

THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Official Publication of The Civil Service Employees Association, Local 1000,
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO.

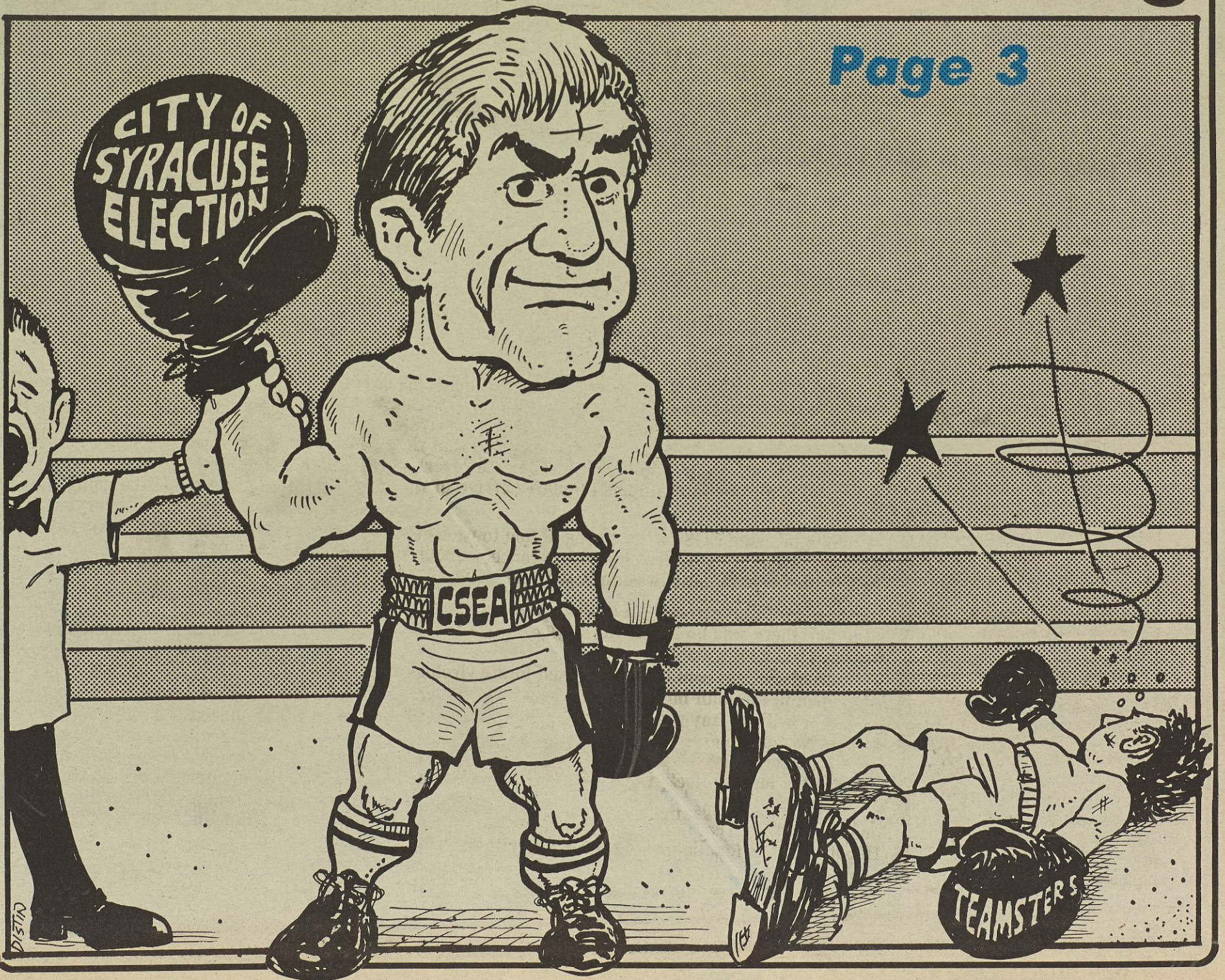
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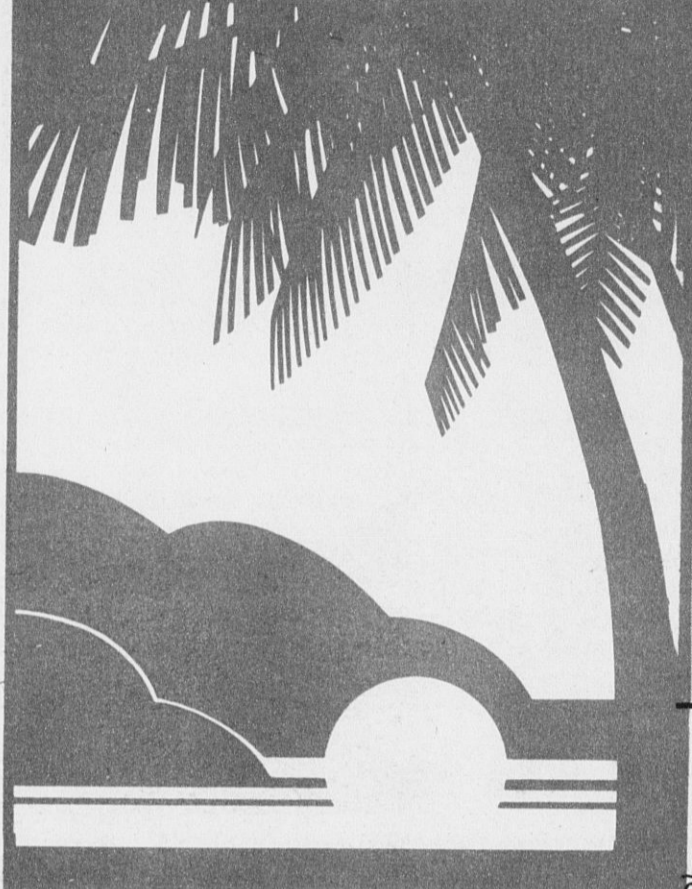
CSEA KO's TEAMSTERS IN SYRACUSE

Solid victory, solid thrashing

Page 3



You can win a trip for two to
ST. THOMAS
The Caribbean



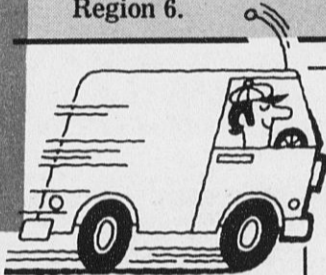
Sign up people for PEOPLE under payroll deduction and you could win prizes galore

A trip for two to St. Thomas in the Caribbean awaits some lucky CSEA member — and it could be YOU . . . if you sign up 25 or more state CSEA members for payroll deductions to PEOPLE, AFSCME's special fund for political contributions to support Congressional candidates favorable to the best interests of unionists and working class Americans. The dream trip to the Caribbean is the grand prize in the current CSEA/AFSCME PEOPLE Political Checkoff Incentive Program contest designed to encourage members to sign PEOPLE Deduction Authorization cards.

CSEA members who sign up 25 or more state employee CSEA members for payroll deductions to PEOPLE are eligible, along with the members they sign up, for the grand prize trip to be raffled off at CSEA's annual delegates meeting in October. Along the way, there will be 10 other drawings for valuable prizes, including such items as a color TV, Seiko watch, VCR, 10-speed bike, 35 mm camera, microwave, cordless phone, luggage, stereo and food processor. Drawings for those prizes will be held each time 250 new participants are signed up.

And, depending upon the bi-weekly amount to be deducted, members receive a variety of prizes just for signing up. Prizes vary according to bi-weekly deductions ranging from 50 cents per pay period to \$2 per pay period. Under terms of the CSEA/State contract, CSEA state members may now elect to have bi-weekly payroll deductions set aside specifically for PEOPLE.

PEOPLE deduction cards are available through regional offices from regional members of the Statewide PEOPLE Committee, or from Statewide PEOPLE Coordinator Cheryl Sheller at CSEA Headquarters in Albany. Regional committee members are Henry Reese, Region 2; Sarah Jackson, Region 3; Suzanne Waltz, Region 4; Doris Pratz, Region 5 and Marie Prince, Region 6.



MOVED?

If you've moved recently, or plan to move in the near future, it's very important, to you and CSEA, that you notify the union of your new address immediately. Use this form for your convenience.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name _____ Social Security No. _____

MY OLD ADDRESS WAS:

Street _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

Street _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

My employer is: _____

My work location is: _____

I am a member of CSEA Local _____

MAIL TO: Civil Service Employees Association
Attn: Membership Department
143 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210

CSEA staff opening

CSEA is seeking a budget examiner to work out of the union's statewide headquarters in Albany. Position requires ability to:

- *analyze state and local government budgets and their impact on the collective bargaining process;
- *determine availability of public funds to finance salary and benefit increases;
- *determine sources and levels of federal and state financial assistance; and
- *analyze impact of subcontracting services.

Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree with a major in public or business administration and three years fiscal experience at state and/or local government levels with at least one year's work preparing and/or analyzing budgets and other fiscal reports.

Some traveling required. Good presentation skills needed.

Resumes should be submitted immediately to Personnel Director, Civil Service Employees Association, P.O. Box 7125, Capital Station, Albany, N.Y. 12224.

Public SECTOR

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CSEA trounces Teamsters

Thrashing stuns Teamsters effort in Syracuse area

Compiled by Charles McGear
CSEA Communications Associate

SYRACUSE — CSEA has soundly trounced a Teamsters local to retain union representation for 320 white collar employees of the City of Syracuse, a victory that CSEA Region 5 President Jim Moore calls "particularly gratifying."

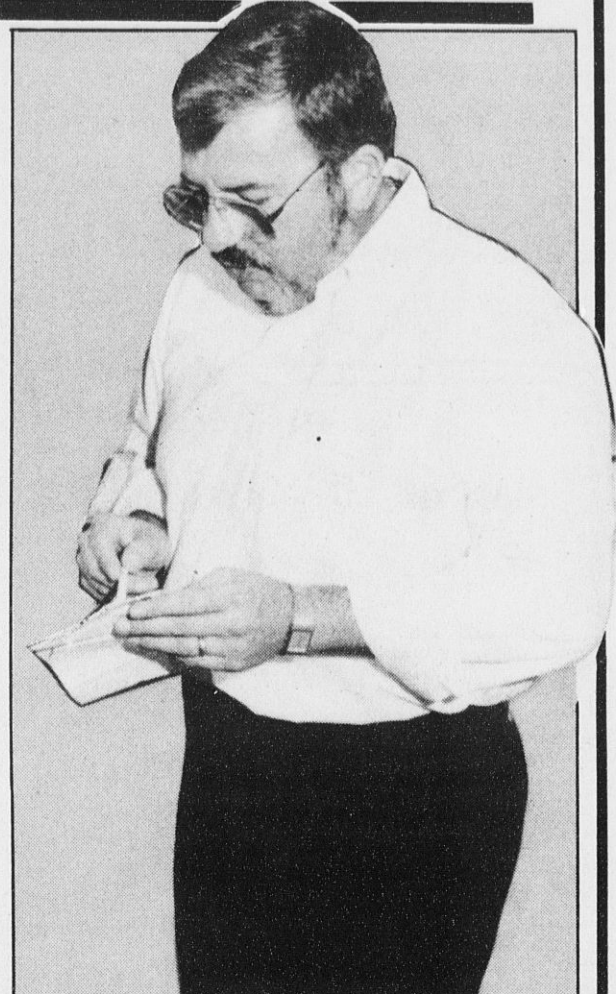
CSEA's thrashing of Teamsters Local 316 in a representation election supervised by the Public Employment Relations Board and the American Arbitration Association delivered a knockout punch to Teamster efforts to invade public employee union territory in central New York. CSEA's convincing win followed closely on the heels of a whipping AFSCME delivered to Teamsters Local 317 in an election giving AFSCME, CSEA's international union affiliate, the right to continue representing 552 City of Syracuse blue collar workers.

Moore called CSEA's big win over the Teamsters "particularly gratifying" because city management, in an effort to

remain neutral during the campaign, denied CSEA representatives access to city employees and work locations. Moore said the successful outcome was a credit to the efforts of CSEA Onondaga County Local 834 President Dale King, the rank-and-file local members, campaign coordinator Mike Sheldon, Field Representative Mike White and regional Organizers Chuck Gregory and Jose Sanchez.

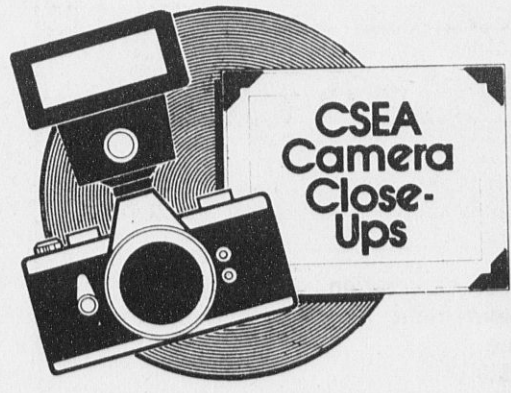
Moore said "it was a great team effort" and called for a unification of the city employees to create an even stronger union and assume a greater role in Local 834 activities.

