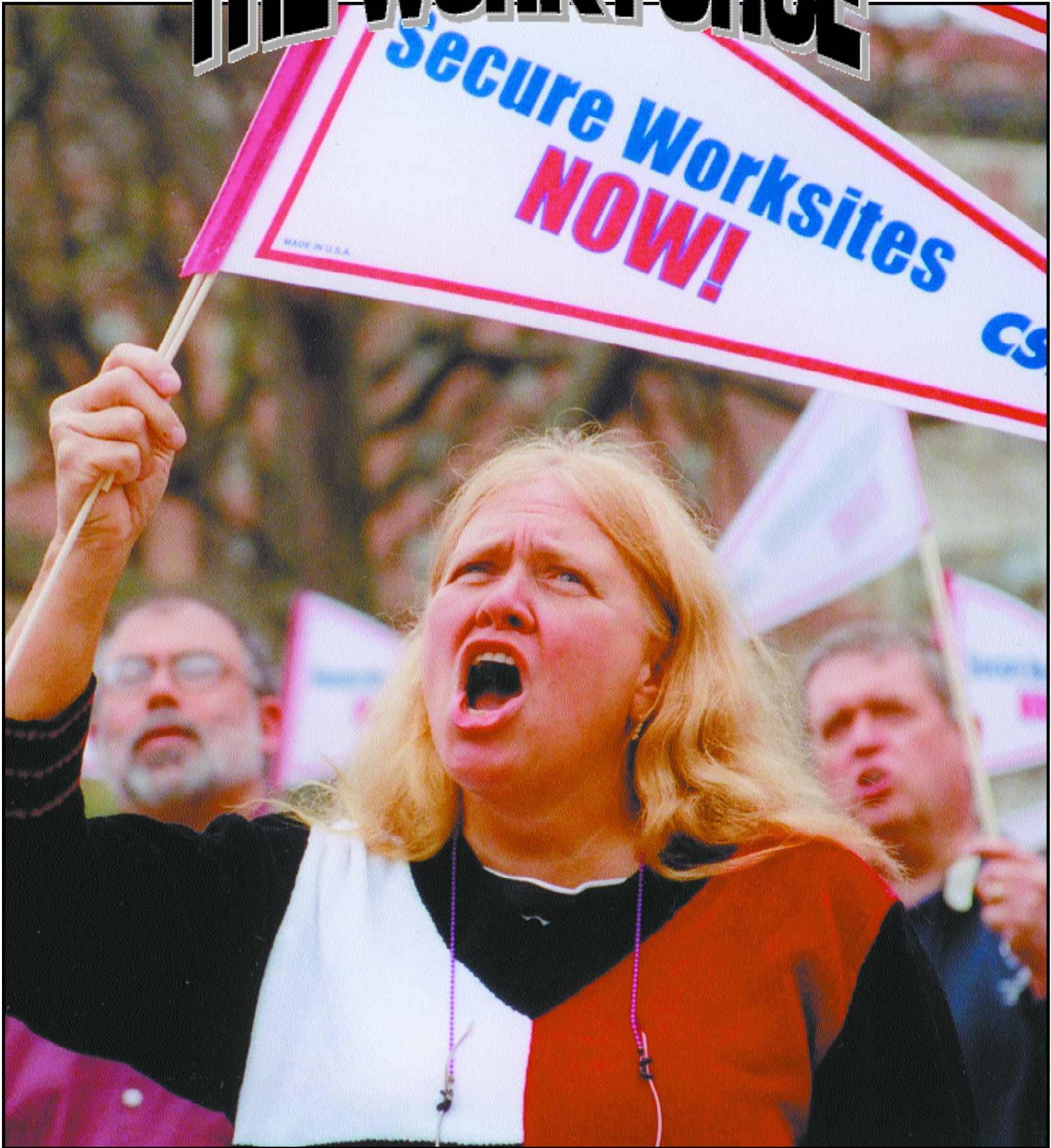


# THE WORK FORCE



*See Page 3*



## Photo of the Month



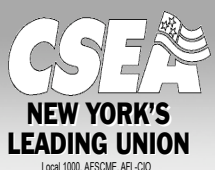
State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer speaks following CSEA's endorsement of him for governor as CSEA President Danny Donohue listens. "Eliot Spitzer has stood up for the hardworking men and women of this state," Donohue said. "There are many challenges ahead for New York and Eliot Spitzer is the best candidate to lead us forward."

## CSEA action helps school budgets pass

CSEA was involved in more than 40 school district and library elections across the state. The union's support for candidates, budgets, and local propositions included massive phone operations based out of the regions and headquarters, over 32,000 pieces of campaign material printed, and over 30,000 postcards mailed to CSEA members.

An overwhelming number of endorsed budgets passed (81 percent) and 85 percent of our endorsed candidates won their elections.

Member activism during this year's school and library elections continues the trend of increased political activism by CSEA members.



# ALERT



CSEA President **Danny Donohue** to meet Central and Western Region members in June.

**On June 21**, President Donohue will be at the Ramada Geneva Lakefront Hotel, 41 Lakefront Drive, Geneva. Please call the region office at (716) 691-6555 or 1-866-568-7734 for an appointment and directions.

**On June 23**, President Donohue will be at the Central Region Office, 6595 Kirkville Road, East Syracuse. Please call the region office at (315) 433-0050 or 1-800-559-7975 for an appointment and directions.

Donohue will meet with union members on both days from 1 to 7 p.m.

# Onondaga County contract situation 'black and white'

SYRACUSE — What's black and white and was marching around downtown?

A giant penguin, of course, and it recently joined its keepers and about 3,300 other Onondaga County workers in solidarity, as hundreds marched for a better contract deal.

In April, CSEA Onondaga County Local members rejected a contract offer from the county that only offered a small lump-sum increase for last year's raise. When surveyed, the members overwhelmingly responded that the lump-sum amount, not added to their base pay, was like a "slap in the face" for their hard work. It wasn't enough to allow them to keep up with rising costs of living, especially when factoring increases in doctor visit co-

payments the county sought.

The workers recently demonstrated their solidarity by wearing black and white and marching at various locations throughout downtown Syracuse with a person dressed in a giant penguin costume. The workers wanted to highlight they receive less attention in their contract struggle than the penguins at the county zoo, for which CSEA members provide care.

CSEA Onondaga County Local President Phil Graham said the workers were insulted by the county's last offer and it was time to re-examine county priorities in the wake of the defeated contract.

"When a bunch of penguins get more attention, better press coverage and a lot of county funding, we think it's time to re-examine our county's priorities," he said. "We don't want to take away from the penguins. We're just seeking a fair wage increase for last year and we want to send a message to county leaders and residents that our services matter to them."

As this issue of *The Work Force* went to press, CSEA and the county were headed back to the negotiating table to meet with a neutral mediator to try and resolve the contract dispute, which has been going on since the previous agreement expired in December 2004.

— Mark M. Kotzin



## EARLY RETIREMENT! State Senate action needed! Retire early without penalty!

Call your Senator **TODAY**. Tell them you're CSEA and you want them to pass **25/55 Retirement Legislation**.

*25/55 would allow anyone who has 25 years of service to retire at age 55 or older, **WITHOUT PENALTY**.*

Call Your State Senator **TODAY**, tell them to pass 25/55-retirement legislation to give you the freedom to choose when you retire. 1-877-255-9417.

## Union rally demands

# Secure Worksites Now!

ALBANY — CSEA members from across the state converged on the State Capitol on May 3 for a rally in support of the Worksite Security Act, which has now passed in the state Senate and Assembly.

CSEA is now urging Gov. George Pataki to sign the legislation.

“New York has the opportunity to lead the nation by making the Worksite Security Act the law — it will reduce risks and protect people,” CSEA President Danny Donohue said. “We know there is strong support of this measure because it is reasonable and responsible and will help protect people.”

CSEA has led the fight for safer public work sites since the murder of four CSEA-represented social service workers in Watkins Glen in 1992.

In the wake of that tragedy CSEA worked effectively with many localities to assess the risks in their public buildings and work sites and develop appropriate, cost-effective measures to protect employees and the public. It was clear there was a need for baseline statewide standards.

Last year, Gov. George Pataki vetoed CSEA-backed legislation that had been overwhelmingly approved by both legislative houses.

CSEA has worked with primary sponsors state Sen. Nicholas Spano and Assemblywoman Susan John to address the “technical flaws” the governor cited. Both lawmakers joined CSEA at the rally, along with New York State AFL-CIO President Denis Hughes.

The Worksite Security Act would require public employers with more than 20 employees to assess risk and develop a plan of action to prevent potential workplace violence. The bill would also establish a complaint procedure for workers to call attention to the potential for violence.



## **Some workplace violence statistics**

According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health:

- Violence is a substantial contributor to death and injury on the job. NIOSH data indicates that homicide has become the second leading cause of occupational injury death, exceeded only by motor vehicle-related deaths.
- Homicide is the third leading cause of death on the job for men and the leading cause of death for women in the workplace.
- Government workers make up 18 percent of the U.S. work force, but 31 percent of the victims of workplace violence.

**Above, right, SUNY at Buffalo Local Executive Board member Bob Bostwick shows his support of the Worksite Security Act.**



**Right, state Sen. Nicholas Spano, CSEA Statewide Secretary Barbara Reeves and the Canary, CSEA's Occupational Safety and Health mascot, pump up the crowd.**



**Below, left, Long Island Department of Transportation Local 1st Vice President Jill Mallon and Long Island Developmental Center Local President Darryl Wilson grab pennants for the rally.**

**Below, right, CSEA members fight for secure work sites.**



# 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 MARRA  
Associate Editor

CATHLEEN FEBRAIO  
Graphic Production Specialist

JANICE M. KUCKSKAR  
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.

**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 ASSOCIATES

RACHEL LANGERT	Long Island Region (631) 462-0030
DAVID GALARZA	Metropolitan Region (212) 406-2156
JESSICA STONE	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

#### The Publications Committee

LONG ISLAND REGION *Jane D'Amico*  
METROPOLITAN REGION *Abraham Benjamin*  
SOUTHERN REGION *Vacant*  
CAPITAL REGION *Helen Fishedick*  
CENTRAL REGION *Doreen Gilbert*  
WESTERN REGION *Mary Jo Tubbs*



## Governor's budget actions not in the best interest of New Yorkers

Despite the legislature's override of his budget vetoes, Gov. Pataki is refusing to implement more than \$2 billion from the legislative budget agreement including CSEA's hard-won increase in public nursing home funding and public hospital aid.

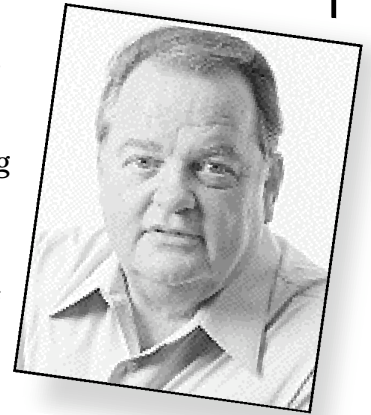
Gov. Pataki is withholding funds that would help the poor, the sick and the elderly. He is claiming many of the overrides are unconstitutional, setting up a court battle that will likely last for years.

In so doing, he is threatening the quality and availability of health care services in every community across the state. His refusal to release much-needed funding not only affects the 65,000 CSEA members who work in health care facilities, it hurts New Yorkers and their families who depend on quality health care being available where they live. It will cost us all.

For more than a year, CSEA worked in cooperation with other groups to secure a better future for public health care. Sen. Majority Leader Joseph Bruno and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver have demonstrated true leadership on the issue, and the Senate and Assembly have acted responsibly.

Gov. Pataki, on the other hand, is making decisions clouded by ambition that are not in the best interest of New Yorkers. It's up to us to hold the governor accountable now for decisions that will affect us long after he leaves office.

Call the Governor today at 1-877-255-9417. Tell him to stop playing politics with New Yorkers' health care.



# Special Olympics volunteers find special rewards

SCHENECTADY — Developmental Aide Gary Emery works and volunteers to help consumers reach their personal best. For the past 21 years, Emery has worked for the Capital District Developmental Disabilities Services Office and for the last 12 years he has been coaching and training athletes for the Special Olympics.

Emery attended training from Special Olympics organizers to learn how to best prepare athletes for competition. Emery's specialized training included adaptive games, track and field, and swimming.

"You need to be patient and present things differently," Emery said of the skills one needs to cultivate as a trainer and coach for Special Olympics. "You also need to have realistic expectations."

Getting to a statewide competition such as the Summer Games being held in Albany this June is a multi-stage process that begins at the county and regional levels throughout the state.

Emery, a Schenectady/Schoharie County coach, is involved at every step from finding athletes to developing trainings to participating in regional qualifying events. Emery said those trainings and competitions help establish benchmarks for training so athletes can be grouped by past performance times.

His original motivation for volunteering came from his job, Emery said. Involvement in the games gives consumers an opportunity to experience so much, including the social aspects.

"So much of the games are geared around socializing," Emery said. "Even consumers who live nearby are encouraged to stay at the dorms to take part in the entire social experience."

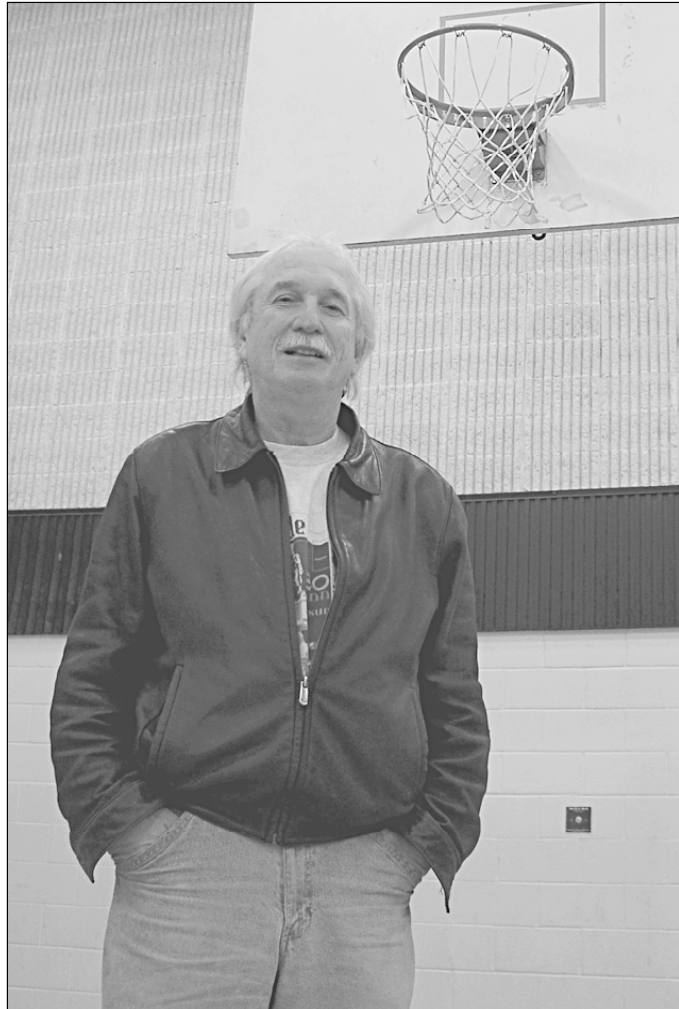
The parents of consumers are very grateful and appreciative of the efforts of the volunteers, adding to the rewards, he said.

"Most people don't really know that much about Special Olympics," he said, noting that competitions extend to golf, tennis, weightlifting, and equestrian events.

The more people know about Special Olympics the more inclined they might be to volunteer and share in the rewards, he said.

"It's very fulfilling."

— Therese Assalian



Developmental Aide Gary Emery stands before a basketball hoop at a Capital Region Developmental Disabilities Services Office gym. Emery has been a Special Olympics coach for 12 years.

## Special Olympics sports categories

The Special Olympics has many summer and winter sports. CSEA encourages union members to volunteer as trainers, coaches and event staff. Lots of help is needed right now for the state games at the University at Albany June 15 to 18. For more information on how you can volunteer, see Page 13 or visit [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org) or [www.specialolympicsny.org](http://www.specialolympicsny.org).

Olympic events include:  
*Alpine Skiing*  
*Aquatics*  
*Athletics*  
*Badminton*  
*Basketball*

*Bocce*  
*Bowling*  
*Cross Country Skiing*  
*Cycling*  
*Equestrian*  
*Figure Skating*  
*Floor Hockey*  
*Golf*  
*Gymnastics*  
*Powerlifting*  
*Roller Skating*  
*Sailing*  
*Snowboarding*  
*Snowshoeing*  
*Softball*  
*Speed Skating*  
*Table Tennis*  
*Team Handball*  
*Tennis*  
*Volleyball*



**"You need to be patient and present things differently. You also need to have realistic expectations."**



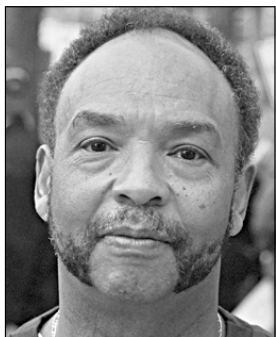
**"I**do public health inspections and deal with people who are under stress. We go through training to learn how to deal with that and it's the key to being safe and secure. Still, it takes years of experience to know how to handle people and walk away from dangerous situations. **"**

— Susan Thew, Public Health Sanitarian, Clinton County Health Department and 17-year member, on attending the recent Occupational Safety and Health Conference.



**“They are good, hardworking guys who want to learn. This course will help make their jobs easier and they’ll become more proficient.”**

## CSEA Voices



**“I work in a maximum security prison. Things can get hectic at times. I want to be able to go home to my family rather than going to the Erie County Medical Center at the end of my shift.”**

**— Dan Barton, Youth Detention Worker, Erie County, on attending the recent Secure Worksites Now rally.**

## Course offers prison workers blueprints to improve skills

STATEN ISLAND — The site of several men huddled together studying blueprints in prison is normally enough to send chills down the spine of just about any prison guard.

