

# Public SECTOR

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Wednesday, March 4, 1981



Jane Reese, a CSEA retiree, is a soft-spoken, gentle woman whose life was shaped by a love of education and people. She has recently been honored for her contributions to the field of education. See page 12.

## Transformer explosions in two cities trigger PCB problems

### Albany: poor judgment by state; Binghamton: damage is still unknown

ALBANY — A few years ago the only place you would hear about polychlorinated biphenyls was in a laboratory, but as the result of two recent accidents involving PCBs, a lot of state employees are becoming instant experts on the subject.

PCB is a chemical used widely for years in the manufacture of electrical transformers. Several years ago, scientists discovered long term exposure could cause cancer. A major environmental controversy followed concerning the dumping of PCBs into the Hudson River by a transformer manufacturer and the long term environmental damage caused to the river.

But until February 5, PCB was still "somebody else's problem" for most state workers. That day, a transformer in the 20-story Broome County Office Building complex exploded and burned spreading PCB-laden soot throughout the building. A major environmental accident had occurred inside a modern office building, fortunately while it was unoccupied.

Toxic waste specialists are still working at the site trying to dispose safely of contaminated materials and assessing the extent of damage to the structure. As of last week, state officials still were unable to estimate how long it would take to restore the building to safe use. In the meanwhile, hundreds of state employees who work in the building were displaced and eventually reassigned to temporary work locations.

While the smoke was still clearing in Binghamton, another PCB accident occurred, this time in an underground vault under a street in front of the Alfred E. Smith Office Building in Albany. Again, a transformer fire was the source of the problem, but this time the indications were that there was no dangerous contamination inside the

building, according to state officials. Yet CSEA has notified the state that the A. E. Smith incident was poorly handled and is proof that a statewide emergency policy needs to be established.

Unlike the situation at the Binghamton office complex, the Albany incident involved an accident not inside the building, but directly in front of it. While State Health Department experts were called in by the Office of General Services to check for PCB contamination in the Smith Building, the results of the test were not known until after employees had returned to work in the complex.

"The state says that the tests proved that there is no PCB contamination within the building," comments CSEA President William L. McGowan, "but I think it shows poor judgement on the part of the state to allow employees back in that building before they

knew it was safe. We were lucky this time, but in the future, I want the safety of a building determined before employees are sent back into it, not after."

The union president shared his views with representatives of the Governor's Office of Employee Relations and the Office of General Services in a brief meeting in Albany. The state is considering the union's complaints and will report back.

"What happened in Binghamton was a freak accident that fortunately caused no serious injury to anyone," President McGowan said, "and we appreciate the sincerity of the state in trying to resolve our problems quickly, but the incident in Albany points out a serious flaw in the handling of a potentially dangerous situation and CSEA will be pushing for some mechanism to prevent the reoccurrence of the hasty occupation of any building which might not be safe."

### Union demands restoration of leave credits for Binghamton workers; rule waiver likely

The State did not hesitate in responding to a demand by CSEA President William L. McGowan that the question of employee leave be resolved in connection with the Binghamton incident.

As a result of that accident and the continuing clean-up, hundreds of state workers employed in the building are being reassigned to temporary work locations. But in the transition, many employees were told not to report to work for varying periods of time and ordered to charge their absence to leave accruals. CSEA has demanded that this order be rescinded and the leave restored.

"It's not the fault of the employees that this building was contaminated and they should not be forced to bear the burden of this accident," President McGowan said.

The state's response to this concern was swift. Meyer S. Frucher, Director of the Governor's Office of Employee Relations, informed Mr. McGowan by letter that he has asked the Civil Service Commission to waive time and attendance rules for affected employees who were temporarily forced out of work while new work locations were being established.

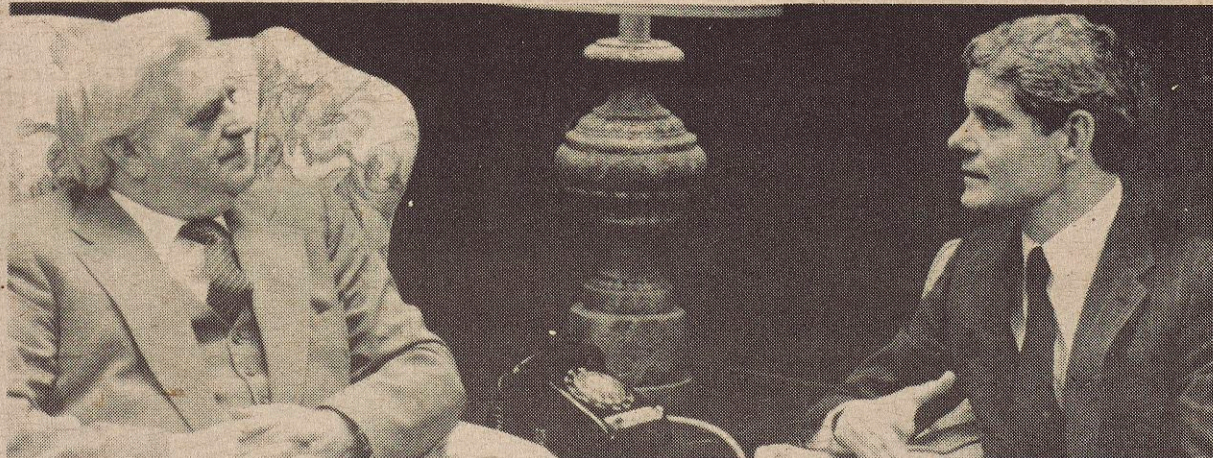
### April 1 is deadline for region office petitions

April 1 is the deadline for filing of independent nominating petitions for Region offices.

"Although petitions for Local offices and Board seats don't have to be filed until April 15, Region office nominations must be in by the April 1 deadline," stressed RoseMarie Saunders, chairperson of the Statewide Nominating Committee.

"We want to be very clear on this, so that members circulating these petitions realize they now have less than a month in which to file them," she added.

Nominations should be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, and sent to the Office of the Executive Director, CSEA, 33 Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207.



CSEA PRESIDENT William L. McGowan and State Comptroller Edward V. Regan have a lot in common. For one thing, Mr. Regan is in charge of the State Retirement System that handles pension matters for virtually all public employees represented by CSEA. Additionally, Mr. Regan is the highest elected fiscal officer in the state whose views on the state budget are influential. The Comptroller is also "the boss" for thousands of employees of the Department of Audit and Control and the State Retirement System. Meeting recently in the Comptroller's Office, they exchanged views on several issues including pension supplementation and the state budget.



# Workers win cash awards

Sixteen State employees received a total of \$560 in cash awards in January for money-saving ideas submitted to the New York State Employee Suggestion Program. This program is administered by the New York State Department of Civil Service. Estimated first-year savings from these suggestions total more than \$4,400.

Award recipients:

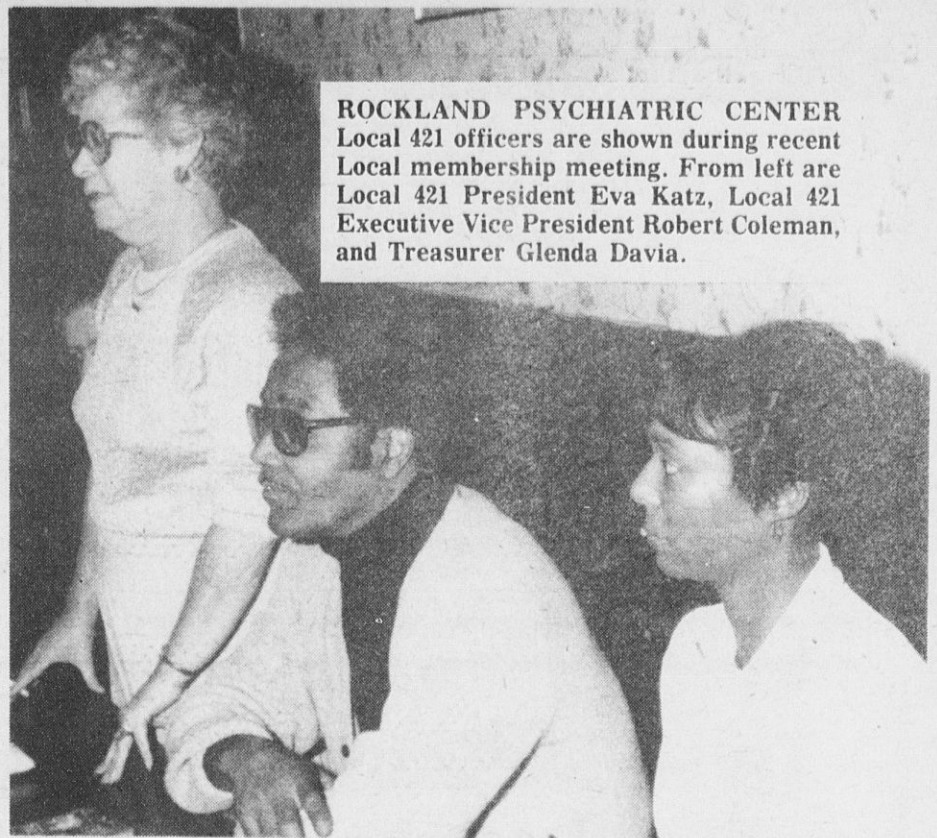
\$65 — Charles Goldberg, Workers' Compensation Board, New York City.

\$50 — Beatrice Sager, Department of State, Albany; Myrna Havrsh, Department of Law, Utica; William Cronin, Workers' Compensation Board, New York City, and William Thomas, Department of Health, Albany.

\$35 — Linda Murdock, Department of Labor, Fulton, and Sylvester Blakely, Labor, Syracuse.

\$25 — Barbara Dunigan, Department of State, Albany; Herbert McEathron, Department of Mental Hygiene, Wassauc; Ruth Donovan, Higher Education Services Corporation, Albany; Barbara Warrington, Labor, Montgomery; Henry Lyons, Labor, Jamaica; Sandra Rosner, Labor, Wellsville; Jane Janke, Labor, Plattsburgh; Louis Hacker, Department of Motor Vehicles, Albany, and Warren Dobert, Department of Public Service, Albany.

Cash award recipients also received Certificates of Merit. Certificates of Merit were also awarded to Eugene Castellano, Department of State, New York City; Ronald Ratchford, Workers' Compensation Board, Menands; Francis Dumin, Labor, Albany, and Sylvia D'Alberto, Education Department, Albany.