Sheldon said he felt "the majority of members were concerned about their contract benefits, and they opted to stay with the union offering the most experience in the public sector." He also said he felt the abundance of adverse publicity regarding charges of Teamster corruption nationally was a factor in the outcome.



CHECKING THE TALLY — CSEA Region 5 President Jim Moore checks the vote tally and likes what he sees as CSEA trounced a Teamsters local in a City of Syracuse white collar employees election.

They opted to stay with the union offering the most experience in the public sector



**Where asked:
Western Region 6**

"What do you think is the best benefit of belonging to CSEA?"



WANDA RODAK
Typist, Wyoming Correctional Facility
CSEA Local 178

"The union is a place where you can voice your opinion among those who are understanding of your position. You're not alone with a union. It's like your family behind you.



MICHELLE LaBARGE
Payroll Specialist, Wyoming Correctional Facility
CSEA Local 178

"The best thing about a union is the representation provided so that your rights cannot be violated."



JANET BROWN
Social Services Department
Ontario County CSEA Local 835

"As a member, you can vote for or against a proposed contract that will effect your working conditions and salary. I feel much better when I have some input."



LORRAINE STACHOWIAK
MHTA, West Seneca Developmental Center
CSEA Local 427

"There's always someone there to back you up and protect your rights, even if you don't know them all personally. And . . . the benefits negotiated for you . . . that's very important."

CSEA Tier II win in limbo; state to appeal court ruling

**Despite
the
appeal,
I am sure
we're
going
to win.**

**CSEA President
William L. McGowan**

ALBANY — If you're one of those public employees who joined the state retirement system during the last half of 1976, don't count your money just yet despite a recent ruling by state Supreme Court Justice Edward Conway that you belong in Tier II of the retirement system and the 3 percent contribution you've been paying because the state put you in Tier III should be returned, along with interest accrued.

That's because there's been a detour into yet another court of CSEA's attempt to get thousands of public employees who entered the system between July 1 and Dec. 31, 1976 properly placed in Tier II.

State Comptroller Edward Regan says his office will appeal Justice Conway's ruling ordering the state Retirement System to move those affected workers from Tier III to Tier II, a level which

generally has a better retirement payout and which does not require employee contributions. As a result, the issue now goes to the Appellate Division of state Supreme Court.

"Despite the appeal, I am sure we're going to win," said CSEA President William L. McGowan upon learning the state plans to appeal the lower court victory by CSEA. At issue is CSEA's claim that the state incorrectly enacted the system change in July, 1976, and that the effective date of Tier III should be Jan. 1, 1977.

If the Appellate Division upholds CSEA's position, and barring any further appeals, it would mean that those placed in Tier III during the last half of 1976 would be entitled to a refund of their 3 percent contribution, plus interest accrued over the ten-year period.

Group to individual insurance conversion possible

Certain CSEA members insured under the Basic Group Life Insurance Program are eligible to convert part of their coverage, without medical information, to an individual form of insurance with the Travelers Insurance Company.

This in-service conversion privilege allows any actively employed member participating in the Group Life Program who is age 50 or older to convert up to \$5,000 of this term insurance to an individual form of coverage other than term insurance. The amount of the group term insurance the employee is insured for will be reduced by the amount converted.

Application must be made by Aug. 31, and the effective date of the converted insurance will be Nov. 1. Premium payments for the converted insurance will be made directly to Travelers Insurance Company.

Additional information on the conversion privilege may be obtained by returning the adjacent coupon.

TO: CSEA Insurance Department, 143 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12210.

Please send me information concerning the conversion privilege for the CSEA Basic Group Life Insurance Program.

NAME: _____
Last First Middle Initial Maiden

Home Address _____
Street City State ZIP

Place of Employment: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Sex: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Nassau deferred compensation plan gets mutual praise from labor and management

Labor and management are not always at odds, although it may seem that way. Some of the best results, in fact, come when both sides work together toward common goals. Such was the case in Nassau County, where labor and management ended up in a mutual admiration society for their combined efforts to create an acceptable deferred compensation for county workers.

Under provisions of the plan, which has been adopted by the Nassau County Board of Supervisors, employees may save up to 25 percent of their yearly earnings up to \$7,500 under a variety of savings options. The plan will be administered by the Copeland Companies and participating financial organizations will be Travelers and Kemper Financial Services.

Nassau County CSEA Local 830 President Jerome Donahue had high praise for County Comptroller Peter T. King's efforts, noting "for almost four years, Peter chaired the labor-management committee and worked to find the deferred compensation plan most acceptable to our members."

King, in turn, said he wanted "to particularly thank Jerry Donahue and Rita Wallace for their help and support. The plan we have developed is a good plan because CSEA members deserve a good plan." Wallace will serve as a member of the three-person Deferred Compensation Board which will oversee the plan.



SMILES NOT DEFERRED, BUT COMPENSATION CAN BE—
CSEA Local 830 President Jerome Donahue and Nassau County Comptroller Peter T. King look over the new deferred compensation plan, and like what they see.

National kudos to wardens for 'dogged' valor

BROOKHAVEN — Dog Wardens Linda Pew and Charles Bratisax were honored recently by the National Animal Control Association for acting "beyond the call of duty."

Last January, Pew and Bratisax rescued a dog from the semi-frozen Canaan Lake. Pew and a police officer began the rescue attempt by chipping away at the ice to reach the dog by boat. When they were three-quarters of the way there, the boat capsized, dumping Pew and the officer into the freezing water.

Bratisax jumped into another boat, offered to him by some neighborhood kids, and completed the rescue.

"I couldn't have done it if the ice hadn't been chipped away," he says.

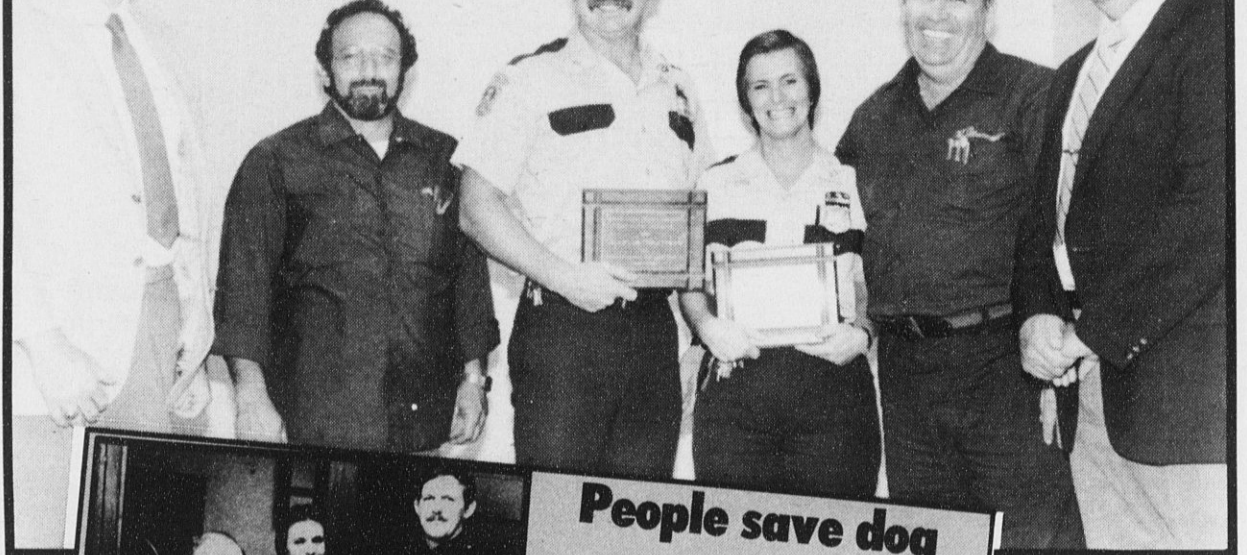
"Everyone is fine and the dog was adopted," notes Pew.

According to Pat Deluca, CSEA president of the blue collar unit of CSEA Suffolk Local 852, only six people in the nation are recognized by the National Animal Control Association.

"We are very proud to see that two out of six in the nation came from our unit," Deluca said.

Stephen Ramsland, the director at the

NEW AWARDS — Wardens Charles Bratisax and Linda Pew, center, recently received recognition from the National Animal Control Association for heroic acts last winter (see article below). Pictured with them, from left, are: Animal Shelter Director Stephen Ramsland, CSEA Blue Collar Unit President Pat Deluca, Suffolk Local 852 President William Maccaro, and Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety Louis Romano.



LUCKY DOG — Wardens Charles Bratisax and Linda Pew, and Suffolk County Police Officer Thomas Brady proudly show the certificates of appreciation they received from Brookhaven Town Supervisor Henrietta Acampora. Everyone looks fine — including the dog they rescued!

People save dog Suffolk members rescue pup from frozen waters

By Sheryl Carlin
CSEA Communications Associate

BROOKHAVEN — The life of a dog warden can be filled with thrill, and some chilling, experiences. The latter was the best description for the situation experienced recently by Brookhaven Dog Wardens Linda Pew and Charles Bratisax, members of Suffolk Local 852, and a local police officer, when they successfully rescued a dog from the semi-frozen Canaan Lake.

After hearing the call on the radio, the wardens arrived on the scene to find a policeman ready to make a rescue attempt in a boat. Pew hopped in and they began to chip through the ice, moving a few feet at a

When they were three-quarters of the way to the dog, who was half in and out of the icy water, the boat capsized, dumping Pew and the officer into the freezing lake. They made it safely back to shore and were sent to the hospital to be treated for possible hypothermia.

Bratisax, who had been watching from shore, was offered a boat from some neighborhood kids.

"I got in the boat and paddled out there. Since most of the ice was already chipped away, it didn't take me too long to reach the dog. I grabbed her with my noose and pulled her into the boat," he related.

The dog was then taken to an emergency animal hospital. Everyone involved in the incident is now fine, including the dog. Pew commented, "The dog made it to the hospital before we did!"

At a town board meeting recently, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Henrietta Acampora presented Pew, Bratisax, and the officer, with a plaque, thanking them for the "heroic rescue of a stray dog from Canaan Lake."

"The important thing for people to know is that there isn't a warden among us who wouldn't have done the same thing," Bratisax said.

"We're here to help."

PUBLIC SECTOR
article, left, ran
last February.

animal shelter, congratulated the wardens and presented them with their plaques.

"We are very proud of Linda and Charlie, and of this honor," he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety Louis Romano came to the celebration at

the shelter to congratulate the wardens.

"I think it's important that our members are recognized for their efforts," said Local 852 President William Maccaro, who also attended the celebration.

Member rescues prisoner from suicide

SOUTHOLD — CSEA member Jim Fogarty, a public safety dispatcher for the town Police Department, saved a man's life recently when the man attempted to hang himself.

According to Fogarty, at approximately 5 a.m., he was working the front desk and monitoring the cell from the television camera when the incident occurred.

"I noticed that the prisoner had taken his pants off, so I asked him what was going on. Before he could answer, I ran to the back and called the rescue squad, grabbed a scissor and ran back to the cell," Fogarty recalled.

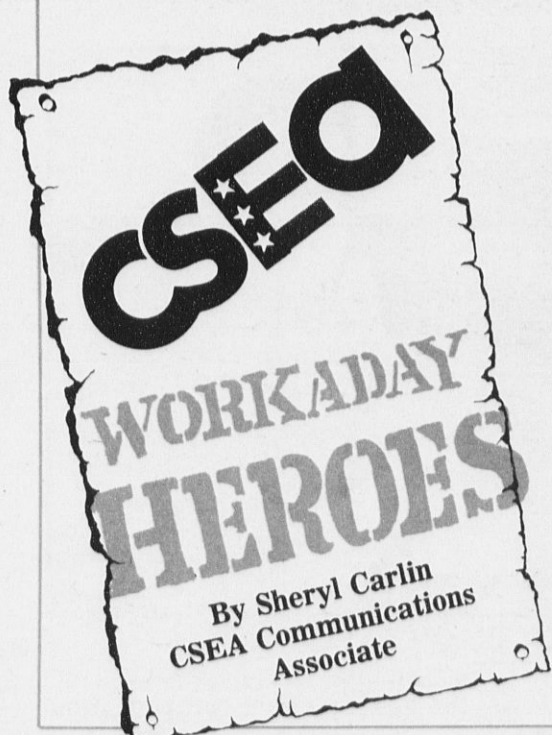
When he returned to the cell, the prisoner was hanging by his pants, purple and unconscious. "It took me a minute or two to

cut him down because the scissor was dull," Fogarty said.

