

# THE Work Force

May 2012

Vol. 15 No. 5

**Ripped in the headlines ...**

## Media doesn't let facts affect their story

**Overtime myth persists**

*See page 3*

### State OT king reigns

*Treatment assistant tops list for second year*

**3 agencies account for L-OT-sa extra pay**

**N.Y. agencies paid \$469M in OT**

**6-figure overtime payments**

NEW YORK

**4 state workers get 6-figure OT pay**

**Overtime in 2011 totaled \$469 million**

## Photo of the Month



Perhaps we should call this Video of the Month. Above is a screen capture from the the video “Don’t Sell Our County Home,” produced by Snowshoefilms and community members to save the Chautauqua County Home from privatization. This is part of a larger campaign by CSEA to involve communities in protecting their county nursing homes from sale, and leaving elderly populations at risk. See related stories, pages 6 and 14.

## Online option available for leadership mailing!

Attention CSEA activists and leaders: The CSEA leadership mailing is now available online. No more paper, if you choose this option! Go to [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org), log into the members only area, and select the Leadership Mailing application from My APPS.

From the Office of President Danny Donohue

NEW YORK'S  
LEADING UNION  
**CSEA**  
Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO

# ALERT

## CSEA President Danny Donohue to meet Western Region members on May 31

President Danny Donohue will visit the CSEA Western Region on May 31 to meet with members.

The meetings will be held at the Western Region Office, 120 Pineview Drive, Amherst.

Donohue will meet with union members from 1 to 7 p.m. Please call the Western Region office at (716) 691-6555 for an appointment and directions.



**Cuomo, Senate and Assembly leaders again put politics ahead of people**

# CSEA: state budget deal ‘self-serving’

ALBANY — CSEA blasted the recent state budget agreement as another backroom deal that puts politics before people. “Governor Cuomo, Senator Skelos and Assembly Speaker Silver have a self-serving sound bite agreement that ignores the horrendous consequences it will inflict on working New Yorkers,” said CSEA President Danny Donohue.

Donohue pointed out that eliminating 400 beds in the mental health system, turning violent youths over to nonexistent programs in New York City, shortchanging localities and some hocus-pocus with the school funding formula will not improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

These are just some of the ways New Yorkers will be adversely affected by a budget that’s long on public relations and short on actual detail.

“They can color it any way they want, but the legislature has also given away its oversight authority for state agencies to the executive and that’s just not good government,” Donohue said.

“New Yorkers should understand that the governor’s claims of job creation are just a lot of self-congratulatory political nonsense because devastating cuts in state agencies will lead to real job loss in communities across the state and will undermine services that real New Yorkers depend on every day,” Donohue said. “The governor needs to understand that the loss of a job is the loss of a job – it’s devastating and it’s on his head.”

The budget’s funding impact on localities, schools and health care facilities are also likely to lead to job losses.

## Union warns of Cuomo’s Close to Home dangers in youth initiative

ALBANY — CSEA recently restated the dangers of fast tracking Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Close to Home proposal for shifting juvenile offenders into nonexistent New York City programs as new information has come to light about the criminal background of those individuals who would be moved.

Thirty three percent of residents currently at Limited Secure facilities and 20 percent at Non-Secure facilities operated by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) had committed violent felony offenses, including aggravated assault and dangerous weapons possession, according to figures CSEA received in response to a Freedom of Information request.

The governor’s initiative will not save any money and the agency has provided little detail about their plans. New York City does not have existing programs to handle this population. The proposal is part of the budget agreement, and has the state funneling money to New York City to help cover costs while walking away from its own responsibility for dealing with youthful offenders.

The budget agreement also includes the legislature giving away oversight authority for state agencies to the sole discretion of the Executive Branch.

“There are real public safety concerns that

need to be addressed here,” CSEA President Danny Donohue said. “It makes no sense whatsoever to put felons —violent, repeat offenders — back into the very neighborhoods where they got in trouble in the first place, without any evidence that they will be properly supervised. You can’t just rubber-stamp an undertaking as serious as this without having facts about exactly how and if it will work, but legislators seem to be blindly buying into the administration’s ‘don’t worry, just trust us,’ approach.”

CSEA has long argued the need for change in OCFS facilities, but the agency has repeatedly and recklessly failed to provide adequate staff, training and resources and has ignored deteriorating conditions that have put staff and residents at risk. Additionally, many of the youth in care act out violently and, but for their age, most would be in adult prisons for the crimes they committed. Some also have serious mental health and substance abuse issues that successive OCFS administrations have failed to address, even in secure settings. Many of the youth have been sent by the courts to state facilities after multiple offenses and after less restrictive programs have failed to change their behavior.

— Ed Molitor

# Screaming headlines distort public's perception of overtime reality

ALBANY — It's like clockwork. Each year a new report comes out about New York state agency overtime spending and each year, much of the news media misunderstands and reports it in an outrageously misleading way.

Sensational headlines talk of "Overtime Kings and Queens" without regard for the facts or concern that misleading stories are blaming dedicated workers who are the victims of mismanagement and bad public policy choices.

What made this year's collection of yellow journalism particularly absurd was the fact that overtime spending was actually down significantly.

"Let's get some facts straight here," said CSEA President Danny Donohue. "It's a management decision to use overtime and it usually happens in continually understaffed agencies that require 24/7 coverage."

"Let's also get it straight that much of the overtime is mandated because there just aren't enough staff available in many places," Donohue said.

CSEA has long pointed out that the state Division of the Budget which oversees agency spending would prefer to pay overtime rather than hire more employees.

Their reasoning is that it's less expensive for taxpayers to pay the employees the overtime in the short run than to take on the long-term personnel costs including benefits.

CSEA contends the continuous mandatory overtime is counterproductive – leading to employee burnout and on-the-job injury, which increases the overtime demand.

The union believes that a reasonable middle ground of staffing and greater concern for safety and health would be better for everyone.

"Excessive overtime is a big issue but it needs some serious consideration based on reality, not screaming headlines that distort the public's perception," Donohue said.

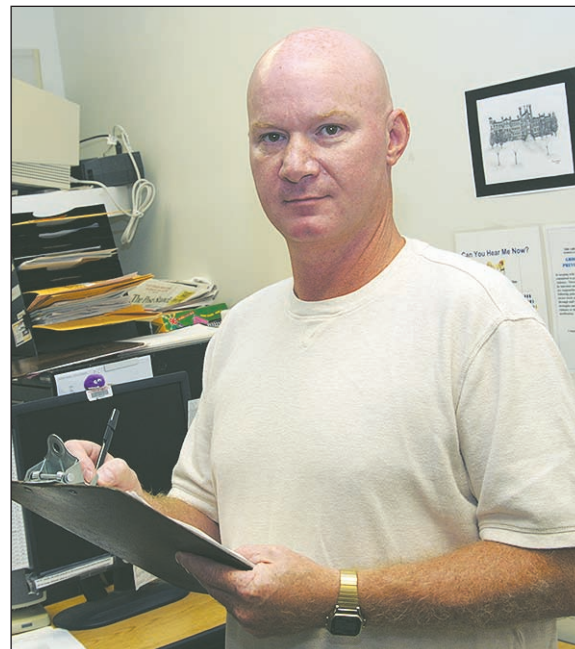
*"If there's a lot of people out injured or sick, there's an increase in mandatory overtime. We all kind of expect it working here."*

*"I've gotten mandated on holidays, 15 minutes before I was set to go home. It can be very hard on people and their families, especially when they're waiting for you to come home to celebrate on Thanksgiving or Easter, both of which I've had to work mandatory overtime."*