**ROCKLAND PSYCHIATRIC CENTER**  
Local 421 officers are shown during recent Local membership meeting. From left are Local 421 President Eva Katz, Local 421 Executive Vice President Robert Coleman, and Treasurer Glenda Davia.

## Applications due during March

# State, promotional positions available

The State Department of Civil Service has announced some job openings and promotional examinations for which applications are due this month.

Among them are the following opening for which applications must be postmarked not later than March 30, 1981:

Mass Spectrometry Analyst, exam number 28-207, beginning salary \$14,045;

Electronic Computer Operator, exam number 25-437, beginning salary \$11,171 (written test May 2, 1981);

Electronic Computer Operator, Senior, exam number 25-438, beginning salary \$14,860 (written test May 2, 1981);

Toll Equipment Mechanic Trainee, exam number 25-346, beginning salary \$5.62 hour (written test May 2, 1981).

Applications for the following positions are among those being accepted continuously by the department:

Data Entry Machine Operator, exam number 20-118, beginning salary \$8,058; Social Services Disability Analyst, exam number 20-848, beginning salary \$15,060; and Vocational Rehabilitation Trainee, exam number 20-213, beginning salary \$15,710.

Detailed announcements and applications for the above, and other openings as well, may be obtained from the following locations:

**ALBANY:** Staffing Services Bureau, S-6, Department of Civil Service, State Office Building Campus, 12239.

**BUFFALO:** State Department of Civil Service, Room 303, 65 Court Street, Buffalo, NY, 14202.

**NEW YORK:** State Department of Civil Service, 55th Floor, 2 World Trade Center, 10047 or Harlem State Office Building, 163 West 125th Street, New York, NY, 10027.

**LOCAL OFFICES:** New York State Employment Service (no mail handled or applications accepted).

The department also announced that among competitive promotional exams for which written tests are to be held May 2, 1981 are:

Senior Electronic Computer Operator, G-14, exam number 37-251; and Sergeant, Park Patrol, G-15, exam number 37-008. Applications for those exams must be postmarked no later than March 23, 1981, and necessary forms are available from agency personnel offices.

## Directory of CSEA Regional Offices

### REGION I

740 Broadway,  
North Amityville, N.Y. 11701  
(516) 789-1170  
Dan Donohue, President  
William Griffin, Regional Director

### REGION II

11 Park Place  
Suite 1405,  
New York, N.Y. 10007  
(212) 962-3090  
James Gripper, President  
George Bispham, Regional Director

### REGION III

Rural Route 1  
Box 34  
Old Route 9  
Fishkill, N.Y. 12524  
(914) 896-8180  
Raymond J. O'Connor, President  
Thomas Luposello, Regional Director

### REGION IV

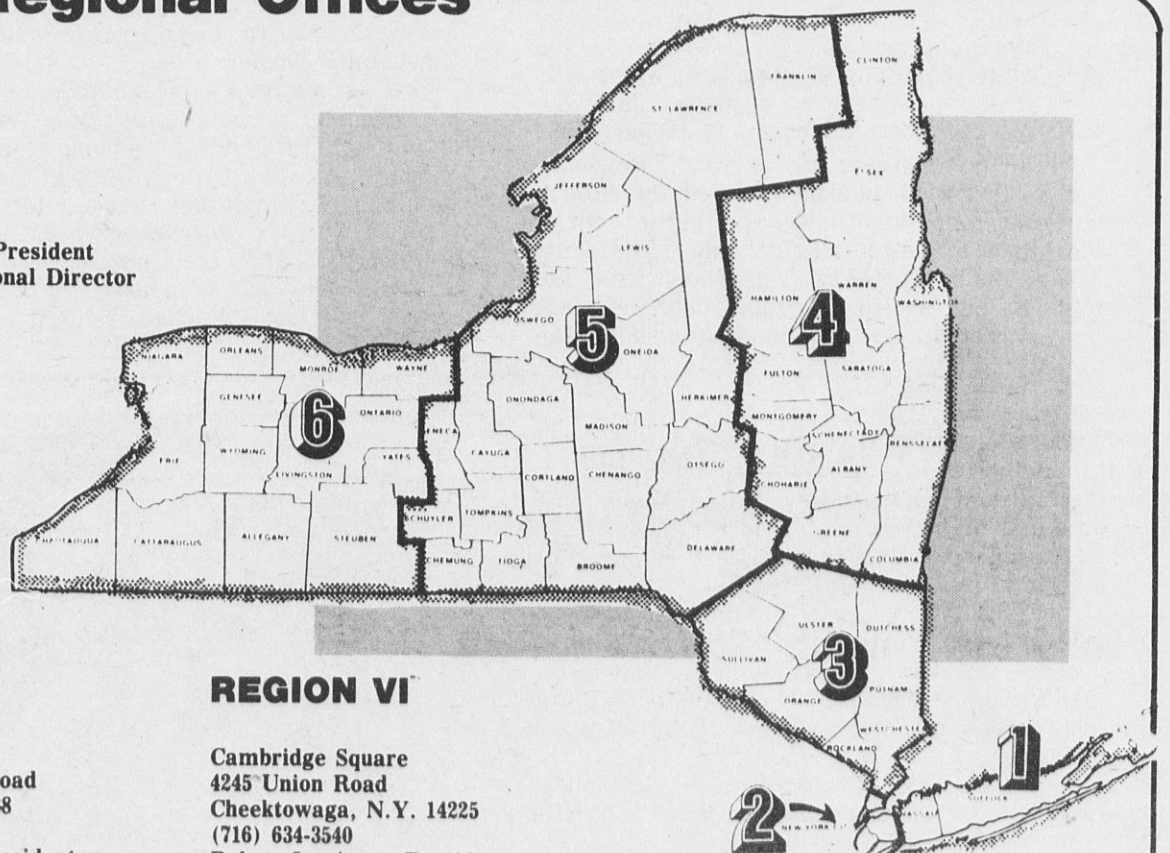
1215 Western Avenue  
Albany, N.Y. 12203  
(518) 489-5424  
Joseph McDermott, President  
John Corcoran, Regional Director

### REGION V

Suite 308  
290 Elwood Davis Road  
Liverpool, N.Y. 13088  
(315) 451-6330  
James J. Moore, President  
Frank Martello, Regional Director

### REGION VI

Cambridge Square  
4245 Union Road  
Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225  
(716) 634-3540  
Robert Lattimer, President  
Lee Frank, Regional Director





# • Union wins Kings Park case

**KINGS PARK** — An attempt by Kings Park Psychiatric Center (KPPC) to terminate a member of KPPC CSEA Local 411 was thwarted by an arbitrator's ruling following a strong defense by CSEA.

Arbitrator Martin F. Scheinman ruled the State failed to prove that the accused worker, who also is an ordained Unitarian minister, physically attacked his supervisor.

Local 411 President Anthony Bentivegna told the following story:

One morning, the worker's mother had to have emergency surgery. The worker was properly relieved to go to the hospital by the maintenance supervisor. His foreman was unavailable at that time and was not notified that he was leaving for the hospital.

The next day, the foreman verbally chastised the worker in public for not notifying the foreman. When he attempted to resolve the dispute, the foreman continued the verbal abuse.

The worker, due to his strong religious beliefs, wanted to resolve the problem with the foreman and followed the foreman in his car during lunch.

During the conversation which followed a fight occurred. Both men received minor cuts, abrasions and contusions.

The worker was later charged with attacking the foreman, was suspended and the penalty asked for was termination.

While the arbitrator did not find the worker guilty of attacking the foreman, he did find his conduct, following the supervisor off the grounds, inappropriate and reduced the penalty to 30 calendar days suspension.

Bentivegna pointed out this is the second time an employee and this foreman have been involved in a fight, the second time KPPC has sought to terminate the employee and the second time the employee was reinstated.

The employee was represented by Regional Attorney Stuart Lipkind.

## Local 852 bid deadline nears

**HOLTSVILLE** — The deadline for submitting a resume for members of Suffolk County Local 852 seeking nomination for local office is March 16. Local 852 Nominating Committee Chairman Norman Bohrer reported.

The resume must be sent to: Nominating Committee, Local 852 CSEA, 755 Waverly Avenue, Holtsville, N.Y. 11742.

Those wishing a blank nominee form to fill out and submit instead of a resume may call the local office at 475-8600.

Members may seek nominations for president; executive, first, second, third and fourth vice president; treasurer; recording secretary; corresponding secretary; sergeant-at-arms and representative to the CSEA Board of Directors.

## —Two-year pacts reached statewide—

### Big benefits for Middletown

**MIDDLETOWN** — City workers here have a new two-year contract effective Jan. 1, 1981.

Unit President Rollin Lybolt released details of the package as follows:

- \* annual raises of eight percent, plus increments;

- \* meal allowance of \$3.25 for employees who complete four hours overtime;

- \* shift differential of ten percent;

- \* holiday compensation at rate of two-and-a-half times regular pay;

- \* contribution to dental plan increased to \$150;

- \* three days bereavement leave allowed for death in immediate family;

- \* supervisors (street foreman, water foreman, chief operator of

water, chief operator of sewer, and junior civil engineer) granted additional payment in lieu of overtime; and

- \* past practice defined as, "any on-going condition of employment which is established by (1) clarity and consistency, (2) longevity and repetition, and (3) acceptability and mutuality."

Manny Vitale served as the unit's chief negotiator, assisted by Lybolt, William P. Osborne, Daniel J. Osborne and Pat Foti.

### Sincere thanks

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all CSEA and AFSCME officers and members for their kindness and thoughtfulness during our recent loss. It is very consoling to know the many friends Jim had.

Sincerely,  
Elinor Lennon and Family

## Clarkstown reaches accord

**NEW CITY** — A new, two year contract was ratified recently by members of the Clarkstown School Lunch Unit of Local 844.

The negotiating team was chaired by President Josephine Roccabruna who noted the following highlights:

- \* definition of full and parttime personnel clarified;
- \* initiation of \$10,000 group life insurance policy for fulltime workers;
- \* introduction of binding arbitration;
- \* permitting of payroll deductions for insurance premiums, and
- \* granting of hourly wage increases in the 1st year of 45 cents, and 35 cents in the next year.

Collective Bargaining Specialist Manny Vitale assisted negotiations along with members Pat McTigue, Flora Schultz and Laura Hitemeyer.