That wasn’t the case at the Arthur Kill Correctional Facility where a dozen CSEA members working at correctional facilities across the city recently spent two days taking a course sponsored by the New York State/CSEA Partnership for Education and Training.

“This is a great day at Arthur Kill,” CSEA representative Barbara Morrissey said. “Hopefully, it will enhance all of their jobs.”

The course was designed for members who do plumbing, mechanical, maintenance, carpentry, electrical and other related work.

### Knowledge is power

“If you ever want to advance, it’s always good to have more knowledge,” said John White, a maintenance supervisor at Arthur Kill and a 14-year CSEA member.

It also helps to know how to read blueprints if, for instance, “you have 60 inmates in two dorms and you have to make sure that ventilation is operating correctly,” White said.

During the course, two to three members took turns identifying and analyzing features on the blueprints. Instructors would also engage them with mathematical equations and formulas.

“You don’t get too many opportunities to increase your knowledge and make yourself more valuable once you’re in the work force,” said Bob



**Partnership instructor Dan Aull, standing, looks over a blueprint with CSEA members Reginald Thomas, Raymond Tong and Robert Koukouev.**

Crandall, a Partnership instructor. “They are bringing their general mechanical skills together and trying to sharpen their skills. Blueprints have a commonality for all of them.”

Scott Hughes, an electrician at Arthur Kill for the past 16 months, agreed. “It’s important for all of us to come together. Everybody will come away with a distinct piece of it, but when we return to work, we all come together as a whole.”

Course participants also seemed anxious to share what they learned with others.

“I think highly of this training. It gives us a lot of knowledge to take back to our work sites,” said Reginald Thomas, a maintenance supervisor at Bay View Correctional Facility.

Raymond Tong, a maintenance supervisor at Queensboro Correctional Facility, said he also enjoyed the hands-on workshop and its two lively and interactive instructors. “This course has opened us up to so much,” he said.

It even helped Richard Skelton, an Arthur Kill

general mechanic who boasted about a couple of homes he built from scratch and without blueprints.

“It will come in handy someday,” said Skelton, who became popular with his union brothers after volunteering to cook a hearty breakfast and lunch. “It’s always good to know this information for any repairs you may have to do and even for home improvement.”

Upon completion of the course, members should be better able to see how structures are designed and why, Partnership instructor Don Aull said. “They are good, hardworking guys who want to learn. This course will help make their jobs easier and they’ll become more proficient.”

For Felix Roman, a general mechanic at Arthur Kill for the past two and a half years, he’s hoping what he’s learned in the course will help him advance.

“I would like to move up,” he said. “When the supervisor’s test comes up there will be questions pertaining to this.”

**— David Galarza**

## Jail workers OK pact, safety concerns addressed

PLATTSBURGH — Corrections officers employed at the Clinton County Jail represented by CSEA have ratified a new agreement with jail administrators that addresses working conditions, which had taken a toll on worker morale.

The officers ratified the agreement in early May, and the Clinton County Legislature soon also approved the measure.

Safety and staffing concerns were heightened in the wake of a two-year jail expansion and renovation project, concerns addressed in an article about the jail in the May issue of *The Work Force*.

The agreement should help resolve outstanding issues related to staffing and training. Staffing levels will increase, including additional supervisory staff. Training is already under way on topics that include CPR, first aid and weapons.

The county also recently bought additional hand scanners, as well as a state-of-the-art chair, known as Boss II, that scans inmates for weapons.

“We take employee safety very seriously,” said Clinton County Sheriff David Favro.

“This is a positive development,” said Capital Region President Kathy Garrison. “We are all moving forward in the right direction with the same goal of improved safety for jail employees.”

**— Therese Assalian**

# New concerns arise following double window win at 90 Church St.

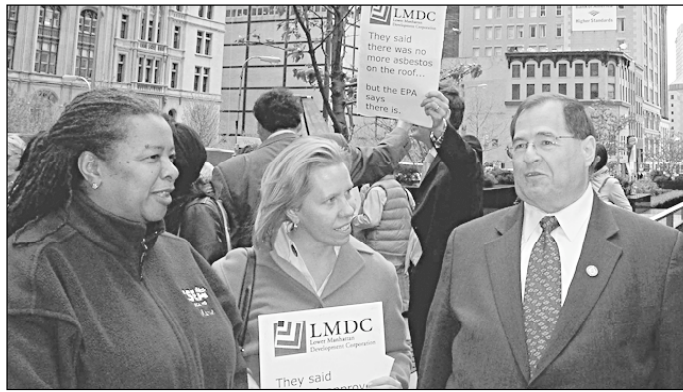
MANHATTAN — Not satisfied with just getting double windows installed on their floors alone, CSEA activists who were moved to a building that had been heavily contaminated during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks have also helped other building workers get additional safety and health improvements on every floor.

Double windows that were initially, and after much protest and organizing, added to only four of the 15 floors at 90 Church St. to shield workers from contaminated air and noise, will soon be added on every floor.

"We are proud to stand with all of our brothers and sisters who form the 90 Church Street Labor Coalition who have fought long and hard to improve the health and safety of every worker we represent," said Deb Hanna, CSEA Health Research Inc. Local president.

Their battle for clean air and a safe workplace, however, is far from over.

CSEA members are now working with other union members, residents and elected officials in the lower Manhattan area who remain concerned about



Marie Rogers and Deb Hanna discuss safety concerns with Rep. Jerrold Nadler.

unsafe working conditions and inadequate cleanup of toxic dust at the former Deutsche Bank building at Ground Zero a short distance away.

As *The Work Force* went to print, federal and state regulators asked the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. to stop work completely at the 40-story building.

The ongoing search for human remains had also been suspended after asbestos was found on the building's roof.

CSEA members recently joined a lunchtime rally aimed at getting the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. (LMDC) to halt haphazard demolition.

"Given the trauma suffered by the workers and residents of lower Manhattan four and a half

years ago, we simply cannot accept a business-as-usual approach to potential toxic releases and other emergency situations down here," Rep. Jerrold Nadler told marchers during the rally.

Two subcontractors working on the Deutsche Bank Building demolition were recently hit with thousands of dollars in fines by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

In March, a worker who was wearing a safety harness he hadn't attached to lines fell 39 feet off a sidewalk shed into the sub-basement. He was hospitalized with broken bones. Last December another worker fell off scaffolding that didn't have inner guardrails.

"We are here to make

sure that the LMDC uses responsible contractors," said Department of Health CSEA representative Marie Rogers as she marched with co-workers a block away from the structure. "We don't want to get contaminated with toxic debris and other dangerous substances."

Some of the most heavily contaminated buildings in New York City lie within a few blocks of 90 Church St., including the Deutsche Bank Building and Fiterman Hall directly across the street.

90 Church St. was heavily contaminated with lead, asbestos, mercury, dioxin, mold and other dangerous poisons during the attack on the World Trade Center. It took nearly three years for the building to be decontaminated and reopened.

"We can all understand the need to rebuild lower Manhattan to attract business and tourism," said Metropolitan President George Boncoraglio. "What we cannot understand and will not allow are the corners some contractors and government agencies are willing to cut to expedite the process."

— David Galarza



**"What we cannot understand and will not allow are the corners some contractors and government agencies are willing to cut to expedite the process."**

**CSEA** Voices



**"Workers need to speak out if they're facing a dangerous situation. We need to make employers live up to their responsibility to respect employees' rights. The best way to address safety and health issues is to put them right into the contract."**

— Tracy Finger, Clerk, Otsego Manor Nursing facility and 16-year CSEA member, on attending the recent Occupational Safety and Health Conference.

## Almost time to retire?

Your local may pay the first year of CSEA retiree dues, which is only \$12!

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.
- Receive *The Work Force* for \$5 a year.

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 Retiree Local of CSEA.
- Effective lobbying against Social Security reform.
- Three informative publications.

For more information, visit [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org) and select "retirees" from the "Member Benefits" menu item.



# Solidarity, national recognition for public works employees

**“There are a lot of misperceptions out there about unions, but we are the reason why people have better benefits and pay.”**

## CSEA Voices



**“We deal with a lot of chemicals and get the documentation on them. We also have training twice a year including the proper use of personal protective gear. We are always monitoring the work site and take safety and health very seriously.”**

**— Randy White, Plant Mechanic, Monroe County Water Authority and 13-year CSEA member, on attending the recent Occupational Safety and Health Conference.**

COHOES — CSEA members in the Cohoes Department of Public Works Unit are enjoying their 15 minutes of fame after a national magazine profiled the workers on the cover and in a feature story.

*Public Works* magazine, a monthly publication that focuses entirely on public works departments across the country, published the article, “Coming together: Union departments thrive on brotherhood,” in its April issue.

### National recognition

“It was a really rewarding experience,” Unit President Bob Pierre said.

*Public Works* Managing Editor Amara Rozgus initially contacted the CSEA Communications Department for a lead on a public works department to profile.

Union staff put Rozgus in touch with Pierre, who answered questions via a phone interview and in writing. The photo shoot, however, came later.

“It was a much bigger undertaking than I thought,” said Pierre of the day-long shoot. “Sometimes, we had to wait for the sun to be just right,” Pierre said.

The feature story highlights the benefits of collective bargaining



Left, New York state Assemblyman Ron Canestrari, Unit President Bob Pierre, Unit Secretary George Hebert, and Cohoes Mayor John T. McDonald at a labor event in 2004.

with real-life examples and survey results from union members across the country. Other CSEA members, including union President Danny Donohue and Delaware County Local President George Lawson, are also quoted in the story.

Lawson pointed out the benefits of union membership, including voting on contracts and job stability. The article also quotes members of AFSCME Local 127 in San Diego.

The article also mentions the activist role that union members frequently play in issues affecting their jobs. Rozgus discusses in the article a successful anti-contracting out campaign Pierre and Unit Secretary George Hebert led. The members’ efforts led to city officials dropping the contracting out proposal and the mayor who originally proposed it was voted out of office.

“It was very satisfying to get the point across about the advantages of union membership to such a large audience,” said Pierre. “There are a lot of misperceptions out

there about unions, but we are the reason why people have better benefits and pay. Unions paved the way.”

**— Therese Assalian**

- Homeowners’ Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Renters’ Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Disability Income Insurance
- Critical Illness Insurance
- Identity Theft protection

**All of these products and more for yours and your families’ peace of mind.**



**PEARL · CARROLL**  
& ASSOCIATES

**1-800-697-2732**

**Same people, same great service and now with in-state ownership!**

Visit <http://www.cseainsurance.com> for more information on available programs.



# CSEA reaches contract with Yonkers Public Schools

YONKERS — After nearly three years of working without a contract, CSEA members at the Yonkers Public Schools have overwhelmingly ratified a four-year agreement with district administrators.

The new agreement is largely the result of solidarity among Yonkers Public Schools Unit members, who launched a vigorous contract campaign when negotiations stalled. Led by Unit President Bobbie DiBattista, members reached out to union members, public officials and the community through demonstrations and other activities.

"It's time to move forward," DiBattista told *The Journal News*, a local newspaper in Westchester County. "We are unified like never before and we will only grow stronger together."

As *The Work Force* went to press, the district's Board of Education was scheduled to approve the

agreement. The CSEA agreement covers more than 1,800 non-teaching district employees, most of whom also live in Yonkers.

The contract, retroactive to July 1, 2003, includes pay increases, improved benefits and the district's continued full coverage of employee health insurance premiums.

The contract talks quickly moved ahead when State Sen. Nicholas Spano, who represents Yonkers, fought on behalf of CSEA members winning a fair agreement.

"I am proud to have worked with my colleagues in Albany to secure an historic amount of state financial assistance to Yonkers which enabled the city to reach an agreement with our hardworking members of CSEA," Spano said.

It's not the first time Spano has helped CSEA members employed at the district. Spano has been



Yonkers Public Schools Unit members fight for a fair contract at a recent district education forum.

crucial in helping district employees keep their jobs in the face of fiscal crisis.

In recent years, CSEA members at the schools have faced possible layoffs several times because of the district's perpetual multi-million budget deficits, forcing many of them to live paycheck to paycheck. As one of the state's "Big Five" districts, Yonkers gets its state funding through the city and the

schools are operated by a mayor-appointed Board of Education.

Along with other state and local officials, Spano played a lead role in securing millions of dollars in additional state aid for the cash-strapped schools. He is working closely with CSEA on finding a long-term funding solution.

— Janice Marra



**"We are unified like never before and we will only grow stronger together."**



**"Even in a school district we're facing violence in the workplace. It's a new issue and we're grappling with how to deal with it. We need to change to adapt to new circumstances."**

— Scott Rajczi, Electrician, Hyde Park School District and 10-year member, attending the recent Occupational Safety and Health Conference.

## Saratoga educational local holds annual career conference

GLENS FALLS — More than 100 CSEA members from 11 Saratoga County school districts recently did some learning of their own at the annual School District Support Staff Career Conference.

The Saratoga County Educational Local sponsors the event annually, with local officers and members from across the county coordinating conference programs.

The one-day conference included information tables from 18 vendors and many workshops addressing topics that included retirement, stress reduction, member benefits, ergonomics,

political action and civil service law.

Saratoga County Educational Local President Dawn Sweeney commended the efforts of the local's School District Committee.

"It's so important that we all do what we can to educate ourselves and keep current about topics that affect our jobs," she said. "The committee did an excellent job and the conference proved to be a great opportunity for everyone to come together and learn."

— Therese Assalian



Saratoga County Educational Local School District Committee members during the conference. In back row, left, are Gerry Weatherwax, Sue Oudederk, Local 1st Vice President Mary Tribbley, Pat Alex, Local Executive Vice President Bob Travis, James Ebert, Maureen Leerkes and Joe McCormick. In center row, from left, are Local 2nd Vice President Fred Harris, Carolyn Hayner, Local 3rd Vice President Paula Galvin, Don Ostrander, Anita Pratt and John Ellis. In front row, from left, are Local Treasurer Kim Anatriello, Local President Dawn Sweeney and Local Secretary Judy Russell.

# INSIDE THE WORK FORCE

## Building the union through safety



CSEA OSH Committee member and William L. McGowan Award winner Frank Cosentino lights a ceremonial torch honoring 12 CSEA members who died on the job over the past year, to begin the conference weekend.

LAKE PLACID — The importance of safety on the job and having a safe place to work was not lost on more than 700 CSEA occupational safety and health activists who recently met for the union's Statewide Occupational Safety and Health conference.

### A reminder

The conference's opening day coincided with the annual Workers' Memorial Day, and CSEA commemorated the event with an outdoor ceremony. CSEA Executive Vice President Mary Sullivan led the ceremony by honoring the 12 union members who died on the job during the past year. Sullivan recognized each of the workers individually, along with 12 presenters who each read the name, work location and date the workers died.

"These are people who went to work and never came home," she said.

Stressing the importance of workplace safety standards, Sullivan reminded attendees it is crucial for all CSEA members to make every effort to push for work site regulations and standards that could potentially save lives.

"Let's hope that next year there are no names to read," she said.

The presenters then passed a torch between one another until it reached Standing Safety and

Health Committee member Frank Cosentino, who used the torch to light a flame in a large torch used in the village's 1980 Winter Olympics. CSEA members employed at the Olympic Regional Development Authority helped set up and maintain the torch.

The flame remained lit throughout the three-day conference in tribute to the deceased workers.

### CSEA's leading role

Standing Occupational Safety and Health Committee Chair Jim McHugh, speaking during the



CSEA's Statewide Occupational Safety and Health Committee and Occupational Safety and Health Department worked hard to put together the union's most successful OSH Conference yet. From left, OSH Department Administrative Assistant Monique St. Hillaire, Committee Chair Jim McHugh, Statewide Executive Vice President Mary Sullivan, committee members Karen Pecora, Anthony DeCaro, Frank Cosentino, Jeanette Engle, OSH Department Project Developer Matt Kozak, and OSH Department Director Janet Foley. Not pictured are committee members George Walsh, Mike D'Alesandro and Sarah Frost.

conference's Friday dinner program, said the idea for the conference's theme, "Building Our Union Through Occupational Safety and Health," stemmed from frustration with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration and its slowness to implement new safety standards.

"The last number of years, we have asked for more OSHA regulations; we have begged for more OSHA regulations," he said. "At every turn, we have been denied."

Sullivan discussed the primary role CSEA has played in the fight



CSEA members take part in workshop exercises.

for workplace safety standards since leading the charge to enact PESH in 1980, as well as the union's current campaign for passage of the Worksite Security Act. (See Page 3 for related story.)

### Real solutions

On Saturday, participants spent time in workshops covering many health and safety topics, including hazardous materials, worker's compensation, PESH Basics/OSHA training requirements, disability and whistleblower protection and legal rights to safety and health information.

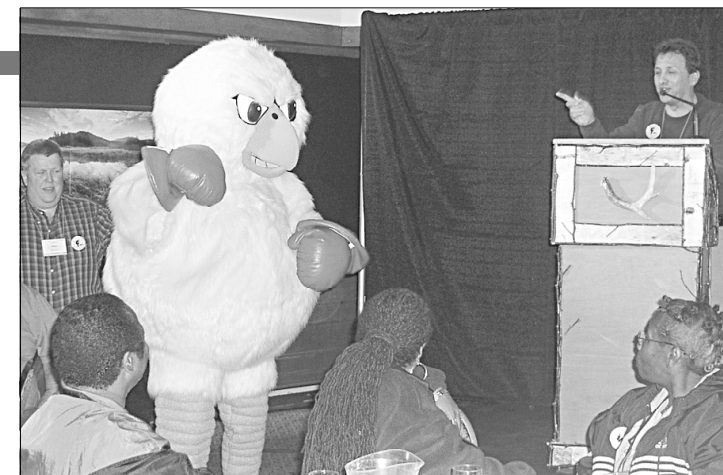
An innovative "Outside the Boxed Lunch" program found attendees divided into different "hazard rooms" related to indoor air quality, ergonomics, violence/security and fatigue/stress based on the location and type of work they do.