*"What the public sees is that there's a lot of employees working a lot of overtime and earning more money, but they don't understand that this is a hospital and we're open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We never close. This is a business and there wouldn't be so much overtime if there was more staffing available."*

*"Due to the financial situation of the state, Albany has made cutbacks and demanded furloughs, which has only exacerbated the problem."*

**— George Reinhard, Mental Hygiene Therapy Aide, Greater Binghamton Health Center (formerly known as the Binghamton Psychiatric Center).**



## Overtime Facts

- Overtime pay is required by law under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and modified by labor agreements.
- Union contracts DO NOT entitle workers to overtime. They only set forth the procedure for how overtime is distributed ONCE MANAGEMENT DECIDES TO UTILIZE OVERTIME WORK.
- The use of overtime is strictly and solely a MANAGEMENT decision.
- In many cases management chooses to use overtime rather than hire enough workers to get the job done without resorting to overtime.
- Many budget managers and accountants prefer to pay overtime instead of hiring enough employees to do the job.
- One of the major reasons for overtime is understaffing.

# THE WORK FORCE

ISSN 1522-1091

Official publication of  
CSEA Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO  
143 Washington Ave.  
Albany, NY 12210-2303  
Danny Donohue, President

STEPHEN A. MADARASZ  
Communications Director & Publisher

STANLEY HORNAK  
Deputy Director of Communications

LOU HMIELESKI  
Executive Editor

JANICE GAVIN  
Associate Editor

CATHLEEN FEBRAIO  
Graphic Production Specialist

JANICE M. KUCKAR  
Graphic Production Specialist

BETH McINTYRE  
Communications Assistant

The Work Force (USPS 0445-010) is published monthly by The CSEA Publication Office: 143 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210. Periodical Mail Postage paid at Post Office, Albany, New York 12288, and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: CSEA, Attn: Membership Department, 143 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210. CSEA on-line: The CSEA website can be accessed at [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org)

Readers:  
Send any comments, complaints, suggestions or ideas to: Publisher, The Work Force, 143 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210-2303.

## COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS

RICH IMPAGLIAZZO	Long Island Region	(631) 462-0030
DAVID GALARZA	Metropolitan Region	(212) 406-2156
JESSICA LADLEE	Southern Region	(845) 831-1000
THERESE ASSALIAN	Capital Region	(518) 785-4400
MARK M. KOTZIN	Central Region	(315) 433-0050
LYNN MILLER	Western Region	(716) 691-6555
ED MOLITOR	Headquarters	(518) 257-1272
JILL ASENCIO	Headquarters	(518) 257-1276

### The Publications Committee

Jerry Larrichiuta  
Janice Mason  
Robert Pazik  
Theresa Reagan  
Ed Russo  
Debbie Sherk



1220M



# IN TOUCH WITH THE Work Force

CSEA President Danny Donohue

## On-the-job safety and health protections under attack

More than 30 years ago, CSEA led the way toward safer work sites by helping to enact the Public Employee Safety and Health Act here in New York – the first, and still one of the most comprehensive state public worker protection laws in the United States.

Today, we must fight harder than ever for safe work sites, even here in New York. The law may say it's the employer's responsibility to provide a safe and healthy work site, but we cannot take that for granted. It's up to us as labor activists to be aware and hold employers accountable.

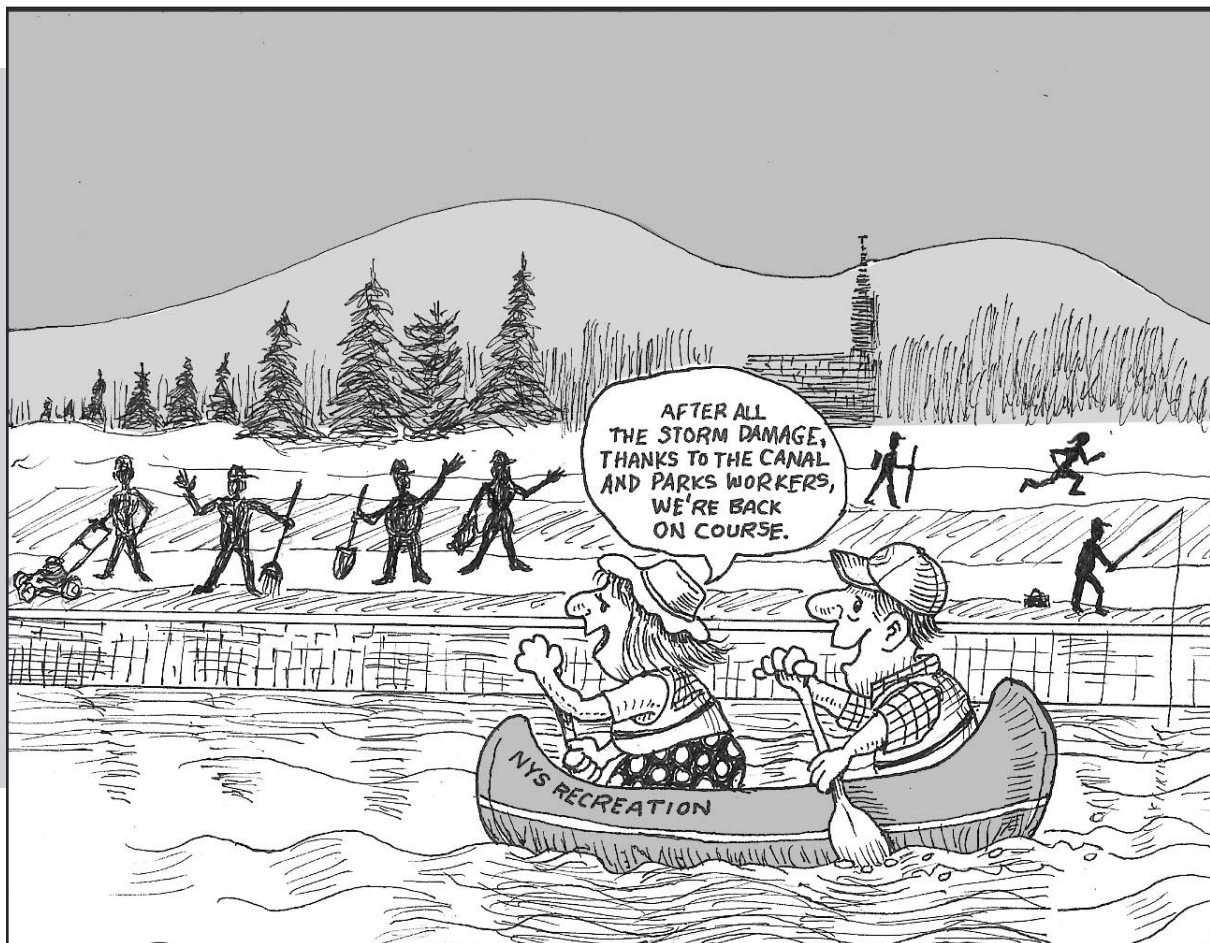
We're reminded of these facts at this time every year as we mark Workers Memorial Day – an opportunity to mourn for the dead and fight for the living. This year, Workers Memorial Day coincides with CSEA's biennial Statewide Conference on Occupational Safety and Health. It is exciting and energizing that nearly 1,000 dedicated CSEA activists were scheduled to attend as this edition went to press.