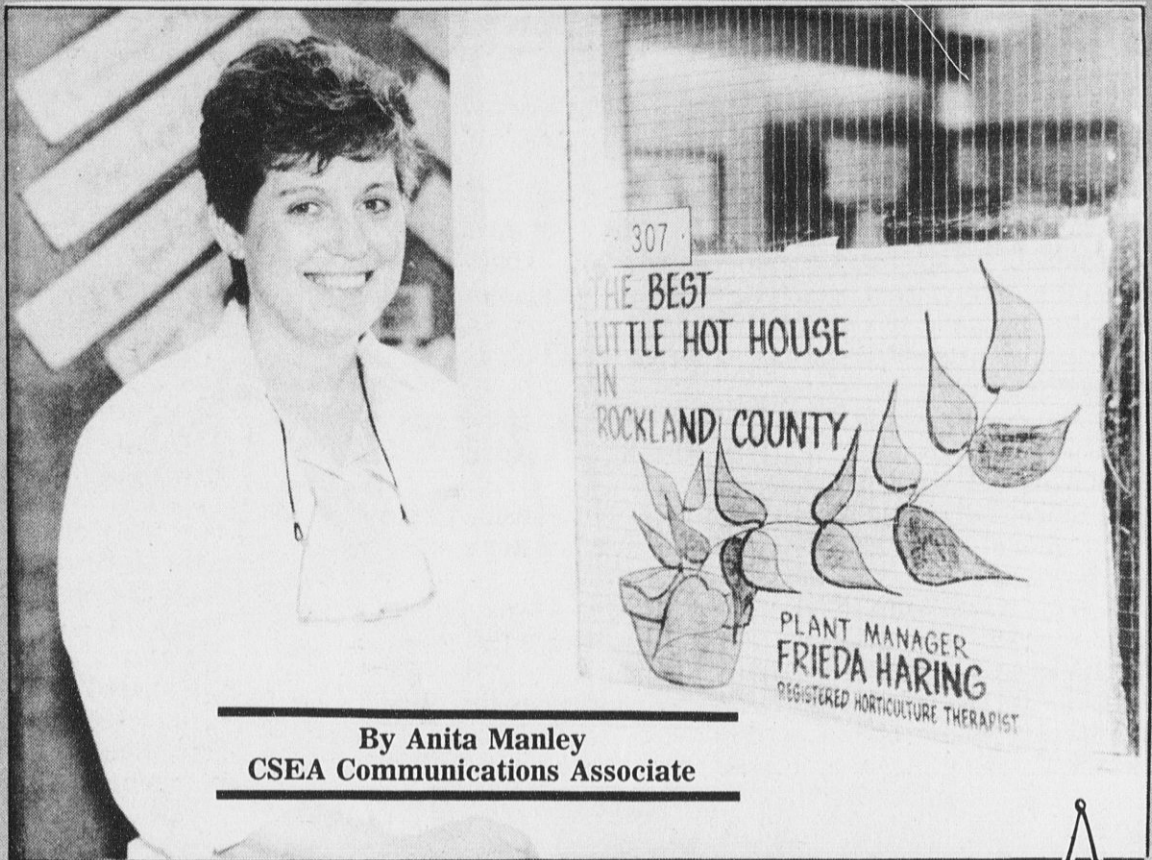
After cutting him down, Fogarty began successful mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. "I couldn't believe it. The whole time I kept thinking I would lose my job because only the police are supposed to go into the cells, but I was the only one there at the moment," said the six-year employee.

The Southhold jail, which has two cells, usually holds prisoners for a maximum of 24 hours.

Fogarty, who is in the Town of Southhold Unit of CSEA Suffolk Local 852, was commended by the union for his quick thinking, and acting "beyond the call of duty."

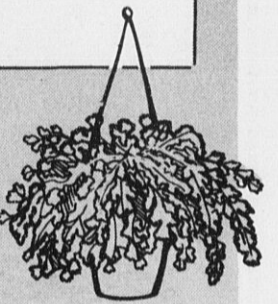


ROCKLAND COUNTY OCCUPATIONAL Therapist Frieda Haring welcoming visitors to her "classroom" and, below, giving some special attention to plants in her intensive care unit.



By Anita Manley
CSEA Communications Associate

Gettin' 'em back in full bloom



POMONA — Lucky is the person who is gifted with a talent she can share with others. Frieda Haring is one of those lucky people who shares her love of plants with residents of the Rockland County Health Center.

An occupational therapist for the last 18 years, Haring established the Horticultural Therapy Program 12 years ago after she attended a lecture on the subject.

"We started the program on a limited basis because of lack of space," she explained. "But when the county moved its health center to a new building, an entire large room was provided."



Horticultural therapy is actually part of a prescribed therapeutic program. Patients of the health center are referred to Haring's program to be provided with activities to improve motor skills and hand and eye coordination, strengthen weakened hands and arms and help with problems ranging from stress to adjustment to their new surroundings.

"Disabilities are transformed into abilities when handicapped persons have the opportunity to work with plants, flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees," Haring explained. "Using this medium, the therapist can evaluate someone's ability to work, bend, lift, carry and kneel, as well as manual dexterity, ability to comprehend instructions and concentrate."

Haring pointed out that "above all, plants give responsibility, self-esteem, and companionship, and stimulate competitiveness."

Other activities in which Haring's plants play a part include a "Green Thumb Club" where patients work with plants and participate in plant related activities such as flower pressing, making corsages, and potpourri. Patients also planted and maintain outdoor gardens, flower beds in the lobby and a vegetable garden and participate in an annual garden show sponsored by a local garden club.



NICK, FAR LEFT, waters flowers in one of the beautiful outdoor gardens planted by patients of the Rockland County Health Care Center as Pearl, who suffers from arthritis, finds that making potpourri out of dried flowers is good therapy.

Joint EAP unveiled

CARMEL — CSEA members from Putnam County played a major role in the development of a joint Employee Assistance Program.

The Public Employee Consortium, established jointly by Westchester and Putnam Counties, will provide a wide variety of assistance to government employees who are experiencing personal problems that interfere with job performance.

Putnam County Executive David Bruen noted that the consortium represented the best approach for county and local officials for three reasons:

1. The cost was most reasonable since the consortium will be supported by a \$250,000 grant from the NYS Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse;

2. Since this is a joint program with Westchester County, Putnam County can take advantage of Westchester's experience and knowledge.

3. As a consortium for public employees, towns, villages and school districts may also join in order to receive the services at a reasonable and manageable cost.

Local 840 President Alice May said she hopes that any employees with a problem, whether it be alcohol, drugs, financial or marital, will utilize the program for their benefit."



Local 840 President Alice May and Putnam County Executive David D. Bruen are all smiles after the signing of a joint Employee Assistance Program Consortium with Westchester County. Standing from left are Rose Braatz, clerk to the legislature; Robert Chirles from the Mental Health Department; Region III Field Representative Richard Blair; Ed McEvoy, personnel specialist; Tom Carr, a member of the EAP committee; and Claire Salvatore, a CSEA member of the Labor Management Committee.

Lax radiation safety rapped

STONY BROOK — CSEA recently won a grievance which will have a marked effect on the safety and welfare of the members working on the Medical Records floor, where radiation treatments are given, at the University Hospital here.

Last month, a new housekeeping employee was exposed to ionizing radiation when she entered a room on the North Tower of Medical Records, to empty the wastebasket.

The employee had been assigned to the Medical Records floor to temporarily replace a regularly assigned housekeeper. The employee walked into the room, unaware of the danger, because the warning sign on the door was covered by other notices and papers.

While the radiation safety report, issued by the hospital radiation safety officer, was reassuring, it did not remove all questions about the employee's present and future health.

As part of the decision, the hearing officer stated that the university will submit a list of qualified radiation safety consultants, one of which will be chosen by CSEA to review the incident. "This report will determine the nature of radiation exposure and the need, if any, for future medical monitoring (of the employee)." These services will be paid for by the university.

The consultant will also examine the extent of radiation hazards for other employees working on that floor. Radiation badges, for those who work on the floor, will be considered, and the nurse administrator will see that nothing is placed over the warning sign.

The administration has also agreed to include training information about radiation safety hazards in the hospital training procedures packet, which is given to all housekeeping staff. The Human Resources staff will also include radiation safety training as a separate part of the orientation procedure, for all employees.

The hearing officer expressed his gratitude to the employee for initiating the grievance. "Despite the personal difficulties she has experienced, her perseverance should result in a safer working environment for all employees," he stated.

CSEA Stony Brook Local 614 President Anthony Ruggiero said he is extremely pleased with the decision. "When you're talking about radiation exposure, to any extent, you can't afford to be careless in any way," he said. "This determination will be a giant step in avoiding any future problems."

CSEA
at
your
service

Overload triggers action

KINGS PARK — In response to over 270 out-of-title grievances filed by CSEA members at the psychiatric center here, the office of Mental Health formed a criteria which outlines which employees will be mandated to work as ward charges.

Most of the grievances were filed by grade 9 mental health therapy aides who were mandated to work, out-of-title, as grade 11 ward charges because of the severe shortage of these ward charge items.

State representatives recently held a meeting in Kings Park with CSEA officials and administrators from the centers, to explain the criteria.

"This whole thing began last summer when my third vice president Dennis Schevis filed out-of-title ward charge grievances for some LPNs. That really got the ball rolling and we started filing grievances for the mental health therapy

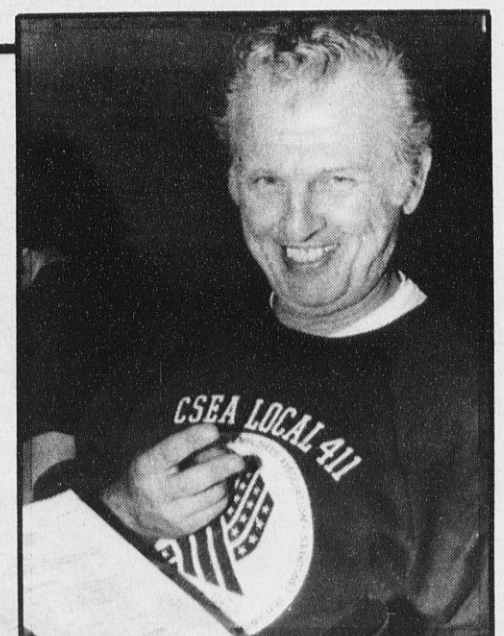
aides," explained Kings Park Local 411 President Tony Bentivegna.

After studying the OMH Staffing Criteria, Bentivegna said he feels secure that over 200 of the grievants will receive money for time they worked as ward charges.

Management is currently reviewing each grievance and making determinations which will then be forwarded to Albany for final decisions.

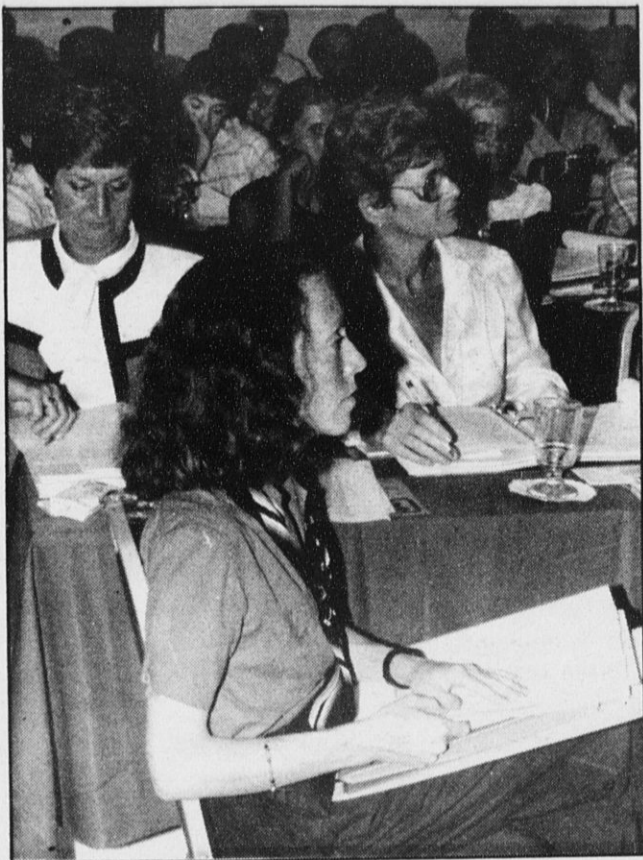
"I see this as a landmark benefit to all of us," Bentivegna said. "For years, the state has been maneuvering to avoid paying overtime and ward charge pay. This landslide of grievances has changed that and I find it really satisfying."

Kings Park will be the most directly affected psychiatric center, but the outcome of the grievances will have an impact in psychiatric centers across the state.



