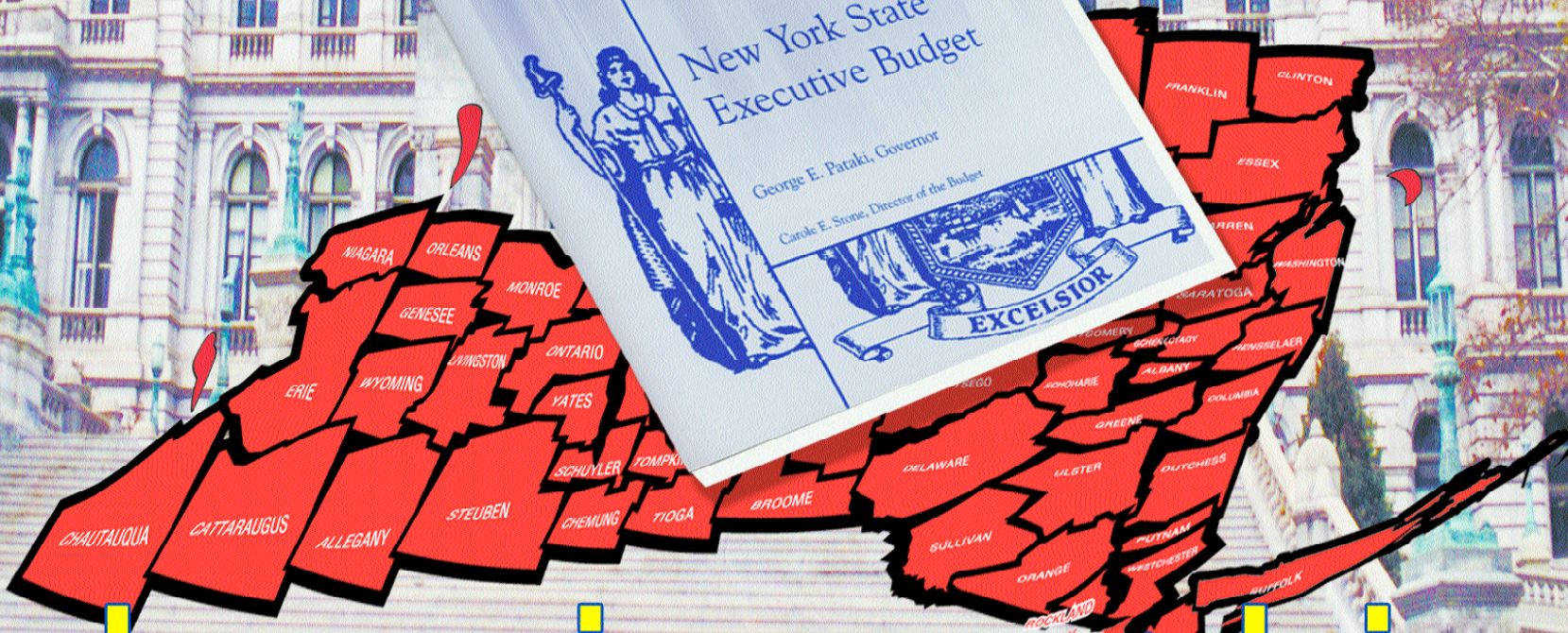


THE WORK FORCE

Pataki's budget:



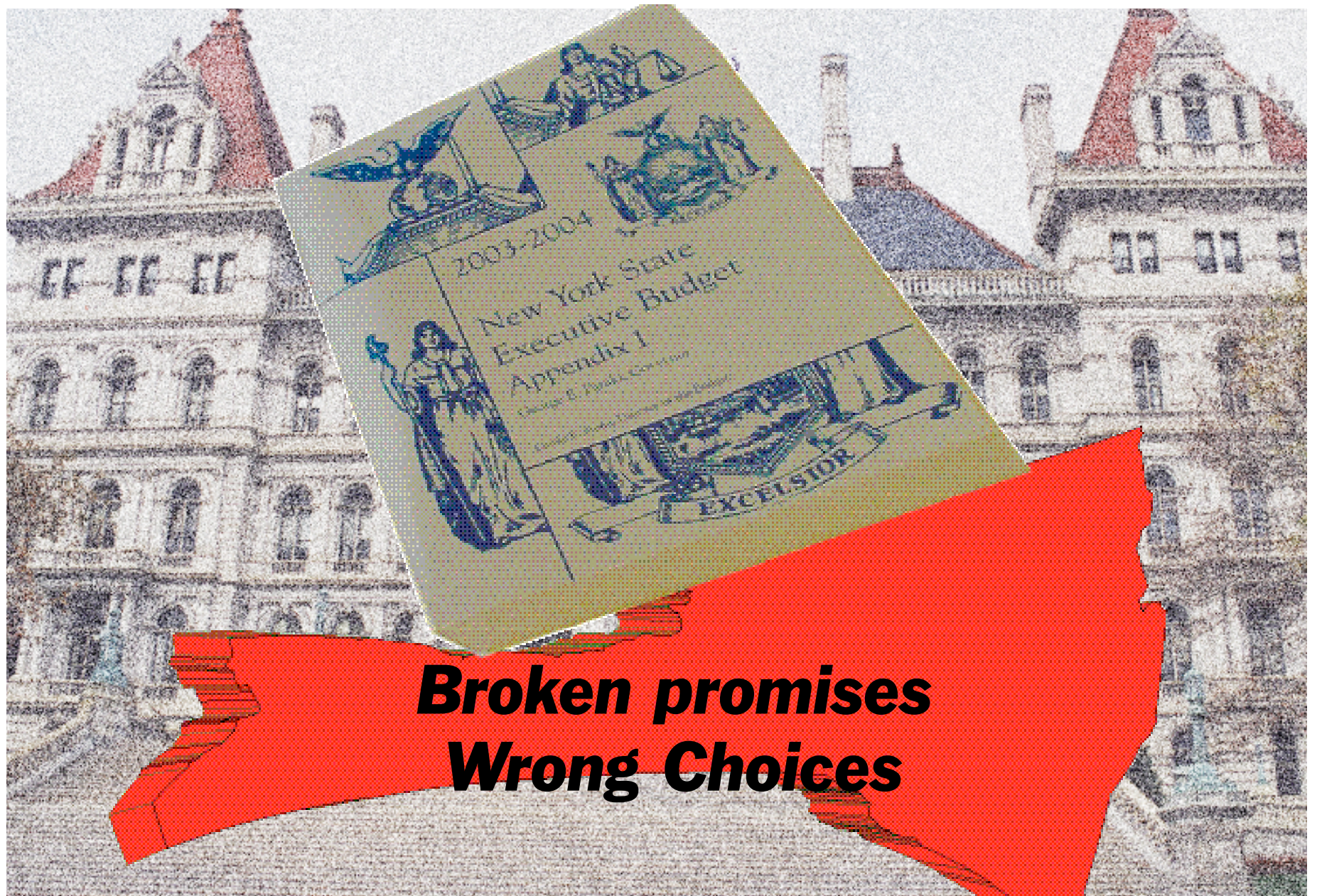
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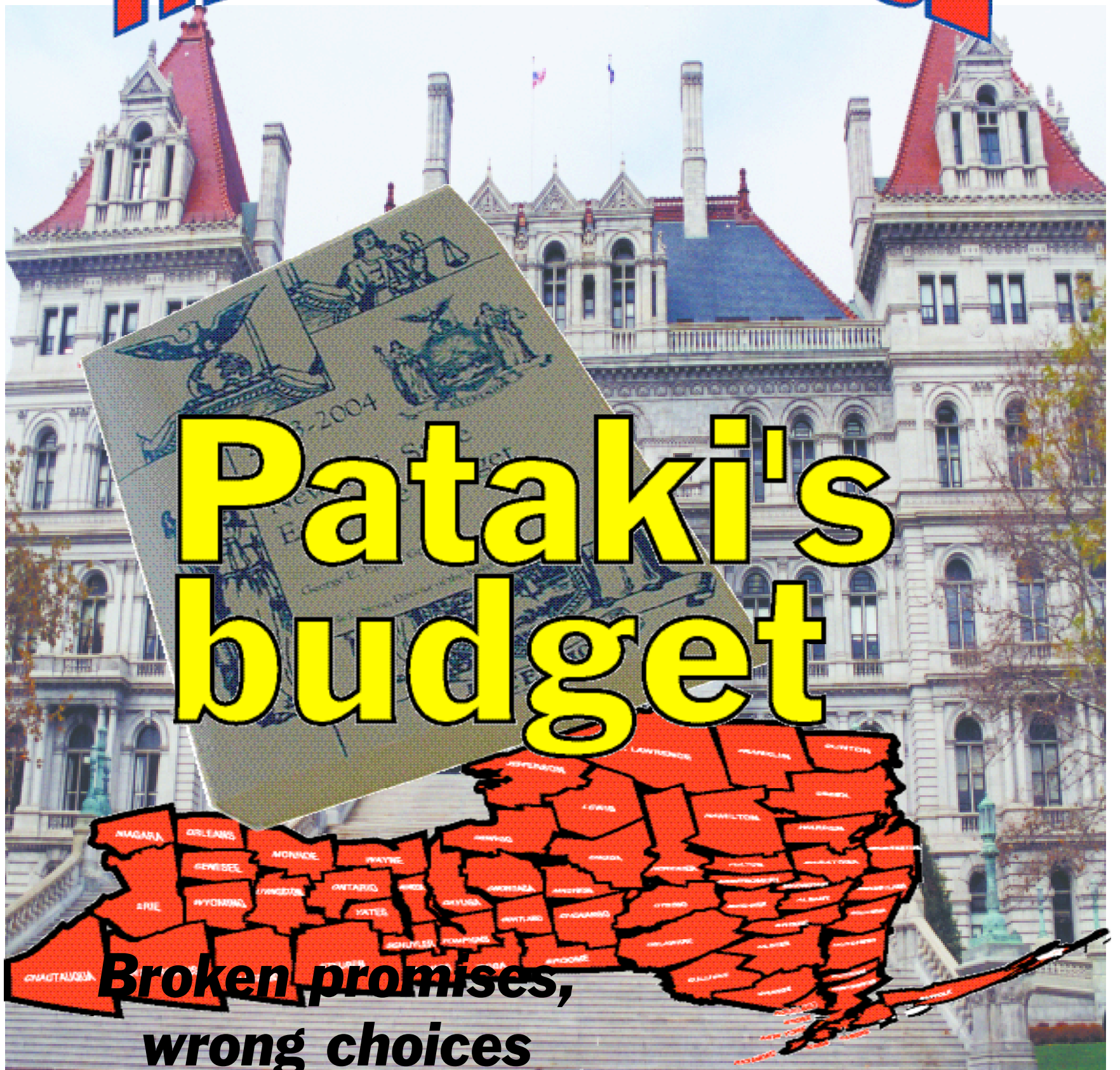
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IN TOUCH WITH THE WORK FORCE CSEA President Danny Donohue

