



SOLIDARITY ALL THE WAY — Gearing up for the September 19 Solidarity Day march on Washington are these CSEA members from three Albany locals — Labor, Taxation and Finance, and Parks and Recreation. They will be among some 6,000 CSEA members to rally alongside more than 100,000 union members in Washington.

AFL-CIO SOLIDARITY DAY

'taking a stand for a decent America'

Thousands of CSEA members will join the massive Solidarity Day march on Washington this Saturday, September 19, to protest the Reagan Administration's heartless budget cuts.

Our members, their families and their friends will march with tens of thousands of concerned American workers and citizens, adding their voices to the powerful "no" against the inhumanity of Reaganomics that will reverberate in the nation's capital.

The one-day demonstration called by the AFL-CIO promises to take its place in history as one of the great moments in the American labor movement. CSEA is proud to link hands with our brothers and sisters in the labor movement across the country to be part of it.

From each CSEA region, buses will roll forth jammed with union members eager to make their voices heard for jobs, justice, human rights and social equity.

Our message will be strong and clear: We are marching to reject the attacks upon education, social security, labor, health care and social programs. For the Administration's callous cutting of these programs touches us all in some way.

We are marching because we're concerned about threats to cut back the Social Security system. We're marching because unemployment is rising while unemployment coverage is being curtailed. We're marching because our jobs are being axed. We're marching because we can no longer count on federal grants to help send our kids to college.

And we're marching because we thought maybe we'd get a big tax cut from this administration, but they gave it to the rich guys, instead.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the American labor movement, there can be no

better — or more important — time to stand up and be counted. To fight back. To do something about what's happening to this country, to the economy and to American workers.

The Solidarity Day march on Washington, D.C. will be remembered as a peaceful demonstration by middle-class working people who will not accept this nation's retreat from social responsibility.

On behalf of the 200,000 members of CSEA, and all of our brothers and sisters in the labor movement across America, I want to express my thanks to the CSEA Solidarity Day marchers for taking a stand for a decent America by joining in one of the great social demonstrations of all time.

William L. McGowan

WILLIAM L. MCGOWAN
President

Convention delegate certification forms due

ALBANY — Friday, September 18 is the deadline for Locals to submit delegate certification forms for the Delegates Convention to be held next month at the Concord.

Forms must be signed by the Local President, and both copies sent to CSEA Headquarters for certification. Under new registration procedures, the forms are to be submitted 30 days in advance of the meeting for pre-registration and preparation of the roll call.

The stamped yellow copy will later be returned to the Locals, and delegates must bring the yellow copy with them to the convention registration area.

Delegates and alternates who are not properly pre-registered, who do not bring their yellow copies with them, or who reflect a change from pre-registration will be required to register at a separate booth at the convention for purposes of certification by the Credentials Committee.

"Our on-site registration procedures at the Concord should be much quicker and more pleasant for everyone if Locals would comply with our pre-registration procedures," commented statewide Secretary Irene Carr, who chaired a committee to study convention registration procedures. "We don't want any more people standing in line to be certified than are absolutely necessary."

Public SECTOR

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Tom McDonough home

ALBANY — CSEA Executive Vice President Thomas McDonough is recuperating at his home, having recently been discharged from St. Peter's Hospital, Albany, where he underwent surgery last month.

He is expected to convalesce at home for several weeks before resuming his union duties.

Scholarship winners ready for college

As summer comes to a close, the prospect of college brightens — especially for recipients of the Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial Scholarship awards.

A total of 18 grants (\$500 each) were awarded to three graduating high school students in each of CSEA's six regions. Only children of members qualified.

Best of luck to the scholarship winners, five of which are pictured on this page, as they begin their first of many semesters at college.

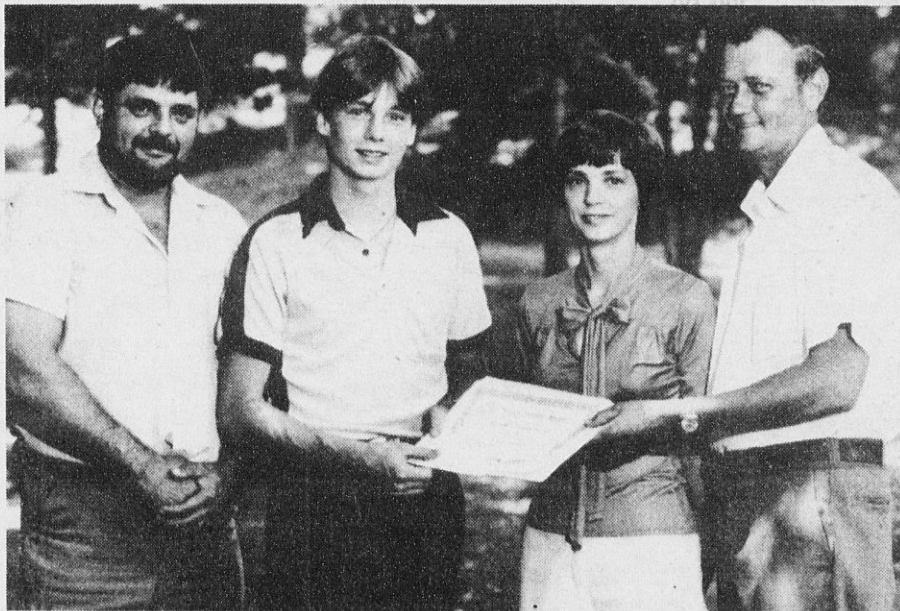
REGION I SCHOLARSHIP winners (right photo) Robert Petrelli, left, a Centerreach High School grad attending Columbia University, and John Yorke, right, of Massapequa High who is attending SUNY at Albany, accept CSEA Scholarship awards from CSEA Region I President Danny Donohue.



DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER Local 646 president Frances DuBose presents an Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial CSEA Scholarship check for \$500 to Deborah Barfield, daughter of Local 646 member Carrie Barfield. Deborah plans to attend the University of Maryland and pursue a career in journalism.



NORTH COUNTRY SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION HELD — CSEA Capital Region President Joseph E. McDermott, right, presents a 1981 CSEA one-year \$500 Scholarship award to Carol Tesar, daughter of Ann Tesar, second from left, an Account Clerk/Typist in Essex County and a member of CSEA Local 816. New CSEA Essex County President John McAlonan is at left.



RONALD T. KOSIER, second from left, holds an Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial CSEA Scholarship award presented by Albert Church, left, president of State University College at Oneonta Local 635. Ronald's proud parents, Jean and Joseph Kosier, are at right. Joseph Kosier is a member of CSEA Local 635, and his son, Ronald, is majoring in meteorology at Pennsylvania State University.



CREEDMOOR PSYCHIATRIC CENTER Local 406 president Clinton Thomas presents an Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial CSEA Scholarship check for \$500 to Karen Heyward, daughter of Local 406 member Lillian Heyward. Karen's father, Jack Heyward, looks on. Karen will attend Harvard University to study international relations.

CSEA JOB OPENINGS

Union seeking Benefit Fund Representative

ALBANY — CSEA is looking for an Employee Benefit Fund Representative to work at the Fund office at One Park Place here.

Duties include marketing various Fund programs to political subdivisions and state groups not already participating in them; assisting CSEA negotiators in collective bargaining; and explaining all aspects of Fund programs, including dental, prescription drug and optical plans.

The representative must have a good knowledge of the technical terminology peculiar to the dental, pharmaceutical and optical industries, and may be required to act as a consultant to CSEA field representatives.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in labor or industrial relations or public administration, or four years experience in administering a health insurance plan similar to Benefit

Fund programs. Two years of comparable experience may be substituted for each year of formal education. Experience in labor relations is desirable.

The starting salary range is \$18,000-22,000. Candidates must be in sound health and have a car for business use.

Submit resumes to Thomas-P. Collins, Director, Employee Benefit Fund, One Park Place, Albany, N.Y. 12205.

Buffalo Labor Studies Program underway

BUFFALO — The Buffalo Labor Studies Program has announced its list of courses for the 1981-82 term, marking the tenth year the division of Cornell University's New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations has offered a wide range of labor-related courses for working adults.

Coordinator Lou Jean Fleron said the courses are taught by experienced professionals in the labor relations field with a special interest in adult education.

"Our teaching methods utilize a maximum of discussion and emphasize understanding and application," said Ms. Fleron. "Assignments are given for preparation between classes, and we also have tutors available for help on writing and study skills to any student who needs it."

The core series of courses includes Labor Law I and II, Contract Administration, Arbitration, Labor Economics, Labor History, Labor Journalism, Labor, Government and Politics, and Union Administration.

Supplemental courses include OSHA Law and Administration, Industrial

Hygiene, Written and Oral Communication, Labor and the Arts, Workers Compensation, and Labor and Urban Problems.

A certificate in Labor Studies is awarded at the end of two years for completion of the ten basic courses. Each course carries one and a half undergraduate credits, the program totaling 15 credit hours.

Classes meet Wednesday evenings from 6:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on the State University College campus through three terms. Term I is September 23 through December 16, Term II is January 6 through March 24, and Term III is April 7 through May 12.

Tuition for Terms I and II is \$105 each and \$52.50 for the shorter Term III.