Bentivegna

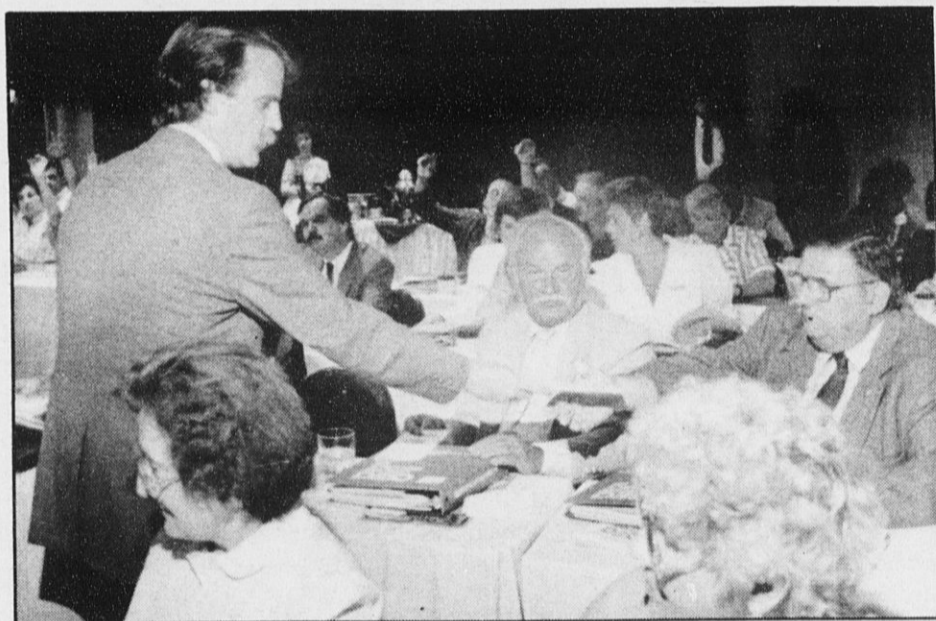
CSEA OFFICERS' ORIENTATION



LISTENING IN — Education and Training Specialist Peg Wilson watches a presentation during the training program. Taking notes behind her are participants Connie Wunderlich, left, and Aileen Ronayne.



MAKING A POINT — Region I President Danny Donohue, right, with Region I Office Manager Toni Soucie sit in with officers at the Nassau County orientation.



NEW MATERIALS — Education and Training Specialist Sean Turley passes out new orientation booklets at the Nassau County training program.



SIGN UP — Field Representative Jim Della Rocca signs in at the Suffolk County Officers' Orientation. Looking on are regional Education Committee members Pat Bocca, left, and Carol Guardiano.

Long Island programs underway, more follow

In training

Each seat was filled and Education and Training Specialists Peg Wilson and Sean Turley were on Long Island, anxious to begin the first in a new series of Officers' Orientation programs. When the curtain went up, it would be a dramatic event.

After a film on CSEA, the theme from the old TV series "Mission Impossible" drifted through the room. Wilson's eyes scanned the crowd as she told them: "Your mission as union officers is not impossible!"

Then, each participant was given a "Mission Possible Officer Orientation Workbook" and an "CSEA Officers' Resource Kit."

The Education and Training Department had put the novel program together to make CSEA members feel comfortable in their roles as officers, said Turley, explaining that the course covers CSEA history, laws, structure, unit and local responsibilities, and the various resources available to the officers.

Wilson stressed that the program provides essential information on whom officers could go to for what type of information or assistance. "No officer can know everything," she said, "but all of them should know how to get the information they need."

After the orientation, officers praised the program. Miller Place School District Unit President Joseph DeMaddis had this to say: "As a new officer, I found this training to be very interesting and helpful. I was a president 15 years ago, but a lot has changed since then."

Sharon Sadadino, a secretary from the Middle Country School District, said "There is certainly a lot to know. I think the workbooks and resource books are great. They're put together in a format that's very easy to follow."

The Officers' Orientation programs will be presented in all six regions over the next three months. Wilson and Turley will return to Long Island August 25 (in Suffolk) and August 26 (in Nassau) to serve officers who could not attend the July programs.

Region I President Danny Donohue said "It is extremely important that the officers realize that this training is for all officers, new and re-elected. Everybody will gain from it."

THOROUGH TRAINING CREATES EFFECTIVE UNION LEADERSHIP

Secretaries training schedule announced

Following is the schedule of training for unit and local elected secretaries by Region. All units and locals will be notified by region headquarters of specific details.

Region 1	Suffolk	August 12	Sheraton, Smithtown
	Nassau	August 13	Island Inn, Westbury
	Nassau	September 9	Island Inn, Westbury
Region 2	New York City	September 16 (tentative)	Region Office
Region 3	White Plains	August 26	Coachman Hotel
	Fishkill	August 27	Ramada
Region 4	Albany	September 13 (tentative)	To be announced
	Plattsburgh	September 27	To be announced
Region 5	Syracuse	August 16	To be announced
	Syracuse	September 20	To be announced
Region 6	Buffalo	September 6	Convention Center
	Rochester	October 18	Monroe Community College

Treasurers schedule of training programs

Training programs for unit and local elected treasurers are scheduled by Regions as follows: All units and locals will be notified by the appropriate regional headquarters of specific details.

Region 1	Suffolk	August 12	Sheraton, Smithtown
	Nassau	August 13	Island Inn, Westbury
	Nassau	September 9	Island Inn, Westbury
Region 2	New York City	August 15	Region 2 office
Region 3	White Plains	August 26	Coachman Hotel
	Fishkill	August 27	Ramada
Region 4	Albany	September 13	To be announced
	Plattsburgh	September 27	To be announced
Region 5	Syracuse	August 16	To be announced
	Syracuse	September 20	To be announced
Region 6	Buffalo	September 6	Convention Center
	Rochester	October 18	Monroe Community College

Officer training program changes as to dates, times and locations

The following is an update on dates, time and location changes to the previously announced new officer orientation program being conducted by CSEA's Education and Training Department.

OFFICER ORIENTATION UPDATE

DATE	AREA	LOCATION	Registration
July 30	Watertown	Jefferson Community College	6:00 p.m.
July 31	Potsdam	SUNY	6:00 p.m.
August 2	Lake Placid	Hilton	9:00 a.m.
August 20	Albany	Hilton	6:30 p.m.
August 21	Syracuse	Onondaga Community College	6:00 p.m.
August 25	Suffolk	Sheraton, Smithtown	6:30 p.m.
August 26	Nassau	Island Inn, Westbury	6:30 p.m.
August 28	New York City	Region II Office	1:00 p.m.
September 3	Peekskill	To be announced	6:30 p.m.
September 4	Albany	Hilton	6:30 p.m.
September 15	Middletown	Orange Community College	6:30 p.m.
September 16	Kingston	Ulster Community College	6:30 p.m.
September 22	Buffalo	Marriott	6:30 p.m.
September 23	Jamestown	Holiday Inn	6:30 p.m.
September 25	Bath	Steuben Inn	6:30 p.m.
September 30	Saratoga Springs	Holiday Inn	6:30 p.m.
October 1	Binghamton	SUNY	6:00 p.m.
October 6	Buffalo	Convention Center	6:30 p.m.
October 7	Batavia	Treadway Inn	6:30 p.m.
October 8	Rochester	Holiday Inn, Airport	6:30 p.m.
October 8	Amsterdam	To be announced	6:30 p.m.
October 15	Nassau	Island Inn, Westbury	6:30 p.m.
October 16	White Plains	Coachman Hotel	6:30 p.m.
October 21	Liberty	Holiday Hills	6:30 p.m.

Specific info concerning the training in Region 5

The following location and time changes in officers training programs for Region 5 officials have been announced.

- July 30 — WATERTOWN, Jefferson Community College Amphitheatre, 6-11 p.m.
- July 31 — POTSDAM, SUNY Potsdam, Raymond Hall, 8th floor, 6-11 p.m.
- Aug. 2 — LAKE PLACID, Hilton Inn, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Aug. 21 — SYRACUSE, Onondaga Community College, Storer Auditorium, 6-11 p.m.
- Sept. 25 — BATH, Steuben Inn, 7-11 p.m.
- Oct. 1 — BINGHAMTON, SUNY Binghamton, Lecture Hall 14, 6-11 p.m.

★ CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION / Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO ★

To help you to fulfill your responsibility as a CSEA Union Officer, Officers' Orientation Programs have been scheduled. We encourage you to attend this training.

Please complete the section below, indicating which orientation you plan to attend and return to the Region Office.

PLEASE PRINT

Social Security No.

NAME

ADDRESS

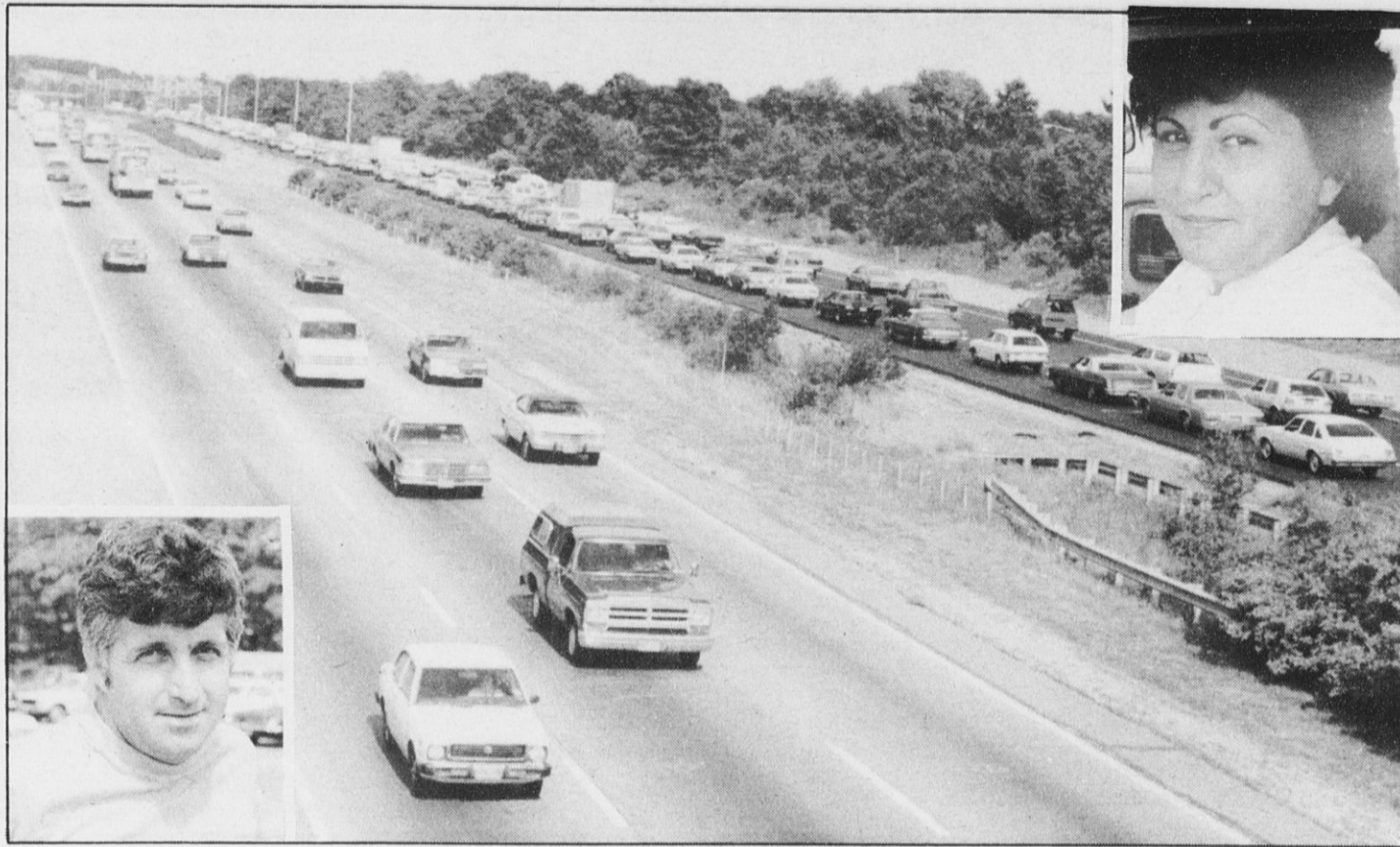
OFFICE HELD

LOCAL NAME - #

UNIT NAME

LOCATION OF TRAINING SITE

DATE OF TRAINING



REGION 1 — TRAFFIC AS A WAY OF LIFE

For those who work on Long Island, commuting means driving and facing delays. Says DOT Local 508 member John Belmonte, left, "the congestion on the roads is horrendous...My trip to work takes about 40 minutes and it shouldn't take more than 15 minutes."