### Pay hikes featured in Newburgh

**NEWBURGH** — Employees who belong to the CSEA Unit in the Town of Newburgh will be receiving annual wage hikes of eight percent as the result of a new contract, according to Richard Lanspery, unit president and negotiating team chairman.

The two-year pact also expands the unit to include fleet maintenance, sewer, water filtration and water distribution personnel, and guarantees that no employee may be discharged or disciplined except for "just cause," and makes the definition of "just cause" subject to arbitration.

In other benefits, the meal

allowance is increased, unused personal days may be transferred into sick time, and bereavement leave is expanded to include anyone with whom the employee lives and has a significant relationship. Moreover, compensation received when working holidays is improved and longevity payments allowed as follows: five years, \$100; ten years, \$200; 15 years, \$300 and 20 years, \$400.

The contract was negotiated by Collective Bargaining Specialist Manny Vitale. Committee members included Jim Dowling, Richard Palmer, Gary Lanspery and Fred Meed.

### Norwich family coverage increased

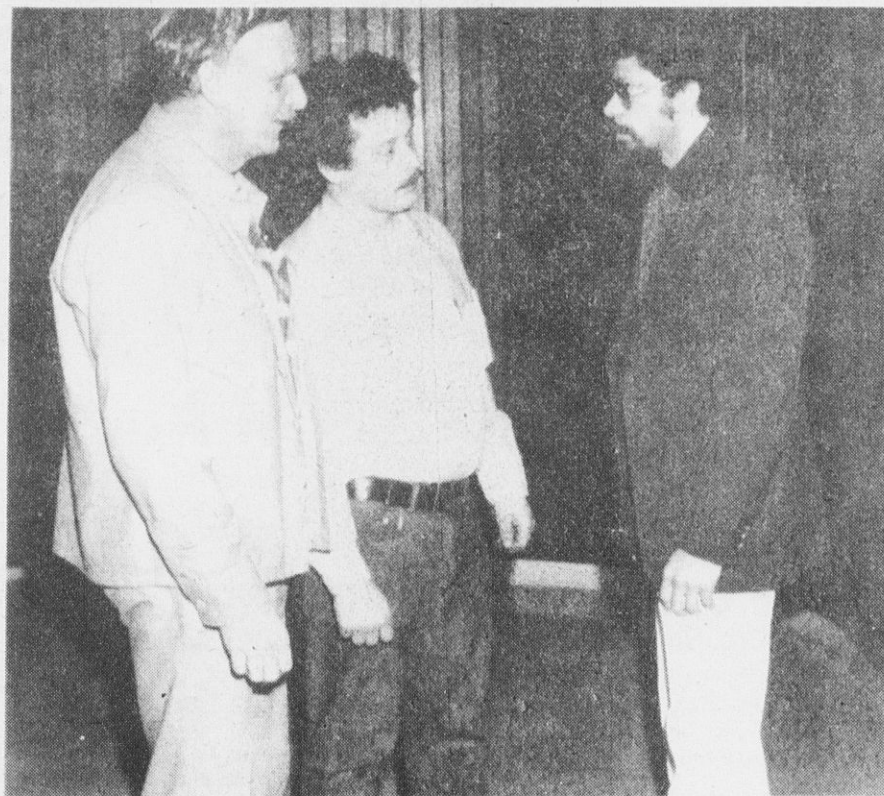
**NORWICH** — The City of Norwich Unit of CSEA Local 809 Chenango County recently ratified a new two-year contract by a vote of two to one.

According to E. R. Ventura, CSEA field representative and chief negotiator for the unit, the new pact is retroactive to January 1, 1981, and includes salary increases of nine percent (9%) the first year and eight percent (8%) the second year.

Other benefits include an increase of 25 percent in family coverage in the present Health Plan, and an improved uniform allowance.

The ratification vote climaxed four months of negotiation.

In addition to Ventura, negotiating team members included: Mike Pollie, Chairman; Fred Gray, Ward Brewer, and Joe Wagner.



**WESTCHESTER COUNTY UNIT** Vice President Jerry Barbour, right, welcomes, from left, new Playland Shop Steward William Utter and New Head Shop Steward Paul Bonfiglio at a recent membership meeting of the unit in White Plains.

## Union dues must be itemized as a deduction

**ALBANY** — In the February 18 edition of 'The Public Sector', an article appeared reminding CSEA members that their union dues are deductible from city, state and federal income taxes, "even if you do not itemize your deductions when filing your income tax forms."

According to Internal Revenue Service spokesman Don Roberts, that isn't totally correct. While union dues are deductible from income tax, such deductions can only be made if the taxpayer filing tax forms itemizes deductions.

If you have any questions concerning deductions for union dues, contact your local Internal Revenue Service office for further information.



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JOINING LONG ISLAND STATE PARKS Local 102 President Arthur Loving, right, at the Local 102 dinner dance are, from left, Kathleen and John Sheridan of the Long Island State Parks Commission and Paulette Lloyd.



SUNY STONY BROOK LOCAL 614 President Charles Sciafani, right, confers with, from left, CSEA Field Representative Nicholas Pollicino and Long Island Region I President Danny Donohue during a recent Local 614 meeting.

## Veep bid encouraged

NEW YORK CITY — The position of first vice president on the Metropolitan Region II ballot is still vacant, according to Region Nominating Committee chairman Kirk Scott.

"The Committee is encouraging members within the Region to use the petition route for the position of first vice president," said Scott. "Also members are advised that the seats of third vice president and treasurer are currently unopposed."

Scott said that petitions may be obtained from the Metropolitan Region II office, 11 Park Place, Suite 1405, New York, NY 10007, or from Local presidents.

"Petitions are available now and must be received in Albany no later than April 1," he said. They must be sent by registered mail, return receipt requested.

## BULLETIN . . . BULLETIN . . .

UTICA — Member of Oneida County Local 833 of the CSEA have voted by a more than 2 to 1 margin to accept a new three-year agreement. The results of the mail in ballots counted Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1981 were 658 "yes" and 274 "no votes."

## KEEP CSEA INFORMED ON MAILING ADDRESS

In the event that you change your mailing address, please fill out the below form and send it to:

CSEA, Inc., P.O. Box 125, Capitol Station, Albany, New York 12224.

This form is also available from local presidents for CSEA members, but is reproduced here for convenience.

### Change of Address for 'The Public Sector'

Please allow 3-4 weeks for change to take effect.

My present label reads exactly as shown here (or affix mailing label)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Local Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency where employed \_\_\_\_\_  
My social security no. \_\_\_\_\_ Agency No. \_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar of EVENTS

### March

- 5—Long Island Region I Mental Hygiene Task Force meeting, noon, Region I Satellite Office, Hauppauge.
- 5 — Southern Region III Executive Board meeting, 7:45 p.m., Holiday Inn, Newburgh.
- 7—Suffolk Education Local OSHA workshop, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Middle Island Middle School, Rocky Point-Yaphank Road, Middle Island.
- 10—Suffolk County Local 852 Executive Committee meeting, 7 p.m., 755 Waverly Avenue, Holtsville.
- 10—Pilgrim Psychiatric Center Local 418 membership meeting, 4:30 p.m., Assembly Hall, Pilgrim Psychiatric Center, West Brentwood.
- 11—Long Island Region I EAP seminar, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Holiday Inn, Hauppauge.
- 11—Hudson Valley Armory Employees Local 252 Meeting, 1 p.m., Newburgh Armory, 355 South William St. Newburgh.
- 12—Saratoga County Local 846 shop stewards meeting, 5 p.m., Solar Building, High St., Ballston Spa.
- 12—Saratoga County Local 846 shop steward meeting, 5 p.m., Solar Bldg., High Street, Ballston Spa.
- 14—Vestal School Unit, Broome Educational Local 866, dinner-dance, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Hall, Baxter Street, Binghamton.
- 16—Capital Region IV membership meeting (dinner), 5:30 p.m., Best Western Thruway House, Western Ave., Albany.
- 17—Saratoga County Local 846 Executive Committee meeting, 7 p.m., Solar Building, High St., Ballston Spa.
- 22-24 — CSEA Delegates Meeting, Syracuse.

### April

- 1 — Long Island Region I Mental Hygiene Task Force meeting, noon, Region I Satellite Office, Hauppauge.
- 20-22 — Long Island Region I Annual Workshop, Gurney's Inn, Montauk.



# **danger** in the workplace

## **hazards lurking everywhere in the**

## **OFFICE**

Over the past several months and years, the Civil Service Employees Association and The Public Sector have documented scores of dangerous and unhealthy working locations for public employees throughout New York State. And although many of those cases involved hazardous office-type facilities, chances are the most remembered dealt with locations involving vehicles, large machinery, chemicals and other potential hazards. But, in fact, no one is immune

to dangers in the working place, and every work element has its particular potential for disaster. The articles and photographs on pages 5, 6 and 7 illustrate some of the unsafe and unhealthy conditions endured by administrative workers in sections of Long Island and southern New York State, but in actuality these are typical of conditions existing throughout the state.

**'these forgotten office workers are forced to work under some of the most outrageous conditions imaginable, including lack of heat, high temperatures, toxic fumes, fire hazards and almost anything else. . .'**

The work environment provided by New York State for many of its employees has long been a sore point with CSEA Field Representative Nicholas Pollicino. While the poor working conditions of Department of Transportation and Mental Hygiene employees are widely known, Pollicino is seriously concerned about the work environment the State provides for many of its administrative employees.

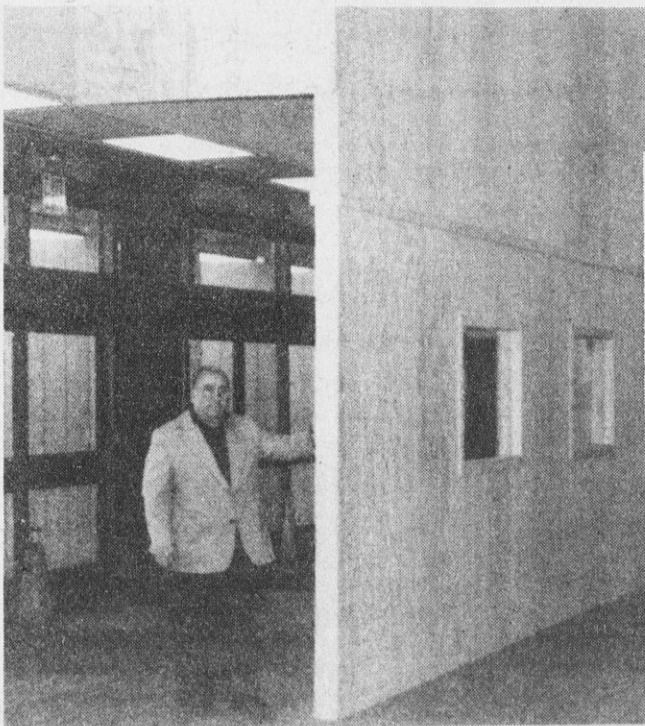
"These forgotten office workers are forced to work under some of the most outrageous conditions imaginable, including lack of heat, high

temperatures, toxic fumes, fire hazards and almost anything else you can think of," Pollicino said.