Pataki budget is stunningly out of touch with working New Yorkers

At a time when we need a budget proposal that will have New Yorkers pulling together, Governor Pataki has presented a plan that already has us pulling apart.

For weeks prior to the budget release CSEA urged the governor to be fair and balanced in his approach to dealing with the deficit. There is nothing remotely fair or balanced about what the governor has proposed. CSEA members across the state are already overworked and understaffed as they try to do the job right for New Yorkers.

The governor talks about avoiding "job-killing taxes" while putting out job killing proposals that will decimate services, destroy lives and force local governments and school districts to kill jobs or raise taxes to cover the shortfall. It makes no sense for the governor to slam local property taxpayers for the sake of scoring some misguided political points.

Cuts in education and health care aid of the size the governor has proposed will hurt real people in real ways. Raising SUNY tuition and cutting aid programs amounts to a tax on students and working families.

The governor's continued failure to meet the needs of people with mental illness will be made worse by more cutbacks in services and care; a vague reference to community reinvestment is not an appropriate and comprehensive plan for reform.

These are a just a few of the areas of concern in the governor's ill-conceived proposal. The pages of this edition have other examples of the devastating impact already being felt. There is even more information about the budget and CSEA's efforts to fight it on our website (www.csealocal1000.net) and I encourage you to visit it often to stay up to date.

It should be clear that New York can only deal with a budget deficit of this size with a fair and balanced approach that includes revenue and reform, not simply slash and burn cutbacks. We need some straight talk and the right tax choices, but in this proposal the governor has made too many of the wrong choices.



Photo shows President Donohue speaking during the "People's State of the State" event outside the Capitol in Albany in January. Photo - Ed Molitor

Beginning Our 29th Year of Coverage
INSIDE ALBANY



Lise Bang-Jensen
Dave Hepp

2003 INSIDE ALBANY BROADCAST SCHEDULE			
Albany-Schenectady-Troy	WMHT	Sunday	12:30 PM
		Sunday	11:30 PM
Binghamton	WSKG	Saturday	3:00 PM
Buffalo	WNED	Sunday	10:00 AM
Long Island	WLIW	Sunday	7:00 AM
		Monday	12:00 Noon
New York City	WNET	Saturday	1:30 PM
		Sunday	6:00 AM
Plattsburgh	WCFE	Sunday	9:00 AM
Rochester	WXXI	Saturday	5:30 PM
Syracuse	WCNY	Sunday	1:00 PM
Watertown	WPBS	Saturday	5:00 PM

CSEA is a longtime major underwriter of this award-winning public television program.

The following information is intended for CSEA represented Executive Branch enrollees — enrollees employed by the state of New York covered by one of the following CSEA collective bargaining agreements; Administrative Services Unit, Institutional Services Unit, Operational Services Unit or the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Deadlines for 2002 Empire Plan claims

Empire Plan enrollees have until **March 31, 2003** (90 days after the end of the calendar year) in which to submit medical expenses which were incurred during the 2002 plan year to:

United Health Care Service Corp.
P.O. Box 1600
Kingston, N.Y. 12402-1600

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

ValueOptions
P.O. Box 778
Troy, N.Y. 12181-0778

For non-network mental health and substance abuse services received in 2002;

CIGNA/Express Scripts
Member Reimbursement/
Claims Review Unit
P.O. Box 1180
Troy, N.Y. 12181-1180

For prescriptions filled at non-participating pharmacies or at participating pharmacies without using your New York Government Employee Benefit Card.

Enrollees can call the Empire Plan at 1-877-7NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) with questions or to obtain claim forms. As a reminder, when using the Empire Plan's new toll-free telephone number, please pay extra attention to the choices offered by the automated system.

As always, please ensure accurate and complete insurance information is given to your provider at the time services are received. This information assists network providers/pharmacies in submitting claims directly to the appropriate insurance carrier on your behalf. If you have a non-network claim submission, make sure you complete the requested subscriber information and sign the claim form, attach an itemized billing and send to the appropriate carrier before the deadline.

NYS & CSEA Partnership launch web site

The NYS & CSEA Partnership for Education and Training's web site is up — featuring a wealth of information about education and training for CSEA-represented New York State employees. And more!