We all need the commitment and energy of those individuals to stand up for what is right. Each one of us needs to do more ourselves as well because all of our hard-fought gains are now jeopardized.

On a national level, we are seeing a new front in the war on workers as the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives actively seeks to put people at risk by repealing life-saving safety and health regulations and dismantle agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This is wrong in every way and we must stand strong and stand united to protect our right to well-being on and off the job.





## CSEA pushing to repeal the Tier 6 Dark Deal

ALBANY — CSEA has launched a new front against the big political giveaway the governor, state senators and Assembly members approved for themselves and political appointees.

“Under the cover of darkness, Governor Cuomo, state senators and Assembly members voted an outrageous perk to themselves and their highly paid political cronies within the Tier 6 legislation,” CSEA President Danny Donohue said.

Legislators and political appointees being paid more than \$75,000 annually are all in line to cash in for thousands of dollars every year!

The expanded 401(k)-style program lavishes an extra 8 percent of salary, over and

above their lucrative pay — literally thousands of dollars — into their individual investment funds. This after Cuomo and lawmakers claimed that New York couldn’t afford decent pensions for low and middle-income front-line public workers any more.

### **Take the money and run**

While front-line workers now need 10 years of service to vest in their modest pension program, the politically favored few can literally take the money and run after just one year of service — so it’s like getting a cash bonus windfall they didn’t earn.

*Even under Tier 5, short-term political appointees would not have qualified for*

*pension benefits until they had at least 10 years of service in the system.*

Now they benefit after just one year, undermining claims of reform in the public interest.

“The average pension for a CSEA-represented employee is about \$14,000 annually after decades of service, but this boondoggle means the politically favored will minimally receive \$6,000 annually every year, after one year of service,” Donohue said.

“That is totally unacceptable and we can only hope that the public will be as outraged at

Governor Cuomo and the state senators and Assembly members as we are.”

CSEA has TV, radio and print ads running in every media market in the state and is taking this issue into every community.

The union announced in March that it is suspending its political endorsements and contributions as a direct consequence of the governor’s political deal with the legislature that put politics before people.

**Like us on Facebook at:**  
<http://www.facebook.com/repealthedarkdeal>

**Learn how your elected officials voted on Tier 6 at:**  
[http://www.csealocal1000.org/pac\\_index.php](http://www.csealocal1000.org/pac_index.php)

# CSEA continuing fight to keep Valley View Nursing Home public

GOSHEN – Orange County Executive Ed Diana and his political allies are moving forward with their plans to sell or close the county-run Valley View nursing home, but CSEA isn't giving up the fight to continue Valley View's 185-year mission of county nursing care.

CSEA activists are using local newspapers, social media and community forums to call Diana out on the backroom dealing that has surrounded the accelerated push to get the county out of the nursing home business.

## Transparency needed

"Even the local daily newspaper agreed that something stinks when you have a 19-2 legislature vote to fund Valley View for all of 2012, and then within weeks, legislators completely change their position," said Southern Region President Billy Riccaldo. "The reality is, Diana took his supporters in the legislature out to the woodshed during their closed-door Republican caucus and got them to change their position, even after they agreed that the facility needed full funding for the whole year."

Community members are joining in the call for transparency in county government, with many continuing to connect the accelerated sale of Valley View to Diana's plan to build a new county government center. Selling Valley View this year would free up millions to put toward the construction of a new government building.

## Improve existing operation

A request for proposals for the sale of Valley View is due to conclude in May. CSEA is lobbying legislators to set aside the bids, fire Orange Administrative Services (the company serving as Valley View administration), and make

**"We all know that the effect of constant mandating is an increase in fatigue, illness and even workplace injury. Pascocello has incredible nerve to shift the blame onto the work force when this is a problem of his own creation."**

a concerted effort to implement recommendations for efficiency suggested in a recent feasibility study.

"Ever since the feasibility study was released, OAS has not attempted to implement any of the suggestions that could have saved money in the operation of Valley View," said Orange County Unit President William Oliphant. "If OAS had any credibility as a management firm, those changes would already be in place. The fact that they have snubbed these recommendations, and their poor history in other parts of the state, suggests they were brought in to make Valley View appear unviable."

OAS employee and Valley View administrator Bill Pascocello was at the helm of the Florence Nightingale nursing home in New York City when the facility ultimately closed. He is now a part-owner of the now-privatized Niagara County nursing home.

## Keep quality care in the interim

CSEA recently blasted county officials in a news release calling out Pascocello for derogatory comments he made about the Valley View work force to a media outlet. Riccaldo called out Pascocello for his suggestion that workers are abusing time accruals now that Valley View may close or be sold.

"What's actually happening is that Pascocello has left numerous funded certified nursing assistant

position vacancies open, resulting in exorbitant mandated overtime," Riccaldo said. "We all know that the effect of constant mandating is an increase in fatigue, illness and even workplace injury. Pascocello has incredible nerve to shift the blame

onto the work force when this is a problem of his own creation."

CSEA continues to press for vacancies at Valley View to be filled, to provide relief to workers now averaging two to three mandated shifts per week.

— Jessica Ladlee

**Editor's Note** — See page 14 for more about CSEA's fight to save public nursing homes.

## Almost time to retire?

Your local may pay the first year of CSEA retiree dues, which is only \$24!

CSEA retiree members enjoy many of the benefits and discounts of belonging to a union. In return, you get access to a wide variety of money-saving benefits such as:

- Access to insurance plans at CSEA's low group rates.
- Travel discounts.
- A discounted consumer items buying service.
- Discounted dental and vision care programs.
- A personal legal services referral network.
- The Retiree News quarterly.

Being a CSEA retiree member also makes you part of a growing statewide body that can effectively advocate on your behalf:

- Legislative and political action programs designed to enhance and protect retiree pension and health benefits.
- Participation in a CSEA Retiree Local.
- Effective lobbying against Social Security reform.
- Three informative publications.

For more information, visit [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org) and select "CSEA Retiree Members" from the "For CSEA Members" menu.



# Bronx Psychiatric Center workers demonstrate to stop cuts

BRONX — CSEA members, other workers and community members recently demonstrated to blast Gov. Andrew Cuomo's plan to lay off workers and cut beds at Bronx Psychiatric Center.

"The workers being laid off are the ones who make the least money but do all the work," said CSEA Bronx Psychiatric Center Local President Abraham Benjamin. "Clients are being pushed out before they are ready. Do they want the Bronx to receive good mental health services?"

## Cuts despite understaffing

The state Office of Mental Health has already closed two wards at the center, cutting about 50 beds, and now plans to downsize about 80 full and part-time workers on May 31.

The layoffs include 28 mental health therapy aides, nine food service workers and 11 cleaners.

For workers already doing more with less, the latest round of cuts proves the administration is out of touch with reality.

Bronx Psychiatric Center workers said the center is understaffed, leading to people working double shifts two or three times per week. Yet, instead of cutting overtime, the Office of Mental Health is



**Bronx Psychiatric Center workers demonstrate to urge the state to stop cuts to the facility.**



**CSEA Bronx Psychiatric Center Local President Abraham Benjamin, right, holding bullhorn, fires up workers at the rally.**

opting to further cut staff.

One of the major reasons for overtime is understaffing, a reality that is often overlooked in media reports about state workers making six-figure salaries because of the amount of overtime they work. At state facilities like psychiatric hospitals that are required to be staffed 24/7, workers are often forced to work additional hours or shifts, which can also contribute to injuries.