Region VI President Robert Lattimer said all tuition fees are refundable by CSEA to any member upon proof of successful completion of the course.

Interested students should contact Lou Jean Fleron, in care of NYSSILR, Cornell University, 120 Delaware Ave., Room 225, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202, phone 716-842-4270 for further information on registration, which is open on first-come first-served basis.

Edward LaPlante named chairman Rensselaer PAC

TROY — Edward LaPlante, an employee of the City of Troy Department of Public Utilities, has been named chairman of the Political Action Committee of Rensselaer County Local 842, according to Local President Marianne Herkenham. John Vallee, an employee of the Rensselaer Manor, has been named co-chairman.

Monte Hayde, a Troy City Hall employee, Richard Evans an employee of Hudson Valley Community College, Joseph Montepare, an employee of the Town of Brunswick, Gary Bryer, a County Deputy Sheriff, and Marta Tuthill, an employee of the Rensselaer County Social Services Department were also appointed to the Committee.

Endorsements by the CSEA Capital Region PAC of candidates seeking office in Rensselaer County will be based heavily on the recommendations of this Local Committee.

Mrs. Herkenham noted that over 11,000 public employees represented by CSEA or its national affiliate, AFSCME, reside within Rensselaer County.



MEMBERS OF HUDSON RIVER PSYCHIATRIC CENTER LOCAL 410 recently honored two long-time union activists. Madeline Mackey, a 22-year state worker who has served as local president and regional vice president, and Conrad Reilly, who has served as local president, were singled out for their involvement in CSEA. Taking part in the event were, from left, current Local 410 President Martin Mesuda, Mrs. Mackey, Region III President Ray O'Connor, Mr. Reilly and CSEA Field Rep. John Deyo.

Locals are still unreported

ALBANY — Some 149 Locals have still not reported their election results to CSEA Headquarters.

"This means we don't have a mailing and contact list for 47 percent of the Locals," commented Bernadine Dougal, CSEA's supervisor of stenographic services. "This, in turn, translates into a delay in mailing important materials to Locals, including new publications and reference materials and information about up-

coming meetings.

She added that only a small percentage of the Units have submitted the necessary information, which includes the names, addresses and business and home phone numbers of officers.

Information should be sent immediately to Stenographic Department, CSEA, 33 Elk Street, Albany, NY 12224.

DOL placement assistance bulletins are designed to aid federal budget victims

The Department of Labor has circulated Placement Assistance Bulletins in an effort to identify job opportunities available in other state agencies for employees affected or potentially affected by federal budget cuts.

The opportunities available will vary depending on an employee's status, preferred list rights, training and experience, and are not meant to replace any preferred list rights a laid-off worker may have.

The bulletins, printed on blue paper, have been posted on bulletin boards in various labor department offices throughout the state. CSEA members with questions about the bulletins should contact their local president.

While most of the anticipated job cuts in the Department of Labor will affect temporary and provisional employees and state workers in the Professional, Scientific and Technical (PS&T) bargaining units, the jobs of many CSEA members will also be affected.

Syosset unit gains 9.5% increase

SYOSSET — The Syosset unit of the Nassau Educational Local 865 has negotiated salary increases averaging 9.5 percent for the 1981-82 school year and the second year of the unit's two-year contract with the school.

In addition, the school board agreed to agency shop and an improved optical plan, according to Ben Gumin, president of the 220-member unit.



BLACK RIVER VALLEY LOCAL 015 recently installed new Officers at a meeting in Watertown. George McCarthy, Region V Executive Secretary, right, administers the oath to, left to right, Rocco Crescenzi, First Vice-President; Marie Oakes, Treasurer; Debbie Gillan, Secretary; Francis Mitchell, President. Absent for the photo session was Dave Shortsleeve, Second Vice-President.

Starpoint ratifies contract

PENDLETON — A new three-year contract for members of Starpoint School Unit of CSEA Local 872 is highlighted by increased wages.

The 50-member unit, comprised of cleaners, custodians, grounds personnel, bus drivers and cafeteria monitors, will receive hourly wage increases of 45 cents, 50 cents and 50 cents in each of the three years, respectively, of the pact.

Cleaners will receive an additional 25 cents per hour for work performed during Easter and Christmas holidays, and a 35 cents per hour bonus for work performed between July 1 and September 1 of each year.

An agency shop clause for employees hired after July 1, 1982, rounds out the major features of the contract.

The negotiating team led by CSEA Field Representative Tom Christy included President Doris Gabrys, Harold Leising and Shirley Woodcock.

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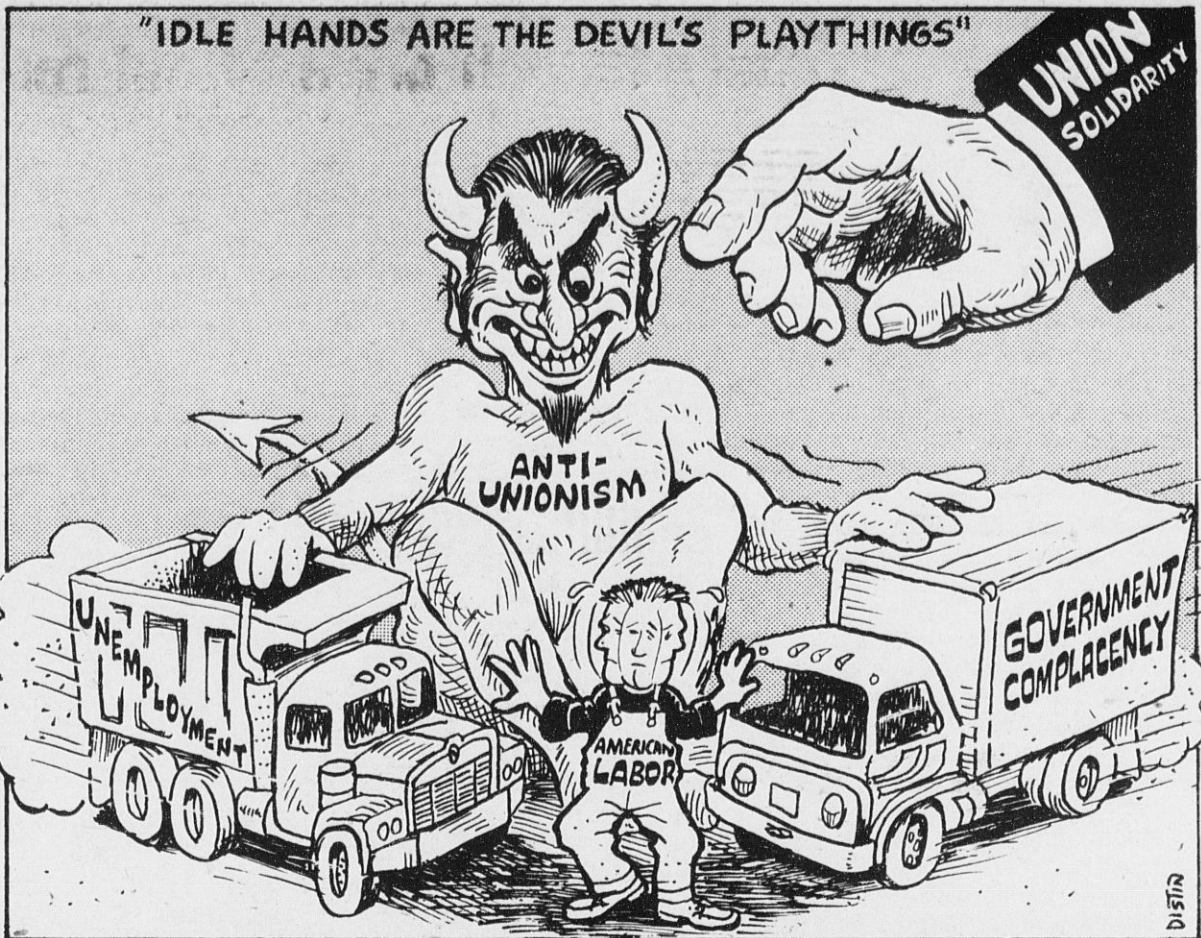
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As the American labor movement celebrates its Centennial in 1981, it is appropriate to look back at the history of the trade union movement in the United States to see where we've been, how far we've come, and where we're going. This article, seventh in a series, is condensed from the AFL-CIO publication "A Short History of American Labor"

When the modern labor movement observed its 50th anniversary in 1931, America and much of the world was sliding into a cataclysmic economic depression. Businesses failed by the thousands, production plummeted, and unemployment went through the roof. About 13.7 million Americans were unemployed, and national wage payments had dropped by 60 percent.

In 1932, when Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President, the economy was in chaos and the union movement was but a ghost of its former strength and numbers.

The next year, Congress passed the National Recovery Administration (NRA) act, which placed on the statute books the right of unions to exist and to negotiate with employers. AFL unions took advantage of the new green light and soon began to gain membership. Some issued leaflets suggesting that "President Roosevelt wants you to join the union."

The NRA was struck down by the courts. But in 1936, under the leadership of Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, Congress enacted the National Labor Relations Act — known as the Wagner Act. It established a legal basis for unions; set collective bargaining as a matter of national policy required by the law; provided for secret ballot elections for the choosing of unions; and protected union members from employer intimidation and coercion.