He has discovered a certain pattern among decision-makers in the State Office of General Services (OGS) in both construction and renting of office space for State agencies. "Why is it that OGS signs leases for office space which gives the State very little, if any, say in forcing the landlord to maintain a reasonable work environment? It could be called the latest version of the sweetheart contract."

Pollicino represents State employees of Long Island Region I and Metropolitan Region II in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

In the opinion of Pollicino, the following stories on the State Office Building in Hauppauge and the Department of Labor offices in southern New York State only scratch the surface on the "deplorable conditions provided by New York State for many of its employees."



TEMPORARY WIND BREAKS were constructed outside and inside the front doors of the State Office Building in Hauppauge when cold air entering the building forced many employees to work in coats, hats and gloves. Hauppauge State Office Building Local 016 President John Madion, above, stands by the windbreak inside the building.





# Hauppauge facility, only six years old, plagued with faults

HAUPPAUGE — "The State Office Building in Hauppauge is an example of the failings of the State Office of General Services to provide a reasonable work environment for many employees of the State," CSEA Field Representative Nicholas Pollicino says.

The six-year-old building has many problems including an inadequate heating and cooling system, physical deterioration, and "is a very uncomfortable place to work in," he said.

Among the approximately 1,500 State employees who work in the building are employees of the State Departments of Transportation, Labor, Taxation and Finance, Motor Vehicles, Law, Audit and Control and State; Offices of Vocational Rehabilitation and General Services; the State Liquor Authority; the Workmen's Compensation Board; the Division for Youth; SUNY; the Court of Claims, the State Police and State legislative offices.

Among the CSEA locals with members working in the building are Department of Transportation Local 508; Hauppauge State Office Building Local 016, and Department of Labor Local 350.

More than an estimated 3,000 persons, including State employees, frequent the building daily.

Pollicino said one of the building's biggest problems is the failure of the heating system to keep first floor offices warm during cold weather when cold air blows through the front doors of the building.

"Things got so bad in January that the State was forced to put up temporary windbreaks both outside and inside the front door because it was so cold in the offices the employees had to wear coats, hats and gloves to keep warm," he said.

Local 016 President John Madlon reported he received a letter from OGS in response to a grievance filed by the local, stating:

— Funds for an additional chiller unit to augment the heating and cooling system were being requested.

— An Energy Management System has been requested.

— \$15,000 was authorized for the wind breaks by the front doors to reduce the cold air entering the building lobby.

Madlon also reported the building management plans to hold a fire drill soon. He said there has not been such a drill in the building for years.

He also said most employees in the building are not aware of the evacuation plan — or emergency exit routes.

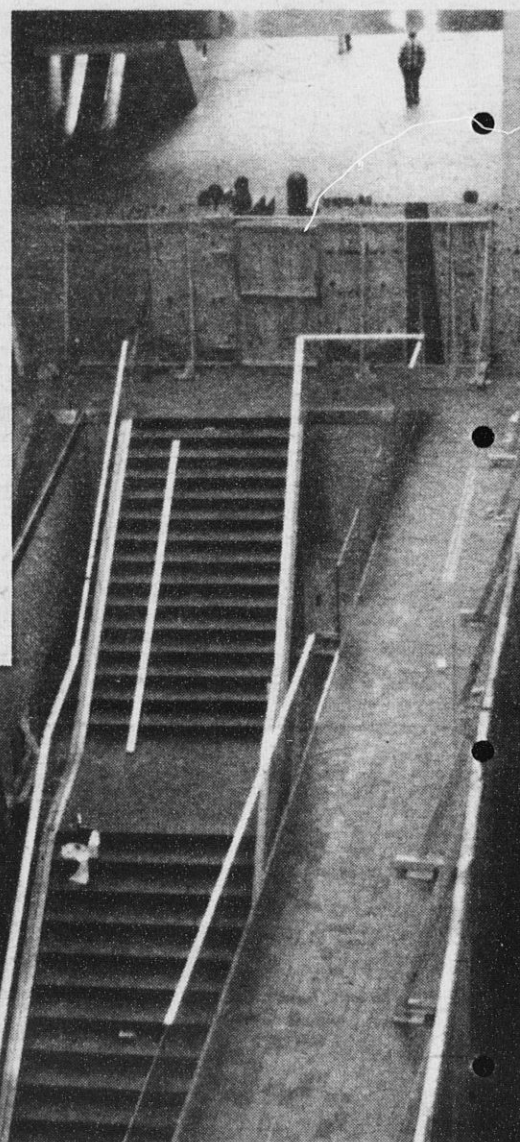
Pollicino pointed to the repairs on a stairway going from the lobby to the basement and the deterioration of the building's front steps in the relatively new building as an indication of the condition of buildings New York State uses for many of its employees.

SINCE LAST YEAR, this stairway from the lobby to the basement of the State Office Building in Hauppauge, right, has been closed for repairs. The building opened only six years ago.

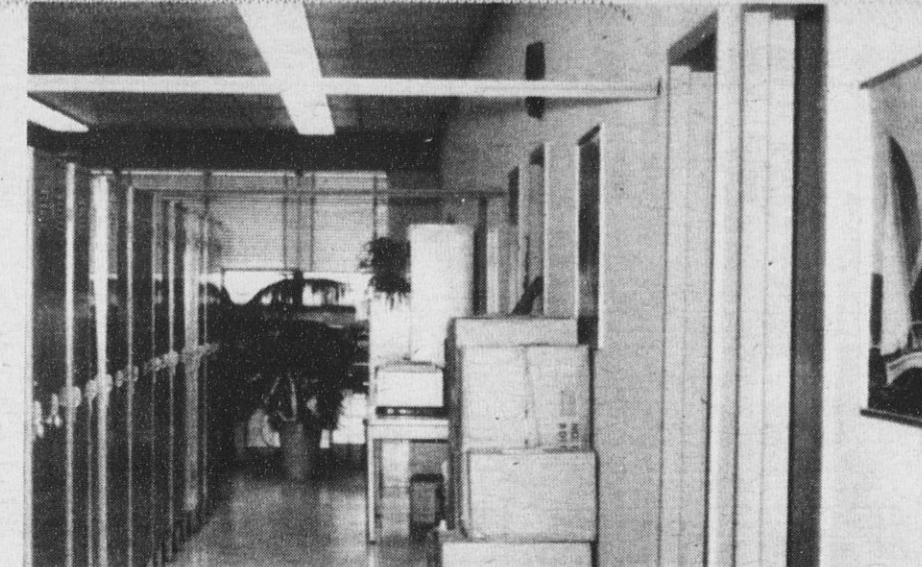
CSEA FIELD REPRESENTATIVE Nicholas Pollicino, below, stands next to a room divider being utilized as a make-shift means of cutting down the cold air from the lobby of the State Office Building in Hauppauge from getting into the Workmen's Compensation Board office on the first floor of the building.

# danger IN THE WORKPLACE

Photos and text by Gerald Alpers, Associate Editor, The Public Sector



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LOCAL 350 President George Caloumeno, left, and CSEA Field Representative Nicholas Pollicino examine the support for part of the floor of the Unemployment Insurance office in Freeport. The need for the support is one indication of the condition of the building, Caloumeno and Pollicino said.



WHEN THE WALL of the Unemployment Insurance office in Freeport started pulling away from the ceiling, cross beams from the wall to the back of the lockers were installed. The wall and the ceiling are still separated.



SHOP STEWARD Sheila Davidson of the Peekskill Unemployment Insurance (UI) office demonstrates her inability to open a locked fire exit at the UI office.

A DETERIORATING SUPPORT BEAM of the Unemployment Insurance office in Freeport, left, worries Department of Labor Local 350 President George Caloumeno.

## Problems exist in several offices for Department of Labor employees

State Department of Labor CSEA Local 350 is continually at odds with the State over the condition of the offices many of its members are required to work in.

Local 350 represents Department of Labor employees in New York City and Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester counties in 140 work locations.

Local 350 President George Caloumeno said: "So many of the Department of Labor offices have serious problems. I wonder how management could be that incompetent?"

"I also wonder whether the root of these problems is the State Office of General Services (OGS) or Deputy Industrial Commissioner Dunn? Who is making the decision on the renting of these offices?"

Caloumeno highlighted situations at three of the work locations which are typical of the conditions of many other Department of Labor offices. The offices are the Unemployment Insurance offices in Peekskill, Westchester County; Jamaica, New York City; and Freeport, Nassau County.

Peekskill — The Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance (UI) office on Division Street in Peekskill was moved to Bank Street on Dec. 26, 1980.

Employees at the UI office in Peekskill said they were moved from a perfectly adequate office to one which was still under construction and far from completed.

Local 350 President Caloumeno said he spoke with Dunn on Dec. 19 after inspecting the new office. "It was obvious the office would not be ready by December 26."

Most of the work was completed within three weeks after the UI employees moved in, though

some construction was still going on as late as the end of January, employees reported.

Shop Steward Shiela Davidson of the Peekskill office said that when the new office was opened on Dec. 26, the office was being painted, scaffolds were in use, all floor tiles were not yet down, drilling and wiring were going on, windows were being installed, the stairs going down to the office were bare concrete, room temperature was above 80° and exits were blocked by construction materials and debris.

Caloumeno said management personnel told him the conditions of the office were "abominable" and "terrible."

Ms. Davidson said among the problems caused by the conditions of the office under construction were:

- An employee received an electric shock from an ungrounded connection.
- Fumes caused some employees to have headaches, nausea, blurred vision and swelling about the eyes.
- Two employees fainted.
- Until the non-skid material was installed on the stairs, a number of persons slipped when snow was tracked in, causing minor injuries.
- Only one of four supposed fire exits are either adequately marked, unlocked or useable.