Participants drew on real-life job experiences to come up with a set of best practices representative of each industry in which CSEA members are employed. The resulting

strategic plans were gathered together and presented by representatives from each group at the Sunday morning program.

CSEA President Danny Donohue said the conference proved to be "an incredible opportunity to learn and to network."

"I think it's fair to say that this conference, at least equals,



Statewide Occupational Safety and Health Committee member Mike D'Alesandro introduces the Canary, CSEA's OSH mascot. Canaries were once brought into coal mines for early detections of dangerous gases. CSEA's Canary is no fainting songbird and projects the union's image of fighting for safe and secure workplaces for all union members through early detection of potential hazards.

and frankly, in my opinion, exceeds comparable conferences held on a national and even international level," he said.

— Therese Assalian

## Cosentino a fighter for safety

LAKE PLACID — Metropolitan Region activist Frank Cosentino received CSEA's William L. McGowan Occupational Safety and Health Award at the union's recent Statewide Occupational Safety and Health Conference.

Statewide Secretary Barbara Reeves presented Cosentino with the award, which recognizes an individual's efforts in fighting for safer workplaces.

The award is named in tribute to McGowan, CSEA's president from 1977 to 1988, who ushered in an era of transformation for the union. McGowan led the fight for the Public Employee Safety and Health Act, passed in 1980, that gives workplace

safety protections to public work sites.

Cosentino was spurred on to become more involved in occupational safety and health activism in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. He and other members of the CSEA Metropolitan State Employees Local were among the numerous CSEA members personally affected by the devastation and health effects of the attacks.

In his acceptance speech, Cosentino recalled his late father who inspired him to activism through his deeds as a private citizen and a decorated World War II soldier.

"Health and safety is nothing



Cosentino and Reeves

to brush off," said Cosentino, a mailroom supervisor for the New York State Liquor Authority. "It affects everyone at the work site."

— Therese Assalian

# CSEA remembers fallen members

ALBANY — CSEA marked Workers' Memorial Day April 28 by remembering workers who have died or been injured on the job, including the nine union members who died on the job since the last Workers' Memorial Day.

In addition to holding a remembrance ceremony during the Statewide Occupational Safety and Health Conference in Lake Placid (See pages 10 —11), CSEA members held memorial services and ceremonies for the workers in their own regions.

On this page are photos from Communications Associates Therese Assalian, Rachel Langert, Lynn Miller and Jessica Stone of the some of the ceremonies CSEA held across the state.



Left, Long Island Judiciary Local President Kevin Ray, Suffolk County Educational Local 1st Vice President Harry Ader and Miller Place School District custodian Tony Montefusco (foreground), join Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, center, in paying tribute to CSEA members who died on the job during the past year, including Miller Place School District Maintenance Mechanic Michael Sallee and Long Island Department of Transportation Local member Patrick Mapleson.



Above, Ossining Unit President Mike Duffy speaks at a Workers' Memorial Day ceremony in the village. John Paul Rodrigues, 24, a sanitation worker with the Ossining Department of Public Works, died last July after falling from the back of a village garbage truck. Duffy remembered Rodrigues and read the names of the CSEA members across the state who died on the job during the past year. The village officially renamed its public works operations center after Rodrigues; new signs are now on display. Also on display at the newly named John Paul Rodrigues Ossining Operations Center was a memorial garden village workers created in honor of Rodrigues.



Above, the memorial plaque at the state Department of Transportation's Memorial Garden in Clifton Park honors department employee and CSEA member George H. Green, who died Feb. 17 while driving a department truck on the Avenue of the Pines in Saratoga Springs during a devastating wind storm. Capital Region President Kathy Garrison dedicated the plaque during a recent memorial service for Green. Also attending the service were more than 70 department workers, state transportation officials and Green's family.



Left, Western Region President Flo Tripi addresses the audience during a recent Workers' Memorial Day ceremony at West Seneca Developmental Center. Behind her is Dawn Smith, president of the Western New York DDSO local, and family members of Steven Guzzo, a CSEA member who died in an accident while at work in the 1980s. Speakers at the ceremony remembered Guzzo and other CSEA members who lost their lives while on the job. They stressed the need for safe and secure work sites for all CSEA members.

## Work site security assessments address concerns

ALBANY — CSEA is receiving work site security assessments from occupational safety and health activists around the state, as the union continues to solicit concerns from members about security at their workplaces.

The surveys, handed out at CSEA's recent Occupational Safety and Health Conference, are being compiled into a report to outline specific areas of concern that the proposed Worksite Security Act would address. (See story, Page 3.)

CSEA's proactive assessments are aimed at addressing and resolving potential risks before an incident occurs.

Occupational safety and health activists who need additional survey copies may download them at CSEA's website at [www.csealocal1000.org/osh/security\\_survey.pdf](http://www.csealocal1000.org/osh/security_survey.pdf).

## Red Cross salutes 'heroes'

ALBANY — Two CSEA members received special awards honoring their commitment to humanitarian causes.

CSEA Capital Region Judiciary Local President Colin Farley was the recipient of the CSEA Special Presentation Award from the American Red Cross of Northeastern New York.

Also honored was Columbia County Court and Sheriff's Department worker Mark Bruhmuller (See story, Page 18).

The award was presented during the annual Salute to Hometown Heroes event in Albany on May 5. CSEA President Danny Donohue was on hand to personally present the award to Farley in front of a crowded ballroom.

The event honors members of the community for specific acts of

heroism, bravery or generosity.

Farley, featured in the May issue of *The Work Force*, coordinated the "Lifeline Program," a cell phone collection program that assists victims of domestic violence. The program is ongoing and to date has collected more than 150 phones.

In his acceptance speech, Farley encouraged audience members to turn in unwanted phones and chargers to collection boxes in Family Court locations throughout the Capital Region.

Farley joined nine other community "heroes," including fellow CSEA member Bruhmuller, who received the IAMS Pet Food Rescue Award for his role in assisting animals displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

— Therese Assalian



CSEA members Colin Farley, second from left, and Mark Bruhmuller, far right, were recently honored as American Red Cross Hometown Heroes. Also pictured are CSEA President Danny Donohue, left, and American Red Cross of Northeastern New York CEO Bill Delia.



Jim Feiden, Equipment Operator at the University at Albany, mows an athletic field on the campus. Feiden and many other CSEA members will help prepare athletic fields, dorms and other campus areas for the Special Olympics in June. CSEA is encouraging members to volunteer to help with Olympic events and attend the opening ceremonies. (See info at right.)

**FREE Admission**

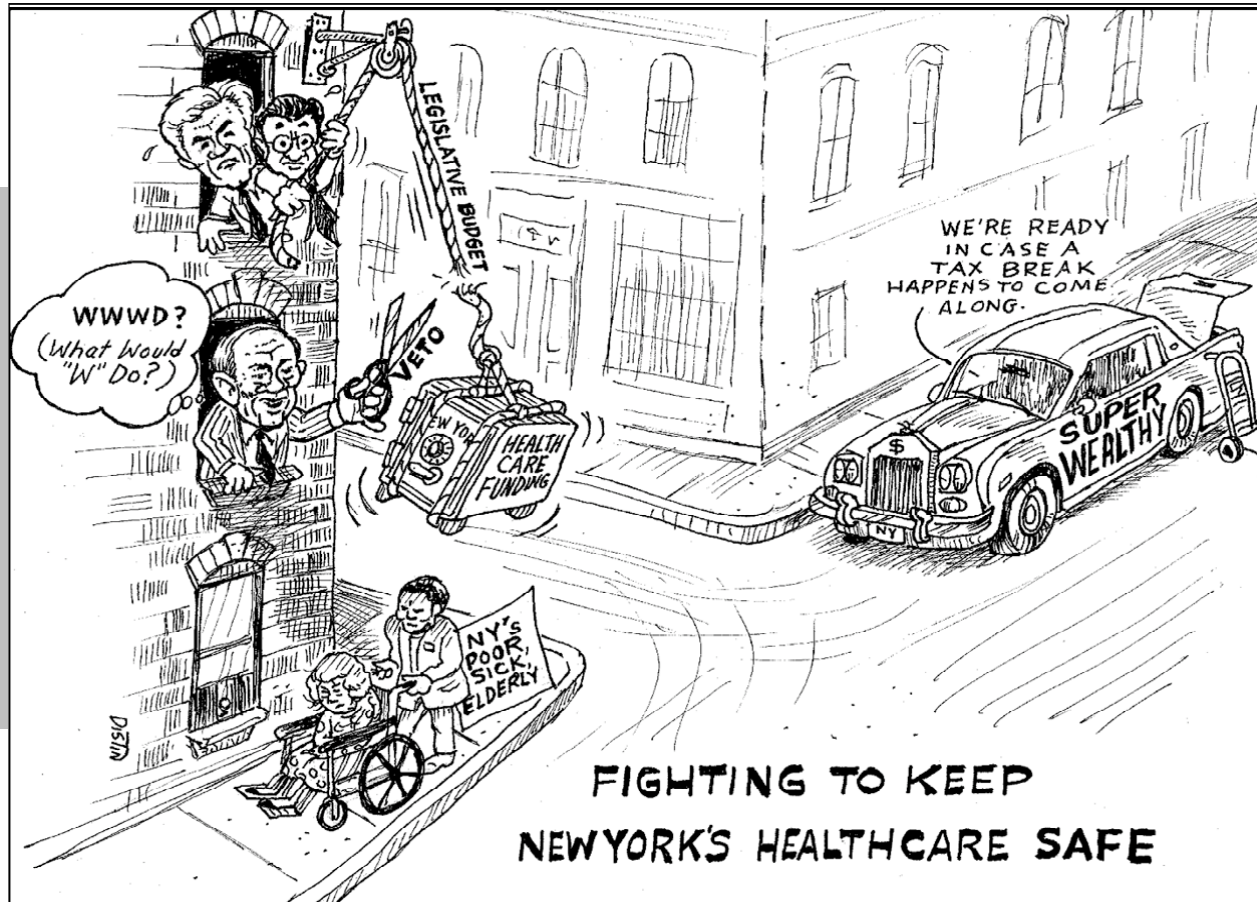
2006 **SUMMER GAMES**  
Special Olympics New York  
CSEA is a major sponsor

**JUNE 15-18**  
University at Albany

**Opening Ceremonies**  
8 pm, June 15, 2006  
University at Albany

★★ Join US to CHEER★★  
for our Athletes

For Volunteer or Competition Information:  
Call 800-836-6976 or visit our Website  
[www.specialolympicsNY.org](http://www.specialolympicsNY.org)



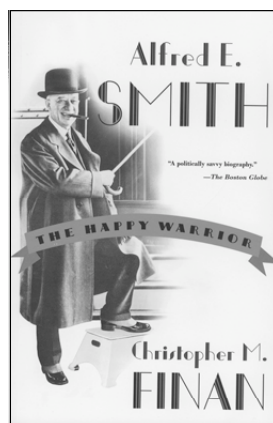
## 78 years ago ...

CSEA members and other state workers will soon reoccupy the Alfred E. Smith State Office Building in downtown Albany. The building, first opened in 1928, has been undergoing massive renovations over the past several years.

The man for which it is named, former Gov. Alfred E. Smith, was a towering figure in New York during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. His strong influence on the state continues to shape CSEA's growth and development.

A charming personality, Smith emerged from the rough streets of Manhattan's Lower East Side to become governor and eventually the Democratic nominee for U.S. President in 1928. Smith first gained notoriety chairing the Factory Investigating Commission established following the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire that killed 146 young women. The commission was responsible for more than 30 state laws to protect workers and improve working conditions.

As governor in the 1920s, Smith pushed through legislation and state constitutional changes that reorganized and expanded the role of state government, strengthened the Executive branch, reformed civil service and adopted consistent policies and procedures including the first-ever state budget.



**Above, the cover of "Alfred E. Smith: The Happy Warrior" by Christopher Finan (Hill & Wang, New York 2002), detailing Smith's influence on New York state. Finan recently spoke with CSEA about Smith as part of the CSEA 100 history project.**

## Also in 1928 ...

\* Sixty-two countries ratify the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which outlawed war; the pact was considered a failure by the early 1930s.

\* Herbert Hoover is elected the 31st U.S. President, defeating Alfred E. Smith (see "78 years ago" on this page for more on Smith).

\* Walt Disney introduces the first cartoons with sound with the Mickey Mouse features "Steamboat Willie" and "The Galloping Gaucho."

\* The Academy Awards are handed out for the first time.

\* Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin.

\* The New York Yankees defeat the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series.

**CSEA supports Rosalynn Carter's visit to Albany to help improve understanding of mental illnesses**



CSEA Treasurer Maureen Malone speaks with former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, left, and former New York First Lady Matilda Cuomo at a recent Albany event sponsored by the Foundation of Advocacy for Mental Health. Carter helped to focus attention on the importance of overcoming stigma and addressing mental health needs. CSEA President Danny Donohue is on the foundation board and CSEA helped support the event. More than 10,000 CSEA members work directly with individuals and families struggling with mental illnesses. Carter spoke of the tremendous importance of early diagnosis and access to appropriate treatment and quality care. She also expressed her support for parity legislation to ensure health insurance cover mental illnesses the same as other illnesses.

**Good coffee teams up with fair trade**

ALBANY — Among the consumer choices of fair-trade products that help working families, the options are growing for a decent cup of coffee.

The New York State Labor-Religion Coalition has joined forces with Deans Beans of Orange, Mass., to offer fair trade coffee that helps support coalition's Fair Trade Project and guarantees living wages for the coffee farmers.

Not only that, it's good coffee, organic, and is comparably priced to non-fair trade, store-bought coffee.

"It's really an issue that affects working families," said Martha Schultz, Labor-Religion Coalition communications coordinator.

Dean's Beans will donate a percentage of each sale to help expand the Labor-Religion Coalition Fair Trade Project when you enter "CSEA" to identify yourself as a CSEA member in the promotion code box just before checking out on the Internet order page.

To learn more, visit <http://www.labor-religion.org> and follow the "fair trade" links.

**DID YOU KNOW?????**

- Coffee drinkers in the US consume one-fifth of the world's supply;
- World coffee prices have plummeted over the last two decades so that coffee workers can no longer feed their families;
- Children as young as 5 work picking coffee;
- Coffee is the second largest import into the U.S. after oil.

**CHOCOLATE & COCOA**

- A 2002 international study found that at least 284,000 children are slaves in the cocoa industry in West Africa;
- More than 60 percent of children working on West African cocoa farms are below the age of 10;
- 46 percent of Americans say they cannot live without chocolate;
- 3.3 billion pounds of chocolate were consumed by Americans in 2004.



**CSEA eStore**

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

**All Products are Union-Made in the USA**

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

<b>CSE-135 GRAY T-Shirt</b>	\$8.75 [M-XL] \$10.05 [3X] \$11.25 [3X] \$12.05 [4X]	<b>CSE-126 Ladies Tee</b>	\$12.25 [M-XL] \$13.95 [2X]	<b>powered by</b> Shipmates Printmates  print. promote. distribute. >>> <a href="http://www.sm-pm.com">www.sm-pm.com</a>
50/50 heather gray, with 7 color imprint. (Building Safer & Healthier Workplaces)		Embroidered 100% cotton scoop neck Pink		

888.372.3487x212  
While Supplies Last

**Union Made & Fair Trade**  **WALKING THE WALK**

**The Labor-Religion Coalition FAIR TRADE PROJECT**

[www.labor-religion.org](http://www.labor-religion.org)

# CSEA delegates to the AFSCME Convention

The following are results for the contested races for AFSCME delegates. The listing of all unopposed AFSCME delegates (Regions 1, 2, 3 and 5) appeared in the April 2006 edition of *The Work Force*.

CSEA members vote for delegates to AFSCME's convention to represent the membership. The convention is held every two years, during which changes to AFSCME's constitution and bylaws, which ultimately affect CSEA, are voted on. This year's convention is scheduled for Aug. 7 – 11, 2006, in Chicago.

## Capital Region

Kathy Garrison  
Kim Wallace  
Rose DeSorbo  
Karen Jazvinski

Jeanne Kelso  
Elizabeth "Betty" Eagan  
Dorothy "Dottie" Dutton  
Mike Gifford  
Jackie Goldsmith  
Sally Bywater  
Ed Russo  
Jay Ingoldsby  
Joe McNally  
Carol Bruno  
Mike Myers  
Patty Kaufman  
Hank Wagoner  
Joanne DeSarbo  
Helen Fishedick  
Joseph "Joe" Musso  
Allen Mead  
Ed Wysomski  
Donna Uncher  
Clarence Russell  
William "Bill" VanGuilder  
Ron Briggs  
Joe Melita  
Richard "Rich" Plumadore  
Kevin Brannock

Vianna "Vi" Boyko  
William "Bill" LeBaron  
Ron Revers  
Jack Rohl  
George Greiner  
Dowell Harrell  
Richard "Rich" Chaffin

## Western Region

Florence "Flo" Tripi  
Nancy P.L. Hart  
Marcia E. Olszewski  
Joan Bender  
Kathy Button  
Wendy Wedman  
Denise Szymura  
Karen Anderson  
Dawn Smith  
Kelly Volpe  
Rose Conti  
Mary Jo Tubbs  
Charlene Schmitt  
Bob Pyjas

Steven J. Hurley  
Debi Sherk  
Timothy Finnigan  
Bill E. Stanton  
Michael Jones  
Tom Rogalski  
Robert "Robbie" Ellis  
Doris B. Cota  
Thomas J. Warzel  
Bruce Porter  
Bernadette Giambra  
Ronald A. Gillespie  
Tom Edwards  
Charles Parsons  
James R. Smith  
Michael Flavin  
James Volpone  
Robert Mootry, Jr.  
Ron Castle, Jr.  
David A. Swinnich  
Hank Hoisington  
Mark Dotterweich  
Wayne Dorler  
Jerald H. Schlagenhauf  
John V. Stading

## Fight religious discrimination in the workplace

**Editor's Note:** *This is the seventh article in a series of discrimination articles that have appeared in The Work Force, to provide valuable information regarding important areas of protection available through the CSEA Legal Assistance Program (LAP). The Legal Assistance Program covers employment and labor issues involving disciplinaries, contract grievances and arbitrations, court litigation and agency proceedings. Get more information about legal services in the LAP by calling CSEA Headquarters at 1-800-342-4146, extension 1443, or by visiting [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org), and clicking on the legal programs and services menu item.*

This article provides an overview of religious discrimination in the workplace.