Adds Lucy Jackson of the Comsewogue School District: "you have to leave so much extra time to get anywhere on time. Then, you have the parkways where if you miss an exit, you could be on the road forever before you get a chance to turn around."

The statewide commute

A look at how many CSEA members travel to work and what they encounter along the way

REGION 4 — CAPITAL PARKING CRUNCH

CSEA members who work in downtown Albany have seen their daily parking difficulties go from bad to worse in recent weeks. Convenient spaces have always been few and far between, but now a "residents only" permit system has made the Capital crunch even tighter.

Claims Karen Roy of the State Health Department Local 665: "the parking in Albany stinks. I have to leave an hour and a half early to get from Schenectady, find place to park and get to work on time."



REGION 5 — COPING WITH HEAVY WEATHER

Talking shop are Merwin "Stubby" Stevens, NYS DOT Heavy Equipment Operator and Jack Wood, Sr. Motor Equipment Operator for the City of Elmira. They have to make it in to work no matter what the weather to help make sure the roads are clear for others. They're used to traveling in the

worst possible conditions and aren't bothered about it. Says Stevens: "if you know your equipment and have experienced road crews, you can handle most snow storms." Adds Wood: "in most cases we can get in and have our job done before incoming traffic gets heavy."



REGION 2 — NYC'S UNIQUE MASS TRANSIT

New York City's buses and subways are a daily adventure and sometimes a nightmare for thousands of CSEA members who rely on them to get to work. Offers Elnora Gray, above right, of Local 010 who rides the "graffiti specials" on the D line to the Harlem State Office Building each day: "the dirty, filthy cars and poor lighting are aggravating and frustrating." She also notes that service is undependable.



REGION 3 — LONG DISTANCE COMMUTING

Many CSEA members in the Hudson Valley spend a lot of time in their cars—not necessarily in traffic, but because there are so many miles between home and work. Pat Shipman, above, a public health nurse spends much of her workday driving—putting about 1,200 miles a month on her county vehicle. "Normally it's O.K." she comments, "but when the weather is bad, I dislike it."

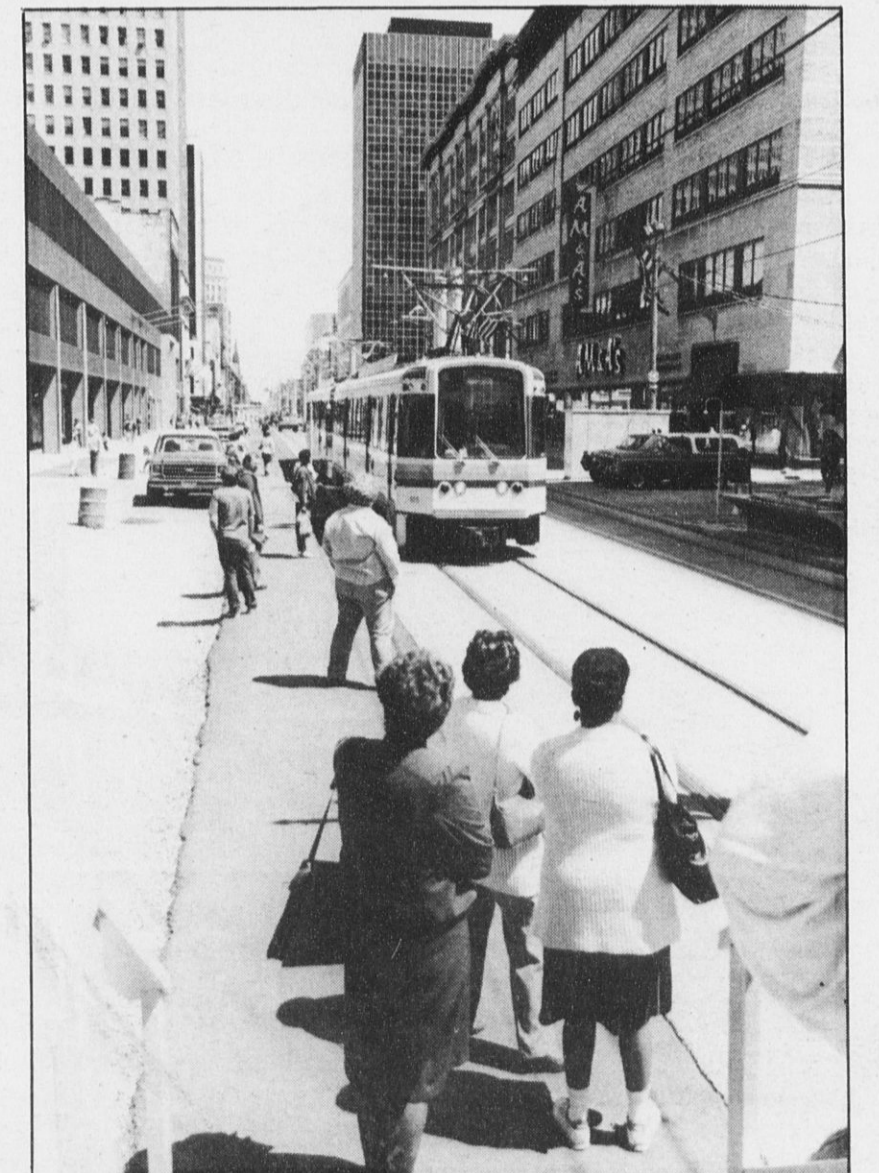


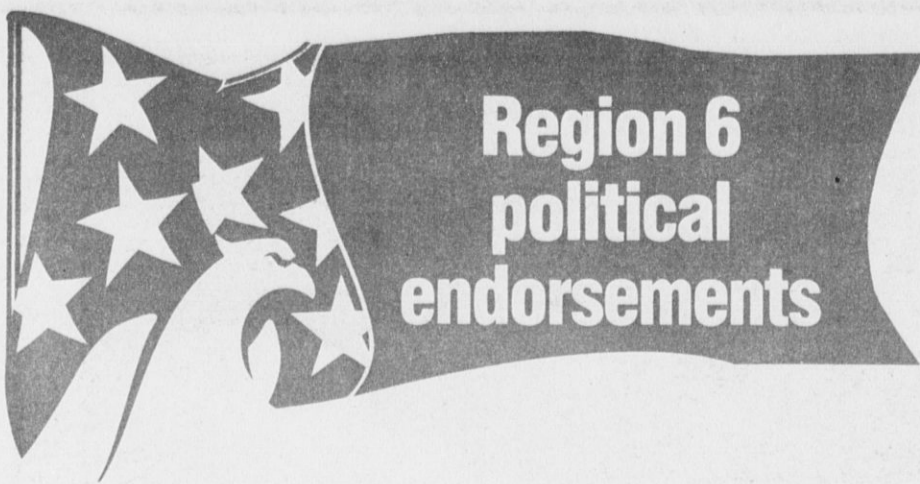
Region 3 Vice President Rose Marcinkowski, left, used to work at Wallkill prison, just a few miles from her home. But a promotion meant transfer to Taconic Prison, 57 miles away. She allows an hour and a half to get to work—there have been times though when the commute is more than 2 hours each way.

REGION 6 — MASS TRANSIT IMPROVING

When Lucinda Steward and Kirk Purysa of Erie County Local 815, pictured below, commute to work on Buffalo's new rapid transit system, it's not only practical, it's also pleasant. Says Steward: "taking the train is much less pressurized than driving. It's quiet, clean, and efficient and it's fun."

Adds Purysa: "I like riding rather than going through the hassle of finding parking every day. The system is also less costly and I can be on the train within a few minutes after I leave my desk."





Keane tops list

BUFFALO — The candidacy of James P. Keane in the 31st Congressional District highlighted a recent list of political endorsements in Region 6 by the CSEA Political Action Committee.

Keane, a member of the Buffalo Common Council, will be seeking to unseat Republican Jack Kemp. Region 6 President Robert L. Lattimer lauded Keane as "an individual of rare vigor and tenacity, whose knowledge of labor-oriented issues is enhanced by his past public service as firefighter, as well as his present tenure as a Buffalo Common Council member."

"The citizens of the 31st Congressional District deserve a representative who has their interests at heart," declared Lattimer, "not a carpetbagger with starry eyes for the White House."

Keane was presented with a campaign contribution check by Lattimer from the AFSCME Political Action Committee Fund.

Other Western New York endorsements include:

Frank Horton (Incumbent)	(R)	29th Congressional District
Louise Slaughter	(D)	30th Congressional District
John J. LaFalce (Incumbent)	(D)	32nd Congressional District
Henry J. Nowak (Incumbent)	(D)	33rd Congressional District
Richard J. Keane (Incumbent)	(D)	145th Assembly District

"We enthusiastically endorse these fine candidates' campaigns, and urge our members in the respective districts to help get out the vote," said Lattimer.



KEANE CONGRATULATED — Region 6 President Robert Lattimer, left, and Congressional hopeful James Keane shake hands upon the latter's endorsement by CSEA. Behind them are Region 6 Political Action Coordinator Joseph Martin and Thomas Warzel, co-chairman of the regional Political Action Committee.

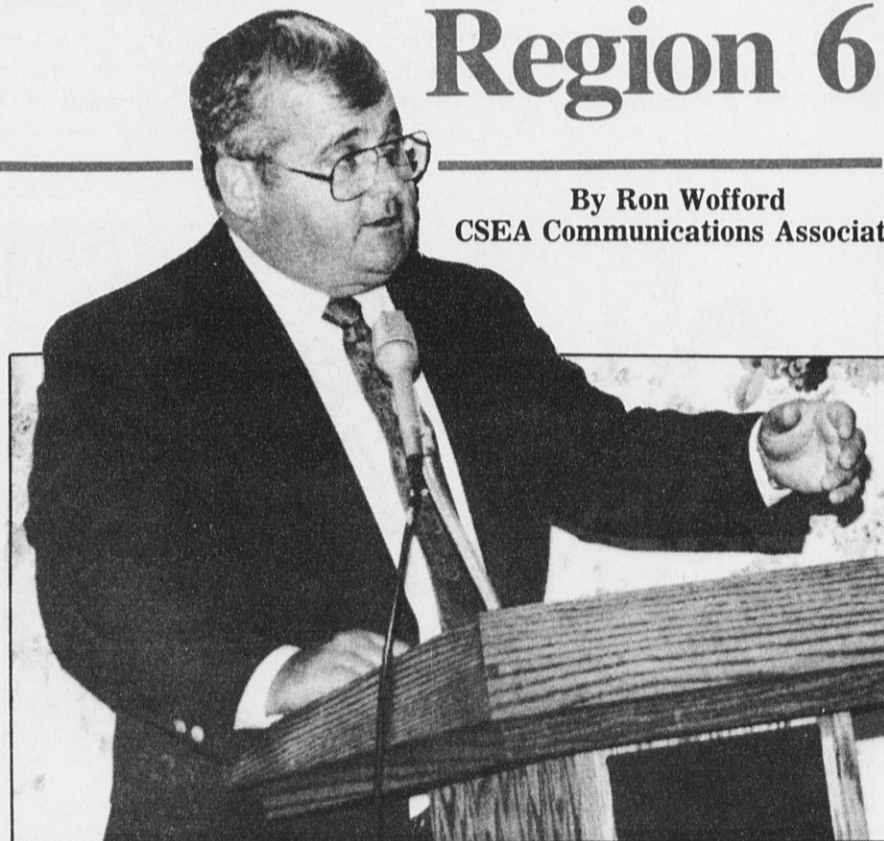


EXCHANGING SOME CONVERSATION at the recent Region 6 Summer Conference are, from left, Monroe Developmental Center Local 439 Vice President Betty Humphrey, Rochester Psychiatric Center Local 420 President Geraldine Wiggins and Vice President Betty Williams.

REGION 6 POLITICAL ACTION Coordinator Joseph Martin, right, addresses a group of delegates in an outdoor workshop session.

Sunny reception for first summer conference in Region 6.

By Ron Wofford
CSEA Communications Associate



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE John Glenzer at luncheon where he pledged his administration's cooperation in upcoming contract negotiations with CSEA.



MAYVILLE — Staff and members' efforts to improve union services to the rank and file highlighted the Region 6 Summer Conference at the historic Chautauqua Institute.

- Workshops at the conference were characterized by attendance and input by virtually the entire regional field staff. The members discussed negotiations procedures for local governments, units and locals, labor/management relations, and a variety of other concerns specific to the wide-ranging membership of the CSEA.

- The war on drug abuse also received a plug from guest speaker Salvatore R. Martoche, out-going U.S. attorney with the Western District of New York.

"Each and every one of us has got to

take it seriously, and put this menace to bed completely. Too many resources, human and financial, are being used on this problem," said Martoche, who is leaving the Buffalo area to become U.S. deputy secretary of labor. "I have seen first hand what this problem can do. It destroys lives and it can be prevented."