## Client "dumping" a risk

Sam Cross joined CSEA members at the demonstration because he's already seen how cutbacks affect families like his.

He pleaded with Bronx Psychiatric Center administrators to keep caring for his sister, who is diagnosed with schizophrenia, instead of transferring her to an inappropriate setting. They would hear none of it.

His sister recently walked out of that

facility and wandered the streets until a good samaritan noticed her and called the authorities. She's now at a private psychiatric hospital in Westchester County.

"Why would they push her out of a psychiatric hospital knowing that she wasn't ready?" Cross said.

CSEA and other union activists demonstrated last year to call attention to the high rate of injured staff and clients, mostly due to understaffing. With younger patients being housed with older clients, some with criminal or violent histories, Benjamin and others fear these numbers will rise.

"Why are they attacking the Bronx?" Benjamin said.

— David Galarza

# CSEA members speak out at legislative hearing on Westchester Medical Center

GREENBURGH — CSEA-represented Westchester Medical Center workers were among those who recently gave Westchester County legislators a vivid, emotional picture of how cuts are harming the hospital at a legislative hearing.

Hundreds of hospital workers, community members and CSEA activists and leaders, including Statewide Secretary Denise Berkley and Southern Region President Billy Riccaldo, attended the standing-room-only hearing in Greenburgh that was held after the workers repeatedly requested to meet with legislators.

## Cuts harming “world-class” facility

“We, hundreds of hardworking, professional union workers helped Westchester Medical Center develop a reputation as a world class health facility,” said CSEA Westchester Medical Center Unit President Peter Piazza. “That reputation has been tarnished and our ability to provide many vital services has been destroyed with the cutbacks and outsourcing at the hospital.”

“Westchester Medical Center risks high turnover and losing its place as an institution where world



**CSEA member Desiree Stewart, a phlebotomist at Westchester Medical Center, tells Westchester County legislators about working conditions at the hospital.**



**CSEA Westchester County Local President John Staino, a Westchester Medical Center employee, testifies about working conditions at the hospital to county legislators.**

class medicine is practiced if it fails to retain qualified, professional and dedicated workers like the ones who helped build that reputation and are currently doing the job,” Berkley said.

“Westchester Medical Center CEO Michael Israel has not been forthcoming or transparent about the hospital’s financial status,” said Southern Region President Billy Riccaldo. “He has repeatedly ignored requests for information submitted by CSEA under the Freedom of Information Law and the Taylor Law while its top heavy management that continues to lavish itself with raises and bonuses.”

## Administrative raises, despite cuts

Days after the hearing, The Journal News reported that “20 hospital administrators received increases in their total compensation for 2010, including one employee whose pay package jumped 18 percent. That same year, the medical center laid off 130 workers, instituted a hiring freeze and announced an \$18 million budget cut for the following year.”

The newspaper noted in an editorial, “The combination of raises for execs and job cuts for others presents optical challenges.”



**Southern Region President Billy Riccaldo, second from left, Statewide Secretary Denise Berkley and Westchester Medical Center Unit President Peter Piazza speak with Westchester County Legislature Chairman Kenneth W. Jenkins, far left, following the hearing.**

Under Israel, many vital services and programs unique to the hospital’s mission as a public health care safety net have been slashed, which is negatively affecting the ability to adequately serve the region with excellence.

These cuts include closing the Taylor Care Center, a public nursing home that served residents with complex long-term care needs and ending the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program, a mobile mental health crisis unit that deployed into the community with first responders.

Israel is now outsourcing jobs at the Behavioral Health Center to Liberty Healthcare, a problem-prone company known for its “Record of Failure” in several states.

“How can Westchester Medical Center justify paying its CEO millions of dollars and its top-heavy management six-figure salaries while using an alleged deficit as a reason for outsourcing jobs, laying off workers and slashing departments and services?” said CSEA Westchester County Local President John Staino.

## Quality of care jeopardized

After years of providing professional services, workers also told legislators how insulting, demoralizing and immoral it was to dismiss workers and offer them poverty wages to do the same job.

Workers also warned that less experienced staff often need extra supervision and are often unable to perform simple tasks.

Tracy Traverson, a unit clerk, testified about a non-union agency nurse who didn’t know how to collect a urine sample. “She came back with a bag full of urine,” said Traverson. “I’m afraid for the patients and patients are afraid for themselves.”

Kwiana Pinnock, a lab technician, said she was really excited about working at the hospital but was already feeling the strain of constantly training agency workers who often quit after just a few days. “It shouldn’t be a just dream to live and work in the community you grew up in,” she said.

— David Galarza



# CSEA concerned over alteration of official probation records

CSEA has found that probation records detailing Violation of Probation (VOP) orders submitted by a Nassau County probation officer were removed from the officer's file by Probation Department administration following a recent carjacking in Hicksville.

The carjacking resulted in a car crashing into a North Merrick school.

Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano has forwarded

the case to the Nassau County district attorney.

The officer submitted documents to her supervisor stating that probationer Edwin Flores had missed several scheduled probation appointments, as well as several other violations, and should be arrested for a violation of probation. When the officer reported to work, she noticed that her original file detailing these

VOPs was removed. Shortly thereafter, she was asked to sign an altered VOP regarding Flores' violations of probation. After consulting with CSEA attorneys, she signed the document instead of risking insubordination of her job duties, but attached a letter detailing her account of Flores' violations and presented that document to CSEA.

CSEA is concerned that these actions severely compromise the professional integrity of a probation officer and leave many questions to be answered by the administration of the department.

"We are talking about the alteration of official probation documents," Nassau Local President Jerry Laricchiuta said. "Our probation officers are now in a precarious situation where they don't know if their official paperwork will be either forged or destroyed, and that is something we will not stand for. The reasoning for removing and altering these documents is unclear, but I do know that it is unacceptable and puts our probation officers at risk. We await the findings that the district attorney will come out with on this case."

The state of the Nassau County Probation Department has concerned CSEA for several months, as incidents like this seem to be a pattern of behavior from the department's administration.

"We are afraid that the safety of both our probation officers and the residents of Nassau

County are being compromised for reasons unknown or unexplained," Laricchiuta said. "The injury to police officers also shows the result of leaving a dangerous criminal on the streets when he should have been violated and arrested prior to this crime."

Laricchiuta has issued several written letters to Probation Department Director John Fowle about what CSEA considers to be egregious actions, including altering and discarding documents, and new policies that potentially create health and safety concerns for probation officers.

The Nassau Police Benevolent Association has also expressed concern about this case as police officers were injured as a result of the carjacking. "We rely on all county departments to follow correct protocols, and we certainly decry the alteration of any official records," PBA President James Carver said. "Now we see the serious consequences of such actions, and the toll that it took on our police officers."

— Ryan Mulholland



Laricchiuta

## Stay up-to-date with your region

Be sure to stay up to date between Work Force editions by checking your region's web page and Facebook page. Members in the Central and Western regions can also follow their regions on Twitter.

### Long Island Region:

<http://www.csealocal1000.org/r1>  
<http://www.facebook.com/csealongisland>

### Metropolitan Region:

<http://www.csealocal1000.org/r2>  
<http://www.facebook.com/csearegion2>

### Southern Region:

<http://www.csealocal1000.org/r3>  
<http://www.facebook.com/csearegion3>

### Capital Region:

<http://www.csealocal1000.org/r4>  
<http://www.facebook.com/csearegion4>

### Central Region:

<http://www.csealocal1000.org/r5>  
<http://www.facebook.com/csearegion5>  
[http://twitter.com/#!/CSEA\\_Region5](http://twitter.com/#!/CSEA_Region5)

### Western Region:

<http://www.csealocal1000.org/r6>  
<http://www.facebook.com/cseawesternregion6>  
<http://twitter.com/#!/@csearegion6>



# Hard, steady work brings Erie Canal back from devastating damage

Over a four-week period last fall, Capital Region residents endured an earthquake, a hurricane, a tropical storm, flooding, and in one Montgomery County town, an earthquake.

