417 |
| Supervising Actuary (Casualty) | \$26,516 | 20-418 |
| Assistant Actuary | \$10,714 | 20-556 |
| Nurse I | \$10,624 | 20-584 |
| Nurse II | \$11,904 | 20-585 |
| Nurse II (Psychiatric) | \$11,904 | 20-586 |
| Nurse II (Rehabilitation) | \$11,904 | 20-587 |
| Medical Specialist II | \$33,705 | 20-840 |
| Medical Specialist I | \$27,942 | 20-841 |
| Psychiatrist I | \$27,942 | 20-842 |
| Psychiatrist II | \$33,705 | 20-843 |
| Social Services Management Trainee | \$10,824 | 20-875 |
| Social Services Management Specialist | \$11,450 | 20-875 |
| Social Services Management Trainee | \$10,824 | 20-876 |
| (Spanish Speaking) | | |
| Social Services Management Specialist | \$11,450 | 20-876 |
| (Spanish Speaking) | | |
| Industrial Training Supervisor | \$10,624-\$12,583 | 20-877 |
| (salary varies depending on specialty) | | |
| Physical Therapist | \$11,337 | 20-880 |
| Physical Therapist (Spanish Speaking) | \$11,337 | 20-880 |
| Senior Physical Therapist | \$12,670 | 20-881 |
| Senior Physical Therapist (Spanish Speaking) | \$12,670 | 20-881 |
| Speech Pathologist | \$12,670 | 20-883 |
| Audiologist | \$12,670 | 20-882 |
| Assistant Speech Pathologist | \$11,337 | 20-884 |
| Assistant Audiologist | \$11,337 | 20-885 |
| Dietician Trainee | \$10,624 | 20-888 |
| Dietician | \$11,250 | 20-887 |
| Supervising Dietician | \$13,304 | 20-886 |
| Stenographer (NYC only) | \$6,650 | 20-890 |
| Typist (NYC only) | \$6,071 | 20-891 |
| Senior Occupational Therapist | \$12,670 | 20-894 |
| Senior Occupational Therapist | \$12,670 | 20-894 |
| (Spanish Speaking) | | |
| Occupational Therapist | \$11,337 | 20-895 |
| Occupational Therapist (Spanish Speaking) | \$11,337 | 20-895 |

You may contact the following offices of the New York State Department of Civil Service for announcements, applications, and other details concerning examinations for the positions listed above.
State Office Building Campus, First Floor, Building I, Albany, New York 12239 (518) 457-6216.
2 World Trade Center, 55th Floor, New York City 10047 (212) 488-4248.
Suite 750, Genesee Building, West Genesee Street, Buffalo, New York 14202 (716) 842-4260.

The New York State Employees' Retirement System provides a regular schedule of visitations by counseling representatives of the Retirement System to various areas of the state.

The service is intended for personal visits on a "first come-first served" basis, and no appointments are necessary. Telephone calls, however, cannot be accepted. Persons who wish to call for certain information should call the Albany office of the State Employees' Retirement System at (518) 474-7736.

The following is the monthly visiting day schedule for the counseling service at the various locations around the state:

| City or Village | Address | Monthly Visiting Days |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Albany | Gov. Smith State Office Bldg. | Every Business Day |
| Binghamton | State Office Bldg. | First and Third Wednesday |
| Buffalo | Gen. William Donovan State Office Bldg. (125 Main Street) | First, Second, Third, Fourth, Wed. and Fri. |
| Canton | County Courthouse | First Thurs. |
| Goshen | County Center | Third Thurs. |
| Hauppauge | State Office Bldg. | First and Fourth Wed. |
| Horseheads | Village Hall | Second and Fourth Tues. |
| Little Valley | County Office Building | Second and Fourth Mon. |
| Lockport | Municipal Bldg. | First and Third Monday |
| Mayville | Chautauqua County Health and Social Service Bldg. 222 Willis Ave. | First Tuesday |
| Mineola | County Center | First and Fourth Mon. |
| Plattsburgh | County Health Complex Bldg. A | Third Thurs. |
| Pomona | DOT Headquarters | First and Third Friday |
| Poughkeepsie | County Center | First Thurs. |
| Riverhead | County Center | Third Wed. |
| Rochester | Rochester City Hall (Room 302) | Second and Fourth Thurs. |
| Syracuse | County Courthouse | Second and Fourth Fri. |
| Utica | State Office Bldg. | First, Second, Third and Fourth Tuesday |
| Watertown | State Office Bldg. | First Fri. |
| White Plains | Westchester County Center | Second and Third Mon. (except July) |
| New York City | State Office Bldg. 270 Broadway (23rd Floor) 11 World Trade Ctr. (44th Floor) | First and Third Tues. Second and Fourth Tues. |



TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN WHITE COLLAR UNIT honored George Harrington on his retirement at a dinner in Patchogue. Harrington, right, receives plaques from Anthony Bienvuto and Ruth Kempf. The unit is part of Suffolk County Local 852.

Western Region sets candidates night

Co-chairman Florence Tripi and Dominic Savarino of the Political Action Committee of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) have announced dates, sites and formats for "Candidates Nights, 1980" for Western Region 6 of the statewide public employees union.

The formats, focusing primarily on state assembly and senatorial candidates, "will allow rank and file union members to hear prepared statements from the aspirants, ask questions from the floor and mix informally for face to face discussion of issues vital to the membership," Savarino said.