Martoche called on CSEA members to figure out what each can do individually to attack the drug abuse epidemic.

In other conference affairs, the delegates voted to support the Board of Directors in their endeavor to unify CSEA in dealing with internal matters. The members also heard from Chautauqua County Executive John A. Glenzer at a luncheon, where he pledged his administration's cooperation in labor /

management relations. The Chautauqua County local currently is gearing up for contract negotiations. The county unit is also in negotiations regarding sub-contracting of the Home and Infirmary Laundry Services.

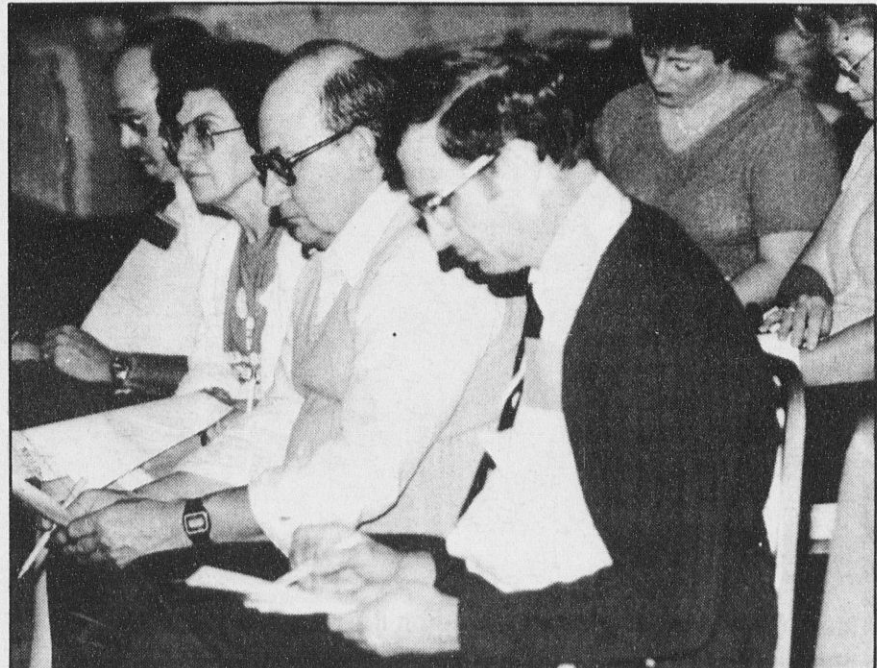
In addition, delegates made plans for: a regional picnic July 26, an open house at the new regional office and the Statewide Delegates Convention in Niagara Fall.

Region 6 President Robert Lattimer praised the staff for an "admirable job" in conducting the many workshops.

"This was the first time we have done such a thing," said Lattimer, "but it won't be the last because it provides an excellent opportunity for contact and interaction by staff and activist members."



GATHERING FOR GROUP PHOTO with guest speaker Salvatore Martoche were executive officers from Region 6. Pictured, from left, are: Vice President Sara Sievert, President Robert Lattimer, Vice President Florence Tripi, Martoche and his son Chris, and Treasurer Jim Kurtz.



A GROUP OF DELEGATES ponders an issue during one of the meetings.

New brochures out for United Buying Service

Available now at local offices



New shopping brochures are now out to help CSEA members take advantage of savings on a variety of merchandise through United Buying Service.

For almost two years, CSEA members have been using UBS, the oldest and largest discount buying service in the state, to increase their purchasing power on items

from furniture to jewelry to major appliances and automobiles.

Shop around for the best buy.

This special discount buying service is being made available to CSEA members at no cost and no obligation of any kind.

CSEA President William L. McGowan said that while UBS has an excellent record for delivering high-quality products and service at substantial savings, "members should continue to be smart shoppers by looking for the items they want at local stores and shopping for sales first to be sure that UBS is

providing the best prices for those major purchases."

To use the service, call the numbers provided and give the make and model number of the item you wish to purchase. You will be quoted UBS's lowest price and, if you wish, your order can be placed by phone and delivered to your home.

Brochures explaining the service are available to members through your local or unit president.

ATTENTION CAR BUYERS: Now's the time to take a look at your automobile needs due to the fact that dealers are making way for 1987 inventory. Check into a new '86 model now or an '87 in the fall and see what UBS can do to bring down your cost.

LIST OF ITEMS COVERED BY UNITED BUYING SERVICE

UBS may be able to help you obtain savings on the following items:

- *New Car Buying
- *Long Term Leasing
- *Tires
- *China
- *Crystal
- *Flatware
- *Typewriters
- *Pianos
- *Video Components
- *Audio-Stereo Components
- *Major Appliances
- *Furniture
- *Carpeting
- *Televisions
- *Jewelry
- *Furs

To avail yourself of United Buying Service discounts, call this number and identify yourself as a CSEA member:

LONG ISLAND
(516) 488-3268

NEW YORK CITY
(212) 889-6338
or 685-5252

WESTCHESTER and
UPSTATE NEW YORK
(800) 522-3131

Want ^{more} savings? Send for this



If you really want to buy union made products, and really want to save money, you should mail in this coupon and receive a **FREE Union Label Shopper Catalog.**

The Union Label Shopper is a discount mail order catalog containing only union made goods. Almost all products in the catalog are available at a discount. So you can save money as you save jobs.

As a union member, you have been looking for the union label when you shop. Now you can find **ONLY** union made products in the catalog and save money when you buy.

One million free catalogs will be distributed to union members at the end of September. If you want one, to save union jobs, and save yourself money, fill in the coupon at right and mail it in today.

Please send me a FREE

UNION LABEL SHOPPER DISCOUNT CATALOG:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Union: _____ Local No.: _____

Please circle the items you would like to buy from the Catalog:

- Work Clothes • Women's Clothes • Men's Casual Clothes • Shoes • Children's Clothes • Kitchen Appliances
- Radio • Luggage • TV • Sports Equipment • Furniture • Auto Supplies • Tools

Other: _____

Mail this coupon to: UNION LABEL SHOPPER
508 N. Second Street, Fairfield, IA 52556

SLIDE SHOW — Rockland County Public Health Technician John Stoughton gears up for a presentation in a course for restaurant owners and workers.



Preventing food poisoning: Shedding some light on a heavy subject

Once a month, John Stoughton teaches restaurant owners, managers and employees how to keep from poisoning their customers.

According to Stoughton, a public health technician employed by Rockland County, the course is required by county code and must be completed so that food

establishments can receive their operating permits.

"We encourage the owners to send their chefs, bartenders and employees," he explained. "It helps them to be in compliance with the law. But, of course, the main purpose is to keep customers from getting sick!"

Stoughton says he spends the rest of his time inspecting eating establishments and cafeterias and investigating complaints. During the summer, he inspects camps. There are about 900 such businesses in Rockland County and 6 health inspectors to see that their owners comply with health laws. "We have a pretty good track record," he said. "I attribute this to the monthly program."

Stoughton starts his program by pointing out how bacteria and germs grow. "This really opens peoples' eyes," he remarked. "It makes them paranoid about food-borne illness."

"You can't avoid bacteria," Stoughton tells his classes. "It's on everything you touch — 99 percent is not harmful but that other 1 percent can make you very sick."

Stoughton's course also includes tips on proper sanitation methods for utensils and equipment; storage, preparation, serving and freezing of foods; how to determine if a potential food-borne illness outbreak exists; personal hygiene; insect and rodent control; fire prevention and the Clean Air Act.

Stoughton, a five-year employee, is married and the father of one child. In addition to his job with Rockland County and members of Rockland County Local 844, he conducts CPR instruction for county employees, is a member of the Haverstraw and Orangetown Volunteer Ambulance Corps and is involved in the Indian Point Nuclear Plant Evacuation Plan.

Summer food tips

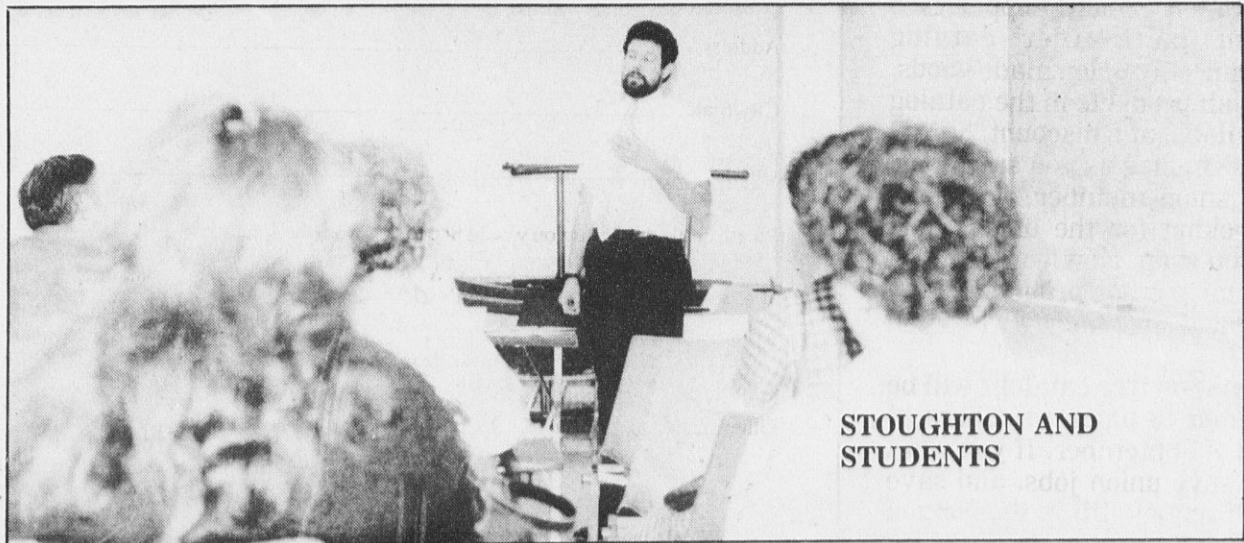
Summer is the time of year when we all have to be particularly careful of food poisoning. So here are some food facts and tips from Stoughton you can put to use whether you're picnicking or eating a meal out on your vacation:

- Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. Retard bacterial growth by keeping cold foods below 45 degrees and hot food above 140 degrees. If you leave food out for serving, don't leave it out for more than 2 hours. Temperatures between 45 and 140° are considered in the "danger zone."

- Freeze foods at -10 degrees.
- Food-borne disease can last for months and can be extremely serious. While most people recover in a few days, some do die.
- A lot of food borne disease goes unreported because many people do not associate their illness with a restaurant meal. Salmonella can take up to three days to make you sick.
- Don't be afraid to report suspected food-borne illness to the health department. All complaints are kept completely confidential.



“You can't avoid bacteria.”



STOUGHTON AND STUDENTS

Plaza air concerns 'vented'

By Stephen Madarasz
CSEA Communications Associate

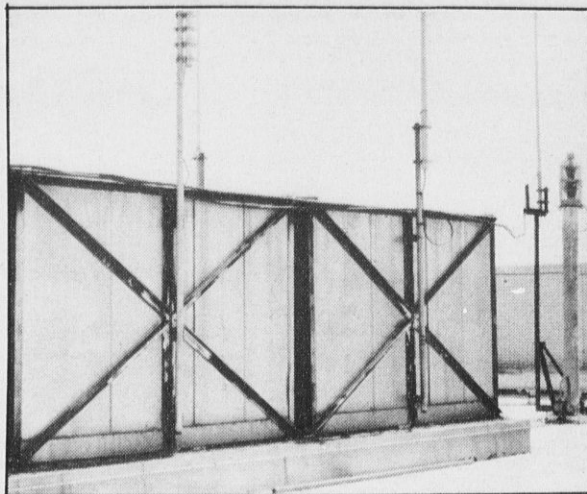
ALBANY — Dead animal parts, loose lab samples, and other hazardous materials in the interagency mail aren't the only health and safety problems plaguing members of CSEA Local 660.

Preparations are now underway for the state Health Department to test emissions from the ventilation fans atop the Corning Tower building in the Empire State Plaza. But CSEA is questioning whether the Health Department plan adequately addresses the serious concerns that have been raised about the system.

The Health Department action comes shortly after three employees fell sick after working near the vents on the Tower roof in early July. But CSEA has been requesting tests under the Workers' Right to Know law since last September.

"I guess they couldn't ignore what we were saying anymore after three people got sick at the same time" asserts Senior Stationary Engineer Clement Bonificio. He goes on to say: "you only have to go up on the roof for about five minutes and you get watery eyes, a headache, and a scratchy throat."

Last January CSEA successfully negotiated an agreement that no employees would be required to work on the roof until the emissions testing was completed. However employees have been sent up on an "emergency" basis with increasing frequency in recent months



leading up to the incident with the three workers.