While rebuilding has been slow, CSEA members have been key to the progress being made.

In Schoharie County, where numerous homes and businesses were lost, some are rebuilding and others are moving on. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has been on the ground with assistance, but residents say that things might not ever get back to the way they were.

Along the Erie Canal, Locks 9 and 10 were wiped out completely. Lock 8 had major damage to the dam gates, powerhouses and lock machinery.

What followed was a major cleanup effort to remove storm debris from Lock 8's gates to get the lock structures back in working order. As canal crews lower the dam gates and drop buoys for the upcoming boating season, they still face more repairs and reconstruction of the water channels.

"Things are still in disrepair," said CSEA New York State Canals Local President Walter Sprouse, describing the conditions of the locks and canals.

Though it might not be obvious to recreational boaters, the strength of the rushing water created new river channels in some areas along the canal. Canal workers will undertake a dredging operation to recreate the channels. Boaters in impacted parts of the canal will use temporary channels.

— Therese Assalian

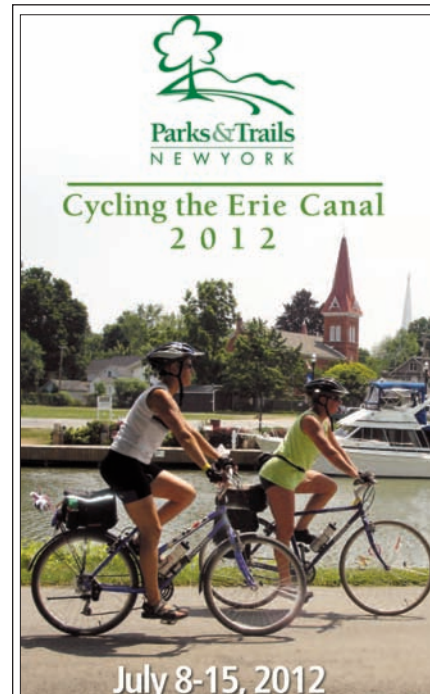


New York State Canal Authority workers are dwarfed by an immense flood gate structure as they recently lower flood gates at Erie Canal Lock 8 in Rotterdam. Canal workers were critical in clearing debris and repairing locks and infrastructure following last fall's devastating storms, helping to get the canal open on time this season.



Above, Louis King, a 30-year Canal Authority employee and captain of the SPS 57 at the helm of his scow at Erie Canal Lock 7.

Below left, canal employees aboard the tug Waterford bring buoys to Lock 7 in Niskayuna. Below right, Canal Maintenance Assistants Bob Hart, left, and Aaron Boyce drop buoys at Lock 7 in advance of the boating season.



## Ride 400 miles of history

CSEA members working in the state Canal Corp. and state Department of Parks and Recreation help maintain hundreds of miles of bike paths through New York, including along the Erie Canal. Their work to help clear paths of debris following last fall's tropical storms is helping make the annual 400-mile Cycling the Erie Canal tour possible.

Visit [www.ptny.org/canaltour](http://www.ptny.org/canaltour) for more information about the ride and recreational opportunities in your region.

## Canal cleanup facts

More than \$30 million in emergency repairs for flood recovery was performed by Canal Corp. workers and contractors

The Thruway Authority has budgeted an additional \$60 million for the Canal Corp. for further recovery and upgrades over next two years.

Following the fall storms, the canal was closed due to flooding. Canal workers' efforts allowed an emergency reopening through early December to get stranded boats out.

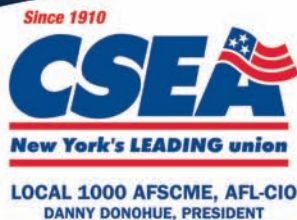
34,000 tons of debris were removed from the damaged canal, equalling nearly 150 barge loads.



*Don't Drive Distracted.*



*Let's ALL get home safe!*



People working together  
to make a better New York for all.



"Like" us on Facebook.  
[www.facebook.com/DontZoneOut](http://www.facebook.com/DontZoneOut)

# This summer, let's ALL get home safe

CSEA is a longtime supporter of minor-league baseball in New York state. This summer, the union will have a focused message that promotes our Don't Zone Out campaign to end distracted driving and enforce work zone safety.

"Let's All Get Home Safe" will be the message CSEA will deliver at minor league ballparks this summer through the union's promotional activities and distribution of

team-branded static cling decals. The decals will be distributed on CSEA nights with the following teams: Long Island Ducks, Brooklyn Cyclones, Hudson Valley Renegades, Tri-City ValleyCats, Binghamton Mets, Syracuse Chiefs, Auburn Doubledays, Batavia Muckrakers, Rochester Red Wings, Buffalo Bisons and Jamestown Jammers. Check your region pages on the CSEA website for exact dates and discount ticket information.

Help spread the word. Help save lives. Above all, Don't Zone Out. Together, Let's All Get Home Safe.



An example of the Hudson Valley Renegades' team-branded static cling decal.

## SUNY Canton Local members honored for campus fire response

CANTON – Most people run away from burning buildings, but at SUNY Canton, a group of CSEA-represented maintenance workers instead ran toward them.

CSEA SUNY Canton Local President Joe Kelly said that after an explosion in a chemistry lab caused a fire in Cook Hall, CSEA members ran into the connected buildings to evacuate people, pull fire alarms, and cut power.

"We must have had eight or 10 of our members respond," Kelly said. "They went above and beyond like they always do."

College employees represented by CSEA also cleaned fire debris.

College President Joseph Kennedy praised the workers for their efforts.

"I'd like to thank the employees represented by CSEA who helped the college move forward from

the Cook Hall fire," he said. "You were on the front lines of helping us maintain order and restoring the physical appearance of our beautiful campus. Your extra effort has been noted, and I greatly appreciate it. I once again thank you for all that you do for SUNY Canton."

CSEA Central Region President Colleen Wheaton said she was proud of the workers' response.

"People are always so quick to criticize public workers, but here's another great example of how they put themselves out there to make sure others were safe. I'm very proud of their selfless actions, and happy to recognize them on behalf of a grateful CSEA," she said.

— Mark M. Kotzin

# CSEA member pens poem for the 99 percent

WATKINS GLEN  
– Working with disadvantaged people every day, standing up for the 99 percent is a theme that resonates strongly with CSEA member Charlotte Dickens.



Dickens

Dickens, a senior social welfare examiner for the Medicaid Division of the Schuyler County Department of Social Services, was recently honored when a Western New York publisher published her poem “Gone Amok” in a recent anthology of poems titled “Liberty’s Vigil, The Occupy Anthology, 99 Poets among the 99%.”

On a recent trip to visit her son in Kansas City, she witnessed an “Occupy” demonstration. “I was

fascinated by what was happening,” she said.

That sparked the idea behind her poem, which speaks about reigning in corporate power and greed.

“I work with people who are disadvantaged and I am very aware of the growing disparity between the very rich and the poor,” Dickens said. “I see that the middle class is fast disappearing. I do feel like the 99 percent are being shortchanged.”