Check out the programs and services designed to encourage you to participate in new learning experiences. And it can all be accessed from your computer. Go to: www.nyscseapartnership.org to check out information for improving job skills, learning new technologies and preparing for the demands of your current and future jobs.

Ideas about the web site are welcome. Please send your comments to NYS & CSEA Partnership for Education and Training, Corporate Plaza East - Suite 502, Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, NY 12203 or e-mail to: webmaster@nyscseapartnership.org.



FROM



TO



O ccupational Safety & Health Department — ensuring safe work places

Public and private sector employees in New York State are fortunate to have a legal right to a safe and healthy workplace. The CSEA Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Department is dedicated to ensuring that CSEA members do indeed work in such environments.

The OSH Department monitors and enforces the Public Employee Safety and Health Act (PESHA), which is based on the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and the rules and regulations set by the New York State Department of Labor. The department works with locals and units to ensure that work environments and work procedures are within mandated standards.

It's not always an easy job. With regulations continually changing and employers looking to push the envelope, the OSH Department is always on guard and ready at an instant to respond to a worker's inquiry.

The CSEA Occupational Safety and Health Department strives to maintain a highly trained and technical staff both at headquarters and in the field to cover a broad spectrum of areas relevant to our members' safety. The CSEA Industrial Hygienist in conjunction with OSH Specialists from around the state work in coordination to balance many jobs and specialty areas:

- Keep current on occupational safety and health trends and laws.
- Introduce or comment on safety/health legislation that is of particular importance to employees.
- Initiate statewide awareness of particular "hot spots" in safety and health.
- Provide safety training to field staff and members.
- Produce informational booklets on relevant issues for safe workplaces.



- Promote the education of CSEA members to become effective safety and health advocates in their workplace.
- Work toward obtaining grants that serve the needs of CSEA members.
- Provide technical assistance on safety and health issues to Labor Relations Specialists (LRS) and members.
- Assist in conducting site inspections regarding workplace hazards.
- Work with the local regulatory agencies to ensure timely and effective enforcement of the laws.
- Testify at various hearings or proceedings if expertise is needed.
- Initiate, if necessary, complaints against employers if they discriminate against employees who voice a safety concern.
- Conduct full investigations of fatalities and serious injuries.
- Assist field staff in negotiating safety and health issues in labor management committees and contracts.

Another vital function of the CSEA OSH Department is to work with many state and federal agencies and the issues they regulate. The maze of agencies and the issues they oversee covers a wide spectrum:

NYS Department of Labor — Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) Bureau: Enforces Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards for public employees which include topics such as asbestos, confined space, fire safety, tuberculosis, AIDS and hepatitis, welding and toxic chemicals.

NYS Department of Health — Regulates pest control, sanitary working conditions, infectious diseases, toxic substances, asbestos training.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) — Regulates disposal of hazardous material, toxic spills, environmental issues, pesticides.



OSH Project Developer Matt Kozak, left, and CSEA Metro Region Statewide Safety and Health committee member Frank Cosentino inspect a work site.

NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) — Regulates transporting hazardous waste, placarding, motor vehicle safety.

NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes — Regulates building permits, certificates of occupancy, building construction, occupancy load and fire safety.

CSEA professional staff works in conjunction with activists across the state on the Occupational Safety and Health Committee. Sharing an interest in protecting worker safety, the committee diligently works to advance safety and health issues.

The Occupational Safety and Health Department at CSEA works to protect you! Whether it's conducting workplace inspections for indoor air quality, questioning a workplace injury or ensuring the safe removal of asbestos, the CSEA OSH team is there to ensure your safe work environment.

www.csealocal1000.net



For more information and to access safety and health resources, go to the Safety and Health section of the CSEA website.

THE WORK FORCE

Pataki's budget:



broken promises, wrong choices

Your Metropolitan Region Newsletter, *The Skyliner*, is enclosed

THE WORK FORCE

Pataki's budget:



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Your Nassau County Local 830 Express Newsletter is enclosed