Under federal and state law it is illegal to discriminate against

an employee because of his or her religion.

Under federal law, it is illegal for an employer to fail to reasonably accommodate the religious practices of an employee, unless the employer can prove that the accommodation would result in an undue hardship.

Under New York's Human Rights Law, it is illegal for an employer to require an employee to remain at work during a Sabbath or other holy day, unless granting such an accommodation would constitute an undue hardship on the employer. In addition, the Human Rights Law mandates that, in some circumstances, employers must allow employees to utilize their accrued vacation and personal leave for the period of an absence related to religious observance. Alternatively, if the employee lacks such accrued

leave, the employer is obligated to permit the employee to treat the time for religious observance as leave without pay.

An employer's refusal to permit an employee to use accrued leave solely because the leave would be used to accommodate the employee's religious observance constitutes an unlawful discriminatory practice.

Under federal law, an employer can establish the undue hardship of a reasonable accommodation by showing that the accommodation would require a significant expense or a significant interference with the safe or efficient operation of the workplace, or would constitute a violation of a bona fide seniority system.

The most common form of accommodation is a request by an employee to change a work schedule due to religious

practices. Such an accommodation may conflict with the seniority clause of a negotiated contract. It has been determined by the U.S. Supreme Court that it is an undue hardship to require an employer to violate the seniority rights of other employees under a collective bargaining agreement in order to reasonably accommodate the religious practices of a particular employee.

Nevertheless, employers and labor unions under federal and state law have a duty to explore other means of providing a reasonable accommodation that would not result in a contractual violation or cause another form of undue hardship. Such an accommodation may include a program permitting voluntary substitution between employees or flexible scheduling.

# April 2006 CSEA Board of Directors summary



*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 Barbara Reeves for union members.*

ALBANY — CSEA's statewide board of directors met on April 20. In official business, the board:

- Added the Pinnacle Motor Club to the official list of vendors offered to our members;
- Approved to proceed with all steps necessary to establish a Private Sector Health and Welfare Fund, in accordance with the Taft-Hartley Act requirements;
- Amended and restated CSEA Staff Pension Plan;

- Retained services of PricewaterhouseCoopers as CSEA's accounting firm for 2006 fiscal year audit;
- Created temporary charter for Local 761 (Westchester Medical Center Food Service Employees – SODEXHO);
- Changed name of Local 514 (Hamburg DOT) to Erie County DOT Local 514;
- Merged Local 415 (Middletown Psychiatric Center) and Local 421 (Rockland Psychiatric Center);
- Dissolved Local 415;

- Increased funding to the Executive Office Department by \$27,000; and
- Created position of Retiree Program Specialist, MC Grade 7.

*Questions concerning the summary should be directed to CSEA Statewide Secretary Barbara Reeves, CSEA Headquarters, 143 Washington Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210, 1-800-342-4146 or (518) 257-1253.*

## Help prevent Lyme disease this summer

Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne illness in the United States. It is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected deer tick, also known as the blacklegged tick.

Even though deer ticks thrive during this time of year in fields and wooded areas, it is important to note that not all ticks carry the bacterium and a bite does not always result in the development of Lyme disease.

Since it is impossible to tell by sight which ticks are infected, it is important to avoid tick bites whenever possible.

If exposure to tick-infested habitats cannot be avoided, individuals may reduce their risk of infection by using repellents, wearing protective clothing and regularly checking for and removing attached ticks.

Symptoms of Lyme disease typically appear within seven to 14 days from the time of infection, but symptoms may appear as soon as three days and as long as 30 days from exposure.

These symptoms include but are not limited to; a circular, sometimes oval-shaped red rash



that starts as a small red spot at the site of the tick bite and later appears as a bull's eye rash, fever, headache, stiff neck, fatigue and body aches. In some cases, there are no symptoms at all.

There is currently no vaccine on the market for tick-borne diseases, and early detection is crucial in the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease as it is most treatable during its earliest stages.

Regular tick checks are advised for all outdoor enthusiasts. The best strategy, however, is to stop them before they bite and call your doctor if you are concerned.

### Tips to help stop the ticks

- Wear light colors, so ticks are easy to spot.
- Tuck pant legs into socks, so ticks can't crawl up your leg.
- Spray insect repellents containing permethrin on boots

and clothing. Apply repellents containing DEET to the skin: a 10 to 20 percent concentration for adults, less than 10 percents for kids (use sparingly on 2 to 6-year-olds, and do not use at all on children under age 2).

• Check body and hair for ticks when you get home. Remove with fine-point tweezers. Don't twist! Pull in a steady motion. Try not to squeeze the tick's body.

• Don't panic if you do get a tick bite. Ticks must remain attached for several hours to two days to transmit most infections to humans.

• Ask your veterinarian about tick repellent if you own a cat or dog.

• Call your doctor immediately if you develop symptoms of tick-borne illness — usually fever, severe headaches, body aches, vomiting and nausea. Rashes don't appear in every case.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Leading Edge

ALBANY — Mark Bruhmuller has seen his share of death and destruction.

As an American Red Cross volunteer and volunteer firefighter, Bruhmuller is regularly sent in harm's way, or to walk down harm's path after it has passed.

He spent nearly four weeks in Manhattan's Liberty Park after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, helping with recovery operations.

Yet even all that did not prepare him for the scope of destruction he saw when he was deployed as part of a Red Cross hazard assessment team to Texas following Hurricane Rita. In the Houston area, he became aware that humanitarian efforts in such situations don't always apply solely to humans.



Bruhmuller

Bruhmuller was able to find and secure shelter from seven hotels for families with pets, finding items and food for them from abandoned stores or paying out of his pocket. One lucky pup, Katie, came home with him to join his family.

Bruhmuller, a CSEA member working in Columbia County as a court officer and in the Sheriffs Department, was awarded the IAMS Pet Food Pet Rescue Award and the Red Cross of Northeastern New York chapter's Hometown Heroes Award (*See story, Page 13*). *The Work Force's* Lou Hmieleski recently spoke with Bruhmuller about his experiences.

WF: How long have you been affiliated with the Red Cross and how did you get involved?

MB: I've been a Red Cross volunteer for about 15

years. I'm a volunteer firefighter and work on a disaster assessment team that is involved in putting up families and finding shelter if their homes are burned down or things like that. I decided to become more nationally involved around Sept. 11.

WF: Were you prepared for what you saw when you were deployed for the Hurricane Rita assessment?

MB: No, I did not expect that kind of magnitude of destruction or the stress the people were experiencing. It was so overloading, it was amazing to see how the people during those stressful moments stuck together. The townspeople did not let their fellow townspeople go by themselves or suffer.

WF: Renew your faith in humanity?

MB: Yes, exactly.

WF: How was it that you came to discover pets were in need of help, too?

MB: This was a coincidence. We were doing what we call "hot shots" during the Red Cross assessment. We'd go to different parts of residences, assess damage, check on survivors, figure out what are their immediate needs, such as supplies, diapers, shelters. As we're going through the neighborhood, one particular house's occupants were killed by a fallen tree. A puppy's mother and two siblings were killed, too. I found Katie on a roofline. I went to grab her, and a National Guard medic who worked in a veterinary hospital offered to fly her back to headquarters. He put an IV in her, she was very dehydrated. I called my wife, Maria, and asked her if she'd be interested in me bringing a puppy home. United Airlines was very nice about it, and told me I could have her on my lap. It was a privilege.

WF: So how did this grow into helping all the other animals?



## A humanitarian in all senses



Red Cross Hometown Heroes award winner Mark Bruhmuller watches as Katie, who was still a puppy when he rescued her from a hurricane-stricken Houston neighborhood, plays with his grandson. Bruhmuller helped find shelter for families with pets when he wasn't working as part of an assessment task force.

MB: I was going around on my off time, asking if people could take in some of these pets. Maybe six or seven places opened their doors for that idea. A couple of shopping centers were willing to use their fenced-in areas. We found a run-down store, not being used, and they allowed people to throw hay down and keep horses in there. The Houston American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals deserves a lot of credit. I've never seen such a top-notch ASPCA; how quickly they were able to get the animals into adopted homes. Thousands are still waiting.

## The governor's pitching pension changes that could hit us hard

# Strike Back!

## Save Your Pension

## Join PEOPLE Today



Public employee pensions and benefits have been increasingly under attack lately, first from big business groups and now from our own governor.

Gov. George Pataki wants to create a new retirement plan with a new Tier 5. He also wants to switch your pension from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. That means you pay more in with no guarantee of getting more out.

PEOPLE (Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality) is CSEA's voice in Washington, Albany and in your community. Join PEOPLE and help defeat this and other proposals that hurt working people.

### • PAYROLL DEDUCTION APPLICATION •

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # / Floor \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Job Title \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_ Local \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount deducted per year in equal installments:

\$100 (MVP)\*  \$75 (Local 1000)  \$50 (VIP)\*\*  \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

If PEOPLE payroll deduction is not available, enclosed is my personal check, money order or credit card contribution in the amount of: \$\_\_\_\_\_.

VISA  MASTERCARD Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
circle size: X-Small / S / M / L / XL / XXL / 3XL / 4XL

Jacket Received  Pin Received  Keychain Received

\* You receive the VIP Lapel Pin, Local 1000 Key Chain, plus a special gift - a custom designed light-weight green MVP jacket with a gold embroidered logo for you to wear with pride.

\*\* You receive a practical white windbreaker and a VIP Lapel Pin. These gifts carry the symbol of PEOPLE, honoring your action to protect your retirement security.

Please mail completed application to: CSEA PEOPLE, 143 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210

NOTE: In accordance with federal law, the PEOPLE committee will accept contributions only from members of AFSCME, executive or administrative personnel and their families. Contributions or gifts to AFSCME PEOPLE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

### PEOPLE PERSON —

The PEOPLE recruiter of the month of April is Tony Tutino of the state Department of Transportation (Utica area) Local in the Central Region. He recruited 13 new

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

### EVANS CONTRACT RATIFIED —

Evans town unit members recently overwhelmingly ratified a new three-year contract with raises of 2.75 percent for each year of the agreement. There were no changes in health insurance benefits or employee contribution. For the first time, members who retire under this contract will be able to sell back unused sick leave at various rates or have it contributed to retiree health insurance costs ...

### SHANDAKEN CONTRACT —

Shandaken, in Ulster County, has ratified a three-year agreement that gives employees wage increases each year along with numerous improvements to benefits, including an increase in boot allowance, more equitable health insurance contributions, a new "comp-time" clause, increased total of call-in pay hours, added bereavement leave, reimbursed cost of training and an "ambient temperature" clause to protect employees from extreme heat and cold ...

### HOT DOGS HELP BUILD HOMES —

The St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center Local recently raised \$550 by selling Michigan hot dogs. The local's fund-raiser benefitted CSEA's Operation Home Delivery with Habitat for Humanity to build "CSEA Street" for Gulf Coast residents who lost their homes to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The hot dogs cost \$4, including chips and soda. Glazier Hot Dogs donated



the food. Local President Michael Jameson and Local Secretary Dorothy Smith presented a check from the fund-raiser to Statewide Treasurer Maureen Malone during the union's

Statewide Occupational Safety and Health Conference. CSEA members also raised during the conference an additional \$3,424 for Operation Home Delivery ...

### VOTING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

— State Sen. Catharine Young was the guest speaker at a recent Cattaraugus County Local meeting. She stressed the importance of voting and the need for CSEA members to contact their legislators with their concerns. One person can make a difference, she told the group. Young was elected to the Senate last year in a special election. She credited her success to CSEA's overwhelming support ...

### MEMBER NEEDS LEAVE DONATIONS —

CSEA member Denise Arena, a child care aide at the New York State School for the Deaf in Rome, has been diagnosed with advanced cancer and is unable to work because of her treatments. She has exhausted all her available leave accruals and is currently on leave without pay and is unsure about when she will be able to return to work. The New York State School for the Deaf Local has reached out to Arena's co-workers several times to get time donated on her behalf, but the local is now extending its appeal to all CSEA members employed by the state. Any state employee can participate in the Leave Donation Program, if the workers have a minimum vacation balance of 10 days after making the donation. Donations must be vacation hours and must be made in full day units. Members interested in donating time to Arena should contact the timekeeper in their agency's personnel office.



## Gov. George Pataki's Budget Power Play Harms New Yorkers

The pressure on New York's health care system is a real statewide challenge, particularly for public hospitals and county nursing facilities.

Gov. Pataki is withholding more than \$2 billion that would help the poor, sick and the elderly, threatening the quality and availability of health care services in every community across the state. It hurts New Yorkers and their families and it will cost us plenty.

For more than a year, CSEA has worked in cooperation with other groups to secure a better future for public health care. Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver have demonstrated true leadership on the issue and the Senate and the Assembly have acted responsibly.

Gov. Pataki, on the other hand, is making decisions clouded by ambition that are not in the best interest of New Yorkers. It's up to us who must live with the fallout from those decisions long after the governor is gone to hold him accountable now.

Real health care reform means  
making the right choices for all  
New Yorkers.

Call the Governor today!

**1-877-255-9417**

Tell him to stop  
playing politics with New  
Yorkers' health care

**CSEA**  
New York's  
Leading Union  
Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO  
Danny Donohue, President  
[www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org)

# Western Frontier

Official publication of CSEA Western Region

• A supplement to *The Work Force* • June 2006 Vol. 8 No. 1

6



## Fighting for our public nursing homes

In every corner of the CSEA's Western Region, from Lockport in Niagara County to Bath in Steuben County, CSEA members work daily to provide high-quality care to residents of public nursing homes.

That care — and the public nursing homes at which CSEA members work — continue to be threatened by several factors, including a lame duck governor who, at press time, refused to release funding for nursing homes that state legislators included in the 2006 budget.

"Governor Pataki apparently wants to leave office as he came in — out of touch with the needs of working New Yorkers," CSEA President Danny Donohue said. "From one end of New York to the other, public nursing homes have been in crisis and CSEA has been committed to securing a long-range solution. We have worked from the grassroots level to the halls of the Capitol to create understanding and support in the state Senate and Assembly."

The grassroots fight continues locally. Activists from CSEA's Western Region have come together to form the "Western Region Nursing Home Focus Group." The group will monitor situations at public nursing homes and develop a plan for fighting sales or closures.

"Our main goal is to create a campaign template," said CSEA Western Region President Flo Tripi. "It will be a model to be used when the proverbial wolf arrives at the door."

The focus group, however, cannot fight the nursing home battle alone. Every CSEA member, particularly those working in the nursing homes, must get involved to be successful.

"There are things you can do to get



CSEA activists from public nursing homes throughout the Western Region traveled to Albany March 14 to ask lawmakers to restore funding for these important nursing homes. Above, activists from the Wayne County Nursing Home get fired up before going in to speak with their elected representatives. Front row from left, Sherry Davis, Brenda Brown, John Allen, and back from left, Dawn Wuilliez, Suzanne Wild, Sue Bloomfield, Louise Wright, Debra Welt and Deborah Johnson.

involved to make sure we keep the upper hand," Tripi said. "By promoting our nursing homes and services and by taking action early and in strong numbers, we can more effectively fight to save jobs."

Activists are mobilizing members in an effort to save public nursing home jobs throughout the region.

Cattaraugus County

CSEA members working at the Pines of Machias public nursing home in Cattaraugus County continue to watch the county legislature following an attempt by Please see Fighting cont'd on Page 4

Paid training included  
in new unit contract  
Page 2

See how one unit saved  
a position from the budget ax  
Page 3

Western Region  
Family, Friends and Neighbors  
Page 4



## Message From Western Region President Flo Tripi

Brothers and Sisters,

Our efforts continue to bring you information regarding CSEA's

Western Region and *The Western Frontier* is one of the forums we use to do just that. The Western Region is alive and well and in spite of huge challenges, making a difference for our members. There are so many things happening here in Western New York. I want to take a moment to update you on some of them.

Contract battles are taking place in every corner of the region. Our members in several counties are working without a contract, and we continue to work to reach fair agreements for our members.

Political activity has been a major priority for us. The governor vetoed funding for many important programs, including health care, Medicaid, education, and transportation. Our members have worked tirelessly calling legislators, getting on buses to Albany and meeting with Assembly and Senate members to override the governor's vetoes.

One area particularly close to home was additional funding for public nursing homes and hospitals. Our members

provide the services needed to protect and care for residents of these facilities and if the governor had his way, every one of those community assets would be either closed or outsourced. We will work hard to make sure the new governor is Eliot Spitzer and we will hold all elected officials accountable to enhance needed public services.

Your elected officers and I, along with our CSEA staff, are working hard for you every day. However, we can't win our battles without you. We need each of you to help in some way. Please see page 3 for some of the many ways you can get involved.

There is a great deal of work ahead of us in the region, but we also plan to take a little time for some fun.