Ms. Davidson said grievances have been filed as has an OSHA complaint.

Caloumeno asked: "Why was it so important for this office to open on Dec. 26? Who made this asinine decision?"

NEW YORK CITY — The two Jamaica Unemployment Insurance offices occupy the same building which is notoriously warm all year.

The building is so warm that air conditioning has to be run even during the winter.

Caloumeno reported that last summer, temperatures exceeded 100 degrees in the offices when the air conditioning had to be shut down.

He said the air conditioner, located on the roof of the building, uses water. However, when neighborhood children open fire hydrants, there isn't enough pressure to get the water to the roof. If the air conditioner is not shut down, it would burn up, he said.

Caloumeno said he told management last year that this situation could be corrected by installing a pump to force the water to the roof when the pressure drops.

To date, he has no information on State plans to have a pump installed, he said.

"Unless the State does something, it again is going to get inhumanly hot at the UI offices in Jamaica," he said.

FREEPORT — "The Unemployment Insurance office in Freeport is a good example of the property the State is renting for its administrative employees.

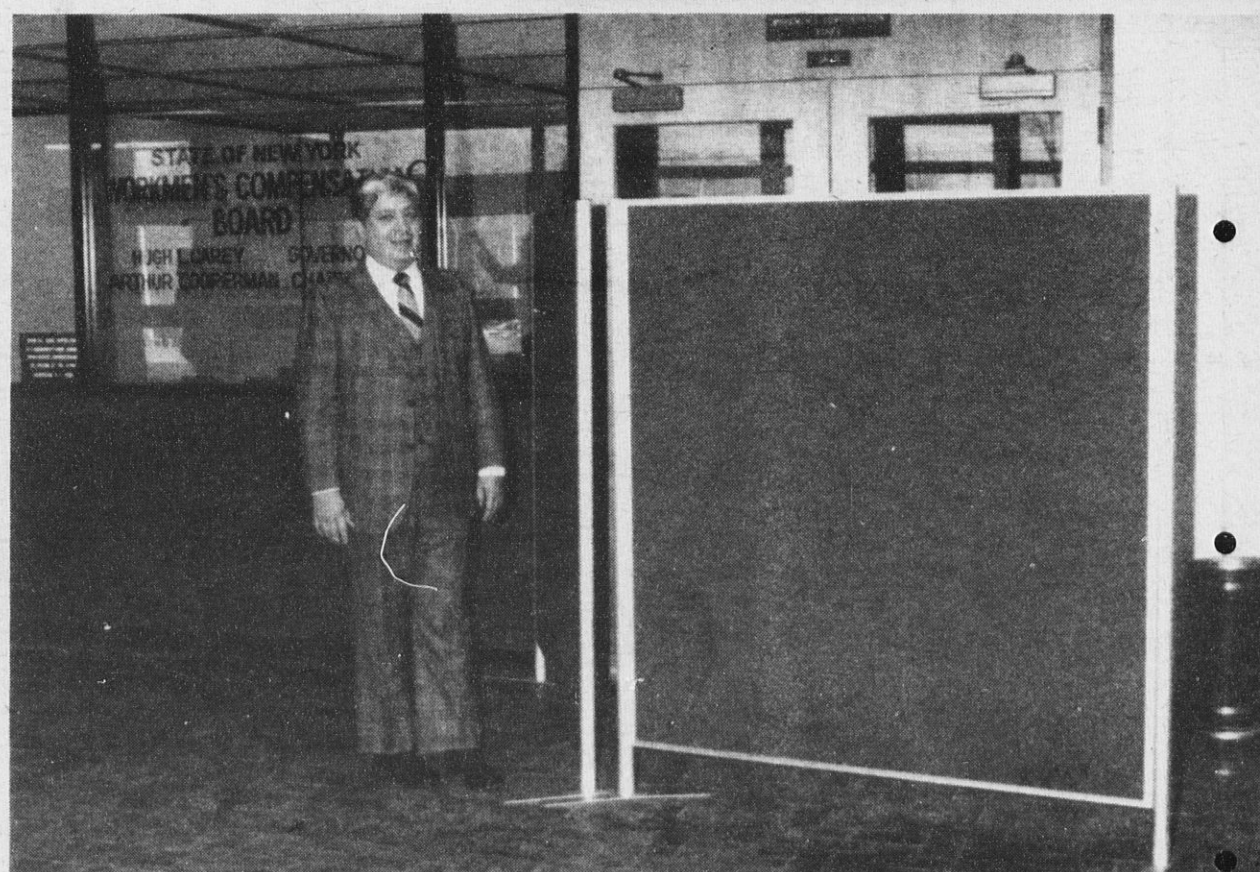
"For years, the building has lacked adequate insulation from cold weather, the building leaks and — most dangerous of all — the building is coming apart," CSEA Field Representative Nicholas Pollicino reported.

Local 350 President Caloumeno said the walls of the building are pulling apart, the beams supporting part of the building are crumbling and support for part of the floor recently had to be reinforced.

Both Caloumeno and Pollicino wonder why OGS and the Department of Labor management keeps employees working in a deteriorating building like the Freeport UI office?



DETERIORATION AND NEGLECT of the stairs in the front of the six-year-old State Office Building in Hauppauge have forced the closing of the stairs to the public. CSEA Field Representative Nicholas Pollicino holds a weed that has been allowed to grow from the steps to at least two-and-one-half feet high





## Flaumenbaum scholarship fund underway



Irving Flaumenbaum

The CSEA Scholarship Program for the 1981-82 school year kicks off this week, Program Chairman Dominic Spacone has announced.

Now in its second year, the fund has been named the Spécial Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of the late labor leader, who was President of Long Island Region and an International Vice President of AFSCME.

This year, there will be 18 grants of \$500 each awarded to three graduating high school students in each region, for a total of \$9,000 in award money statewide. Previously, \$500 was presented to two students from each region.

The scholarships are available to children of CSEA members. They will be granted on the basis of a number of

criteria, including high school rank and average, test scores, school and community service, career goals, recommendations and financial need. The scholarships will be awarded in June.

All applications are confidential.

Forms are available through regional and local offices. Deadline for filing completed applications is April 30. They should be mailed to CSEA Headquarters, c/o the Special Scholarship Fund Committee, 33 Elk St., Albany, N.Y. 12207.

## Parttime employees included in Local 860

**PEEKSKILL** — Parttime employees are now part of the Peekskill Cafeteria Unit of Local 860. Their inclusion was one of the new features of a contract recently ratified here, according to Unit President Jessie Perrotta, who was assisted in negotiations by Ann Laverde, Theresa Corey and Francis Cacace.

The addition of parttime people, according to Collective Bargaining Specialist Manny Vitale, guarantees them benefits not previously enjoyed, such as six paid annual holidays. Fulltime people will now get 12 holidays, an increase of two.

Parttime employees are defined as those who work less than 20 hours per week.

Longevity payments will be made as follows:

Length of Service	Fulltime	Parttime
five years	\$150	\$75
ten years	\$250	\$125
15 years	\$350	\$175
20 years	\$450	\$225

The school district will also grant sick leave of one-and-a-half days (fulltime) and three-quarters of a day (parttime) for each month worked.

Other features include:

- \* granting employees the right to review their personnel records;
- \* guaranteeing that overtime shall be established by a seniority list and distributed on a fair and equitable basis;
- \* providing two "uniforms" to fulltime, and one to parttime, cafeteria workers;

\* increasing to \$150 the employer's annual contribution to dental plan for fulltime personnel, and

\* granting increments (where due) plus increasing fulltime wages 11.1 percent, and parttime salaries between 11.8 and 15.2 percent.

The contract is retroactive to July 1, 1980 and expires June 30.

## 1981 union election timetable

### Nominating petitions now in circulation

The period of time began this week for circulating independent nominating petitions by candidates for union regional offices and seats on the state executive committee and as county educational representatives.

According to the timetable approved by CSEA's Special Elections Committee, independent nominating petitions may be circulated beginning March 1, with April 15 as the final date for filing of independent petitions.

Following is the remaining timetable dates in connection with the 1981 election of union officials:

**March 1** — Report of Nominating Committee, and starting date to circulate independent nominating petitions.

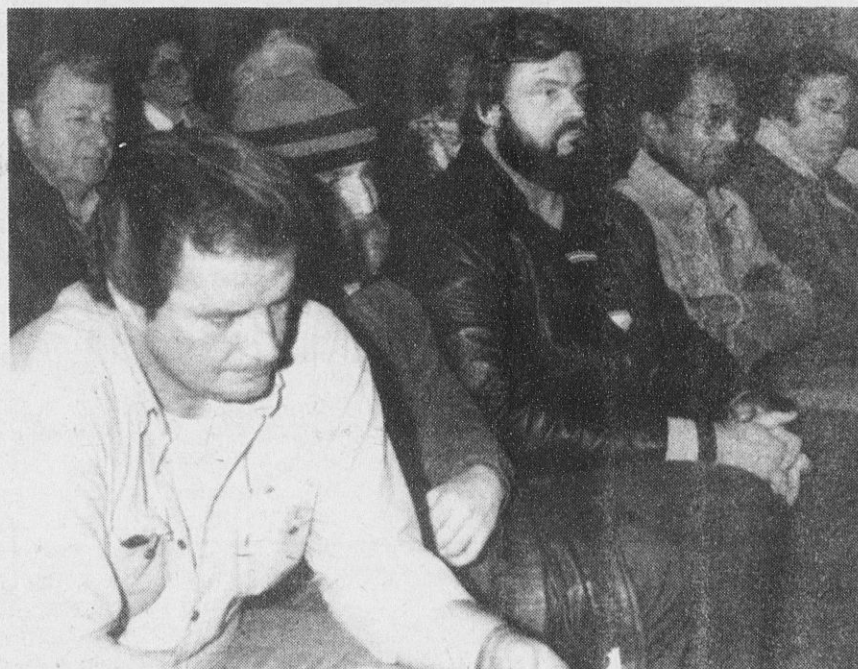
**April 1** — Final date for independent petitions for regional office to be filed.

**April 15** — Final date for independent petitions for statewide board seats to be filed, and for substitute nominations to be made when prospective nominee declines running and less than two candidates remain.

**April 20** — Drawing for position on ballot, 7:30 a.m., CSEA Headquarters, 33 Elk St., Albany. Candidates (or prox. s) may attend.