In 1994, Dickens founded and began facilitating a local writers group in Schuyler County. She said her poem being published has been one of the highlights of her writing career.

— Mark M. Kotzin

**Editor’s Note** — Dickens’ poem “Gone Amok” is printed at right.

## Gone Amok

By Charlotte Jane Dickens

Unbridled Capitalism run amok,  
Time for the citizenry to say “whoa”  
Ask that we reign in  
That corporate one percent  
Who live in obscene houses  
Built upon our bare backs  
And gallop around the world  
In private jets.  
Time for “Made in USA”  
To be found upon store shelves  
We want some share  
Of the feed  
Rather than have to reach  
And scramble for some small morsel  
Almost out of reach  
While the fat beast  
Gorges on what there is  
Happily smacking lips,  
While the other 99%  
Drool and stomachs rumble.  
“Occupy Wall Street,”  
And other “Occupies”  
Signify America is waking up,  
Taking stock  
And finding enough is enough.

*Previously published in “Liberty’s Vigil” by FootHills Publishing - [www.foothillspublishing.com](http://www.foothillspublishing.com). Reprinted with permission.*

## Anti-worker Koch brothers gave Cuomo \$88,000

It’s been well documented that billionaire brothers David and Charles Koch have brazenly spent millions to spread their right-wing ideology to weaken the working middle class and destroy unions.

And now we’re learning how the Koch brothers are shamelessly boosting their corporate profits by fixing prices, bribing foreign officials, lying to regulators, neglecting safety regulations and violating U.S. laws with impunity to trade with Iran – a country

identified by the U.S. as a sponsor of global terrorism.

So who is the latest politician to benefit from the Koch’s contributions? Gov. Andrew Cuomo, whose agenda to hurt working families and public employees has become painfully apparent.

CSEA has learned Cuomo received an \$88,000 campaign contribution from the David Koch in the 2010 filing year. Overall, Koch Industries spent \$1.2 million to elect anti-worker governors in

2010. Among their favorites that year was Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who spearheaded the move to revoke the collective bargaining rights of state employees as one of his first actions as governor.

Walker is facing a recall election on June 5, after more than 900,000 signatures were gathered supporting the recall.

Cuomo’s contributors, the Kochs, founded Prosperity for America in 2004, with a corporate agenda “to take the unions out at the knees so they don’t have

the resources to fight” the battle over collective bargaining rights – the source of union power. They benefit from tax cuts and refuse to pay their fair share, amassing more corporate profits and greater wealth while public service workers and other middle class workers are asked to make even more sacrifices.

And now, Cuomo is benefitting from them and helping to advance their cause.

— Material from AFSCME was used for this story.

# Western Region members fighting to save public nursing homes

CANANDAIGUA – CSEA continues to put pressure on the Ontario County Board of Supervisors, demanding the board abandon a plan that would essentially give away the county’s public nursing home and \$10 million to a private entity.

Ontario County Unit members and their supporters demonstrated outside the County Court House during the past two monthly board meetings. Protestors carried signs calling on the supervisors to slow down, allow for public comment, and to protect the public nursing home.

“Public nursing homes provide an essential safety net in the community,” said Unit President

Steve Healy. “The staff at the Ontario County Nursing Facility provides outstanding essential services to residents, and the public facility opens its doors to all regardless of ability to pay. The proposal before the supervisors amounts to giving that all away. County residents should be outraged.”

CSEA-represented staff members addressed the board of supervisors at each of the last two board meetings.

“The residents of the nursing home are the very people responsible for laying the foundation for your American Dream,” Nichelle Edgar, a certified nursing assistant, told the board.

“The elders in this facility need us now more than ever. If you, the supervisors, fail them then shame on you.”

Efforts to save the 98-bed nursing home will continue in Ontario County as things heat up to the south in Steuben County.

## Steuben County fight

In Steuben County, CSEA members are launching a campaign to stop outsourcing of several departments at the relatively new county nursing home. Requests for proposals for the contracting out of dietary, housekeeping and maintenance at the 120-bed Steuben County Health Care Facility have gone

out. The sale of the facility is also reportedly being considered by the county.

“County legislators and supervisors throughout the state must stop their misguided plans to ‘unload’ public nursing facilities,” said CSEA Western Region President Flo Tripi. “The need for these facilities is great, and counties are making a big mistake when they threaten this vital public service.”

— Lynn Miller

**Editor’s Note** — See page 6 for more about CSEA’s fight to save public nursing homes.

## Floral Park workers go above and beyond? “They do.”

FLORAL PARK — Several Floral Park village employees recently proved what treasures public employees are to their communities when they helped a local woman recover her engagement and wedding rings that accidentally found their way into the trash.

The woman visited the village’s Department of Public Works office and emotionally told CSEA member Kevin Ginnane, a sanitation and recycling supervisor for the village and Office Manager Judy Yoandoli how she lost the rings.

“We quickly realized these items had great sentimental value to this woman and set out to do everything we could to help her,” said Ginnane.

Ginnane contacted the sanitation crew working the route closest to the woman’s home and requested they return to the main

yard, where unit member Joe Karam dumped all the garbage from his truck. With the truck emptied, Ginnane sent the crew members back out on their route and called the woman to the yard.

Karam returned to the main yard when his route was complete to help Ginnane and the woman search through the garbage, which by then had been thinned out to facilitate the process.

The trio went through everything by hand and found both the engagement ring and wedding band inside a nondescript trash bag.

“The woman was delighted to recover these items and we were glad to help,” said Ginnane. “It’s all in a day’s work, but some days are more unusual than others.”

It may be all in a day’s work to Ginnane, but it’s another example of how public employees are willing to go above and beyond for



Village of Floral Park Unit members Joe Karam, left, and Kevin Ginnane show off their certificates of appreciation from the mayor for helping a local woman recover her engagement and wedding rings.

the communities they serve.

Floral Park Mayor Thomas Tweedy honored Ginnane and Karam with certificates of

appreciation at a recent village board meeting.

— Rich Impagliazzo

# CSEA members help douse Long Island wildfires

CSEA members in the Smithtown Fire District, Brookhaven White Collar and Highway Units were among those who answered the call of duty when wildfires broke out in the Pine Barrens region of Suffolk County, enveloping large parcels of land in the east end communities of Manorville and Ridge.

Smithtown Fire District Unit members Mike Gianmugnai, Tim Clark, John Pettit, Stephen Smith, Dan Caputo, Jon Hallock and Tom Kricklava were among the workers who helped contain and control the massive fires that scorched more than 1,100 acres of land while destroying three homes, nine other structures and a heavy-duty brush removal truck.

The CSEA members used their skills as dispatchers and emergency medical technicians to help coordinate the efforts of firefighters from every volunteer department in Suffolk County and half of those in Nassau County while helping those on the scene suffering from smoke inhalation or other injuries.

The Suffolk County Police Department helicopter



Smithtown Fire District dispatcher Jon Hallock, left, and Unit President Mike Gianmugnai show a list of proper emergency and fire protocol.

division even recruited Gianmugnai, the unit president, to track the fire's movement from the air and relay critical information to ground units by using his knowledge of the stricken terrain.

Fire marshals in the Brookhaven White Collar Unit helped firefighters recognize potential environmental hazards at the scene to allow them to take the proper precautions.

With the wildfires now contained, the fire marshals are helping authorities investigate the causes of the fires and work on ways to avoid future blazes.