- The CSEA Western Region Planning Committee is completing plans for our **spring region conference**, June 16-17 in Lockport. An Erie Canal boat cruise is planned for Saturday evening.

- The Planning Committee is also working on the **fall region conference**, Oct. 20-22 in Ellicottville.

- CSEA members are planning **CSEA labor nights at local ballparks**. CSEA

**Night with the Buffalo Bisons** will be Friday, July 7, at Dunn Tire Park. CSEA is also participating in **AFL-CIO Labor Night with the Rochester Red Wings** on Friday, July 28 at Frontier Field.

- Volunteers are also planning our annual **Jim Jayes Memorial Golf Tournament**. The tournament will be held Friday, July 21, at the Batavia Country Club in Batavia.

- Our annual **Western Region picnic**

will be held Saturday, July 29, in Warsaw. It's a great opportunity to get together with other CSEA members and their families for a leisurely, relaxing day.

Information on these events is available by calling the Western Region Office.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your never-ending dedication, hard work and unflagging belief in the rights of working men and women everywhere. I am privileged to serve as your region president. I look forward to celebrating our many successes with you throughout the year.

**CSEA LOCAL 815**  
**14th Annual PICNIC**  
Saturday, August 5th, 2006  
from 12:00 p.m. til 7:00 p.m.  
**at The Bowen Rd. Grove**  
Lancaster, New York  
(Broadway to Bowen Rd., 1/4 mile south on Bowen Rd.)  
Food Served From 1:00 p.m. til 5:00 p.m.  
Beers • Pops • Prizes • Music • Games for Children  
Live Music Featuring "New York Rockin' Revue"  
Each CSEA Member Allowed One Adult Guest

**TICKET PRICE:**  
\$5.00 Members/\$7.00 Adult Guest  
\$3.00 for each Child (6 to 12)  
Children 5 Years of Age and Under are Admitted FREE  
Last day for ticket sales is July 28, 2006.  
Contact your Unit or Section President for tickets & information or call the Union Hall at 896-1640



**A commitment to safety**  
RUSH — Western Region President Flo Tripi, second from right, congratulated highway maintenance supervisors Kevin Eddy, left, and Rick



Spencer on a job well done during the DOT Region 4 (Rochester area) awards ceremony held recently. With them is Operations Director Larry Sherman. Highway workers were recognized during the ceremony for their commitment to safety.

## Support staff now paid for training sessions

GENEVA — Teacher conference days often mean a day without pay for 10-month employees, but that's not the case anymore for CSEA members in Geneva.

Members of CSEA Geneva School District Support Staff Unit now attend training sessions and receive a half-day's pay, according to the terms and conditions in the unit's new contract.

"Training is so important," Western Region President Flo Tripi said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our members to learn about topics relevant not only to their lives at work, but to their lives outside work as well."

Tripi attended the first training session in Geneva, held in March during the district's "Superintendent's Day." Surveys completed by employees following the event proved the event was a success; most rated the day as "excellent."

The CSEA unit's negotiating team proposed the training day idea to the district last year while hammering out the details of the unit's contract.

"For years I've received complaints that there is never anything planned for

support staff on conference days, said Unit President Mel Thomas. "Now we've got something we can offer them. We receive up to \$4,000 for training per fiscal year through our contract and the district pays everyone for four hours."

With the help of CSEA's Member Benefits Department and The Work Institute, Thomas planned a series of educational sessions for the support staff. CSEA members learned techniques for effective communication, interpersonal relationship skills, and the importance of school safety.

"School safety is a big priority across the state," Thomas said. "A couple of the school administrators even sat in on the school safety session before going to their own meetings."

Sessions on elder law and retirement planning also proved to be popular, with members filling every session.

"Elder law applies not only to older people," Thomas said. "It's about how to plan for growing older and how to care for elders, and of course everyone's interested in retirement."

Members of the Geneva School District Support Staff Unit worked for more than a year without a contract before ratifying an agreement last fall. When a new superintendent joined the district, negotiations took a turn for the better and the contract was settled.

"The new superintendent has been supportive of what we want to do," Thomas said. He came from the labor world. He was a labor relations specialist years ago for a teachers' union. He knows that we are important and I give him a lot of credit for his involvement."

— Lynn Miller

### CSEA WESTERN REGION OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Ms. Flo Tripi Work: 716-691-6555	<b>3RD VICE PRESIDENT</b> Mr. Steve Hurley Work: 607-776-9800 ext. 108
<b>1ST VICE PRESIDENT</b> Ms. Kathleen Button Work: 585-461-8920 Fax: 585-442-9415	<b>SECRETARY</b> Ms. Dawn Smith Work: 716-675-7570 Fax: 716-675-7718
<b>2ND VICE PRESIDENT</b> Mr. Henry Hoisington Work: 716-753-3980	<b>TREASURER</b> Mr. William Stanton Work: 716-845-3069

# Hamburg DPW members mobilize to stop a layoff

HAMBURG — A group of public works employees recently mobilized to stop one layoff proposed in the new village budget.

Members of the Hamburg Department of Public Works Unit packed a public hearing, made phone calls and wrote letters in an effort to save a position held by one of their own. Their actions seem to have worked; trustees restored funding for the position just moments before adopting the 2006-2007 spending plan.

“Even one layoff is too many,” Western Region President Flo Tripi said. “I am very proud of our members in the Hamburg Department of Public Works. They stood up for what is right, sent a message to village trustees and fought for their brother.”

Upon hearing of the layoff, unit leadership began to make plans and rally support. At the public hearing, members wore bright green sweatshirts and packed the auditorium along with family members.

“I think us showing up at the public hearing really made a difference,” said Michael Koester, unit president. “We only have 19 guys here. If you take one away, we’ll be real short-handed. We’re already working short because they never filled a position that was vacated about a year ago.”

Koester supplied village trustees with a list of suggestions before the hearing that would save money but would not require CSEA layoffs or concessions. CSEA members also returned to village hall for the budget adoption meeting the following week.

“It was a very quick meeting,” said Scott Gabel, whose position was targeted for elimination. “The trustees decided to raise taxes to cover it. I was really nervous; I’m the low man here.”

Some CSEA members speculate the public works position was originally cut from the budget so the money could be used to purchase statues on “roundabouts”



Scott Gabel gives the thumbs-up from the cab of his sanitation truck. Gabel’s position with the Village of Hamburg Department of Public Works had been targeted for elimination earlier this year, but his co-workers mobilized to save his job.

planned for the main road through the village. The statues will reportedly cost about \$150,000. — Lynn Miller

## Join the Political Power Points program

# Political action is the key to political clout

Tom Warzel  
CSEA Western Region Political Action Chairman

Want to exercise your political muscle?  
Want to know how you can protect your job, benefits and pension?  
Want to help shape the future of CSEA?

Our political clout, coupled with our members’ numbers and intense efforts, is our greatest resource as we work to constantly improve conditions for working families across New York state. The more involved our members are in the political process, the more clout we have. The more clout we have, the better we can fight back against attacks on workers’ rights and achieve new benefits for workers.

How do we increase our clout? We boost our clout by working with our members to help them speak directly to the decision-makers through lobbying, town hall meetings, phone calls and e-mails. We also endorse and campaign for candidates we can count on to support working families.

How can you exercise your political muscle and protect your job, benefits, and pension? You can do all of this by getting involved in political action! Volunteer with your local political action committee, attend rallies, volunteer for phone banks or register your co-workers to vote. There are many ways to help.

Now, you can earn great rewards for helping make changes!

To recognize CSEA members who work to effect political change, CSEA’s Legislative and Political Action Department has created the “Political Power Points” program. Members earn points by campaigning for CSEA-endorsed candidates and lobbying for union-friendly legislation.

This new program will be conducted annually, which means you have about six months left this year to get

involved and earn the 120 points needed to receive a “Political Power Points” jacket! Throughout the summer and fall, there will be many opportunities in which to participate. Getting started is easy — contact your local political action committee chair or CSEA Political Action Coordinator Courtney Brunelle to find out how.

In the program’s first year, four Western Region members earned jackets: Toni Black, Local 815; Marcia Olszewski, Local 815; Cristal Zaffuto, Local 828; and Don Williams, Local 807. All four worked hard to make a difference for local candidates who had earned CSEA’s endorsement.

Toni coordinated phone banks for Amherst Town Supervisor candidate Susan Grelick. Marcia and Cris supervised phone banks for CSEA-endorsed candidates in our Amherst and Rochester offices, along with representing CSEA at various political events. Don went door to door, made phone calls, and distributed lawn signs for Chautauqua County Executive candidate Mark Thomas, as well as organizing Local 807’s first-ever local candidates’ forum. I happily extend hearty congratulations to our 2005 winners, and a challenge to all our members to follow their example! In doing so, you’ll be shaping the future of your union, while protecting the jobs, benefits, and pensions of countless members just like you.

Western Region Political Action Chairman Tom Warzel, left, awards a “Political Power Points” jacket to Don Williams,



vice president of the Chautauqua County Local. Williams earned his jacket by lobbying legislators, volunteering on Election Day, planning a candidate debate and participating in literature drops and phone banks.

## Here’s how you can earn your jacket

CSEA members can earn a Political Power Points jacket for activities completed from Jan.1-Dec. 31. The points are awarded as follows: in-district lobbying, 15 points; Lobby Day attendance, (AFSCME/Nursing Home), 5 points; volunteer for phone bank, 5 points; volunteer for literature drop, 10 points; volunteer for canvassing/labor to neighbor, 15 points; volunteer on Election Day (two hour minimum), 20 points; write a letter to the editor (must send copy of letter to PAC Coordinator), 5 points; writing letters to legislators, (minimum five letters, must provide PAC coordinator with a copy of each letter), 5 points; attend a rally, press conference or other action event (must contact PAC Coordinator to confirm attendance), 10 points; sign up 10 new voters (voter registration cards must be submitted to PAC coordinator),10 points; recruit additional people to volunteer, 1 point per additional person; PEOPLE recruitment (PEOPLE membership card must be submitted to PA coordinator), 5 points per new member.

Members need to accumulate 120 points in order to receive a jacket. The Political Action Coordinator in the respective CSEA regions will keep track of points. Be sure to notify Courtney Brunelle when a task is completed so that points can be properly credited.

## Fighting cont'd from Page 1

lawmakers to outsource food service. Legislators had sought bids from private companies for the preparation of meals for residents of the county's two public nursing homes and Meals on Wheels recipients.

Under the leadership of the CSEA unit president — a nursing home employee herself — and leadership from the local, activists worked to increase public support and stop the legislature from accepting a bid. The campaign included letters, a petition and other community outreach. Nursing home employees also wore CSEA buttons to work every day, including the day prospective bidders toured the facility.

"Our activists did a great job getting our message out," Cattaraugus County Unit President Cheryl Smith said. "But, wearing the buttons also had an impact on our campaign. Anyone coming into the facility had to notice that CSEA members are here, providing top-notch quality care to residents every day."

County legislators received just one bid for the meal preparation, and the cost turned out to be higher than what the county pays for meals prepared by CSEA members.

"If we had allowed this to go through, I think down the road we would have seen an attempt to contract out the entire nursing home," Cattaraugus County Local President Clara Ramadhan said. "Even though we won this time, attempts at contracting out could still happen in the future. We still need to be vigilant and proactive."

### Niagara County

CSEA members in Niagara County continue to work to stop the sale of the Mount View Health Care Facility in Lockport. New messages are being developed, lawn signs will be distributed and activities to again promote the nursing home's value to the community are being planned.

CSEA members working at Mount View are also fighting for a new contract along with members of the Niagara County General Unit. The unit has been without a contract for almost four years, and negotiations with the county's manager have not been productive.

"We are continually working to save Mount View and our members' jobs," Tripi said. "So far, we have been successful, but we still have a long road ahead of us. We will not give up."

### Wayne County

CSEA activists in Wayne County have been working for a year to stop the sale of the new Wayne County Nursing Home. Regular membership meetings are held and members of the steering committee frequently recruit volunteers to help with the campaign.

When nursing home employees learned last June the county was considering selling the home, they immediately took action to promote the value of keeping the home public. Members researched nursing home funding and presented their findings to lawmakers through a "position paper" that stressed the importance of public nursing homes and their "safety net" status. Without public nursing homes, the position paper states, the county's most frail individuals and people on Medicaid could be forced to leave the county to receive care. Public nursing homes often care for people when no one else will.

Steering Committee Chair Deborah Johnson and several other nursing home workers traveled to Albany in March to stress the importance of proper funding to the state's lawmakers.

They also show their dedication to residents through gestures within the facility, including giving a flower to each resident on Mother's Day. They also plan to recognize residents on Father's Day.

"We work hard every day to provide the best care possible to our residents," Johnson said. "We truly love them. They are like members of our own families."

— Lynn Miller



Top photo, CSEA Western Region President Flo Tripi, center, visits with Robin Mangel, left, and Sue Young at Mount View Health Care Facility. CSEA members at the facility are fighting the possible sale of the public nursing home.

Bottom photo, Food Service Workers Jan Kinney, left, and Charlene McClory put pepperoni on trays of pizza being prepared for residents of the Pines of Machias public nursing home in Cattaraugus County. CSEA's Cattaraugus County Unit recently fought an attempt by county legislators to contract out food service at the facility and at the Pines of Olean.

## Family, friends and neighbors in the Western Region

### Team CSEA

Chuck Parsons and members of the state DOT Local in Rochester sold MS

Walk bracelets to support Team CSEA. The walk was held May 7 in the Rochester area.



Candle for

### Katrina relief

Members of the CSEA Western New York DDSO Local Women's Committee recently held a candle sale in support of CSEA's Habitat for Humanity efforts. The committee raised more than \$600 for the cause. Other fund-raisers are also being planned in support of Habitat for Humanity's reconstruction efforts in the New Orleans area.

Auction for food bank

Members of the Erie County Local Women's Committee held a theme basket auction in March to support the Food Bank of Western New York. The auction is held annually and the proceeds are donated to various charities. In December, the Erie County Local's Women's Committee planned a food drive for the food bank.

### Telethon

CSEA members from the Western

Region answered phones March 5 during the Variety Kids' Telethon in support of Buffalo's Women's and Children's Hospital. Volunteers help with the phone bank every year. The 12-hour telethon is broadcast on a Buffalo television station.



Message from CSEA Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta

## A Salute to the Public Employees

Living on Long Island is getting tougher and tougher as each day passes. Even more specifically, residing here in Nassau County is even more of a challenge in most cases. School taxes and energy costs seem to be spiraling out of control with no end in sight.

When I read the article in *Newsday* regarding public service employees and their pensions, I was quite angry. It seems the people who chose private sector employment are now throwing sour grapes at us, public employees. It's funny how ironic this situation is today. I remember 30 years ago when people believed going to work for the county or towns was a dead-end, no-brains job. It was mainly perceived that those jobs were for those of us who could not compete in private sector jobs. For those of you who actually did take the chance back then (which was well before my time as a county worker), times were indeed tough. Public employees were given measly salaries and were looked down upon in general.

Today, all of those Wall Street experts who did not fare so well in the private market now look at public employees with envy.

Now, we have to hear from those who laughed at us back in the tough days that our benefits and pensions are too big. Where were they when it was difficult to put food on the table, keep the mortgage payments up or even buy clothes for our kids? They were gambling their careers with stock options and corporate greed.

Clearly, we are not a group who intended to become wealthy from our county jobs, but instead we chose stability and a sense of security. Those who wanted to go for the big bucks took that chance with their future. Some of them won, and some of them lost. We chose the longer, tougher road, but I believe the much more sensible road.

Leave our pensions and benefits alone, Mr. Wall

*'Where were they when it was difficult to put food on the table, keep the mortgage payments up or even buy clothes for our kids? They were gambling their careers with stock options and corporate greed.'*

Street. We are all responsible for our actions, so look into the mirror if you want to see the reasons you may not have done as well as the public sector worker.

### NHCC update

Now, on to the latest round in the effort to stabilize the Nassau Health Care Corp. Finally, the Board of Directors worked out a settlement with former CEO Dan Kane. Mr. Kane has agreed to resign from the corporation, as well as the Chairman of the Board, Larry Gottlieb.

Although I was our local's steady voice urging this exact action, I want to reiterate that this was nothing personal. Mr. Kane is not a bad person and he did indeed have a very difficult job. I'm not even sure if anyone could have righted the course of the corporation due to the circumstances Mr. Kane inherited.

However, I did have a huge problem with his method of doing business with the union. I felt he was not the type of person who could get the support of the majority of the staff. He made some very real blunders there (his proposal to fire 20 emergency room doctors stands out as No. 1 for sure) and just seemed out of touch with the average employee.

I felt the hospital board let everyone down because they rarely challenged Mr. Kane's decisions. It appeared to be more of a rubber stamp than an actual governing body. As a result, checks and

balances in my opinion were mostly waived. Let's now see what Art Gianelli can do. He has proved to be someone who can fix big financial problems, as he did in Nassau County. I know our relationship between CSEA and management will be immediately improved. I think it's a good start in the right direction.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Remember, your union is here for you so drop us a line or make a visit to our local office at any time. Thank you and have a great day.