**CITY OF GLEN COVE UNIT** members attending a recent unit meeting are, from left, Marjorie McCarthy, Jayne Sangenito and Cathleen Mealing. The Unit is part of Nassau County Local 830.



**AMONG THOSE ATTENDING** a recent meeting of the City of Glen Cove Unit of Nassau County Local 830 are, from left, Stan Petroski, James Weldon, Ben Sorocenski Jr., Leander Willett and Thom Delferraro.

**April 27** — Mailing of election rules and regulations to all candidates and local presidents.

**May 11** — Publication of names of candidates in PUBLIC SECTOR.

**May 14** — Ballots mailed at post office.

**May 26** — Replacement ballots available after this date, if original ballot not received in mail.

**June 22** — Deadline for returning ballots, 6:00 p.m.

**June 23** — Ballots removed from envelopes and prepared for counting. (Those which cannot be machine counted will be manually counted starting today.)

**June 25** — Deadline for returning replacement ballots, 6:00 p.m.

**June 26** — Vote count. Official results announced. Candidates notified by telegram.

**June 28** — Deadline to notify candidates of returns.

**July 6** — End of protest period, ten days after official count.

All dues paying union members in good standing as of April 1, 1981, will be eligible to vote.



# For committee, the special problems of school workers present a unique challenge

By Deborah Cassidy

ALBANY — Safeguarding the interests of its 25,000 members employed in school districts across New York State is a demanding task for the Civil Service Employees Assn. — one that is accomplished through the field work of the union's statewide Non-teaching School Employees Committee and the assistance of CSEA staff Coordinator of School District Affairs Larry Scanlon.

The committee, composed of representatives from nine education locals within the CSEA, is keenly aware of the unique problems facing the

food service, transportation, custodial and clerical workers in school districts. With Scanlon as its liaison, the committee is charged with making these concerns known to other CSEA officials whose expertise can help solve some of those problems.

Communications with the grassroots members are maintained through open membership forums which follow the monthly business meeting of the committee. The meetings are held at a different location in order to reach everyone.

School district employees now comprise nearly one eighth of CSEA's membership. And with only 375, out of a total of 700, of the state's school districts organized there is a tremendous potential for growth, Scanlon pointed out. He estimated there are 80,000 workers in those districts to be organized someday.

"As their numbers continue to rise, school districts employees are fast becoming an integral part of the union," he said. "Though many of their concerns are unique, the issues facing these employees, contracting out for just one example, are issues which can have an impact on our entire membership."

Like other interest groups within the union, it is concerned about legislation that can affect the jobs of those it protects. The representatives are called upon to do research about specific bills, to make recommendations for legislative proposals and sometimes to join lobbying efforts. Legislative achievements in the past include bills for the application of state minimum wage laws, the Occupational Safety and Hazards Act, and the Small Cities Aid Bill which bails out small city school districts which are at or near their constitutional tax limit. In the 1981 session, Scanlon says the committee hopes for passage of a mandatory agency shop requirement for all political subdivisions, Taylor law revisions, lowering of the minimum height for bus seats and transportation parity funding.

Though the committee does not take an active role in organizing or membership recruitment efforts, here again it serves as a research tool. In addition, its members conduct seminars and have made suggestions to local school districts units to help ward off raids by other unions.

Committee members have undertaken the task of educating local and units officers in the areas of negotiations, grievance filing and other union matters, which for school districts are different than county or state locals.

For this purpose, Scanlon is currently helping to develop a modular education program which can be taken from one location to another. The system, which will rely on printed materials, audio-visual presentations and speakers, can be modified to fit the needs of the various locals or units.

The committee has asked CSEA President William L. McGowan for funds to embark on an all-out image-building campaign, which it feels is vitally important to school employees. Nevertheless the group seizes every opportunity to join efforts that serve this purpose. One of the most recent is the Parents as Partners reading program started by State Senator James Donovan to encourage parents to read with their children 15 minutes a day. The committee has endorsed the project by sending pamphlets about it to all members and issuing book marks bearing the CSEA logo.

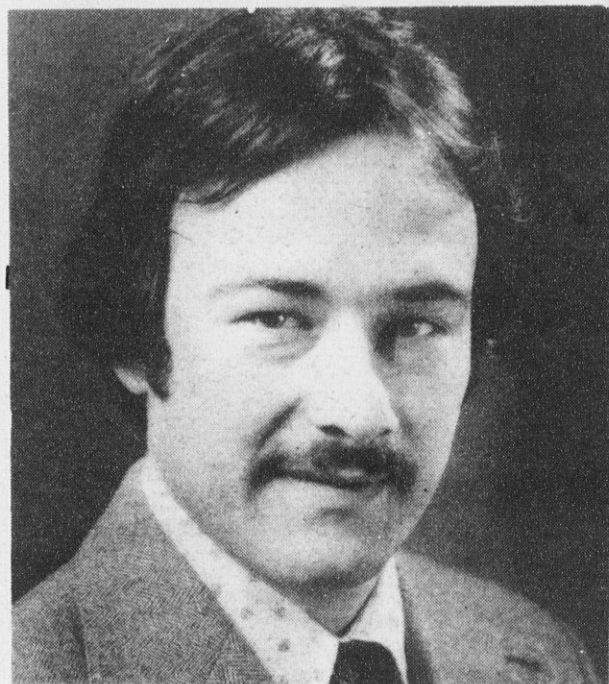
Scanlon feels the school bargaining units should be reorganized on a more general basis. First, within most districts there are separate bargaining units for the food service, transportation custodial, clerical and teacher aide workers. The differences are not severe enough to warrant separation, and the employees need the strength that can only be gained by uniting, Scanlon says.

At the same time, the committee and Scanlon would like to see the various educational units separated from county locals and grouped together as one county educational local. This has been done on a small scale in some regions, and has proven effective for both parties, Scanlon said. Exceptions should be made where there are so few school employees, that they are usually well serviced by their local.

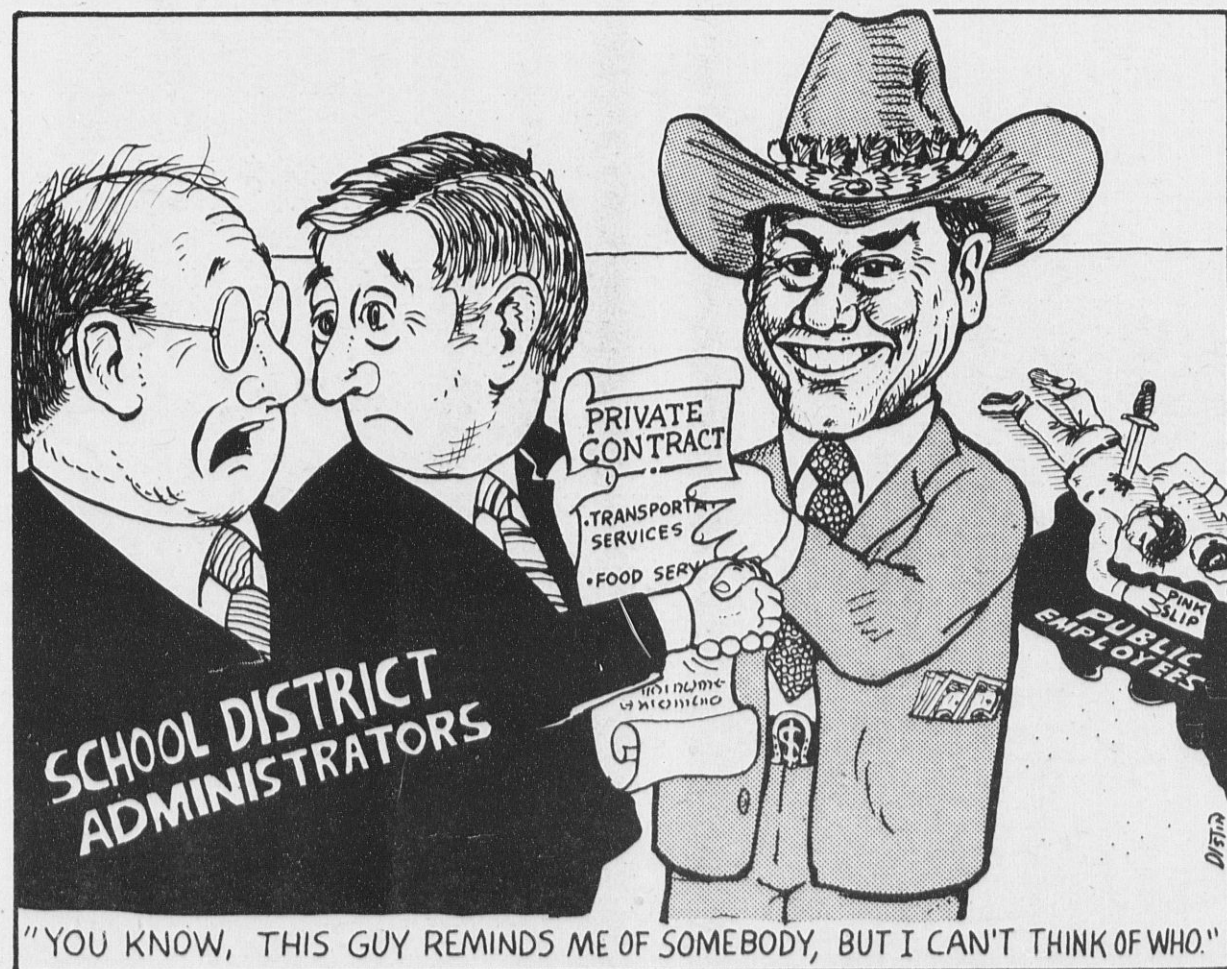
While the school employees want to pay their fair share, they feel that since most work more than a 20-hour week but less than a full work week, they should pay union dues proportionate to their salaries. The committee is looking into this and hopes to arrive at a solution.

Committee members are Hugh Crapser, chairman, Dutchess County; Carol Craig, Suffolk County; June Ferner, Erie County; Carol Guardi, Broome County; Dolores Herrig, Oneida County; Jack Schlenker, Erie County; Walter Weeks, Suffolk Educational Local; Russ Bettis, Niagara Educational Local, and Myrtle Major, Saratoga Educational Local.

CONTRACTING OUT has always been an especially serious problem confronting CSEA and its non-teaching school district employees. Over the years the union has invested a lot of time, money and effort to preserve the public employee job while school district administrators more and more move toward contracting out of services instead. Public Sector cartoonist Ralph Distin sees the situation this way.