The Wagner Act, as amended in 1947 by the Taft-Hartley Act and in 1959 by the Landrum-Griffin Act, is still in force. It marked the coming-of-age of the American labor movement.

Union membership surged in the early years of the New Deal. But the great potential for organizing the important steel, automobile, rubber and tex-

tile industries led to the most serious schism in the history of the modern labor movement.

Heads of a number of the industrial unions in the AFL — headed by John L. Lewis of the Mine Workers — called upon the Federation to support big organizing campaigns in the non-union industries. These leaders wanted all workers in each industry to belong to one industrial, or "vertical," union. Until then, AFL-affiliated unions had been divided along craft, or "horizontal," lines.

In 1935, Lewis announced the creation of the Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO) to carry on the effort for industrial unionism.

Born in Iowa in 1880 of Welsh immigrant parents, Lewis worked as a miner and later was known as a remarkable orator. He voiced increasingly bitter attacks on the AFL leadership, and as a result, various CIO unions were expelled from the Federation in 1936.

In 1938, the CIO held its first constitutional convention and changed its name to the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Its organizing success was remarkable, especially in the steel, auto, rubber, glass, maritime, meat packing, and other mass production industries.

Growth in union strength of both the AFL and CIO throughout the period, coupled with President Roosevelt's domestic program, led to passage of a number of national social programs long advocated by the labor movement. These included the national social security program, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, and a federal minimum wage law. (The original minimum hourly wage set by the 1938 statute was 25 cents an hour.)

Restrictive eligibility requirements holding back women and minorities from top civil service jobs

ALBANY — Narrow eligibility requirements bar many women and minorities from top civil service jobs, a study by the Center for Women in Government has found.

"We found that when women and minorities are allowed to compete in the examination process, they do well," said Karen Burstein, President of the Center's Board of Directors. "The problem is they seldom hold one of a narrow group of job titles that make them eligible to compete for managerial positions."

Funded by the William H. Donner and Ford foundations, the Center study examined each stage of the New York State promotion process for 249 managerial selections in 1978-79.

Only an average of 12 percent of those eligible

to compete were women, noted Burstein, and only four percent were minorities.

"The Center conducted this study to find out why the numbers are so low and what we can do to increase them," Burstein said. "New York State is firmly committed to affirmative action. In recent years, New York's governor, Legislature, unions and state agencies have been particularly concerned about the low numbers of women and minorities in top level managerial positions."

CSEA is part of a task force the Center has organized to respond to the study findings. The task force will work with the state, its public employee unions, the New York State Personnel and Affirmative Action Advisory councils, the Women's Advisors and other interested groups.

Poughkeepsie pact ok'd

POUGHKEEPSIE — A two-year contract for Town of Poughkeepsie employees was recently ok'd by CSEA members, according to Unit President Sue Pike.

The agreement covers most clerical workers as well as sewer and recreation department employees, and also adds five new positions — Deputy Building Inspector, Plumbing Inspector, Sr. Engineering Aide, Jr. Planner and Court Clerk — to the bargaining unit.

Wages, according to Collective Bargaining Specialist John Naughter, will increase 6.5 percent to 8.5 percent this year, depending on salary grade, and by seven percent next year for all workers on the schedule and 8.5 percent for those off schedule.

Roswell members launch drive to aid relatives of terminally ill 'Serving you and your needs'

BUFFALO — Relatives of terminally ill patients at Roswell Park Memorial Institute, one of the world's leading cancer research facilities, will soon benefit from the volunteer efforts of staff members and employees who desire to "help ease their burdens as much as we can."

Members of CSEA Local 315 have pooled their resources to purchase T-shirts, caps and tote bags for a benefit sale.

The proceeds will go as a donation to the Kevin House, a guest home near the Roswell Park facility that out of town relatives of patients can use to help defray the costs that often accompany any serious illness. Accommodations are free of charge to patients' relatives.

"This is one way we wanted to express our care and concern for the patients and their families," said Local President Jim Jayes. "We also wanted to show our support for the Volunteer Services Department, which has been operating the Kevin House for over ten years."

Vice president Judy Goranson said the move was also part of the Local's attempt to create a more positive image of public employees.

"We had a slogan contest among the members, the winner of which

we had put on the T-shirts which we will continue to use in other projects," she said.

The winning slogan, submitted by Woodrow Markwardt, is "Serving You and Your Needs."



"We hope to raise at least \$300 from this sale," said Ms. Goranson at the stand set up near Roswell's employee cafeteria." With over 1700 employees that pass this way, we've got a great chance of surpassing that goal."

Betty Riffel, Director of Roswell's Volunteer Services Department, said the donations "will be a big help. We'll be able to replenish our supplies of staples and other amenities that we try to furnish our guests with. They are always very appreciative and I'm sure this will go a long way. It's very admirable of the union to help out in this way," she concluded.

"This was our first venture of this type," said President Jayes. "But it won't be our last. I'm sure our benefit for the Kevin House will become an annual event."

Joining in the Local's sale of T-shirts, caps and tote bags were Grace Steffen-Boyler, Jeanette Shaver, Alforda Evans, Barbara Fauser and Gayle Ablove.

BENEFIT SALE — Roswell Park Local 315 members Grace Steffen-Boyler, Local President Jim Jayes, and Alforda Evans model t-shirts and caps the Local sold, along with tote bags, to benefit Kevin House, a not-for-profit guest house for relatives of patients at the cancer research and treatment facility.

Shop Steward Lee Taylor makes a difference

'He's not afraid to talk . . . to knock on the boss's door and go in'

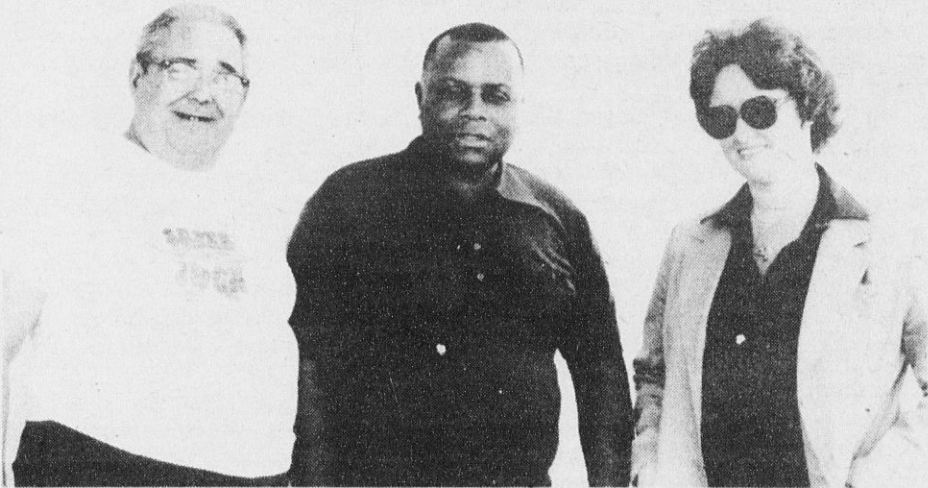
NEWBURGH — One shop steward can make a difference. Take Lee Taylor, for example.

The sanitation worker who's been employed by this Hudson River city for 22 years said "yes" 18 months ago when Unit President Bill Mott asked him to become a shop steward, and things have never been the same again.

His co-workers are enthusiastic about his performance. "He never shrinks from a challenge." Bill Mott adds, "he's not afraid to talk . . . to knock on the boss' door and go in . . ."

A quiet, family man, Lee Taylor got involved because he's working with, "good men who need to be represented." He takes up where others might fall behind and is, quite literally, not afraid to walk right into the acting supervisor's office to solve a problem, or settle a grievance, says CSEA Field Representative Diane Campion who credits him with settling many matters "at the earliest stages."

Lee Taylor believes he's "better off with a union." He says it helps make managers more cooperative with rank and file. It also helps to have someone to speak up and defend those who may not be able to speak up for themselves.



SHOP STEWARD LEE TAYLOR, center, discusses conditions in the Public Works Department with Newburgh City Unit President Bill Mott, left, and CSEA Field Representative Diane Campion, right.

Court of Claims affirms state worker's rights

The civil rights of state employees were recently affirmed in a lawsuit involving a resident and an employee of the Syracuse Developmental Center.

In *Stagnitta, etc. v. State*, the state Court of Claims threw out a lawsuit brought against the State by the mother of a mentally retarded man who was arrested in 1976 after allegedly assaulting a mental hygiene therapy aide at the center.

In tossing out the case, Judge Jeremiah Moriarity of Buffalo ruled the State cannot be

held liable for criminal prosecution initiated by an employee.

Mary A. Stagnitta, mother of the retarded man, Thomas, had filed a claim of negligence, malpractice and malicious prosecution against the State on behalf of her son, who, she claimed, should not be held accountable for his actions.

In the incident, MHTA Alice O'Connell, a member of CSEA Local 424, was punched and knocked unconscious and suffered a black eye. After being arrested and charged with the assault, Thomas Stagnitta was held in jail for about three weeks.