Yours in unionism,

*Jerry Laricchiuta*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

May 2006 Express

☞ Page 3

• **Local 830 President Named one of Long Island's Most Powerful**

☞ Pages 4 and 5

• **Tour of Nassau County's Public Safety and Parks**

• **A Look at the Police Department's Building Maintenance Unit**

☞ **Updates on Upcoming CSEA Events**



The  
Work Force

CSEA Nassau County Local 830

**EXPRESS**

June 2006 • Vol. 1 No. 6

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

www.csealocal830.org

CSEA Long Island Region Communications Associate Rachel  
Langert (631) 462-0030**NASSAU LOCAL 830****Executive Officers:**

JERRY LARICCHIUTA, President  
 DIANE RUSS, Executive Vice President  
 RON GURRIERI, 1st Vice President  
 ROBERT CAULDWELL, 2nd Vice President  
 DEBRA IMPERATORE, 3rd Vice President  
 SCOTT MULHOLLAND, 4th Vice President  
 TIM CARTER, 5th Vice President  
 EARL STROUGHTON, 6th Vice President  
 DEBBIE O'CONNELL, 7th Vice President  
 BARBARA LANG, 8th Vice President  
 ROBERT McLAUGHLIN, 9th Vice President  
 JOHN ALOISIO, 10th Vice President  
 PETER KIERNAN, 11th Vice President  
 MATTHEW WEYER, Secretary  
 BETH LUTTINGER, Treasurer

**Unit Presidents/Executive Board:**

CHUCK ALBERS, Fire & Rescue Services  
 JOHN ALOISIO III, Treasurer's Office  
 ROB ARCIELLO, Deputy Sheriffs  
 STANLEY BERGMAN, Comptroller's Office  
 LISA SINAGRA-TIRPAK, Public Safety  
 ROBERT CAMPO, Public Works Department  
 RAY CANNELLA, Civil Service Commission  
 TERRI KOPVITCH, Health Department  
 ROBERT CAULDWELL, Social Services  
 STEPHEN COHEN, Medical Examiner's Office  
 CAROL CONTI, County Clerk  
 CAROL CROSTON, Nassau Community College  
 VIVIAN CROWLEY, General Services  
 KENNETH DASH, SR., Board of Elections  
 MARY DELMARE, Crossing Guards  
 GINGER DUNLAP, C.B. Operators  
 LES EASON, A. Holly Patterson  
 ROBERT GILBERTI, Senior Citizens Affairs  
 ROSE SACCHETTI, County/District Attorney  
 NANCY IANSON, Drug & Alcohol  
 DEBRA IMPERATORE, Police Civilian  
 RON KAHL, AMTs  
 JERRY LARICCHIUTA, Sheriffs Support  
 PILAR MILLER, Assessment Department  
 JOHN RINALDO, Parks, Recreation & Museums  
 MARLA ROWE, Probation Department  
 DIANE RUSS, Consumer Affairs  
 EARL STROUGHTON, Nassau University Medical Center  
 JOSEPH WHITTAKER, Fire Marshal's Office

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

## Valuable Information About CSEA Legal Services Program

**Editor's note:** This is part of a series of articles by CSEA's expert attorneys appearing regularly to provide valuable information to you and your family members regarding the important areas of protection available to you through the CSEA Legal Services Program [LSP]. The LSP covers many areas of law that affect us every day. Get more information about legal plans in the LSP by calling CSEA Headquarters at 1-800-342-4146, extension 1454, or by visiting [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org), and clicking on the legal services menu item.

### Taking Care of Business: You, Your Family, and Your Life

Once again, CSEA has created a valuable Legal Services plan adding to its already impressive array of services covered under the Legal Services Program. The Plan has been created to provide you and your family access to attorneys at low affordable rates who specialize in this complex area of Law.

Events such as illness or disability requiring long-term care can happen to you, your spouse, your child or your parent at anytime. You have worked hard to have your own home, put away money for retirement and save for your children. All of this could be threatened.

The Plan entitles CSEA members to legal consultations, guidance, document preparation and, where needed, representation pertaining to estate planning and Medicaid eligibility.

#### What Can the Plan Do for Me and My Family?

The CSEA Plan attorneys will:

- Meet with you to review your present situation and make recommendations as to what you should do immediately.
- Prepare necessary legal documents such as Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy, Family Trust, Living Trust.
- Counsel you with respect to estate tax planning strategies, IRA and pension fund planning, guardianships, long-term care insurance options, asset protection in face of catastrophic illness.
- Represent you in the Medicare/Medicaid application process, probate and estate administration.

#### Why Should I Take Advantage of the Plan?

Available services include:

- Low cost wills, powers of attorney, health care proxies tailored to protect family assets and homesteads;
- Reduced fee trust agreements, deeds, medicaid eligibility

services;

- Non-crisis related consultations and pre-crisis planning;
- On-going annual trust services;
- Information and publications and
- Educational seminars.

#### How Much Will it Cost?

All Plan attorneys have agreed to discount their regular fees by 20 percent for CSEA members and family. Fees vary depending on the geographic area of the participating attorney. Without the benefit of the CSEA Plan discount, these services would cost you much more.

Plan attorneys will provide you with quality services and expertise consistent with the other plans in the CSEA Legal Services Program.

#### How Do I Find An Attorney?

Call the CSEA toll-free number 1-800-342-4146 and follow the prompts for the CSEA Legal Services Program. Listen to the directions for accessing the Plan to locate a Plan attorney nearest you.

It's never too late or too early to consult with a Plan attorney. Even if a family member is already in a nursing home, there are special law provisions that might enable you to protect assets that would otherwise be spent for that care.

Information is also available on CSEA's website at [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org).

**CSEA** LOCAL 830

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP CLASSIC

MONDAY JULY 24, 2006

This event will be the driving force behind the newly formed CSEA Local 830 Scholarship Foundation that will be awarding scholarships to the children of our members!

Call the Local 830 office at 516-571-2919 for more information and to reserve your spot today for this special event!

## They Said It:

### Quote of the Month

***"[They] have proven they cannot manage this facility, and are financially incompetent to the tune of almost \$300 million. Had this been a private corporation, this room would have been filled with stockholders wanting your heads."***

— CSEA Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta, quoted recently in *Newsday*, regarding replacing Nassau Health Care Corp's top personnel.

## President Jerry Laricchiuta Named to *Long Island Press* Power List

MINEOLA — CSEA Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta was named to the *Long Island Press*' fourth annual Power List for the year's 50 most influential Long Islanders.

Laricchiuta ranked No. 26 on the list that includes many government officials, and corporate CEOs. The list was published in the newspaper's April 20 issue.



**Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta at the April 25 *Long Island Press* Power List Party. (Photo by Wayne Herrschaft)**

Laricchiuta and members of his executive staff were invited to the *Long Island Press* Power Dinner April 25 at Maxwell & Dunne's Steakhouse in Plainview to be honored for the achievement.

Since taking office in July 2005, Laricchiuta has done much to move the local forward. His most notable achievements include fighting layoffs at Nassau University Medical Center, ensuring proper procedures at Wantagh's Cedar Creek Sewage Plant, speaking before the legislature on many occasions and remaining very visible and vocal to his members at all times.

Congratulations!

### UPDATE!

## Legislature Approves Bail-out for Cradle of Aviation

MINEOLA — On April 24, the Nassau County Legislature finally approved the bail-out of the Cradle of Aviation Museum that will give the museum \$500,000 for the remainder of the year and waive the \$2.5 million debt if financial targets are met.

CSEA disputed this potential bail-out before the legislature many times, as hopes were to get county workers again employed at the museum. The union will continue to fight to return public employees to the facility.

**CSEA** Local 830

IS PROUD TO INTRODUCE  
A WORKERS' COMPENSATION WORKSHOP!

Hosted by Expert Attorney  
Marvin Anderman  
of Fine, Olin & Anderman

**Monday, June 19, at 5 p.m. at the Local 830 Office  
400 County Seat Drive, Mineola**

MAXIMUM OF 25 PEOPLE FOR THE CLASS,  
SO SIGN UP NOW!

The Workshop Includes:

- Lecture including facts & myths about Workers' Compensation and Social Security Disability
- Information on how to go about obtaining either of them
- Handouts with information on both programs

AND MUCH MORE!

Call Ryan Mulholland or Susan Cohen at the Local 830 Office  
516-571-2919 to sign up!  
Hope to see you there!

## Board of Elections Information Fair

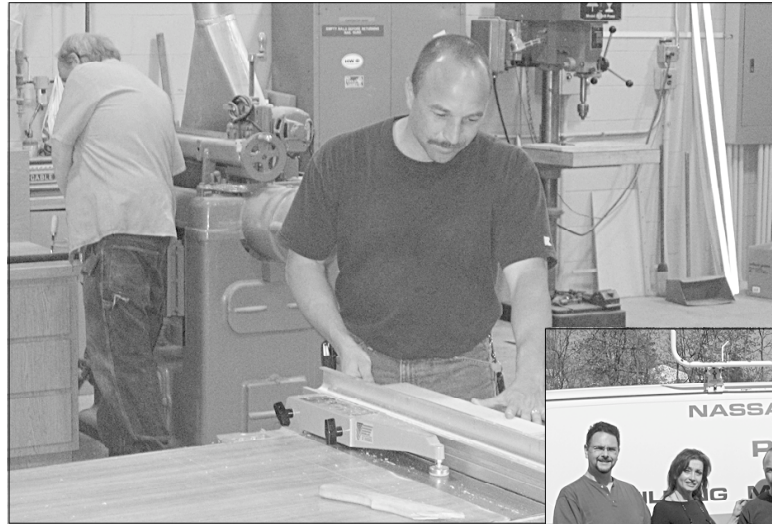
One hundred thirteen CSEA members employed by the Nassau County Board of Elections were treated to lunch during a May 8 membership meeting/information fair. Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta spoke on many topics, including the excellent stability of the Board of Elections Department under the guidance of Unit President Ken Dash.

The Nassau County Board of Elections is located in the same building as Local 830, at 400 County Seat Drive in Mineola.

**Jerry Laricchiuta speaks in front of Board of Elections employees.**



## Building Maintenance Unit Members Go Above and Beyond



Left, Maintenance Lead Carpenter Sal Natale hard at work.



Right, CSEA Police Department Unit President Debra Imperatore with members from the BMU.

**B**ELLMORE — CSEA Local 830 is proud to have 18 of its 10,000 members in the Nassau County Police Department's Building Maintenance Unit (BMU). The unit was founded more than 30 years ago as a result of the great need for repairs and maintenance in the Police Department. Unit workers perform many duties, including constructing, renovating, repairing and moving buildings, as well as wiring, painting, welding and countless amounts of plumbing work. That all might sound like dirty work, but not compared to some other responsibilities that many people probably do not realize BMU members have on their plate. "We really need to emphasize how these members are there repairing private property, doors, windows and fences at the actual crime scenes," CSEA Local 830 Police Department Unit

President Debra Imperatore said. Maintenance unit employees also work around prisoners and sensitive evidence including drugs, firearms and ammunition. Overall, the quality of work performed by the BMU personnel directly affects the safety of a police officer. When people hear an ambulance drive by, its operation is made possible by the unit. If it wasn't for the BMU, the interior ambulance repair would not get done, nor would the interior maintenance to bomb squad vehicles, and emergency service vehicles among many others. The unit has many recent accomplishments to boast about. Two employees recently responded to and helped in the rescue of two women from an apartment fire in Hempstead. In another instance, workers helped the arson/bomb squad and crime scene unit in

recovering a bomb fragment from the door of U.S. Rep. Peter King's office. "It's always hectic around here," said Richard Deyette, a maintenance carpenter supervisor. "We have renovated 25 of 66 police booths in Nassau County over the past eight months. That's just the tip of the iceberg. It hasn't been easy, but I am so proud of these guys." Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta was thrilled to hear of all these recent feats by the BMU and said, "It's remarkable some of the things they have done. I am proud to recognize them for those achievements, and also proud to have them as CSEA members."

## Busy Season Kicks Off for Nassau County Public Safety

**EAST MEADOW** — With the summer fast approaching, things are starting to heat up at the Nassau County Public Safety Department's Headquarters in East Meadow. CSEA members employed in the department are all instrumental in protecting more than 80 parks, preserves and museum, especially during the summer.

"The May 7 Long Island Marathon really starts the season for us," said Public Safety employee and CSEA member Frank Ambrosini. They were responsible for traffic control at the marathon, as the workers were with the Triathlon and March of Dimes Walk in April.

Public Safety's responsibilities this summer will include working 58 shows and concerts at the Harry Chapin Theatre, maintaining security at the Aquatic Center and the Long Island Fair. In past year, the workers have escorted Olympic swimmers in and out of the Aquatic Center and will continue to do so.

Even though summer is the hot season for Public Safety, they are actually on call at all times throughout the year. They work with the Police Department to help preserve Nassau County. "Everything we do is with the Police Department," Public Safety employee Dave Beebe said. They help protect all Nassau County office buildings, and Public Safety's newest responsibility is handling security at the Department of Social Services in Uniondale.

**From top to bottom: Public Safety Headquarters at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow; Public Safety Employee/CSEA member Paul Jording; Public Safety Employees/CSEA members Dave Beebe, left, and Frank Ambrosini.**



'The May 7 Long Island Marathon really starts the season for us.'



## Behind the Scenes With Nassau County Parks Workers

**EAST MEADOW** — On April 26, CSEA officers visited members at the Nassau County Parks Department, based at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow. CSEA has 260 members in the Parks, Recreation and Museums Department.

Here are some behind the scenes photos of workers in the sign shop, carpenter shop and electricians:



Top photo: Sign shop workers Jim Bello, Alex Condelles and Joe Castiglia



Above, Carpenter Tony Goncalves with Department of Public Works employee Joe Ginobbi

Left, Electrical Supervisor Edward Scotti

**Summer Recreation**

## A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility Employees of the Month Honored



Helen Keating, registered nurse and nursing supervisor at A. Holly Patterson, left, and Cynthia Rolley, CNA, A. Holly

At a reception recently held at A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility, Cynthia Rolley, a certified nursing assistant, was honored as the April Employee of the Month for the nursing home. Rolley exemplifies the qualities so desired in employees having to deal with a senior population. She devotes herself to treating all the residents with dignity and caring.

Gladis Smith, housekeeper at A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility, was honored as the March Employee of the Month

for the nursing home. Smith, who resides in East Meadow, is a dedicated employee who devotes herself to ensuring the residents of A. Holly Patterson live in a pleasant environment. She is well-liked by her fellow employees and is an asset to the nursing home.

**Andrea Acquavella, director of housekeeping at A. Holly Patterson, left, and Gladis Smith, housekeeper at A. Holly Patterson**



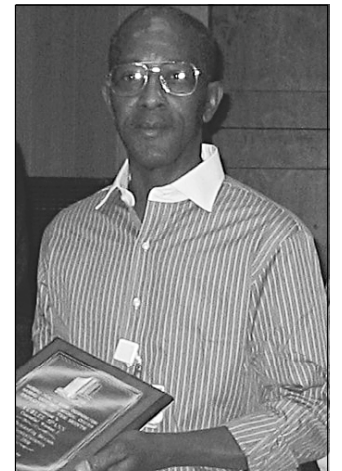
## NHCC Employees of the Month Honored



Clerk-Supervisor Sonia Rivera

Sonia Rivera, a clerk-supervisor at the Hempstead Community Health Center, was recently honored as the April Employee of the Month for the Nassau Health Care Corporation. Rivera, a resident of Long Beach, has been working for the corporation for more than 10 years. A dedicated and skilled employee, Rivera ensures the patients are being provided with efficient and professional service during their visits to the Hempstead Community Health Center.

At a reception, Curlee Spann, a food service worker, was honored as the April Employee of the Month for the Nassau University Medical Center. Spann, a Queens resident, has been a valuable asset to the Food and Nutrition Department, completing and volunteering to do any task that is required. His attendance is excellent and he is very willing to please his customers in the cafeteria.



Food Service Worker Curlee Spann

**ANNOUNCING**



### MEMBER BENEFITS WORKSHOP

Hosted by Member Benefits Specialist  
**Delores Carter**

Thursday, June 15 from 5-7 p.m.  
at the Local 830 office  
400 County Seat Drive, Mineola

**MAXIMUM OF 25 PEOPLE FOR THE CLASS,  
SO SIGN UP NOW!**

### THE WORKSHOP INCLUDES:

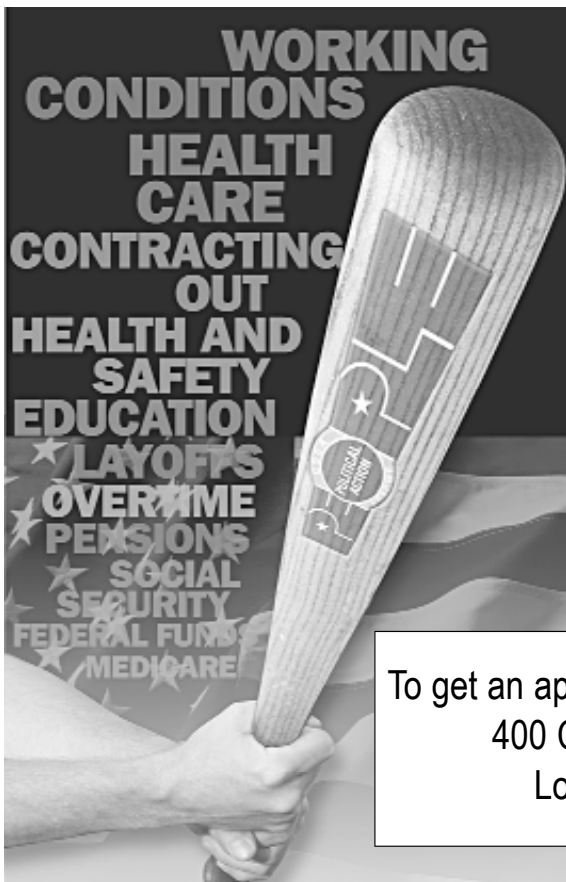
- Presentation and discussion on CSEA member benefits
- Opportunity to ask questions on what's important to YOU!

### AND MUCH MORE!

Call Ryan Mulholland or Susan Cohen at the Local 830 office at 516-571-2919 to sign up!

Hope to see you there!

# Let's step up to the plate!



Powerful interest groups want to take away your pension, make you pay more for your health care and privatize your job. They think we're too expensive.