LARRY SCANLON, Coordinator of School District Affairs, points out that school employees continue to grow as a major segment of CSEA, and the potential is for another 80,000 members not yet organized in New York State.



"YOU KNOW, THIS GUY REMINDS ME OF SOMEBODY, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF WHO."

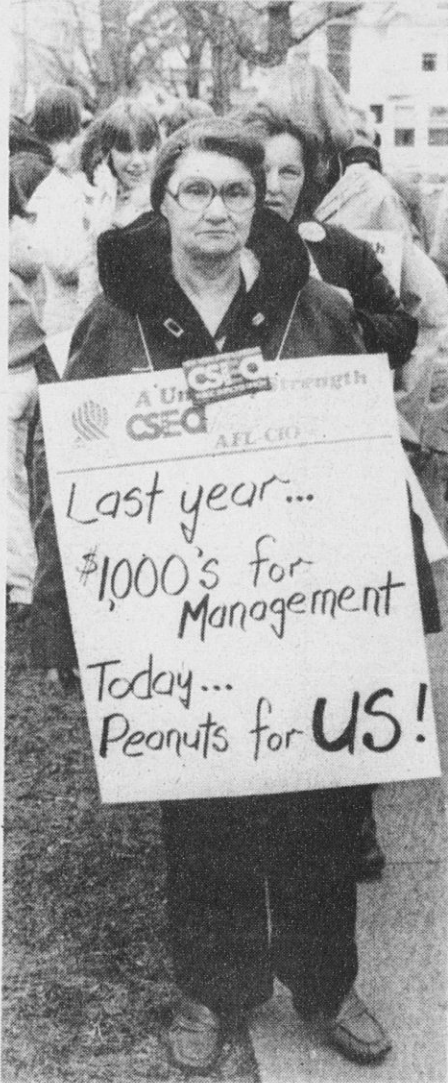


## Hundreds of public workers picket for decent contracts

# Saratoga workforce: United they stand



AS THE NUMBERS INCREASED, the mobile office was used to make much-needed signs. CSEA Regional President Joseph E. McDermott, left, and Regional Third Vice President John Vallee help keep pace with the growing demand.



BALLSTON SPA — For three hours recently McMaster Street in Ballston Spa was swarmed by hundreds of disgruntled Saratoga County public employees.

The workers had come from the County Infirmary, the Sewer Department, the Highway, from Social Service and even from the administrative offices of the very County Office building the employees were picketting.

The workers wanted to make two points perfectly clear to the Saratoga County administration: the Saratoga County workforce is united behind its CSEA negotiating team, and the workforce wants a fair and equitable contract now.

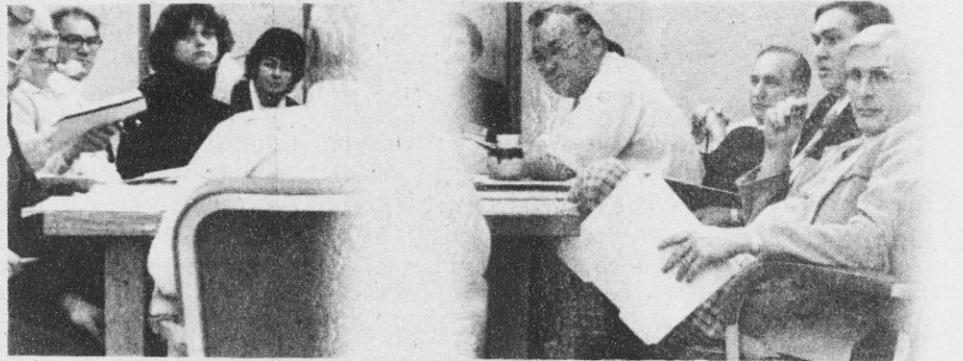
This message was delivered via the demonstration to the Saratoga County administration's negotiating team, who were meeting for a PERB-called mediation session. One chant by hundreds of united voices filled the air, "Negotiate, Negotiate, Negotiate NOW!"

The line grew as other other CSEA members from distant CSEA Locals, from the highest levels of CSEA, added their strength. CSEA members from the Albany-based Tax and Finance Local, from the Saratoga County Deputy Sheriffs unit, from Shenendehowa and Schuylerville non-instructional units joined the line.

When it became apparent that membership support had far exceeded even the highest projections of the Crisis Committee, and that informational picket signs were running out, experienced CSEA hands, AFSCME International Vice President and CSEA Capital Region President Joseph E. McDermott, Region-First Vice President Al Mead, and John Vallee, Region Third Vice President began to letter additional signs on board the CSEA mobile Office while CSEA Executive Vice President Tom McDonough passed the quickly prepared placards out to the union members.

As evening came the line continued to grow when employees from the building in which the mediation session was being held came out to join their fellow county workers on the sidewalk. The mediation session ended a half hour later and the CSEA negotiating team walked into the early evening dark to join with and thank the Saratoga County workers.

On team member summed up the feeling of the day, "This is beautiful, this is unionism."



THE MEDIATION SESSION, as seen through an outside window, gets underway with CSEA members on the left. The Saratoga County administration negotiating team is on the right, with PERB mediator Ben Westervelt situated in the middle.

## Oswego school unit ratifies a 3-year retroactive pact

OSWEGO — Members of the Oswego School Unit of CSEA Local 838 recently ratified a new three-year Contract by an overwhelming four-to-one vote margin.

According to Ron Smith, CSEA Field Representative and Chief Negotiator for the Unit which represents more than 300 non-instructional Oswego School employees, the new pact is retroactive to July 1, 1980, and concludes nearly one year of negotiations.

Terms of the agreement include an eight per cent (8%) increase for salaried employees based upon the Salary Schedule each year of the Contract, plus increment where due.

Hourly employees will receive a nine per cent (9%) increase to all hourly salaries, or minimum hourly rate, whichever is greater, each year of the contract.

Other benefits include new contract language concerning cash payment for clerical employees who work overtime in excess of forty (40) hours per week.

Effective July 1, 1980, the Oswego School District will pay 95% of the premium cost of Health Insurance.

Effective July 1, 1981, salaried employees shall receive \$135 for the family Dental Plan or \$50 for the individual plan.

The new pact also carries improvements in assignments for bus drivers, language changes regarding holidays, lay-off and recall procedure, sick leave posting of positions for hourly employees, mileage allowance, and a new clause that gives all employees the right to review their personnel files.

In a comment following the announcement of the contract ratification, Smith said, "We are particularly gratified by the patience displayed by the rank and file membership during the many months of negotiations. It was a long ordeal, but we feel the dedication and hard work of the negotiating team paid off. It's a good contract, with some well-deserved benefits, particularly those concerning the problems of the hourly employees. I want to personally thank Rick Harvell, president of the unit, and the members of his negotiating team for their many, many hours of work. To Rick, Arnold Whiting, Stan Hallinan, Claire Angell, Pat Sivers, Bill Scott, Carmella Stubba, Hazel Askew, Tom Manger, and Eileen Batchelor who recorded the minutes for CSEA, a well done!"



ATTENDING THE KINGS PARK PSYCHIATRIC CENTER Local 411 Executive Committee dinner recently were, from left standing, President Anthony Bentivegna, Celeste Vogt, Joseph Sheridan, June Medlock and Tanya Ann Lowe; sitting, Dennis Selcherix, Carl Fennell, Fay Frans and Gregory Szurnicki.



# Adriel Stallard reinstated with back pay thanks to union effort



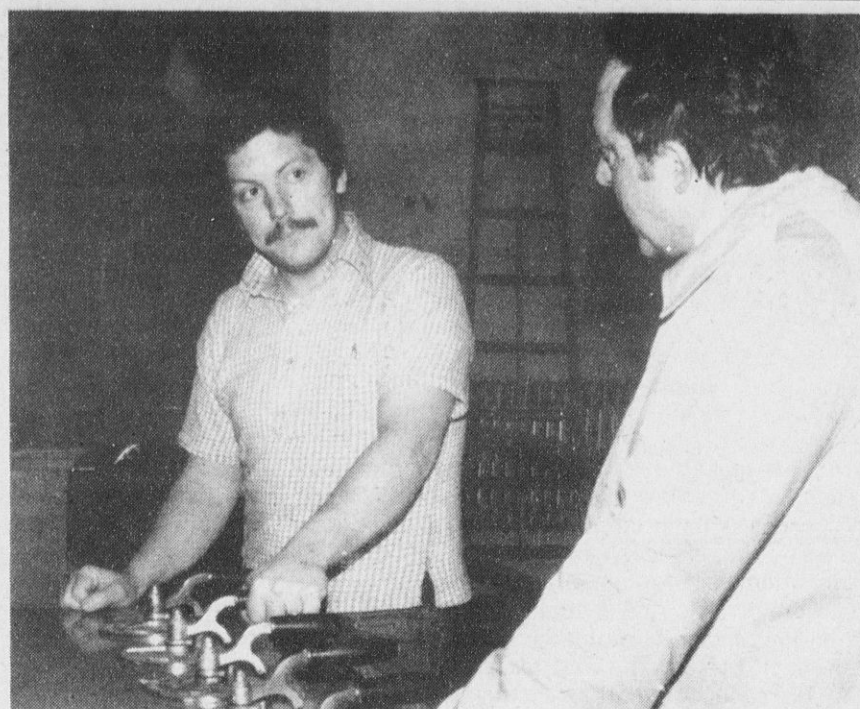
**WATER PLANT OPERATOR**  
Adriel Stallard looks out over the village water reservoir, a major bone of contention in his case.

GOSHEN — Adriel Stallard, as he always knew, was not guilty of charges brought against him by the village. And now he has been officially cleared of all disciplinary charges by a hearing officer; reinstated as village water plant operator, and awarded back pay due during his ordeal.

Charges were originally levelled against Stallard under Section 75 of the state Civil Service Law, and referred to Hearing Officer Roy H. Baldwin who recently ruled, "From the evidence submitted, I find the Respondent (Stallard) not guilty of any of the charges." Shortly thereafter, the village Board of Trustees agreed, and went along with Baldwin's recommendation that Stallard, "be reinstated as Water Plant Operator and be given his back pay."