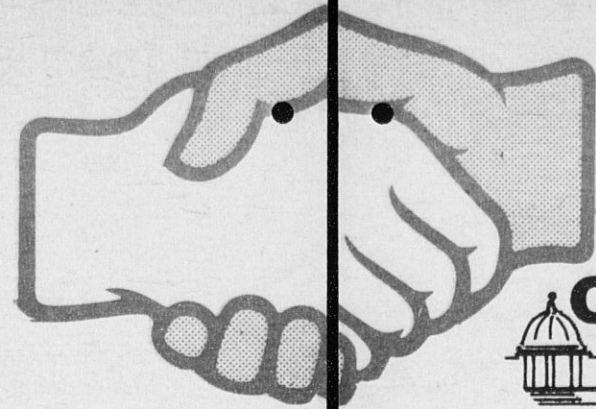
In his decision, the judge ruled that the State "had no right nor opportunity" to stop Mrs. O'Connell from filing charges and cannot be held responsible.

The judge also discounted claims by Mrs. Stagnitta that the State failed to safeguard her son's rights. He said Legal Aid was contacted on Thomas' behalf, and that the State "made every reasonable effort to keep abreast of Thomas' status and to keep his family informed."

The judge's ruling is a first in affirming that state employees do not lose their civil rights as a condition of employment.

SOLIDARITY

DAY



**MARCH FOR
JOBS — HUMAN RIGHTS
JUSTICE — SOCIAL PROGRESS**

**On The National Mall
Washington, D.C.**

SEPTEMBER 19, 1981



**"We must all join hands
and march as a living
testimony to our concern
for the future of our
nation and the quality
of our lives."**

William L. McGowan
CSEA President

Two pedal to D.C. protest

**Bike-a-thon will
benefit PEOPLE
program; members
urged to pledge
contributions to
aid union cause**

SCOTIA — Most CSEA and AFSCME members, family and friends from New York State arrive in Washington, D.C., for the Solidarity Day demonstration after spending a handful of hours on a bus.

But two members of the union's family will arrive at the national protest after spending a handful of days on bicycles.

Fraternal twins Susan and Karen Draves, sisters of AFSCME Legislative Coordinator for New York State Ed Draves, plan to pedal their 10-speeds from their home in Scotia to the nation's capital.

They're not making the nearly week-long trek merely for the pleasure of cycling and the opportunity to participate in the historic demonstration. They also hope to turn their trip money for P.E.O.P.L.E., Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality. According to CSEA's political action training specialist Ramona Gallagher, proceeds from the Bike-a-Thon will be used to support candidates in 1982 Congressional races.

Susan and Karen estimate that the bicycle trip from their home to the nation's capital will be about 600 miles long, because of the backroads route they have to take.

"We've been looking at maps, trying to figure out good routes to take to avoid the expressways," Susan explained. "And we found out it's not easy to find good backroads going in the right direction."

"About the only thing we're sure of so far is that we're going to take Route 9W from the Albany area to around Newburgh," Karen added. "We're still trying to pick a route through Pennsylvania."

This won't be the first long-distance bicycle trip for the energetic pair. They gave up their heavy bikes they'd been riding around town "forever" for lightweight 10-speed touring bikes two years ago and took their first big trip last summer — a 1,700-mile journey from Seattle, Washington, to Santa Cruz, California.

They only recently returned from a 2,500-mile, eight-week bicycle tour of New England, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

They've learned to travel light. Their camping gear, weighing about 40 pounds total, fits easily onto the two bicycles.

The safety-conscious cyclists always wear their helmets, but say they've never had any mishaps on their long trips. "We've had a few minor spills around town, close to home," one explained. "Actually, most motorists are pretty reasonable around bicycles, but every once in a while you get a driver who doesn't know what to do and gives you trouble."

The 22-year-old duo were recently graduated from Cornell University — Karen in agricultural engineering and Susan in landscape architecture. They are thinking of collaborating on a book, a non-fiction work on an aspect of American history that interests both of them. They plan to devote more time to the National Organization for Women's effort to secure passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. And they plan to continue their union involvement.

"We've worked on phone banks at campaign time, and our big thing has been 'Buy American,'" Karen said. Susan explained that their stepfather was President of an AFSCME Local for many years, "so we grew up with the union at the dinner table."

It was natural that they'd plan to participate in the Solidarity Day rally as soon as they learned of it. "We were going to go anyway, but then we came up with the Bike-a-Thon idea," Susan said. "We thought it would be a good way to help in political action."

"We're very excited about the Bike-a-Thon," Ramona Gallagher said. "The Solidarity Day demonstration is an opportunity for organized labor to peak out about Reaganomics and what the budget cuts are doing to us, especially to public employees. And P.E.O. P.L.E. offers us still another chance to speak out. By contributing to our campaign coffers we can support candidates who'll listen to our point of view when they get to Washington."

"A pledge of a half a cent per mile only adds up to \$3, and a nickel a mile comes to \$30," she said. "Surely we can spare a few dollars to help elect members to Congress who support the goals of Solidarity Day such as jobs, equity and fairness."

CSEA members can make Bike-a-Thon pledges by filling out the adjacent coupon. Pledges will be accepted through September 30. Half the contributions (up to \$50 for a single return and \$100 for a joint filing) is eligible for a tax credit on your Federal tax return.



BIKE-A-THONERS — Karen, center, and Susan Draves, right, will attempt to raise contributions for PEOPLE by riding their bikes to Washington to participate in Solidarity Day activities. CSEA

Region IV PEOPLE Coordinator Ernestine Lafayette, left, joins the twin sisters to help kick-off their trip.

PEOPLE PLEDGE
Here is my pledge to PEOPLE for the Solidarity Day Bike-a-Thon!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

REGION _____

AMOUNT: ½ cent a mile (\$3) _____
one cent a mile (\$6) _____
two cents a mile (\$12) _____
five cents a mile (\$30) _____
other _____

Send to: CSEA Legislative Office, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 2020, Albany, New York 12208.

6,000 members will march

Since AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland issued the invitation to Solidarity Day in July, thousands of union leaders throughout the country have been working to make the day-long demonstration in Washington, D.C. a successful reality.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 CSEA members are scheduled to join in the massive march this Saturday. Free buses will be leaving from Regions IV, V and VI on Friday, and from Regions I, II and III before the crack of dawn on Saturday.

It has been said an army marches on its stomach, and this army of organized labor is no exception. So CSEA will provide box lunches and beverages for all participants.

T-shirts, banner, placards, buttons, hats and

other paraphernalia will identify CSEA demonstrators and express the principles for which they are marching.

Once in Washington, beginning at about 10 a.m., marchers will gather on the grounds of the Washington Monument for entertainment, picnics and the introduction of celebrities and VIPs. At noon, plans call for marching by organization up Constitution Avenue, past the National Archives and the departments of Labor and Justice to the west side of the Capitol. Entertainment and addresses by prominent leaders are scheduled on the Capitol grounds.

"There will be fellowship and fanfare and a lot of

hoopla," said CSEA President William L. McGowan. "But underneath it all will be a very serious message we want to convey to the President, the Congress and the American people."

"As Lane Kirkland has warned, the labor movement has helped in the past half century to construct social programs that hold together a relatively humane society, which this administration is now seeking to dismantle," McGowan said.

"We can't let this destruction proceed unprotected. We must all join hands and march as a living testimony to our concern for the future of our nation and the quality of our lives."

Rank-and-filers have valid reasons to join in Solidarity protest

By Tina Lincer First
CSEA Communications Associate

Jennie Jones, a senior clerk at the Peekskill Housing Authority, is the sole supporter of her 11-year-old daughter. On Oct. 1, she'll lose her job, a victim of the Reagan budget cuts.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, Jennie will be joining American workers from across the land in the Solidarity Day demonstration in Washington, D.C.

"I found out a couple of weeks ago that I'm one of the ones Reagan would like to lay off, but that's not the main reason I'm going to Washington," said the Westchester Local 860 member.

"I'm going to protest Reagan. I just don't like the cuts, period, and he's really trying to union-bust the air traffic controllers."

"The way I look at it," summed up Jennie, "Reagan's out to get the little man — the middle class, the poor, the elderly, and the unions."

Jennie is one of the thousands of CSEA members who'll be fighting back against Reagan's ruthless budget cuts by participating in the Solidarity Day march, an event which promises to go down in history as one of the largest and most powerful labor protests.

Not every CSEA member who'll be marching will have his job pulled out from under him. But most realize no one can afford to rest easy under Reaganomics. There's no telling where the Reagan budget hatchet may fall next.

"So far, none of my people has been affected, but everyone around here is a bundle of nerves," said Barbara Charles, Vice President of Labor Local 670, which is bringing 115 members to Solidarity Day. Labor is high on the list of state departments where cuts will be made.

"Mr. Reagan isn't too popular around the Department of Labor," continued Charles. "It's a waiting game to find out whether or not you're going to have a job. We have a lady here who was going through the closing on her house when notices about possible layoffs were handed out, and her hair stood right up on her head."

Pension pay and college tuition are two of the things rank-and-filer Israel Marti will be thinking about when he's marching on Washington. "With the cuts this guy (Reagan) is making, I think even my pension might be at stake," said Marti, a porter at the Bronx Psychiatric Center, CSEA Local 401, who'll be a bus captain for Solidarity Day. "I got 14 years working at Bronx Psychiatric and I want my benefits. I have a daughter in college and everything comes out of my pocket."