CSEA's PEOPLE program gives us a way to fight back. PEOPLE (Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality) protects and improves our jobs, benefits and pensions in Washington, Albany and in Nassau County. Your support and participation in PEOPLE strengthens CSEA's clout in the workplace, in the legislature, in the county and in the labor movement. President Jerry Laricchiuta believes that with our legislative and political clout we can fight back and win.

To help with our recruitment goals Nassau County Local 830 has taken the PEOPLE Challenge to do PEOPLE recruitment. We are paired up against Erie County Local 815.



To get an application, stop by the CSEA Local 830 office at 400 County Seat Drive or call Nancy Ianson, Local 830 PEOPLE chair, at 571-2919.

Join PEOPLE today and help us win the PEOPLE challenge.

## Veteran's Corner

By Debbie O'Connell

As the weather heats up going into the summer months, so does the action surrounding the CSEA Veterans Committee. Here are some important upcoming dates to take note of:

**June 2** is the Veterans, Active Duty and Reserve Jobs and Education Fair at Nassau Community College, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the College Center Building (CCB).

**July 8** is the Mini Stand Down BBQ Style hosted by the American Legion, Hempstead Post #390, where the committee will participate.

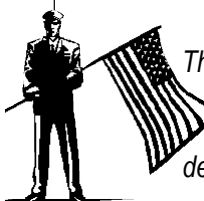
**Aug. 8** will be a Salute to Veterans at Eisenhower Park at 6:45 p.m. Kingston Trio and USO Troupe will be entertainment.

Finally, just a reminder that Nassau County has an active duty military population of more than 400 soldiers and a reservist and National Guard membership of more than 1,000 people. A new website has been created to help their spouses who are looking for work.

The Military Spouse Corporate Career Network can be located at [www.MSCCN.org](http://www.MSCCN.org).

Also, don't forget to support our food and clothing drive and let us know of any family members deployed abroad. Have a good summer!

**PLEASE LET US KNOW OF FAMILY MEMBERS DEPLOYED OVERSEAS!**



*The CSEA Local 830 Veterans Committee would like to support members and families of those deployed abroad*

Please notify with person's name and relationship to you:

Debbie O'Connell: 571-2919 Ext. 22  
or  
Stephen Cohen 571-2919 Ext. 21

**THANK YOU!**

**HELP US REMEMBER THE VETERANS!**



CSEA is collecting non-perishable or personal care items for **HOMELESS VETERANS!**

*(All items must be in original packaging)*

Toothpaste • Toothbrush • Soap • Deodorant  
Sun Screen • Shaving Cream • Disposable Razors  
Insect Repellent • Lip Balm • Snacks  
Prepaid Phone Cards

**Also, small backpacks/tote bags for clothes**

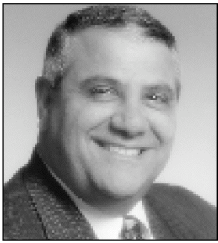
**PLEASE DROP OFF ITEMS IN UNSEALED BOXES BY FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2006**

AT THE CSEA LOCAL OFFICE  
400 COUNTY SEAT DRIVE, MINEOLA  
SOUTH WING — LOWER LEVEL  
9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

**For more information, call Debbie O'Connell at 571-2919 ext. 22**

## A Message From Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte

# You Have the Right to Union Representation



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Do you know who Leura Collins is? In June 1972, she was working as a sales clerk when she was accused of taking money from a register.

During the interrogations that resulted, Collins repeatedly asked for the assistance of a union representative. Her requests were either ignored or denied by management. Though Collins was not disciplined as a result of the probe, she told her union about it, and an unfair labor practice was filed against the retail chain, Weingarten, Inc.

The case was fought all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled the store had violated the National Labor Relations Act. This decision, NLRB vs. Weingarten, Inc., established that private sector unionized workers have an absolute right to representation during an interrogation, in which the employee is a potential target for disciplinary action. The worker must ask for his or her union rep to be present.

The private sector employer is not required to tell the worker about his right to representation.

**In addition to the right to have a union representative, the employer must advise the public employee they have that right.**

All CSEA state contracts provide covered employees with the right to union representation at a disciplinary interrogation. Recently, a PERB ruling extended that right to all public sector workers. Further, the law was amended a few years ago to provide this right. In addition to the right to have a union representative, the employer must advise the public employee they have that right.

But again, the worker must ask for union representation during an interrogation.

This is the reason that you may have a little blue card in your wallet. It explains your rights during an interrogation at work.

- You can request CSEA representation.
- You have the right to know why you are being questioned.
- You have the right to speak to your CSEA representative before and during questioning.

**Contact your shop steward, grievance representative or your CSEA officer for help. If you don't know who to speak to, call the region office and ask for a Labor Relations Specialist (LRS).**

In addition to your elected officers, CSEA has staff in Education and Training, Field Services and the Legal departments to help you, but often the **first** step in protecting your rights is to know what they are.

Just remember that CSEA is here for you. All you have to do is ask for help.

In solidarity,

Nick LaMorte, president  
Long Island Region

If you may be disciplined, and you are facing tough questions:


**SAVE THE DATE!**

*It's never too early to plan your holiday season!*

**CSEA Local 830 Annual Holiday Party**



Dec. 17, 2006  
*Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury*



**LOCAL 830'S NEW RADIO SHOW**


**"Talkin' Labor with Local 830"**

Hosted by  
CSEA Local 830  
President Jerry Laricchiuta

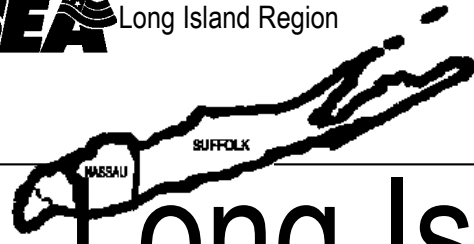
CSEA Local 830's new radio show debuted April 19. If you haven't checked it out yet, tune in:

**WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 p.m. on WGBB 1240 AM**

Past guests included CSEA Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, Former CSEA Local 830 President Tony Giustino and Nassau County Parks Commissioner Jose Lopez.



TUNE IN EACH WEEK TO FIND OUT ALL THE LATEST IN CSEA NEWS THAT MATTERS THE MOST TO OUR MEMBERS!



# Long Island Reporter

## If it needs doing, Southampton workers get it done

'There's always something going on, and it always has to have been done two days ago.'



Above, Chris Bean and Eileen Langsdorf supervise an activity for young children at Red Creek Park, the largest in the Town of Southampton. Bean is shop steward for recreation employees.



At left, Matt Kropps mows one of the ball fields at Red Creek Park. "There's always lots of grass to cut," Rich Loetscher says.

**S**OUTHAMPTON — The 30 CSEA members of the town's Parks & Recreation Department have a lot of work maintaining dozens of facilities and leading the leisure activities the town offers its 55,000 residents and many thousands more summer visitors.

"We've got our fingers in a lot of stuff," said Rich Loetscher, a shop steward for Parks members for 15 years and chairperson of Suffolk Local

**Southampton workers** cont'd from Page 1

852's Safety and Health and Election committees.

CSEA members cut the grass at dozens of baseball and soccer fields, and keep tennis and basketball courts, swimming pools, an ice skating rink and a skateboard park in good repair.

They run plumbing lines to a water fountain near a ball field. They keep Town Hall in good shape. In the winter, members plow the snow so fisherman can get to their boats at one of the largest commercial fishing ports in the state. They put up the tents for the annual senior picnic and serve the 350 seniors who attend. They maintain five cemeteries and a 14-by-14 foot plot that marks the grave of a horse — the Indian preacher's horse — killed by one of the first trains arriving at the East End 150 years ago,

now a state historical site.

In the summer, when the population doubles, seasonal workers serve as lifeguards and ticket-takers at the entrances to town beaches, which include some of the world's finest and best known on the Atlantic. They are remodeling an oceanside bar the town bought and is turning into a catering facility.

When piping plovers begin nesting on the beach, CSEA members fence off the area. They restore the lifeguard chairs that dot the beaches and put them in place. They repair beach pavilions, stain boardwalks, repaint buoys and sink piles to build docks for boaters. They run summer day camps for 500 youngsters and lead weeklong baseball, lacrosse, golf (for adults and children), soccer, surfing and multi-sports camps as well as

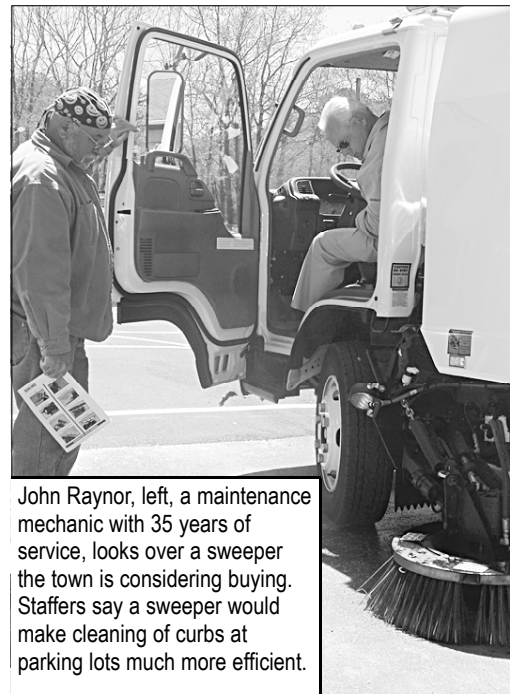
give swimming lessons.

They offer art classes and instruction in in-line skating and square dancing. They maintain the short trustee roads that lead to the beaches, clean the parking lots, collect the trash, repaint the trash bins, recycle cardboard and cans. They put up and maintain the signs on the roads and beaches.

They build park benches. The unit's members maintain the snow fences on the beaches, plant shrubs and irrigate flowers beside some of the main roads and near the Hampton Bay railroad station. They maintain historic sites in the town, such as the 1822 windmill in Sag Harbor, and lead schoolchildren on trips to them.

"There's always something going on," said Loetscher, "and it always has to have

been done two days ago."

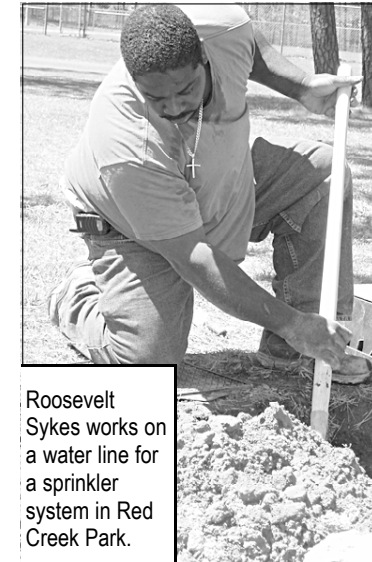


John Raynor, left, a maintenance mechanic with 35 years of service, looks over a sweeper the town is considering buying. Staffers say a sweeper would make cleaning of curbs at parking lots much more efficient.

This cemetery on Millstone Brook Road is one of five maintained by Parks & Recreation Department staffers.



Dave Thommen, a 20-year employee, was hired primarily as a plumber but is now a "general service" guy. "I do a little carpentry, a little electricity, a little plumbing, a little bit of everything."



Roosevelt Sykes works on a water line for a sprinkler system in Red Creek Park.



Andrew (Such) Kuroski, left, an experienced nurseryman who recently joined the staff, talks with Rich Loetscher about planting of shrubs and bushes.



Dave Roche, left, and Jason Jude are shown with one of the department's mowers. This one can cut an 11-foot-wide swath of grass.



Groundskeeper Jim Chism is a newcomer, having joined the department a year ago.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Oyster Bay Local Executive Vice President Bobby Rauff, along with SUNY Stony Brook Local Executive Vice President Debbie Nappi-Gonzalez and Judiciary Local President Kevin Ray, make a passionate appeal for work site safety. See pages 4 and 5 for story, more photos.

Message from Long Island Region President  
Nick LaMorte



**G**reetings Brothers and Sisters,

Do you know who Leura Collins is? In June 1972, she was working as a sales clerk when she was accused of taking money from a register.

During the interrogations that resulted, Collins repeatedly asked for the assistance of a union representative. Her requests were either ignored or denied by management. Though Collins was not disciplined as a result of the probe, she told her union about it, and an unfair labor practice was filed against the retail chain, Weingarten, Inc.

The case was fought all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled the store had violated the National Labor Relations Act. This decision, NLRB vs. Weingarten, Inc., established that private sector unionized workers have an absolute right to representation during an interrogation in which the employee is a potential target for disciplinary action. The worker must ask for his or her union rep to be present.

The private sector employer is not required to tell the worker about his right to representation.

All CSEA state contracts provide covered employees with the right to union representation at a disciplinary interrogation. Recently, a PERB ruling extended that right to all public sector workers. Further, the law was amended a few years ago to provide this right. In addition to the right to have a union

representative, the employer must advise the public employee that they have that right.

But again, the worker must ask for union representation during an interrogation.

This is the reason that you may have a little blue card in your wallet. It explains your rights during an interrogation at

work.

If you may be disciplined and you are facing tough questions:

- You can request CSEA representation.
- You have the right to know why you are being questioned.
- You have the right to speak to your CSEA representative before and during questioning.

**Contact your shop steward, grievance representative or your CSEA officer for help. If you don't know who to speak to, call the region office and ask for a Labor Relations Specialist (LRS).**

In addition to your elected officers, CSEA has staff in Education and Training, Field Services and the Legal departments to help you, but often the *first* step in protecting your rights is to know what they are.

Just remember that CSEA is here for you. All you have to do is ask for help.

In solidarity,

Nick LaMorte, president  
Long Island Region

LaMorte honored by fraternal group

CSEA Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte recently received the Golden Lion Award from the Order Sons of Italy in America from the order's New York state President Carlo Matteucci.

The order recognized LaMorte's lifetime of work fighting for the rights of CSEA members.

"I accept this award not for me, but on behalf of the 50,000 Long Island Region members I represent. They work hard providing essential services every day," LaMorte said.

While accepting the award, he stressed the importance of members' daily contributions to their communities.

"I would ask you that when you find your roads are plowed and in good repair; when your children return home safe after a day in a warm, well-maintained school; when you get a state license or permit; when you are helped at University Hospital, Nassau University Medical Center, or your local library — remember to thank a CSEA member because they made it happen for you," LaMorte said.

"Everything I have done as a CSEA officer has been to advance or defend the rights of my members," he said. "When CSEA members are able to achieve a better standard of living; when they are accorded the respect they deserve; when their rights are respected and they are treated with dignity on the job, then my mission has been fulfilled."



Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, seated in center with his wife, Carolyn, is congratulated by, from left, Long Island Region Office Manager Jennifer Nagy, Political Action Coordinator Gretchen Penn, Retirement Counselor Laret Williams, SUNY Old Westbury Local 1st Vice President Laura Gallagher, Long Island Region Director Ron King and Pearl Carroll & Associates Insurance Representative Benny Torres.

In memory  
Thomas Walsh,  
father of Local 852 President Bill Walsh

CORAM — Thomas Walsh, father of Local 852 President Bill Walsh, died May 6.

Because he was proud to be a veteran, the family is requesting that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Jacob's Light Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation that provides care packages through its Adopt-a-Soldier program. Visit the foundation's website at [www.jacobsprogram.org](http://www.jacobsprogram.org).

Condolences to the family may be sent to the local at 625 Middle Country Road, Coram, N.Y. 11727.

# Inside Reporter

## CSEA prays for the dead ...

HAUPPAUGE — CSEA activists and officers recently paid tribute to members Michael Sallee of the Miller Place School District and Patrick Mapleson of the state Department of Transportation, who lost their lives on the job during the last year.

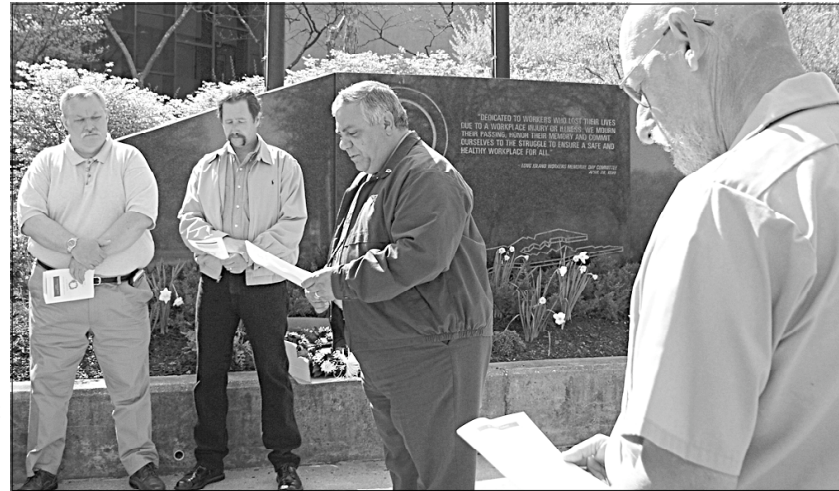
During a moving ceremony at the Suffolk County Workers' Memorial, they laid a wreath that said, "CSEA Members Care," and rededicated themselves to ensure safety and security is improved for all workers.

"We cannot bring back our brothers Michael Sallee or Patrick Mapleson, but we can vow to do everything possible to make sure that these tragedies don't happen again," said CSEA Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte.

Sallee was electrocuted while working on a project at the Miller Place School District last August. Mapleson was hit by a cement truck while repairing potholes with the Department of Transportation in March.

"Our people are in danger every day. It's a miracle that there are so few accidents," Long Island Department of Transportation Local President Bill Stodolski said. "Motorists regularly exceed speed limits. Our workers are just an inconvenience for them. They throw things at us and get very angry, and have little regard for our safety. We're really there to make things safer for everyone."

Sallee, a former union officer, was remembered by his good friend and longtime colleague Corey Brienes. "Mike always said he would make a change in this place somehow, and that's why we became union officers," he said. "We wanted to change and make things better for everyone."