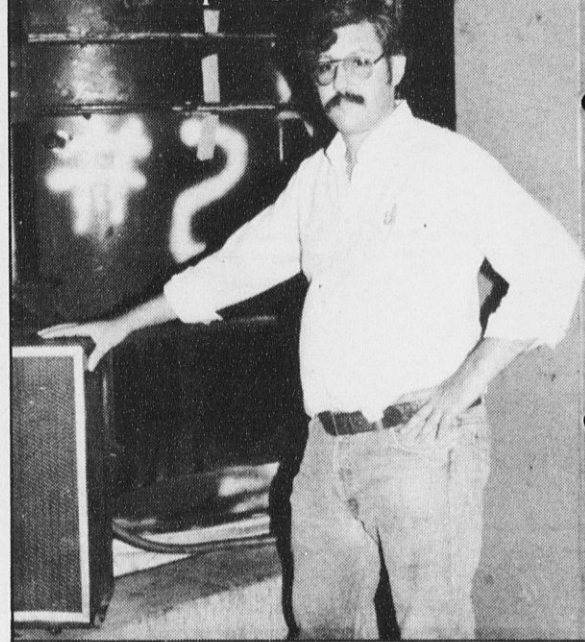
"We have no objection to our members working up there as long as we know what they might be exposed to and are given proper training, personal protective equipment, and medical surveillance as required by law" notes CSEA Region 4 Health and Safety Specialist Barbara Mitchell.

Part of CSEA's concern also goes beyond the well-being of the employees in direct contact with the roof vents. The Health Department concedes that no evaluation has ever been conducted of the ventilation system as a whole, which raises questions about the air quality of the entire building.

There is further uncertainty over whether the Health Department holds the necessary permits to discharge chemical waste materials emitted from its laboratories in the building through the rooftop vents.

Although the Health Department's proposal to test the rooftop air quality will use some of the most advanced and expensive technology available, CSEA believes the plan has serious deficiencies. The union has pointed out that giant gaps in the plan may lead to inaccurate results.

NO BREATH OF FRESH AIR UP HERE . . . Dangerous fumes are coming from vents atop the Corning Tower, pictured at left. Below, Clement Bonificio points out the rooftop fans.



For example, while testing will be carried out for minute particles, certain major toxics that are likely to be found in the emissions will be ignored under the current proposal.

In addition to requesting a considerably expanded testing area and significantly more samples, CSEA is also recommending that tests be conducted in the rooftop fans themselves, while operating, to present a clearer indication of what actual conditions are.

Says CSEA Director of Occupational Safety and Health James Corcoran: "We want some real answers from this testing. The idea is to do a complete job that will end all of the uncertainty and speculation. Otherwise the Health Department is going to have a big credibility problem on its hands as administrators of the Right to Know law."

CSEA upheld over Stony Brook non-compliance

Right to Know program mandated

By Sheryl Carlin
CSEA Communications Associate

STONY BROOK — As part of the one of the most comprehensive agreements ever negotiated under the "Right to Know" law, Stony Brook University has been required by the State Attorney General's Office to hire a full-time trainer, knowledgeable in occupational safety and health, to design and implement a university-wide "Right to Know" training program.

The settlement was made in response to a "Right to Know" claim filed by CSEA Local 614 in 1984. The complaint stated that the University was not in compliance with the notice, training, and recordkeeping provisions of the New York State Toxic Substances Law.

Region I President Danny Donohue said the agreement is extremely important in that it will protect the health and welfare of the 200 CSEA members there.

"We are disappointed that the State University of New York at Stony Brook is not mandated to pay any fines or penalties, but the



Donohue

agreement is a good one and CSEA will keep a close watch to see that it is enforced in its entirety," Donohue said.

Occupational Safety and Health Director James Corcoran stated: "The agreement is very comprehensive but I cannot applaud the university for agreeing to do what it was supposed to be doing all along. I also feel that had this been the private sector, they definitely would have been fined."

The agreement includes a right to know compliance program which calls for listing of chemicals and products containing toxic substances, material safety data sheets, and lists which match employees with toxic substances. These lists will be made available to the employees.

Frank Celantano, president of Local 614, said, "Because the employees are matched with toxic substances, it will aid the union in easily identifying those employees who should receive hazardous duty pay."

When checking on the progress of the compliance program, Celantano was told by George Marshall, from the university's Department of Environmental Safety and Health, that the university has complied with the decision and that the union will be copied on their progress.

According to Marshall, training began on June 13.



Classic success

CSEA lends a helping hand

HAVERSTRAW — It happens every year or at least it has for the past four years, and CSEA members pitch right in and get involved. It is the Helen Hayes Classic, a 10 km. race to raise money for the Helen Hayes Hospital, a state-run rehabilitation center located on the Hudson River in Rockland County. This year's proceeds went towards the purchase of a van to transport patients.

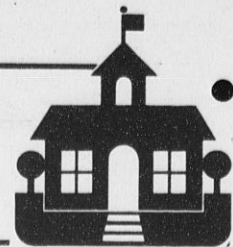
One of the most active members of Local 302 has been Joyce Mills who chaired this year's group of volunteers and orchestrated all the intricate details that go into planning such an event. In addition to the marathon run, there's also a short "fun run," a food festival, clowns, music and a full day of entertainment.

Mills emphasized that employees are more than willing to help out with the annual event. In addition, she noted, many of the local residents contribute their time also.

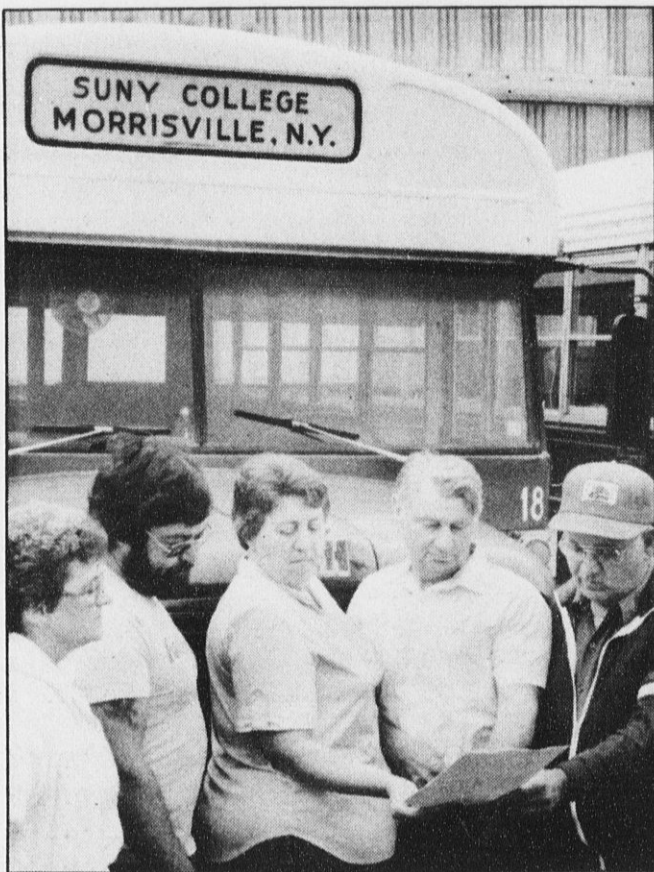
Counterclockwise from top right: Helen Hayes Hospital International Food Festival wouldn't be complete without ziti from the kitchen of employee Carmella Agri who works in the housekeeping department; Local 302 member Brian Yarborough donates his talents; Four groundskeepers, Ramon Brace, Elliot Sanchez, Ralph Cabrera, and Juan Torres gave their time to help arrange tables.



Above, Darlene Foust of Local 302 and her sons Christopher and Randy participate in the fun run; at left, CSEA members and local high school students help some of the patients line up for the fun run.



Attack on over-time driven back



SHARING GOOD NEWS of a recent grievance settlement involving bus/van drivers at SUNY Morrisville are, from left, Local 609 President Mary Lou Wasilewski, and drivers Lon Slate, Lillian Morgan, Albie Omerso and Steve Zarod. The CSEA grievance stemmed from state employees other than designated drivers being assigned to drive buses and vans.

Favorable settlement for bus drivers at SUNY Morrisville campus

MORRISVILLE — A 1984 class action grievance filed by CSEA on behalf of five bus/van drivers at SUNY Morrisville has resulted in a favorable settlement that prohibits so-called “volunteers” from operating any state-owned bus or van when regular drivers are available.

The settlement resolves a problem started in September 1984 when members of the Faculty-Student Association (FSA) — as well as certain professors, teachers and instructors — “volunteered” for bus or van driving duties that deprived five regular drivers of extra work runs.

According to CSEA Field Representative Ted Modrzejewski, the “volunteer” practice gradually increased over two years and cost the regular drivers an estimated 1,000 hours in overtime pay.

CSEA Local 609 President Mary Lou Wasilewski, with the assistance of Modrzejewski, filed a class action grievance on behalf of Lillian Morgan and her fellow drivers in November 1984.

The CSEA Legal Department also became involved when the grievance proceeded to the second step and was

amended to a contract grievance alleging violation of the Operational Services Unit Agreement between the state and CSEA.

Both sides exchanged correspondence for more than one year, and a settlement was eventually reached after the grievance moved through the third step.

In a letter to grievant Morgan, CSEA Attorney Claudia McKenna outlined the terms of the settlement by the New York State Office of Employee Relations (OER). McKenna explained that “SUNY has agreed that no FSA member or professor/teacher, however designated, shall operate state-owned buses or vans unless SUNY Morrisville can demonstrate that no driver or substitute driver was available due to other runs or absent due to illness or other scheduled leave.”

Obviously pleased with the settlement, Wasilewski spoke for the five drivers: “The outcome was fair and just. It took 19 months to resolve, and cost our drivers a considerable amount of money, but it was worth the fight. It’s very reassuring to know we can count on the CSEA staff and Legal Department when we have a serious problem.”

BOCES’ hard-driving ‘Road-eo’ winners

HAUPPAUGE — BOCES III Bus Drivers Irene Boegle and Bruce Gaines respectively took second and third place trophies in the School Bus Safety Road-eo held at the Hauppauge High School recently.

The Road-eo, a test of skills and knowledge, included maneuvering buses and vans through obstacle courses, as well as taking a written test on traffic safety laws.

“It was the first time I ever participated in a Road-eo and I think it was terrific,” commented Boegle.

Boegle has had 19 years of driving experience, and came to BOCES III last year as the head driver. “I think it means a lot that I could take second place in a driving competition because in my position as head driver, I’m behind the desk a lot. This trophy shows that I still know my stuff on the road!” she said.

Gaines was also a first-time contender. “I really enjoyed the challenge,” he said. “It was a lot of fun.”

Both Gaines and Boegle work out of the Long Acres School in Commack and are members of the CSEA BOCES III Unit of Suffolk Educational Local 870.

There were more than 35 participants in the Road-eo, which was sponsored by the New York Association for Pupil Transportation.

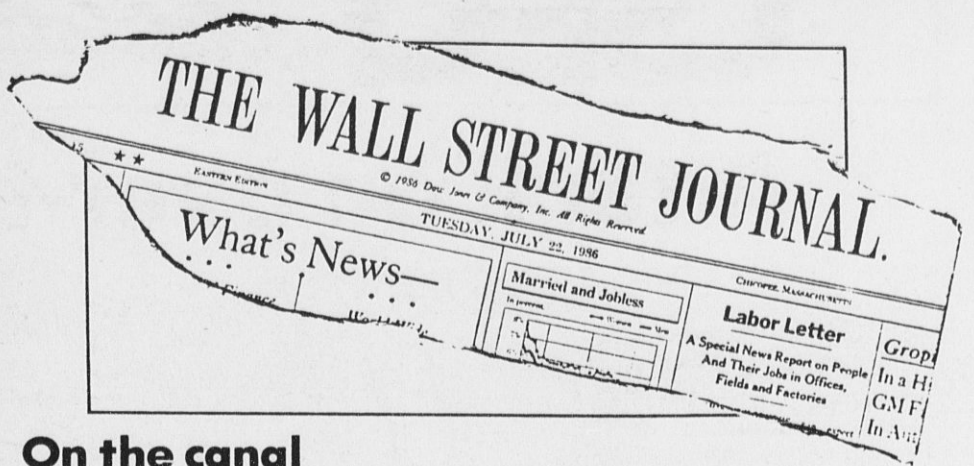


ROAD-EO WINNERS
Irene Boegle and Bruce Gaines



Thanx

CSEA Chief Counsel **James Roemer**, left, and Region 4 Director **John D. Corcoran Jr.** both recently received certificates of appreciation from **Pheobe Bender** of the Combined Health Appeal of the Capital District for the support the union has provided CHA over the past several years.