Some 600 members from Syracuse City Local 013 (which covers state employees) will be boarding the buses provided by CSEA and heading down to the nation's capital en masse.

"If we show we are united against his cuts, REAGAN will have to listen," said Claire McGrath, Local 013 President, who's coordinating her local's Solidarity Day efforts. "I also hope our massive march is going to open up Reagan's eyes, and show him he can't be down on unions."

Many CSEA members who have signed up to be part of the historic march are angry about Reagan's harsh dealings with the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO).

Carmine Ricci, President of Putnam County Local 840, is one of them.

"If he get's away with PATCO," says Ricci, who's leading the county's Solidarity Day contingent, "I don't think any of us has a chance at all as far as unionism goes."

Edgar Totten, a senior account clerk for the Office of Parks and Recreation and president of Local 699, is going to Solidarity Day "because the public employees are getting unfair treatment, as far as getting the blame for fiscal woes. We have a lot of federally-funded programs in Parks and Recreation, so we're going to be severely affected by the budget cuts."

"Solidarity Day is a perfect way to show the people who hold the purse strings that we're the working people and we're one; we're together," said Dick McIntyre, President of Niagara County Local 832. McIntyre, who will be a bus captain for the day, has mobilized about 40 members from his local for the trip to Washington. "We're terribly frustrated and we're going to stand up for what's right," he said.

Bob Porter, a senior account clerk in the Department of Taxation and Finance, CSEA Local 690, sums up the feeling and spirit of Solidarity Day.

"I want to show that we as a local disagree with some of the policies of the President," said Porter, "and to show that we've joined with the rest of the labor movement in disagreement. It's time for us to show our strength."

Solidarity Day bus schedules for Western Region

BUFFALO — Buses taking Western Region VI members to Washington will depart at 8:30 a.m., Friday, September 18 from locations in both Buffalo and Rochester, according to Region VI President Robert L. Lattimer.

Buffalo area members will leave from the Thruway Mall, Walden Avenue near Harlem Road, Thruway Exit 52 West. Members should park behind the mall near Roadway, at the United States of America Roller Rink.

Buses will leave the Rochester area from the Two Guys Department Store parking lot, 1500 West Henrietta Road, corner of Jefferson Road, at the junction of Routes 15 and 252. Park near the automotive department.

Bob Kimball's fast action rescues deputies, leads to recapturing of criminals

By Dawn LePore

HOWARD — If it were not for a quick-thinking CSEA member, two escaped criminals might still be at large.

Headlines last June told the story of two escaped prisoners, one of which was killed in a capture attempt, but little mention was made of the man who made their quick recapture possible.

Bob Kimball, a member of Steuben County CSEA Local 851, was on his way to work one morning when he heard cries for help from near the roadside. Stopping his pick-up truck on the shoulder of the unpaved country road where he lives. He followed the voices to discover two Erie County Sheriff Deputies handcuffed together around a tree.

The deputies quickly explained that while they were transporting two prisoners downstate, they were overtaken and that the escapees had taken their red and white cruiser only minutes before.

Kimball's fortunate discovery let New York State Troopers begin an immediate and intensive search for Richard Santorri and Alan Lighten. Later that day, Santorri was fatally wounded in an exchange of gunfire with troopers, after which Lighten surrendered.

"I was getting already to leave to work when I

heard a shot," said Kimball. "I looked across the field by my house but I didn't see any hunters, so I forgot about it.

"I got in my truck a few minutes later and drove down the road about a half mile when I heard shouting. I slowed down and discovered the deputies down an embankment about thirty feet from the road."

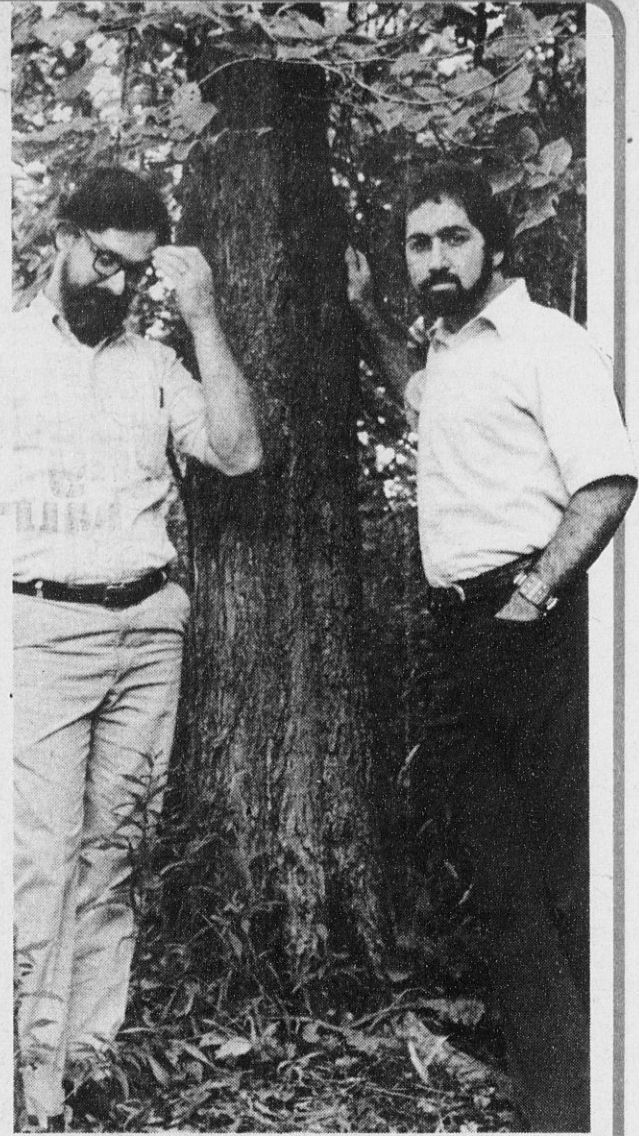
The deputies told Kimball they were all right but that the prisoners had taken their hats, shirts, badges and service revolvers.

"I went back home and called the State Troopers, giving the location of the deputies and then I went back with some water and a hacksaw," he said.

Kimball, a county employee for the past four-and-a-half years, is employed as a children's services worker in neighboring Hornell.

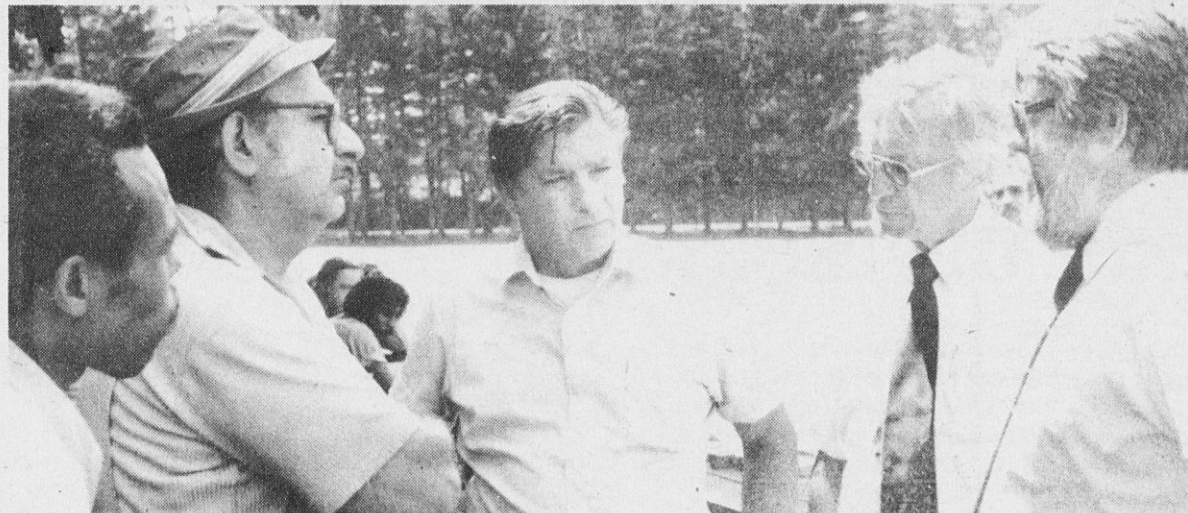
Jim Lindsay, President of Local 851, said that the action taken by Kimball prevented the prisoners from making good their escape, noting that they were recaptured only about 40 miles away from Hornell.

Because Bob Kimball lives in the only house on isolated Burleson Road, Lindsay observed that, "if they had taken the deputies just a little bit farther it could have been days before anyone found them."



ROBERT KIMBALL, right, leans against tree to which he discovered two Erie County Sheriff Deputies handcuffed as Jim Lindsay, left, president of Steuben County CSEA Local 851 ponders the situation as described by Kimball.

'I got in my truck . . . and drove down the road about a half mile when I heard shouting. I slowed down and discovered the deputies . . .'



DISCUSSING THE UP-COMING CSEA-State contract negotiations are, from left, Plumber Jean Reau, Electrician Angelo Corvino and Electrical Foreman Terry Coyman, all of Rockland Psychiatric Center (RPC), CSEA Field Representative Thomas Brann and Collective Bargaining Specialist Nels Carlson.