In an effort to make that goal a reality, many CSEA activists and officers participated in a spirited rally outside the state Capitol building in Albany on May 3 to press for state legislation that will make public work sites safer.

The Worksite Security Act (S. 6441; A. 9691) would require public employers with more than 20 employees to assess risk and develop a plan of action to prevent potential workplace violence. The bill would also establish a complaint procedure for workers to call attention to the potential for violence.

Shouting, "Secure work sites now!" and "Sign the bill now!," CSEA members called for swift action on this critical issue. Last year, both houses of the state legislature passed similar CSEA-backed safety legislation, only to have Gov. George Pataki veto the bill.

"Our court officers have been attacked by inmates or their relatives," LaMorte said. "State mental hygiene workers have been attacked by mentally ill clients; highway workers can be killed or maimed by equipment failure or many kinds of neglect. We say enough is enough! We call on state lawmakers to act because contrary to what people may think, safety is never an accident."

"There are a lot of things on my job site that could be handled a little better," said Edwin McDowell, a motor equipment operator in Hempstead who attended the Albany rally. "Safety is definitely a concern; it should come first."

Janice Bradley, who collects and repairs parking meters for Hempstead, admitted that she's now more observant of her surroundings when she's handling the money. "I would really like to see better security at those times," she said. "We do team up but there are plenty of times when we're by ourselves."

## ... and fights like hell for the living

Retired state parks worker Jesse Hunt also came out to press for better work site safety. "When I was working at Jones Beach, (members of the public would commit suicide) there," he said. "One guy stabbed himself and one of the cops. Another guy came after our workers with a machete one day. These things can happen."

George Walsh, Chair of the Long Island Region Safety and Health Committee, said there are many safety and security hazards. "I've heard about our people dealing with mold or asbestos in their buildings," he said. "Nurses getting abused by patients; sometimes even schoolchildren's parents become abusive to staff. These kinds of things all have to be addressed."

Long Island Developmental Center Local President Darryl Wilson attended the rally because he said there's a real need for better protections. "It's not our job to get spit on, hit, kicked or injured on the job," he said. "These things occur and management tells us that's part of the job. I'm here to say that's not our job."

"One time, a woman attacked one of our workers while he was running a chainsaw. Another time, one of our guys was moving snow with a pay loader and an irate homeowner dragged the guy out of the truck and beat him," said Roger Zimmerman, who works for the Oyster Bay Parks Department. "It's just insane that people get injured on the job."

Jill Mallon, 1st Vice President of the Long Island Department of Transportation Local, said she felt a special obligation to support the rally and fight for this legislation. "We're a union family in my home. The only way you get anything done is with a union fighting for you," she said. "So, hopefully, this push will make the bill become law this time."

— Rachel Langert

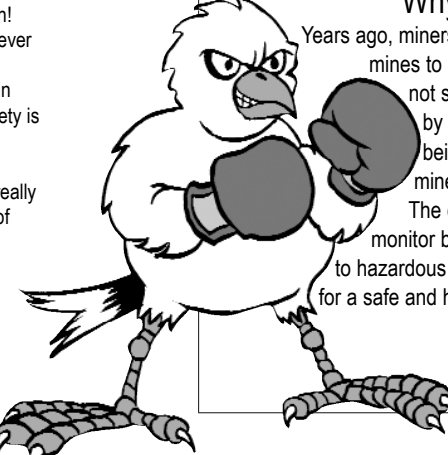
From top to bottom: SUNY Farmingdale Local President Tom Dodney and Town of Oyster Bay member Roger Zimmerman also turned out for the rally; Long Island Department of Transportation Local 1st Vice President Jill Mallon and Long Island Developmental Center Local President Darryl Wilson were among those attending the rally; Long Island Region members join our mascot, the CSEA Canary, in calling on the state to secure work sites now. Even the youngest activist, Sarah Ruby Alessi, lent her voice to the cause.

On opposite page, top photo, Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte leads the CSEA workers' memorial tribute, while Judiciary Local President Kevin Ray, Suffolk Educational Local 1st Vice President Harry Ader and Miller Place School District member Tony Montefusco bow their heads; bottom photo, some of the Long Island Region members who joined their CSEA brothers and sisters from around the state.



## Secure Worksites NOW!





### Why The Canary?

Years ago, miners would take canaries into the mines to use them as monitors. Miners could not sense many hazardous gases, and by the time they were aware they were being poisoned, it was too late for the miners to react.

The canary seemed like a perfect monitor because it would react immediately to hazardous gases. The Canary is your monitor for a safe and healthy workplace.



## Central Islip Library Unit fights trustees

CENTRAL ISLIP — The trustees of the Central Islip Public Library just don't get it.

They claim they can violate their contract with the Central Islip Library Unit of Suffolk Local 852 which represents 50 library employees. The trustees say they didn't mean it when they signed the contract so they shouldn't have to live up to the agreement.

A State Supreme Court judge in Central Islip found for the union but the trustees intend to appeal the decision.

"We won the court case," said Grace Perez, president of the unit, expressing the hope the board will decide not to appeal. "We did everything by the book and won, and we think that's enough now."

So far the trustees have spent \$15,000 on legal fees and court costs. If they appeal, their costs will likely triple, which would be close to the amount the trustees refuse to pay the employees.

The four-year contract, which expires at the end of this month, calls for step increases in the third and fourth years. Instead of paying the step increases, however, the trustees offered a one-time across-the-board increase that would not

have been included in the salary schedule.

The union then took the trustees to court, with Paul Levitt, CSEA Suffolk regional attorney, representing the unit.

The unit members have begun demonstrating at the trustees' monthly meetings and having members attend in a show of solidarity. Before the May 2 meeting, 35 members, supporters in the community and librarians from other units of Local 852 demonstrated in the rain. "We had about 35 people, neighbors, we recruited everyone we could get our hands on," said Perez.

Local 852 President Bill Walsh addressed the trustees, pointing out that everyone had just recited the Pledge of Allegiance, which ends "with liberty and justice for all."

"That's what our members want," he said. "They won the court case and the trustees should pay them."

"You are wasting taxpayers' money," he added.

The library workers plan to protest again at the next trustees meeting, on June 6.

Labor Relations Specialist Ken



Local 852 President Bill Walsh speaks to Central Islip Library Unit members and supporters before the group went to the trustees meeting on May 2. Grace Perez, center, president of the unit, wears a sign telling the trustees that the union members demand respect for themselves and their contract.

Brotherton works with the union which is made up of librarians, principal, senior and library clerks and maintenance employees, full- and part-time.

"We are absolutely firm," said Perez. "We have been patient and gone through all the procedures quietly. It's time the public knows how their money is being thrown away. We are now going to be heard. We are a voice and a big voice."



Anne Zwerlein and Shep attend CSEA's Occupational Safety and Health Conference in Lake Placid. She has served as an elected officer of the unit for the past five years.

## Security officer's training leads guide dogs

NORTH HEMPSTEAD — While Anne Zwerlein and Shep, her golden retriever puppy, were at CSEA's Occupational Safety and Health conference in Lake Placid recently, both were engaged in learning.

Zwerlein, 3rd vice president of the North Hempstead Unit of Nassau Municipal Local 882, was learning about improving safety on the job. Shep was there as part of his training to become a guide dog for visually impaired people.

"We get puppies between 7 and 9 weeks and begin the socialization process," said Zwerlein, a 22-year town employee who works as a security officer in the Parks & Recreation Department. "That is basically teaching them how to behave in public and how to interact with the public. We take the dogs into public settings, malls, train stations, restaurants.

"Shep accompanies me to most of my union business, including labor-management meetings in the Town of North

Hempstead, so he's in settings similar to where he will be when in working situations," said Zwerlein, who is the unit's grievance committee co-chair and has served on the negotiations committee since 1988.

If Shep is medically fit at the end of his first year, he'll be returned to the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind in Smithtown, his owner. Shep will undergo formal training for a period that runs from four months to a year, depending on his aptitude, and will then be presented to a visually disabled person.

"They try to match the personality of the person to the personality of the dog," said Zwerlein. "A more playful person would go with a younger dog, a more sedate dog with an older person. Dogs, like people, have their own strengths and weaknesses. A shy or timid dog is not fit for service in the city. You want boldness, competence and control, a dog that can

control itself."

The dogs are extremely helpful for the visually impaired. "The guide dogs make it a lot easier and faster for people to move about in urban and suburban settings," she said.

The length of the guide dog's service depends largely on where the person lives. In a high stress situation, the service could be five years; in a suburban setting, as much as eight years.

Shep is the fifth guide dog in training that Zwerlein and Richard, her husband, who also works for the Parks & Recreation Department, have taken into their home. "This is definitely a two-person operation," she said. "Without his help, there's no way I could do it."

Two of the five dogs, Misty and Sam, were medically disqualified, and remain with the Zwerleins. Two other dogs continued their training and went into service. The Zwerleins have a fourth dog, Dolly, a mini-schnauzer.

Zwerlein also speaks to

groups about the guide dog program, usually taking Shep along. "When I speak to the public, I try to tell them what they can and cannot do when they see working guides," she said.

One recent evening she spoke to a Cub Scout pack in Seaford. The Cubs are taking part in Pennies for Puppies, which will raise funding for the Guide Dog Foundation. "Fund raising is very important because these dogs are presented to the recipient at no cost," said Zwerlein. The value of the dog when it's finished training is upward of \$30,000."

# Around the Region



## Calendar of Upcoming Events: June 2006

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 - Local 430 General Membership Meeting — 1 - 5 p.m. | 20 - Health and Safety Committee Meeting — 5 p.m.                       |
| 5 - Human Rights Committee Meeting — 5:30 p.m.        | 23 - Constitution and By-Laws Committee Meeting — 6 p.m.                |
| 7 - Education & Training Committee Meeting — 6 p.m.   | 24 - Defensive Driving — 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.                                |
| 13 - PEOPLE Committee Meeting — 5 p.m.                | 27 - Political Action Committee Meeting — 5:30 p.m.                     |
| 14 - Defensive Driving — 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.             | 28 - Local Government Private Sector Grievance Workshop — 5:30 - 9 p.m. |
| 15 - Defensive Driving — 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.             | 29 - Local Government Private Sector Grievance Workshop — 5:30 - 9 p.m. |
| 19 - Women's Committee Meeting — 5:30 p.m.            |   |

## LIDC clerical staff honored

MELVILLE — They say that nothing works without clerks. With that in mind, CSEA officials and management at the Long Island Developmental Center recently joined forces to say "thank you," to the entire clerical staff on Administrative Professionals Day.

Long Island Developmental Center Local officers, including Executive Vice President Ronnie Oliver, worked hard to put together for the workers a successful celebration lunch.

"We're here because CSEA cares, and the work you do every day is a reflection of that," said Long Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office Director Irene McGinn. "What I very much appreciate is that people here own what they do. They don't walk around saying, 'That's not my job.'"

"I just want to thank each and every one of you for all the great work you do every day for the consumers and for the public," Local 3rd Vice President Michaelle Jackson said.



Long Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office Director Irene McGinn and Long Island Developmental Center Local President Darryl Wilson sing workers' praises during Administrative Professionals' Day celebration.

## Lake Grove Unit starts contract talks

LAKE GROVE — Negotiators for the Lake Grove Unit of Suffolk Municipal Local 852 held their first bargaining session on a contract renewal with the village April 27.

The unit's bargaining team includes President Bill Parente, Pete Tronair and Bill Mausling. Labor Relations Specialist Guy DiCosola is assisting the negotiators.

The current three-year agreement expires May 31.

CSEA represents blue and white-collar employees of the village, which is in the western section of Brookhaven.

## State Negotiation Kick off



Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, left, solicits nominations from region and state local officers for the statewide negotiating committee. From left, LaMorte, Judicial Local 330 President Kevin Ray, SUNY Farmingdale Local President Tom Dowdney, SUNY Old Westbury Local 1st Vice President Laura Gallagher, SUNY Stony Brook Local President Carlos Speight, Long Island Developmental Center Local President Daryl Wilson and Region 3rd Vice President Bobby Holland.

COMMACK — Local officers from the Long Island Region recently met to nominate members from the five state bargaining units to sit on the statewide negotiating team.

That team will hammer out a successor agreement between the state and CSEA.

The bargaining units involved are ASU – Administrative Services Unit, OSU – Operational Services Unit, ISU – Institutional Services Unit, DMNA – Division of Military and Naval Affairs and OCA – Office of Court Administration.

All state local presidents and region officers were given the opportunity to nominate members to CSEA's statewide negotiating team.

"This is important because CSEA is a grassroots union in which members will participate in negotiating the contract that will impact upon some 80,000 members around the state," said Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte.

The names will be submitted to President Danny Donohue. One member from each region will be selected for each bargaining unit to represent CSEA at the bargaining table.

## Lindenhurst DPW Unit holds fund raisers for member

LINDENHURST — CSEA members in the Lindenhurst Unit recently held a couple of very successful fund-raising events for one of their own.

Vinny Radmann, a Lindenhurst Department of Public Works employee with 20 years of service, is undergoing cancer treatment at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Unit President Tony Poldino announced the unit was able to raise more than \$20,000 in March to help the Radmanns pay their mounting medical bills. In May, the unit held an auction and raised about \$37,000.

"It was amazing how people pulled together," said Poldino. "Everybody knows somebody with cancer, so people really felt for (Radmann). Our thoughts and prayers will be with him when he undergoes surgery in June."



Members Vinny Radmann and Sharon Guarini at a recent fund-raiser

# SUNY Old Westbury fighting contracting out

OLD WESTBURY — Members of the State University of New York at Old Westbury Local are again battling the contracting out of union members' jobs on the campus to private companies.

Local President Mary D'Antonio is setting up a meeting with college officials to urge them to stop contracting out tasks such as cleaning dormitory rooms and maintaining the grounds.

"We had this same problem years ago when they brought in Marriott," said D'Antonio. "We hope we can win again."

Two nearby colleges, Briarcliffe College and the New York Institute of Technology, rent dormitory space for their students from the state college and use an outside company to clean those rooms.

The SUNY administration has begun bringing in the same company to clean the dormitory rooms of Old Westbury students on weekends. CSEA wants the college to either pay union members overtime to clean on weekends or hire additional staff for a Friday through Wednesday workweek.

"The administration complains about the job our people do, but they do have supervisors in the dorms and there have never been any complaints about our people," said D'Antonio. "They don't give us adequate supplies or equipment in the dormitories. It's like they're trying to sabotage our people."

***They don't give us adequate supplies or equipment in the dormitories. It's like they're trying to sabotage our people.***

She said there was a large area to keep clean and only five cleaners to do the work although there are supposed to be nine cleaners for the dorms.

The union is also fighting against contracting out work on the grounds.

"I came out two Sundays ago and saw a private landscaping company clearing bushes on the grounds," said D'Antonio. "We went from 11 groundskeepers to five, with nobody

being laid off. They just haven't hired anybody. Our groundskeepers are such hard workers — they do all the delivering on campus, all the moving of furniture on campus and keep up 604 acres of grounds on campus. I was shocked to see this outside contractor."

Among the proposals CSEA will bring to the meeting are having members work in teams cleaning the dorms, rotating the teams in the dormitories because some buildings are harder to clean than others and adding supervisors in dormitories where there are none now. "We'd like to see a supervisor promoted from within the ranks, and we'd like to see them hire more union members," D'Antonio said.

Expected to join her at the meeting will be Local 2nd Vice President Tommy Noble and Secretary-Treasurer Karen Carlen-Murray.

"If we don't have good results from the meeting, we plan to hold demonstrations so the administration will be well aware of the problem," D'Antonio said.

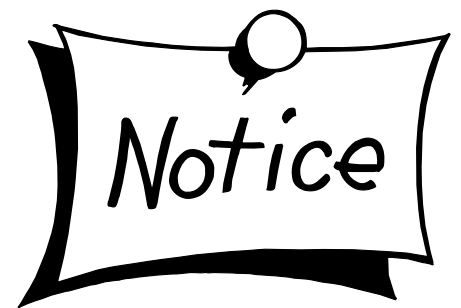


**CSEA Labor Relations Specialist Guy DiCosola and SUNY Stony Brook Local President Carlos Speight discuss the action plan to address management's giving in-house construction work to outside contractors.**

## Stony Brook strikes back

CSEA Local 614 has filed several contract class action grievances and improper practice charges against management, regarding the exclusivity of CSEA member work, as well as demonstrated anti-union animus on the part of university hospital construction administrators.

The local has scheduled a meeting to update members about these and other matters: June 13 from 11 a.m. to 1p.m. in the Student Activities Center on the SUNY Stony Brook Campus, Ballroom A.



## Making a difference

FARMINGDALE — Barbara Sarringer and the Operation Shoebox packers will be featured on News 12 Long Island's "People Making a Difference" broadcast May 26.

Sarringer, a secretary in the Psychology Department at Farmingdale State University, created Operation Shoebox, which provides a variety of personal items to U.S. military personnel serving in Iraq and other areas around the world.

## Info fair to be held

FARMINGDALE — Members of Farmingdale State University Local 606 will hold their annual picnic-barbecue and information fair June 16.

Local Secretary Amanda Gist is leading the committee planning the event, which will take place from noon to 4:30 p.m.

For more information about the event, call Gist at (631) 420-2656 or e-mail at amanda.gist@farmingdale.edu.

Tom Dowdney is the local president.

**FREE Admission**



CSEA is a major sponsor

**JUNE  
15-18  
University  
at Albany**



**Opening Ceremonies**  
8pm, June 15, 2006  
University at Albany

★★Join US to CHEER★★  
for our Athletes

For Volunteer or Competition Information:  
Call 800-836-6976 or visit our Website  
[www.specialolympicsNY.org](http://www.specialolympicsNY.org)