On the canal

It's not every day that someone you know is quoted in a front-page story in *The Wall Street Journal*. Hand it to **Dale Hatch** who had a quotable quip in a recent piece on revitalization of the Erie Canal. In copy which appeared July 9, Hatch, a member of **Western Barge Canal Local 527** at Lock 32, said: "We had a guy in here Friday asking where was the lock's original equipment. He wanted to buy it. He was quite upset when I told him he was looking at it."

Quittin' time

The CSEA Blue Collar Unit of **Suffolk Local 852** recently held a retirement luncheon to honor its retirees.

According to the President **Pat DeLuca**, plaques were presented, noting the individual's contribution to the unit. One employee, **Arthur Wilcox**, and worked at the airport as a senior airport assistant for 15 years.

DeLuca said, "We all wanted to wish the retirees a happy, healthy retirement."



This, that
AND THE OTHER THING

Looks like we really applied the torch to some members' patriotic sensitivities when in the last issue of *The Public Sector* we ran an illustration of the **Statue of Liberty** flopped backwards so that her left arm brandished the flame. Sorry, if you got upset, but remember one thing: even though our art was way off in left field, our heart was in the right place.

HONORABLE MENTION

CSEA's "Outstanding Employee of the Year," **Ralph Distin**, center, is joined by CSEA President **William McGowan** and **Joan Dunham-Card**, president of the Headquarters Staff Union (HSU) during a recent presentation of the award.

Distin, who has received numerous other awards for his work as a graphic artist and cartoonist for CSEA's Communications Department over the past 17 years, was selected for the award by a labor/management committee after being nominated by several fellow employees.

The award, instituted by CSEA two years ago, after being proposed by two members of the HSU through the employee suggestion box, is designed to recognize and reward employees who make outstanding contributions to the organization through their excellent work and positive attitudes.

INSPIRATIONS

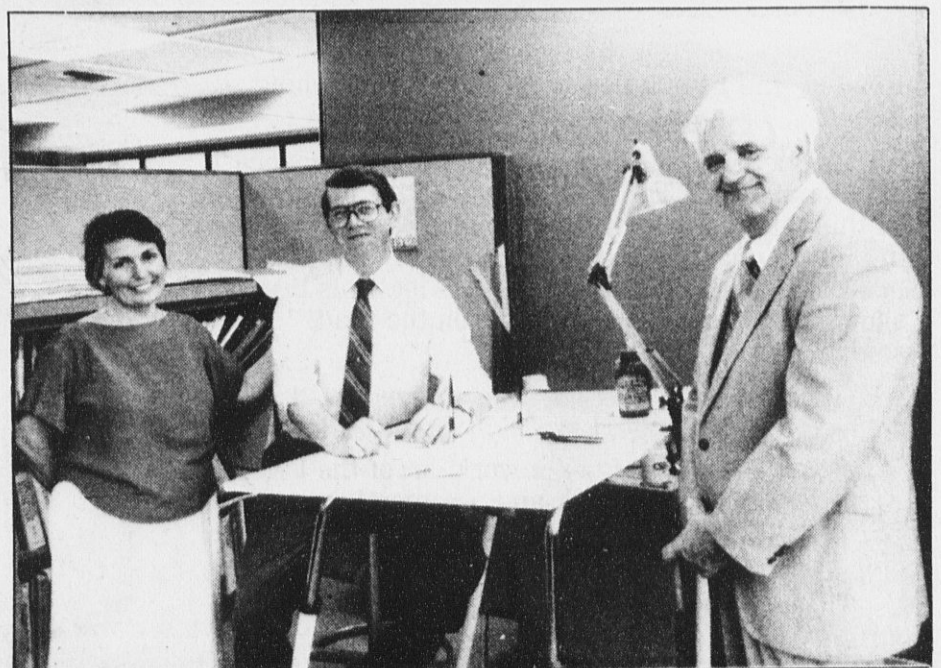
Those who know **Bronx Psychiatric Center Local 401** activist **Henry Reese**, know he's not an easy man to slow down. That's why few were surprised at his fighting spirit when he was diagnosed with cancer.

"He's looking at a life and death situation and his whole mental ability to handle it has been an inspiration to everyone who knows him" says Local 401 President **Ernest Punter**.

Punter goes on to say that even with serious illness, it's been hard to keep Reese out of the union office. "I don't think you could find someone more dedicated to this union."

"As vice president of the local, Henry has been a helluva representative. He took the oath of office and has lived up to every letter of it."

Reese, who also serves on the Region II Social and Political Action Committees sums up his thoughts about CSEA and his own involvement by cutting straight to the heart of the matter: "I love the union and I like the action."



Dogs' head Revisited

NOT BETTER YET . . . Despite a ban on hazardous materials, nightmare packages are still showing up in the Interagency mail as evidenced by the photos at right. Below, mailroom worker Joe Miller as a publicity "hound".

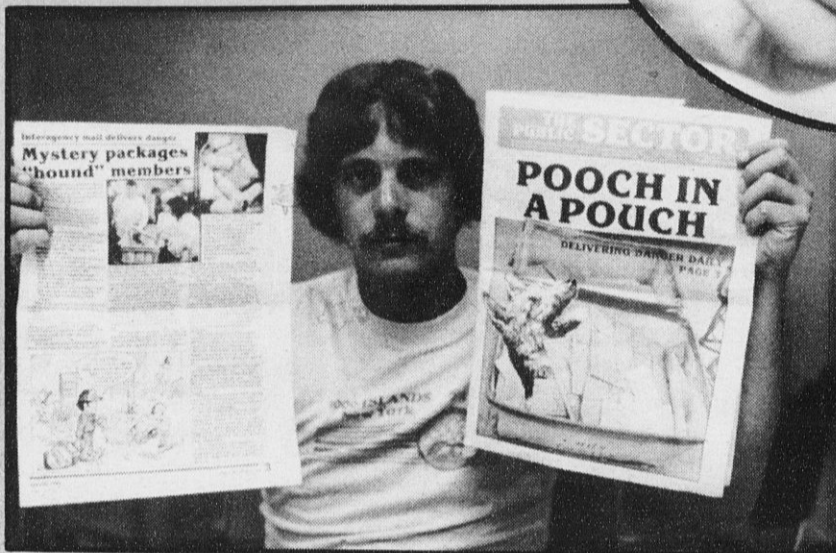
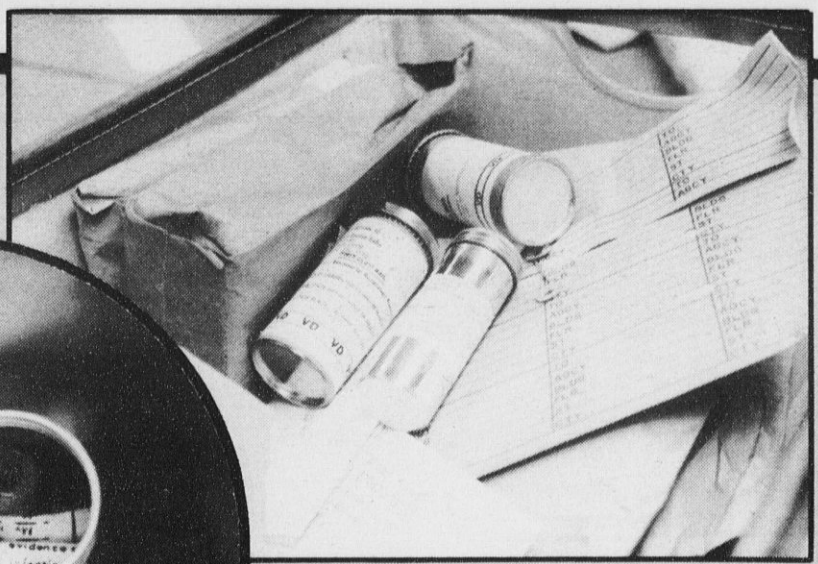
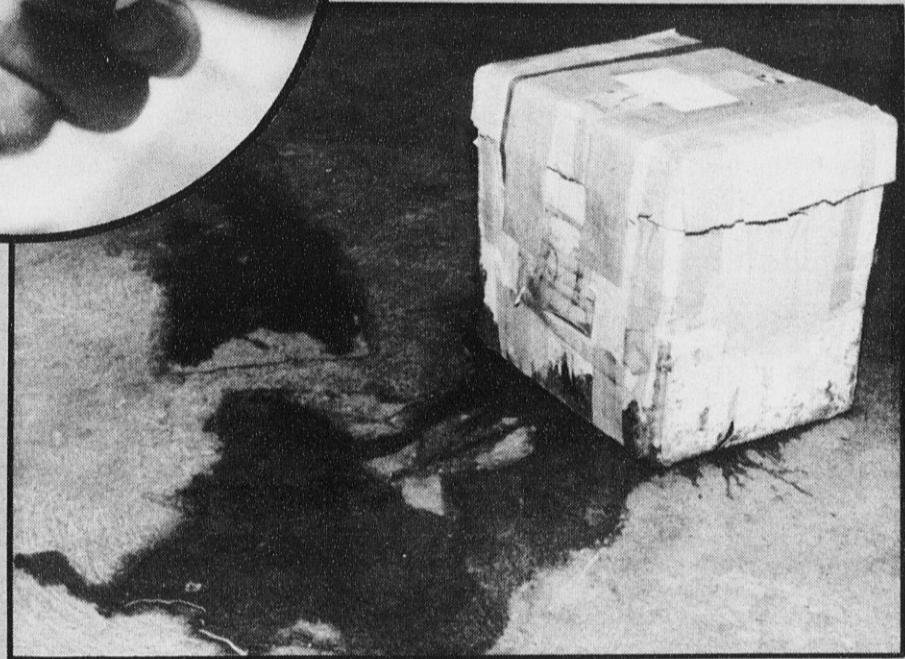


Photo — Alan Williams



ALBANY — Following reports in the Public Sector, Albany Times-Union and Knickerbocker News, that CSEA members unknowingly handle packages that pose a health risk, the state Office of General Services has reissued a 1980 memo banning the transport of all hazardous materials through the state interagency mail.

The action, which extends to chemical, biological, flammable, and nuclear materials and samples, was taken to protect the health and safety of the state employees. There is also evidence that the shoddy packaging of many of these shipments may be in violation of state and federal laws.

The issue blew-up several weeks ago after the heads of four possibly rabid dogs addressed to the state Health Department testing laboratories arrived at the OGS mailroom packaged only in cardboard boxes. One was so poorly wrapped that the head was partially exposed. Members claim that improperly packaged shipments and loose lab samples regularly arrive in the daily mail.

While praising OGS for its strong action to protect its workers, CSEA officials are expressing concern about whether the Health Department will comply with the policy.

Even with the ban and all of the attention focused on the situation, there was no apparent change in the OGS mailroom in the days prior to press date:

- * An aluminum container addressed to the virology labs came open in the mail bin — inside was a blood sample in a test tube without any protective packaging — the top was not even taped closed.
- * 2 cardboard boxes waiting for Health Department pick-up on the loading dock leaked unknown liquid contents.

"This is a serious matter" says CSEA Industrial Hygienist Joanne Curtis. "The blood samples could contain AIDS or Hepatitis B. As for the leaking boxes, who knows? Except that

there's obviously some question about it since it's being sent in for testing."

Curtis adds: "Considering the fact that no samples are to be sent via OGS anymore, it's particularly disturbing that these packages are still showing up. You'd think that the word would have gone out to at least take more care in preparing them for shipment—the Health Department's either being lax or arrogant."

"Judging from what we're seeing right now" says Local 660 safety committee chairwoman Mary Costello, "We're going to have to keep hammering away for someone to get the message. At least we have some support from the OGS memo."

Although the reissued OGS directive instructs couriers to refuse shipment of hazardous materials, the main problem is that couriers have no way of knowing what the packages contain if they are not labeled and are mixed in with the rest of the mail.

"In a way we're over a barrel" points out CSEA Region 4 Health and Safety Specialist Barbara Mitchell. "No hazardous materials should be going through the OGS mail. Unfortunately, it won't be clear if everyone is complying unless packages start opening up in the delivery, which shouldn't happen no matter what's in them."

Ironically, the Health Department, which receives most of the questionable packages is not only responsible for safeguarding public health but also for administering the workers' right to know law that informs employees about what hazardous materials they may be exposed to in the workplace.

CSEA was promised that right-to-know training would be conducted for OGS mailroom employees over two months ago, but no sessions have been scheduled.

Notes Mailroom clerk Bill Somers: "Things will probably get better for a while until we quiet down and then the Health Department will start sending stuff through again...at least that's what happened after the first ban was issued in 1980."

For that reason, CSEA intends to keep a close watch on what's coming through the OGS mailroom.

CSEA "FUMING" OVER PLAZA AIR — See story page 16