Brookhaven Highway Unit members were instrumental in fire containment and their ability to operate large vehicles such as brush removal trucks in tight spaces allowed for the creation of "fire breaks" and "work trails," which create a gap in vegetation or other combustible material and act as a barrier to stop or slow the progress of a wildfire.

These wildfires are just the latest situation to demonstrate the value of public workers and underscore the positive affect they continue to have in their communities.

— Rich Impagliazzo

## CSEA members vital to volunteer fire departments

WOODRIDGE – CSEA members have a long, proud history of service to volunteer fire companies across the state. That volunteerism has grown increasingly valuable in recent years as longer commutes and changing work environments have forced a thinning of volunteer firefighting ranks.

In Sullivan County, CSEA members have become the core of many of the county's many volunteer fire departments.

"I volunteer because I want to give back to my community, and it helps that I work right in our village and can respond quickly," said Village of Woodridge Unit President Yury Batres, a volunteer with the Woodridge Fire Department.

Half of the members of Batres' bargaining unit belong to the same fire company.

### Tough month for the Catskills

That dedication made a difference recently when over one week, firefighters were faced with devastating fires at two former Borscht Belt lodgings: the old Tamarack Lodge near Ellenville, and the nearby Grandview Palace condominiums (formerly known as the Brown's Hotel), a favorite of comedian Jerry Lewis during the Catskills' heyday. Several CSEA members from the Loch Sheldrake Fire Department were in charge of the scene at the Grandview fire.

The Grandview fire was one of the largest occupied structure fires in county history. Hundreds of firefighters from at least five counties

provided mutual aid.

"We spent the better part of the night shuttling water to the scene," said Village of Woodridge Unit member John Baker.

CSEA members working for Fallsburg's Water Department also assisted.

### Proximity allows quick response

If a fire call goes out on a weekday, Batres and co-workers Baker and Patrick Smith are often the first at the firehouse. Village officials recognize the value of having firefighters so close by, so they allow the workers to respond during work hours.

"Our other members don't work right in the village, so it helps that the community knows there are at least a few people who can respond right away," said Batres.

Smith said many people don't realize the time volunteer firefighters commit on top of time spent on fire calls. "The initial schooling is time consuming, plus we have drill every week, a monthly meeting, and fund-raisers," he said

### Summer population growth creates need

Sullivan County experiences a population boom in the summer months, as city dwellers head up to the county's bungalow colonies and previously sleepy communities come alive.

"Our calls go way up during the summer, especially motor vehicle accidents," said Smith.

In these small communities, where lean budgets



From left, Village of Woodridge Unit members John Baker, Patrick Smith and Yury Batres play an important role in the Woodridge Fire Department. CSEA members make up the core of many volunteer fire companies across the state.

are the norm, the value provided by dedicated volunteer firefighters is priceless.

"The community really appreciates all that these guys do," said Town of Fallsburg Unit President Gene Benson, who also serves as vice chair of the Sullivan County Legislature. "Having so many of the CSEA members serving in departments across the county does us a great service."

— Jessica Ladlee

# Use of generic drugs costs you less

The cost of prescription drugs is one of the fastest-growing components within the health care system of the United States.



The Empire Plan prescription drug benefit is designed to help manage drug costs and establish co-payment levels that are more in line with the relative cost of various drugs to the plan. While co-payments under The Empire Plan have increased recently, the plan continues to pay most of the cost of covered prescription drugs.

The Empire Plan Prescription Drug Program has three levels of co-payments. An enrollee's co-payment depends on the drug, the quantity supplied and where the prescription is filled. A list of the current co-payment amounts for CSEA-represented state employees covered under the Empire Plan is found on this page.

To help keep your out-of-pocket costs as low as possible, let your doctor know that your Empire Plan co-payments are lower when you use generic and/or preferred brand-name drugs.

## What is a preferred brand-name drug?

Under the Empire Plan, a preferred brand-name drug usually has no generic equivalent and has been determined by the plan administrator to be a better value than its therapeutic alternatives.

The co-payment for preferred-brand name drugs is typically higher than a generic drug, however, lower than a non-preferred drug.

**For specific information about your out-of-pocket requirements under The Empire Plan prescription drug program, call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and choose The Empire Plan Prescription Drug Program.**

## Empire Plan prescription drug program co-payments

- Up to a 30-day supply of a covered drug from a **network pharmacy or through the mail service pharmacy, or designated specialty pharmacy:**

\$ 5 Level 1 or for most Generics

\$25 Level 2 or Preferred Drugs

\$45 Level 3 or Non-Preferred Drugs

- 31 to 90-day supply of a covered drug from a **network pharmacy:**

\$10 Level 1 or for most Generics

\$50 Level 2 or Preferred Drugs

\$90 Level 3 or Non-Preferred Drugs

- 31 to 90-day supply of a covered drug through the **mail service pharmacy or designated specialty pharmacy:**

\$ 5 Level 1 or for most Generics

\$50 Level 2 or Preferred Drugs

\$90 Level 3 or Non-Preferred Drugs

When a brand-name prescription drug is dispensed and an FDA-approved generic equivalent is available, the member will be responsible for the difference in cost between the generic drug and the non-preferred brand-name drug, plus the non-preferred brand-name co-payment.

## Why generic drugs?

Most generic drugs have the same active ingredients, strength and dosage form (pill, liquid or injection) as their brand-name counterparts.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves generic drugs for safety and effectiveness. Use of generic drugs usually results in the enrollee being responsible to pay the lowest co-payment.

## MEMBERS ONLY INFORMATION

LOCAL 1000



AFSCME, AFL-CIO

# Legal Services Program

Workers' Compensation and Social Security Disability

Personal Legal Matters

Personal Injury Matters

Taking Care of Business/Elder Law

Veterans Disability Benefits

**T**his members-only benefit program provides attorney representation for *Workers' Compensation, Social Security Disability, Personal Injury, Veterans*

# Know Your Rights!

*Disability Benefits and Personal Legal matters including Taking Care of Business for members and their dependents. Quality legal representation at little or no out-of-pocket cost for injury/illness related matters; quality legal representation at pre-negotiated/discounted fees for other personal matters.*

The Injury Related Program is administered by the firm of **FINE, OLIN & ANDERMAN, LLP** through its statewide network of offices. Personal Legal Services are provided by a closed network of specially selected attorneys dedicated to quality service for CSEA members.



## 1-800-342-4146

Call during normal business hours, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Mon.–Fri., and follow the menu instructions for the Legal Services Program

CSEA Headquarters, 143 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210

Web site: [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org) (through the CSEA members-only portal)

Danny Donohue, President

## Empire Plan claim deadline for calendar year 2011 is April 30

Empire Plan enrollees have until **April 30, 2012** (120 days after the end of the calendar year) in which to submit medical expenses which were incurred during the 2011 plan year to:

**Health Benefits**

**United HealthCare Service Corp.**  
P.O. Box 1600

**Kingston, N.Y. 12402-1600**

For the Empire Plan Basic Medical Program, the Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP) and for non-network physical therapy or chiropractic services.

**Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield**

**NYS Service Center (Code YLS)**

**P.O. Box 1407 – Church Street Station**

**New York, N.Y. 10008-1407**

For Empire Plan and non-network Inpatient or Outpatient hospital services.

**OptumHealth Behavioral Solutions**

**P.O. Box 5190**

**Kingston, N.Y. 12402-5190**

For non-network mental health and substance abuse services.

**Medco Health Solutions**

**P.O. Box 14711**

**Lexington, K.Y. 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 obtain claim forms. As a reminder, when using the Empire Plan's toll-free telephone number, please pay extra attention to the choices offered by the automated system.