ATTENDING THE Rockland Psychiatric Center Local 421 maintenance employees meeting on the up-coming CSEA-State negotiations are, from left, Electrician Theodore Nyberg, Carpenter Leon Whidbee and Electrician Ande Mitts.

Not surprising, money will be a big concern in negotiations

ORANGEBURG — What do state employees want to see most in their next contract?

If the maintenance employees at the Rockland Psychiatric Center are typical, and they probably are, money is the number one concern.

Negotiations between CSEA and the State are expected for more than 100,000 CSEA-represented state workers in three major bargaining units. The present contracts expire March 31, 1982.

The union has been polling members in the three units to determine their major concerns, and a number of staff members have been conducting local meetings as well.

CSEA Collective Bargaining Specialist Nels Carlson conducted just such a meeting recently with the Rockland Psychiatric Center employees, assisted by Rockland Psychiatric Center Local 421 President Eva Katz, Executive Vice President Robert Coleman, and CSEA Field Representative Thomas Brann.

After that session, Carlson said the main concern expressed was a substantial improvement in salaries. He said many employees told him of having to work at second jobs because of a combination of low salaries and rising inflation.

SIDC administration negligent

Charged with covering up client death in accusing innocent MHTA's

NEW YORK CITY — Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) Local 429 president John Jackson has accused the SIDC administration and the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities of attempting "to cover up their own negligence in the death of a client by bringing CSEA members up on charges."

Jackson's accusation comes in response to notices of discipline that have been served on five Mental Hygiene Therapy Aides (MHTA) who were at the Ten Mile River Camp on August 3, 1980, when SIDC client wandered away from the grounds of the camp. The client's body was found two days later floating in the camp's lake.

The notices of discipline allege the MHTA's abandoned their clients and did not participate in the search for the missing client.

According to the statements of the five MHTA's, they were assigned to care for clients on a bus ride to the camp in Monticello. Their instructions were to drop off the clients scheduled to spend the

following two weeks at the state-run camp leased from the Boy Scouts of America and then pick up a returning group of clients.

Enroute to the camp the bus experienced mechanical problems and arrived at the camp three hours later than expected.

Following their instructions, upon arrival the MHTA's turned the clients in their care over to the staff at the camp. Faced with the prospect of being forced to spend the night at the camp due to the bus breakdown and having had nothing to eat since early morning, the MHTA's boarded SIDC van on its way into town to meet a bus dispatched from SIDC. The MHTA's stated that they went with the van to get something to eat and to call their families to let them know their situations.

A client in the care of a MHTA at the campsite disappeared while the five MHTA's were away.

Jackson asserts that an investigation into the incident by SIDC Local 429 reveals that poor planning by the SIDC ad-

ministration and a lack of management at the campsite resulted in the client's disappearance and death.

"There was totally inadequate lighting at the campsite that night," Jackson said. "There were only two lanterns on the lawn and the path that the client followed to the lake wasn't visible that night."

"No management staff were at the camp. A Grade 9 MHTA, in no position to supervise anyone, was put in charge of the camp."

Jackson refutes the charge that the MHTA's abandoned their

clients by citing the fact that the MHTA's were assigned to care for clients on the bus, not at the camp, and that they formally turned over the clients to the staff at the camp upon arrival.

"They had no assignments at the camp," Jackson said. "The charge that they didn't help in the search is phony also. The MHTA's returned to the camp the minute they were told that a client was missing and they joined in the search."

Jackson expects that the charges against the MHTA's will end up in arbitration.

Local 429 President Jackson calls for funds investigation

NEW YORK CITY — Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) Local 429 president John Jackson's call for an investigation into questionable practices of the Volunteers of America (VOA) has apparently been ignored by Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities commissioner James Introne.

In a July 10th letter to Introne, Jackson outlined a situation involving alleged misuse of residents' funds by the VOA, a private, non-profit agency under contract with the State to care for former residents of SIDC.

Jackson's letter to Introne calling for an investigation of the VOA came after two members of Local 429, residents of a VOA community apartment for the mentally retarded, complained to Jackson about the way in which their payments of rent and bills were being handled by the VOA.

The two members told Jackson that they pay \$436 per month for a two bedroom apartment, however they are forced by VOA to share only one of those bedrooms. The other bedroom is used by VOA staff. In addition, even though they are never shown any bills, they each pay \$60 per month for food and pay the phone bill.

Jackson reports that he has received no response from Introne.

"The sorry record of United Cerebral Palsy in caring for the mentally retarded has already been documented by the Staten Island Advance," Jackson said. "Introne must immediately look into the VOA or he may be forced to face another scandal over a publicly funded private agency's questionable practices. For the sake of the clients served by the VOA and in the public interest, it would be shameful for Introne to ignore this situation."

Unhealthy habits corrected at worksite



Barbara Burkholder

ALBANY — "Eight out of ten leading causes of death and disability can be linked to personal health habits which can efficiently and effectively be corrected at the worksite." Barbara Burkholder stated at the beginning of a series of brown bag seminars entitled, "Wellness In The Workplace."

The noon hour seminar sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program of the Civil Service Employees Association's Department of Law Local was the first opportunity Burkholder had to explain the Wellness Program, sponsored by the College of Continuing Studies, State University of New York at Albany, to CSEA Law Department members.

The program covers alcohol abuse, smoking, drug abuse, poor nutrition, obesity, lack of exercise and stress and can produce an individual health profile for program participants to aid them in planning their future health care activities. "We want to reduce the high statistics of death and disability presently found in this geographic area of New York," Burkholder said noting that the program is limited to Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties. "We are a unique health risk reduction program for small to medium size employers in both the public and private sectors in this area," the program coordinator explained. "We address the problems of escalating health care costs and deal with individual behavior which contributes to that cost."

The coordinator told the interested audience that several multi-million dollar private sector corporations had already been so impressed with the results of their own in-house health risk reduction

programs that a few of them were now selling their control programs to smaller companies at a considerable profit.

"However, we are not looking for a profit," the coordinator stressed. "Any service provided by the seventeen member agencies in our consortium is passed on at the established cost to the interested group." The speaker informed the interested audience that the costs could be shared among the participants, split between the employer and the employees or paid for by management.

The speaker illustrated the service concept. "Let's say some employees wanted a coffee break exercise program. Management could provide the space, the fee could be split by the participants. The instructor would have the ability to work with as many groups as could be efficiently taught during the coffee break periods. Four groups could be scheduled during the hour long period that covers four fifteen minute coffee break periods.

"If each class had twenty participants, that's eighty workers being educated about their health each and every work day, the employee benefits from the program. Management gains benefits from a reduction in illness related absenteeism, insurance claims, etc.," she concluded.

CSEA Employee Assistance Program Director James Murphy commented on the Wellness Program concept. "With public management becoming aware of this cost reduction program and its numerous benefits, I believe this program could spread across the state and become a national model."

Bea Cornell's deductive reasoning, hard work uncovers \$900,000 aid windfall for Newburgh

By Stanley P. Hornak

NEWBURGH — Sherlock Holmes has a partner in this mid-Hudson Valley city of 22,000 people. Her name is Bea Cornell and using "deductive reasoning" in the most "elementary" way, she has found a \$900,000 windfall in overdue federal and state aid.

Her co-workers would not be the least suprised by this energetic woman who has been a public employee since 1967 and the CSEA unit's corresponding secretary for the past five years.

As a senior stenographer in "city engineering," she was familiar with the paperwork involved in constructing a \$9 million Water Pollution Control Plant here in the early 1970s. The funding formula was complex — a mix of federal, state and local dollars. When the "last" payment was made in 1977, there was still a balance of \$1,046,836 in outside funds that could be tapped. However, Bea Cornell explained, "a misunderstanding developed between the city and state about financial records keeping procedures.

"In the first place, the construction accounts were apparently never kept in accordance with the requirements of the state and federal government.

"The funding agencies at the time directed Newburgh to set up a separate set of books, so their examiners could compare our performance with that of other cities receiving similar grants. In order to get final reimbursement, our accounts had to show what we spent.

"It should be pointed out that 1977, when the partial reimbursements were received, was a long time after 1971, when Newburgh spent the money in the first place. To make matters worse, we then discovered that — at some time in the past — the payment vouchers, cancelled checks and other records were lost."

Acting on her own initiative, she began a task worthy of Sherlock Holmes, starting with what he would have described as, "a grip of the essential facts of the case."

Mrs. Cornell recalls, "when everyone was going home at 4:30, I stayed on until 7:00 or 7:30 . . . I was sometimes here 7:00 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays . . ." Step by step, she reconstructed the financial package, utilizing all kinds of different sources to make up for lost records: city managers' files, Community Development Agency minutes, engineering department records. The mystery was solved, and on July 24 City Manager Gary Bloomquist signed the application for final reimbursement.

Bea Cornell sums up her story simply, "Accounts had to be reconstructed and I did it." Bloomquist acknowledges she, "did an unbelievable job" and freely admits that "without her it couldn't have been done."

The city is expecting the money shortly, and plans to put it into a special account to pay off the outstanding debt. It also gets an extra bonus because, while it's only paying seven percent interest on the debt, it will be collecting at least double that on the \$900,000.