The dates, sites and districts concerned are as follows:

Erie and Genesee Counties, September 3, 7-11 p.m. at the Executive Inn, 4243 Genesee St., Buffalo, New York 14225 — covering Assembly Districts, 137, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148 and Senate Districts 55, 56, 58, 59.

Southern Tier (East) September 3, 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Hornell, New York — covering Assembly Districts 127, 129 and Senate Districts 51, 52.

Rochester and Monroe County, September 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Arenas Party House, 1338 Ridge Road E., Rochester, New York — Assembly Districts 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136 and Senate Districts 53 and 54.

Southern Tier (West) Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties September 4, 7:30 p.m. at the White Inn, East Main Street, Route 20 — Assembly Districts 149, 150 and Senate District 57.

Niagara County, September 8, 8:00 p.m. at the Town of Niagara Fire Hall No. 1, 6010 Lockport Road, (Just East of Military Road) — Assembly Districts 138, 139 and Senate District 60.

There will be no issue of The Public Sector published next week. Labor Day week is one of four during the year when issues are not published. The next issue will be dated September 10.



AT A RECENT RETIREMENT DINNER, Village of Floral Park Unit President Phil Berlingieri, second left, was honored. Among those at the dinner were from left, CSEA Field Representative Michael Aiello, Nassau County Local 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello and Floral Park Mayor Henry Griedman. The Floral Park Unit is part of Local 830. The dinner was in New Hyde Park.

Check your retirement system status

Are you a participating member of the New York State Employees Retirement System? Are you sure?

As hard as it may be to believe, some public employees find out too late that their employer has neglected to enroll them as members of the Employees Retirement System.

CSEA has recently won retroactive retirement payments on behalf of members who thought they had a pension coming but found out when they were ready to retire that they were never enrolled in the System by their employers. Usually the problem can be resolved, but there is no need to take the risk of starting off your retirement with that type of hassle.

The New York State Employees Retirement System can provide you with specific information on your status as a Retirement System member. To check on your status as a member of the Employees Retirement System, complete and mail the coupon below. Please print clearly.

To: The New York State Retirement System
Governor Smith Office Building
Albany, New York 12244

I am requesting information on my status as a member of the New York State Employees Retirement System.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

Creedmoor Local intensifies effort to eliminate facility forensic unit

QUEENS — Creedmoor Psychiatric Center Local 406 has launched a three-pronged attack aimed at convincing the State Mental Health Department to move its Forensic Unit — which houses patients acquitted of violent crimes by reason of insanity — to another location.

During the past few days, union officials conducted a series of meetings with Mental Health Department officials, legislators, and the media in which a single message was conveyed: a forensic unit is inappropriate at a facility located in a heavily populated residential area such as Queens.

Local President Dorothy King, Metropolitan Region II Director George Bispham, and Field Representative Bart Brier met with Mental Health Department officials at Creedmoor and presented a plan to relocate the unit to Manhattan Psychiatric Center, on more isolated Wards Island, under New York City's Triborough Bridge.

Joined by Regional President James Gripper Jr., they then met with legislators from the Creedmoor area, including State Senator Frank Padavan (R, C-Jamaica Estates) and Assemblyman John Esposito (R-Queens Village); Creedmoor officials, and members of the press.

The CSEA members urged the legislators to use their influence in Albany to have the Forensic Unit moved and additional funding appropriated for the facility. There have reportedly been eight forensic escapes this year.

They were joined in their plea by Creedmoor Director Dr. Yoosuf Haveliwala, who has made headlines in New York daily papers when he called staffing conditions at Creedmoor "a disgrace."



COMMUNITY RESIDENTS living near Creedmoor Psychiatric Center, Queens, demonstrate for increased security at the facility, while CSEA officials discuss the need for additional State funding with

demonstration organizer John LeBoutiller, left. He is speaking with Field Representative Bart Brier, second from left, Local President Dorothy King, and Local Board Member Joseph Healey.

He said that his institution did not have enough staff members to provide patients with quality care. "I do feel that it is a disgrace," he said. "I would not send my child to Creedmoor."

Haveliwala openly endorsed the CSEA calls for increased security and state funding at Creedmoor.

"This is the issue," he said. "How much of our tax dollars are we willing to spend to do this."

A number of community residents seem to agree with the

CSEA position. They organized a demonstration outside of one of Creedmoor's main gates, and continued to picket until they were addressed by Local President King.

Minimal security at Creedmoor was the topic of a live report aired on New York's channel 7 "Eyewitness News" last week. Reporter Vince Lipari, testing security at a number of entrances, was not stopped or questioned as he entered and left the grounds at will. His report featured Mrs. King

pointing out openings in the facility's steel fence, and Haveliwala saying: "it wouldn't be hard for any patient to escape into the community, including forensic patients."

Creedmoor, which houses 50 forensic patients among its 1500 patient population, is located on 340 acres bounded by private homes and several apartment complexes. According to Haveliwala, no more than 10 security guards are on duty at any one time.



PLANNING STRATEGY to increase State funding for Creedmoor are, from left, Local 406 President Dorothy King, Assemblyman John Esposito, Metropolitan Region President James Gripper Jr., and State Senator Frank Padavan. They met recently as part of a campaign by the Creedmoor local to have the forensic unit at the facility moved to a more secure location.



STRESSING CREEDMOOR NEEDS for increased security to Clair Shulman, Deputy Queens Borough President, center, are Local President Dorothy King and Field Representative Bart Brier.