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



# The CSEA Employee Benefit Fund and full-time college students

CSEA members in the Employee Benefit Fund who have eligible dependents

between 19-24 years old must submit student proof annually for those dependents to remain eligible for benefits after they turn age 19.

Student proof allows the continuation of coverage up until age 25 as long as they remain unmarried and maintain full-time student status.

## What is Student Proof?

Acceptable proof can be any



of the following: a class schedule, a transcript, a registrar's letter, or a fully completed EBF Student Proof Form. Student Proof must be submitted with a Member's EBF ID number." The Student Proof Form can be downloaded from [www.cseabf.com](http://www.cseabf.com). When you visit, click on "Download Forms" and then click on the "Student Proof Form."

The school must be an accredited college or university and the dependent must be working towards an associates, bachelors or masters degree and enrolled in a minimum of 12

undergraduate or six graduate credit hours.

By visiting [www.cseabf.com](http://www.cseabf.com) and using the "Benefit Search" tool, you can view your full summary plan description online (SPD). The SPD outlines dependent eligibility guidelines in detail.

## My dependent is enrolled and I don't know if they're eligible to receive dental treatment.

Please contact the EBF Dental Unit at 1-800-323-2732 and press 2 when prompted to speak with a specialized dental customer service representative. The representative will be able to

provide assistance and answer your questions.

## My dependent is enrolled and I don't know if they're eligible to receive vision services.

EBF's vision plans are available on either a 12 or 24-month benefit basis, based upon what has been negotiated into your collective bargaining agreement. If you are unsure of how to use your vision benefits, or when the last time the benefit was provided, please contact our Member Services Department at 1-800-323-2732 and press 5.

## A guide to the CSEA Employee Benefit Fund website

Locate your plan information

Download forms

The screenshot shows the CSEA Employee Benefit Fund website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "About Us", "Staff", "Contact Us", "FAQ", and "Site Map". Below this is the CSEA logo and a photo of Danny Donohue, Chairman. The main content area is a grid of service buttons: "Benefit Search" (with a question mark icon), "Provider Search" (with a person icon), "Enroll Online" (with a document icon), "Download Forms" (with a document icon), "Latest News" (with a news icon), "F.A.Q.'s" (with a question mark icon), "LIVE HELP" (with a person icon and "I'm Online" status), "Lookup Your EBF ID #" (with a magnifying glass icon), "Change of Address" (with a mail icon), "Becoming A Provider" (with a person icon), and "EDI Information" (with a download icon). A sidebar on the left lists various benefits and services like "State Benefits", "Unified Court System", "Local Govt Vision Benefits", "Local Govt Dental Benefits", "Local Govt Solstice Plan - NEW!", "Benefits Specialists", "Plan Brochures", "Reimbursement Benefits", "Retiree Dental", and "Negotiator's Guide - NEW!".

# Summary of April Board of Directors meeting

## 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.*



lease office space located at 3 Courthouse Park #1, Cortland, New York, 12045;

- Approved the recommendation to retain the services of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) as CSEA's accounting firm for the audit of CSEA's 2012 fiscal year;

- Amended Article III - Membership, Section 3 of the Local Constitution, to accommodate changes referenced in the Standing Constitution & By-Laws Committee Report of April 12, 2012;

- Approved a list of all region Political Action Committees contained in the Standing Legislative & Political Action Committee Report of April 12, 2012;

- Confirmed the appointment of Lori Nilsson as Chairperson and Frank Strack as Vice Chairperson of the State Executive Committee;

- Confirmed the appointment of Jack Rohl as Chairperson and Ed Russo as Vice Chairperson of the Local Government Executive Committee;

- Confirmed the appointment of John Shepherd, John Staino, Abe Benjamin and Michael Febraio to the Directors' Committee;

- Confirmed the appointment of Jean Ahlert, Sabina Shapiro, Linda Stiefel, Mary Jo Tubbs, Abe Benjamin and Frank Strack to the Directors' Budget Committee;

- Confirmed the appointment of Liz Piraino, John Shepherd, Kelly Volpe, Kathy Button, Jackie Goldsmith, Ramon Lucas and Bob Timpano to the Personnel Committee;

- Confirmed the appointment of Dee Pettigrew, Deb Raguseo, Carol Guardiano, William LeBaron and Lori Nilsson to the Charter Committee;

- Confirmed the appointment of Brenda Facin, Mark Semo,

Meg Shutka, Wayne Dorler, Renee Jackson and Ellen Lennon to the Appeals Committee;

- Confirmed the appointment of Jerry Laricchiuta, Theresa Reagan, Ed Russo, Debi Sherk, Janice Mason and Robert Pazik to the Publications Committee;

- Confirmed the appointment of Lee Reynolds, Carm Russo, Scott Weatherby, Sally Bywater, Patty Kaufman and Donna Keefer to the Committee to Study the Cost of Operating Group Life Insurance and

- Endorsed President Danny Donohue's candidacy for AFSCME President.

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

ALBANY – CSEA's statewide Board of Directors met on April 12, 2012. In official business the board:

- Approved the Tentative Agreements with the Field Staff Association (FSA) and the CSEA Lawyers' Union (CLU);

- Approved the nomination of Mary Jo Tubbs, John Shepherd, Frank Strack and Bob Timpano to the Political Action Fund;

- Authorized Local 812 to

## 2012 CSEA Election

### 2012 Special Board of Directors Election

A Special Election for the Ulster County seat on the Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, April 25th at CSEA Headquarters. Candidates were Kathryn Bayer, Wallkill CSD and Todd Schmidt, Ulster County Probation Dept.

Kathryn Bayer won the election.

In addition, there was a re-run election for the Rockland County seat on the Board of Directors, which was also held on April 25, 2012 at CSEA Headquarters. Candidates were P.T. Thomas, Rockland County Department of Social Services and Thomas Ninan, Rockland County Department of Social Services.

Thomas Ninan won the election.

### 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 2012 Annual Delegates Meeting must be submitted by May 15, 2012.

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 2012 CSEA Annual Delegates Meeting will be held Oct. 15-19 in Washington, D.C.

# THE Work Force

[www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org)

Published by CSEA

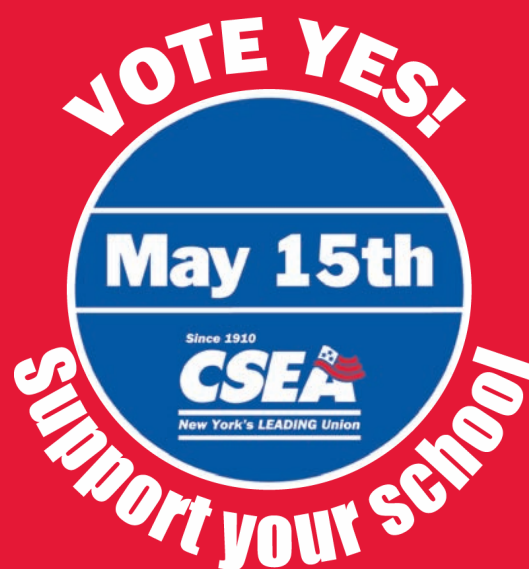
143 Washington Ave • Albany NY • 12210

Danny Donohue, President

(518) 257-1000 • (800) 342-4146

CSEA • Local 1000 AFSCME • AFL-CIO

**On Tuesday May 15, make sure you support your schools by voting in your school district elections!**



***A better New York for all!***