Bea Cornell is an example of how one public employee can make a

difference. "My motor is running a lot faster than my wheels are turning." Her attitude extends to everything she does. Field Rep. Diane Campion comments, "People always feel a lot better about Newburgh after they've done business with her." And, after working with her on the unit's negotiating team, Collective Bargaining Specialist Manny Vitale says, "She's worth a million dollars." There's a lot of people in the City of Newburgh who would agree to that.



SENIOR STENOGRAPHER BEA CORNELL at her desk where she put the pieces together and uncovered \$900,000 in owed federal and state aid for the City of Newburgh.

Stanley Watson recipient of counselor of the year award

BRONX — Stanley E. Watson, CSEA Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Representative in Region V, was recently presented the Richard Brinson Memorial Award by the New York Federation of Alcoholism Counselors Inc. at an annual conference held at the Bronx Psychiatric Center.

The Alcoholism Counselor of the Year Award is presented each year to an accredited alcoholism

counselor who has exhibited dedication to the treatment of alcoholics and has worked to extend the cause of Alcoholism Counselors in New York State.

Watson is the New York Federation of Alcoholism Counselors Inc. representative for the Capital District Association of Alcoholism Counselors and is also treasurer of NYFAC.

Watson has been a member of NYFAC since April, 1977, and received his New York State alcoholism credential in 1979. Most recently he worked for 12 years as an alcoholism caseworker with the Oneida County Department of Social Services. He is also working as a part-time administrator-instructor in the drinking driver program at the Oneida County Council on Alcoholism.

As the Region V EAP Representative, Watson is presently organizing a network of coordinators and committees to assist public employees who need help with a personal, family, medical, emotional, alcohol or drug related problem.

The Employee Assistance Program was established by CSEA under a special financial grant from the New York State Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse.



Stanley E. Watson

Union seeks reversal of PERB decision

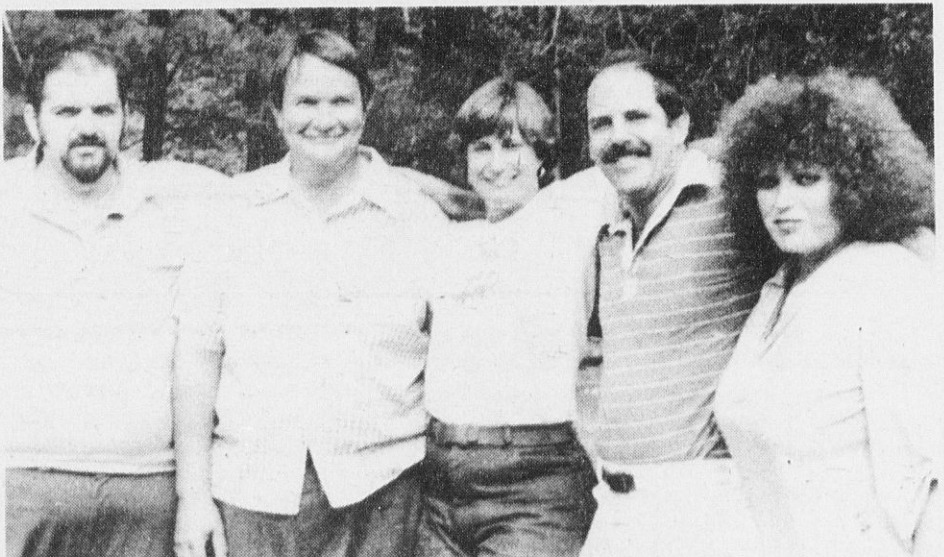
WHITE PLAINS — The Civil Service Employees Assn., is appealing a decision which permits county corrections officers to form their own union.

The action seeks to reverse a May 8 ruling of the Westchester County Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). Initially, CSEA leaders indicated they would not challenge the decision, but have since decided that it was such a radical departure from past decisions that it could not go untested.

CSEA is arguing that the county PERB, "abused its discretion" and that, "there were no reasonable basis for its findings." It seeks to have CSEA, "reinstated as the true collective bargaining representative" and describes the competing organization as, "not a bona fide employee organization."

The appeal, initiated in county Supreme Court, is expected to be heard by the appellate division. Union attorneys also noted that a meaningful appeal could not be made until after a representational election was held.

Local 860 President Pat Mascioli called it, "a matter of law, pure and simple, which must be resolved through the judicial process."



GETTING TOGETHER recently were newly elected officers of Dutchess County Local 814, from left, Second Vice President Fred Nero, President Ellis Adams, Secretary Helen Adams, First Vice President Scott Daniels and Treasurer Barbara Hogan.

Local presidents orientation

Multitude of services

ALBANY — A comprehensive two-day orientation program for CSEA's more than 300 Local presidents was held recently, designed to acquaint the Local leaders with the multitude of resources available to them in providing service to their members.

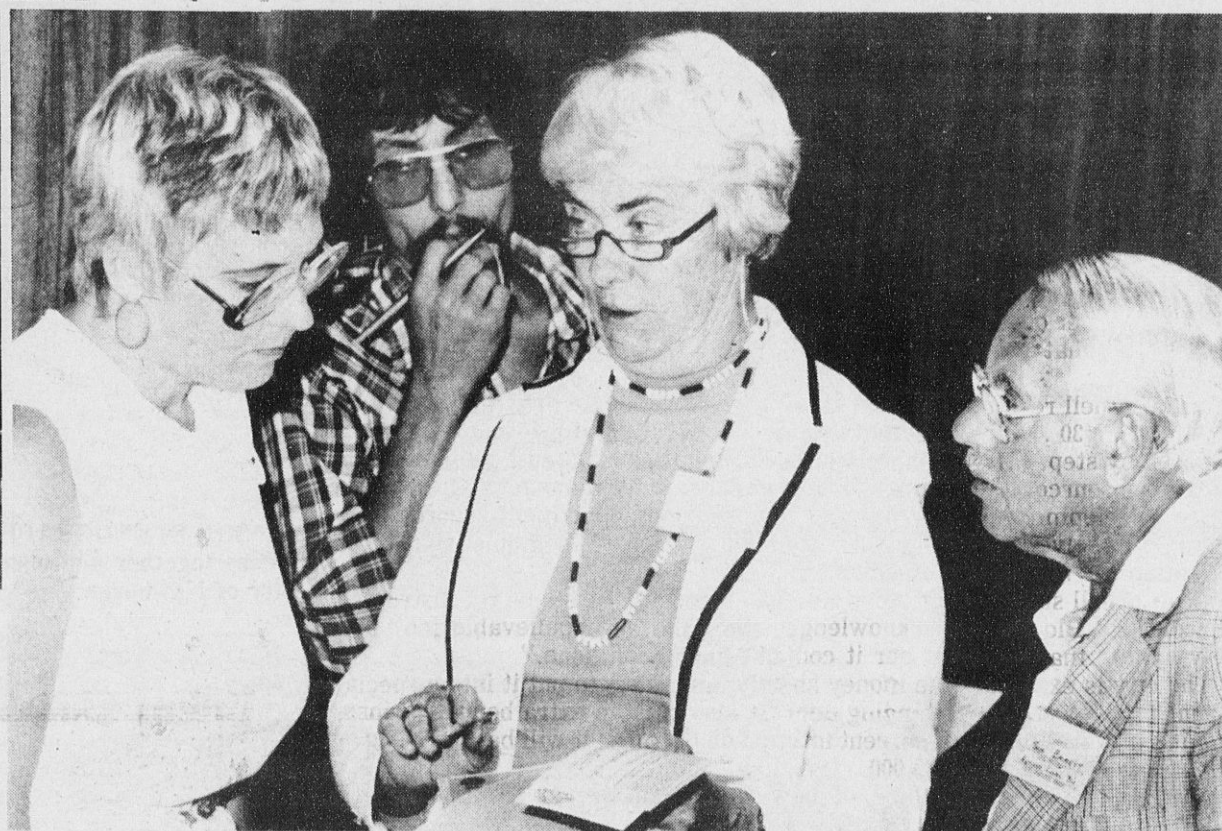
Professional CSEA staff members conducted 16 separate educational workshop sessions. Sessions were held covering services available from the various union departments and sections, in-

cluding personnel, collective bargaining, membership, safety, Employee Assistance Program, political action, insurance, communications, education and training. Also, field services, Employee Benefit Fund, research, legal assistance, school district affairs, and treasurer's office.

CSEA statewide President William L. McGowan addressed the Local presidents during the orientation program, which was conducted at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.



PARTICIPANTS in Local Presidents Orientation Program included Charlotte Rue of NYS Institute for Research Local 438, above left, and Phyllis Ferguson of the Division of Housing and Community Renewal Local 258.



CSEA'S ELLALOUISE WADSWORTH, (right photo), left, discusses a membership section question with Mary McCarthy, president of Syracuse Area Retirees Local 913. Listening at right is Sam Emmett, President of New York Metropolitan Retirees Local 910. In background is Marty Whetstone of Chautauqua County DOT Local 509.

The very foundation of CSEA

The job of the local president is the very foundation upon which our union has been built. CSEA can strive for the most comprehensive resources at the statewide level to provide efficient and effective service for our members, but without the daily efforts of our hundreds of local presidents, all of our efforts would be in vain.

Your job is often a thankless one that involves many personal

sacrifices. But it is a job of which you can be proud because you are making a meaningful contribution to the betterment of the standard of living of the public employees that we represent.

This orientation session is just the beginning of our efforts at the statewide level to help you serve our members better than we have been able to serve them in the past.

Fraternally,

William L. McGowan



FRANK FASANO, President of Nassau County Educational Employees Local 865, and his wife, Madeline, both participated in the training and orientation program.

Calendar of EVENTS

September

- 16 — Creedmoor Local 406 membership meeting, 3:30 p.m., Auditorium, Howard Park.
- 16—Buffalo Local 003 General Membership Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Plaza Suite, 1 M&T Plaza.
- 16—Kingsboro Psychiatric Center Local 402 Nominating Committee meeting, 11 a.m., Metropolitan Region Office.
- 16—Bronx Psychiatric Center Local 401 Elections Committee meeting, 11 a.m., Metropolitan Region Office.

- 23—Hudson Valley Armory Employees Local 252 Meeting and installation of officers, 1 p.m., Newburgh Armory, 355 South William St., Newburgh.
- 23—Region I EAP Update Meeting, 1 p.m., Region Headquarters, Hauppauge.
- 25-26 — Region VI meeting, Holiday Inn, Jamestown.
- 25-27—Region V Fall Conference, Holiday Inn, 75 North St., Auburn.
- 26—Treasurers' Final Training Session, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Musicaro's Restaurant, Melville.
- 26—Metropolitan Region II Installation, Hilton Vista International, New York City.
- 28—Region III Political Action Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Holiday Inn, Suffern.

October

- 1—Region III Political Action Rally, 7:30 p.m., Hillcrest Manor, Goshen.
- 3—Region I delegates meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Musicaro's Restaurant, Melville.
- 6—EAP Health Fair, 2-7 p.m., Bldg. 29, Pilgrim Psychiatric Center.

Binghamton State Office Building

Union affirms stand on safe re-entry



ON CAMERA for WBNG Forum 81 to discuss the PCB problem at the Binghamton State Office Building are, l-r, WBNG newscaster Diane Smith, OGS Executive Deputy Commissioner John Hudacs and CSEA Safety Coordinator Nels Carlson.

BINGHAMTON — Thousands of prime-time television viewers in New York's Southern Tier Region were recently tuned to WBNG-TV's FORUM 81 program and heard Nels Carlson, CSEA Safety Coordinator, emphasize the union's position regarding employee safety for re-entering the Binghamton State Office Building, scene of a toxic chemical accident last February.

The special feature program — originally scheduled for one hour — ran an additional half hour and covered many aspects of the accident and steps taken by authorities handling the investigation and clean-up process.

In addition to Carlson, panel members included: Dr. David Axelrod, New York State Health Commissioner; Dr. Arnold Schecter, Broome County Health Commissioner; Dr. Lawrence Verbit, Professor of Chemistry at SUNY Binghamton; and John Hudacs, Executive Deputy Commissioner of New York State Office of General Services.

In the early minutes of the program, Dr. Axelrod responded to a question from Diane Smith, Program Moderator by assuring viewers that before the building is opened to employees and the public, the level of risk will be no greater than any other office building.

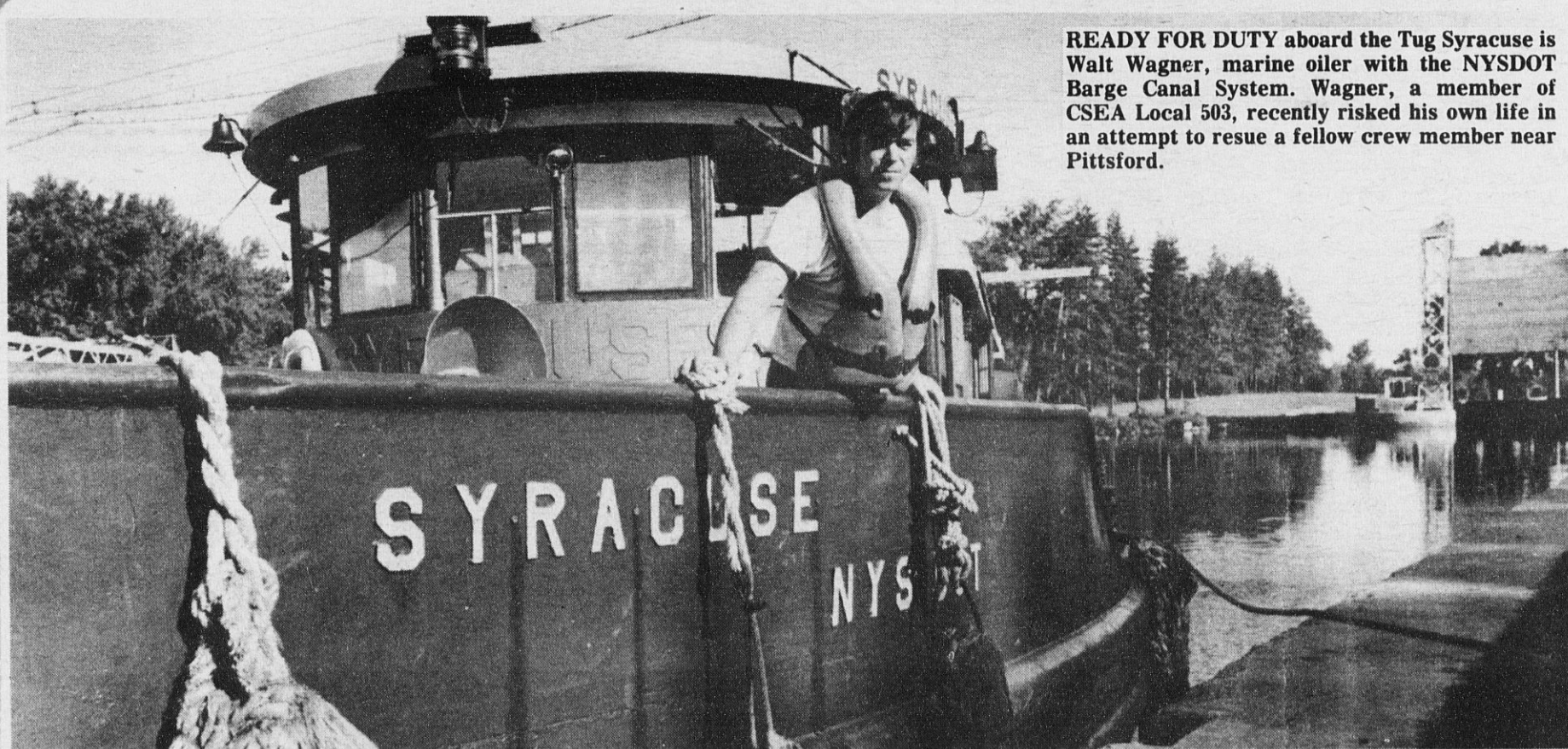
Deputy Commissioner Hudacs stated that money was not an issue. "Whatever it takes to make it safe is our prime concern," he said.

Nels Carlson restated the firm union position by saying, "We (CSEA) are going to rely on the judgment of the best scientific minds and services available. When they can give us solid assurance that the building is safe for occupancy we will confer with our members who worked in the building."

Carlson added that "So far cooperation between the union and state and county officials has been good, and we want to keep it that way, but we also have an obligation to those employees who might have been exposed to the toxic substances. We want to be absolutely sure they will be closely monitored now and in the future."

Dr. Axelrod indicated that further tests, including blood samples, are planned for employees who may have come in contact with the toxic substances. He said the state would assume the cost of those tests.

The last segment of the program was devoted to questions from home viewers in surrounding communities and answered by panel members.



READY FOR DUTY aboard the Tug Syracuse is Walt Wagner, marine oiler with the NYSDOT Barge Canal System. Wagner, a member of CSEA Local 503, recently risked his own life in an attempt to rescue a fellow crew member near Pittsford.

Member attempts rescue of fellow worker

MONTEZUMA — To be singled out for special recognition is not important to Walt Wagner.

When the rugged, 33-year-old barge canal employee dove into the canal near Pittsford last July, his only concern was to try to save the life of his fellow tug mate, Ed Krebbeks, who had fallen overboard while the NYSDOT Tug Syracuse was underway near Lock No. 32.

Several weeks later, while the tug was docked alongside a lock between Auburn and Seneca Falls, Wagner had an opportunity to recall his rescue attempt.

"When the accident happened, we were moving at about four knots. Ed Krebbeks was cleaning mud from a shovel when he lost his balance and fell into the canal. We quickly tossed him a life ring, but when he surfaced he was already quite a few feet from the ring," Wagner explained.

Wagner then described how he acted on instinct and dove into the water and swam toward the spot where he last saw Krebbeks.

"The backwash current from the open lock and the muddy water made it almost impossible to see under the surface. I tried to find him, but he never came up again," he said grimly.

The body of Mr. Krebbeks was recovered by the police and other authorities the next day.

As for Walter Wagner, he continues his daily routine as a marine oiler aboard the tug and the scores of jobs required to keep the barge canal system running smoothly.

Wagner modestly waved off any special attention to his heroic attempt to save a life.

"When you work with a crew, you rely on each other. I'm sure any one of the guys would have done the same thing. I just happened to be there," he said.

A few minutes later the tug pulled away from the lock. Walt Wagner had begun another work day on the canal.