In reference to specific charges, the hearing officer noted:

1. Stallard's job description does not provide for custodial duties;
2. There was no authority indicating that Village Engineer P. Joseph Corless could dictate specific duties to Stallard;
3. Stallard was directed by the



**ADRIEL STALLARD, left, talks about his case at the village water plant with CSEA Field Representative Flip Amodio.**

Village Trustee Water Commissioner to take orders from the Village Chemist;

4. Stallard is certified by the state Board of Health to operate the water plant, and Superintendent of Public Works Conrad A. Kroll, jr. stated he was, "qualified for his job" and,

5. There is no evidence that Stallard ever refused to give data to Corless or any other person.

The village's water plant was built in 1935 and is a "rapid sand" system. It pumps approximately 400,000 gallons during the winter-time which rises to nearly 800,000 during the summer months. An adjacent 48-acre reservoir feeds the system.

The reservoir itself was a bone of contention when Stallard was ordered to put copper sulfate into the reservoir to control the growth of algae. There was disagreement as to where the chemical should be dropped and, when it was later applied (despite Stallard's objections) thousands of fish were killed. The village was later fined by the Department of Environmental Conservation for its action.

Stallard looks back to the ordeal and praises the support he received from CSEA. He also commented, "union attorney Bart Bloom was sharp and made the other side look sick" and believes the legal representation he received, "forced the village to clear me."

## Western Region meeting focuses on Reagan era

BUFFALO — Region VI representatives will meet at the Rowntowner Motor Inn in Rochester on March 13 and 14. Region President Robert Lattimer said the main focus of discussion will center on challenges facing CSEA in the "Reagan era."

The meeting will begin Friday, March 13 at 8:00 PM with a discussion titled "Are We Interested in

Feeling Good or Being Effective?"

State and County workshops will convene at 9:30 AM, Saturday morning, March 14. The General Business meeting will start at 1:30 PM.

Hotel Reservations may be made directly with the Rowntowner Motor Inn, 800 Jefferson Road, Rochester, 14623. Phone 716-475-9190.

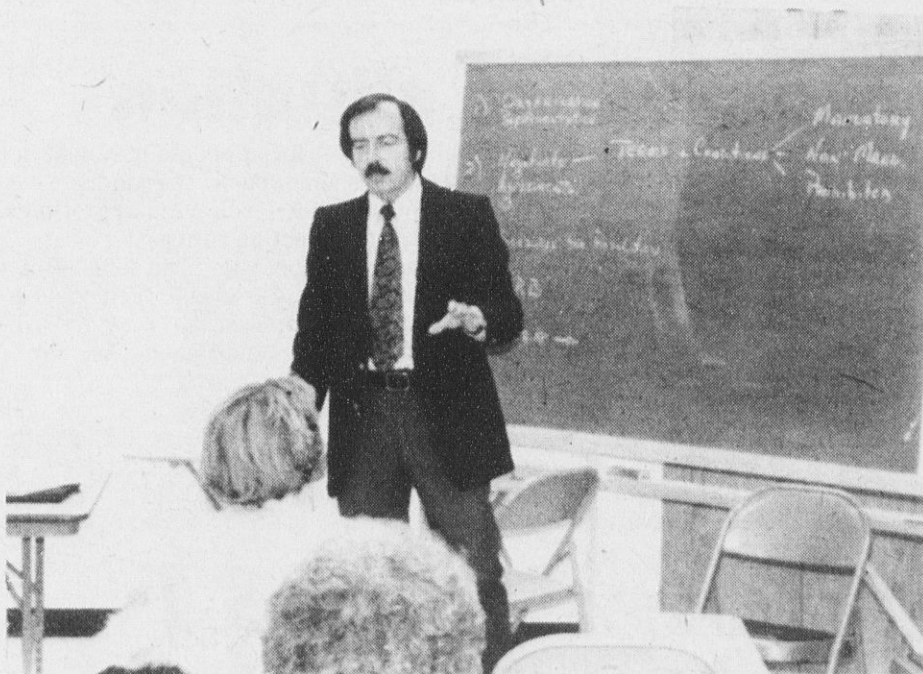
## Collective bargaining studied by Local 834

SYRACUSE — Approximately 30 members of Onondaga County Local 834 are presently enrolled in a six-week course in collective bargaining.

The course is part of the Syracuse Labor Studies Program of the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations — Cornell University. The instructor is Prof. Joseph Powers.

Local 834 is paying the tuition for its members who represent the 26 units of the 3,500-member local.

Among those taking the course is Local 834 President Thomas Murphy who said: "We learn how to make more input into collective bargaining and we study the gamut of labor-management relations."



New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations Professor Joseph Powers above instructs members of Onondaga County Local 834 attending a course in collective bargaining.

AMONG THOSE ATTENDING THE course on collective bargaining being given to members of Onondaga County Local 834, right is Local 834 President Thomas Murphy, center. Almost 30 members of the local are taking the course.





# CSEA retiree Jane Reese: Behind-the-scenes achiever with a gift for education

By Tina Lincer First  
Communications' Associate

TROY — A love of education and people have shaped the life of CSEA retiree Jane Reese.

A soft-spoken, gentle-mannered woman who tends to shy away from publicity, Mrs. Reese was recently honored for her work in the field of education. She received the Albany YWCA 1980 Education Tribute, one of seven awards granted to women who have made outstanding contributions to the community.

Mrs. Reese was the first black ever elected to the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy — a distinction all the more notable since she has no children of her own.

It was education which first brought Mrs. Reese to Troy. She left her family's farm in Lawrenceville, Va., at the age of 13 with a sister and a cousin to attend high school in Troy because her town had no high school for blacks.

"Blacks didn't go very far in those days down south," she said, "and my father, a Baptist minister, was very interested in our education."

The youngest of nine children, she stayed with her oldest sister, who had come to Troy to do domestic work for a state Supreme Court Justice. Her earliest memories of the city she would later make her permanent home are not her warmest.

"I was the only black one in my school at the time and I was scared to death," she recalled. "They put me back to sixth grade because I knew nothing about history or geography except the history of Virginia. It was pretty discouraging. I wanted to go right back home."

"Then I got to know people. All the teachers, the principal, were just wonderful. Soon I had a little clique. And by the time I got to (Lansingburgh) High School, I got active right away in the glee club, the basketball team. . . ."

That was more than a half century ago. Since then, Mrs. Reese has been active in some dozen organizations in Albany and Troy. Retired from the state Department of Social Services, she had a long and fruitful relationship with CSEA. She was a member of CSEA's statewide Board of Directors, a local president and treasurer and a member of CSEA's Education Committee. Dur-

ing a recent visit to CSEA Headquarters, she spoke about her CSEA and community activities.

She is a board member of Family and Children's Service of Rensselaer County and of the Traveler's Aid Society. She served on the board of Catholic Charities, was secretary to the Troy Area Council of Churches and president of the Albany District Laymen's Council of AME Zion Church. She is also involved with the Sherman Avenue Neighborhood Association, the Troy YWCA and the Troy NAACP Political Action Committee. And she remains, in her own words, "a quiet consultant" to the Troy school board in the areas of equal opportunity and recruitment of minorities.

Despite all her work, she says she was surprised by her YWCA tribute.

"I don't consider anything I've done outstanding," she said. "I just consider it doing my share of the load. There's so much to be done and too few who are willing to do it."

The wife of Junius Reese, a retired chauffer for the state civil services commissioner, Mrs. Reese says she's "not the type who can just sit in a house and look at a television. My husband can. I was always interested in things that require a lot of time, patience and effort."

One of her biggest dreams was to be a lawyer. But circumstances led her to Troy Business College (now defunct). After graduation, she worked briefly with the state Department of Taxation and Finance before joining Social Services, where she remained for 36 years. She was head of the steno pool when she retired 10 years ago.

Through the years, her love for law never left her. "I guess that's why I always loved CSEA work," she mused. "There were many legal questions raised and discussed. I learned a lot of parliamentary procedure from CSEA because they always had a floorful of lawyers."

Mrs. Reese vividly remembers the many advances the union made over the years. "When they negotiated with the state to deduct dues from salary checks, that was one of the big steps forward," she said. "It was a big headache trying to collect dues from every little chapter."

She also recalls when the retirement system and medical plan were introduced. "None of



CSEA RETIREE Jane Reese is pictured in front of the Doyle Middle School in Troy. Mrs. Reese is a former member of CSEA's statewide Board of Directors and its Education Committee. She went on to become the first black ever elected to the Troy School Board.

these things would have been done without a strong organization with competent people. I'm sure the state wouldn't have just walked up and offered them to us."

Although her CSEA involvement helped prepare her for work on the Troy school board immediately following her retirement, there was one thing Mrs. Reese found difficult at first. "Here I was fresh from a career on the labor side of the table and now I was on the management side," she said. "I learned there are always two sides to a story. You have to listen as well as talk."

During her six years on the school board, Mrs. Reese was especially pleased about two things: the completion of the W. Kenneth Doyle Middle School and the selection of the first black person as superintendent of schools.

Today, what would please Mrs. Reese greatly is to see some changes in the area of human rights. "I really think all people have got to start looking out for each other, no matter where you are, no matter what color you are," she says. "It's just something you do."

## Unopposed elections a worrisome situation

ALBANY — In more than a third of the 28 elections for State division seats on the CSEA statewide Board of Directors scheduled to be held this spring, incumbents are running for re-election unopposed, as no other applications were received by the Statewide Nominating Committee by last month's deadline.

"In view of this, the Committee is making every effort to let members know that nominations can still be made by independent petition up until the April 15 deadline," explained committee chairwoman Rose Marie Saunders.

"Obviously there's nothing wrong with a candidate running unopposed. It may in fact be a testimonial to an incumbent's good performance in office."

"However, the committee finds the extent of this situation worrisome. With ten of the elections now set to be one-person 'races,' we feel that we simply haven't put out the word to let people know about these elections."

Ms. Saunders added that the problem is compounded this year because

election schedules are in a period of transition. "A lot of people may just not realize that we're having some Board elections this year," she said.

Describing these Board seats as important CSEA policymaking offices, Ms. Saunders urged greater participation in the election process.

"CSEA is a union that prides itself on being democratic," she said. "But a democratic union is strongest when members not only exercise their right to vote, but when members also take an active enough interest that they are willing to run for office and devote their time and abilities throughout the year to making their union work."

The Committee chairwoman said that only one candidate was now scheduled to run in elections for seats on the statewide Board of Directors for the following State divisions: Agriculture and Markets, Authorities, Civil Service, Commerce, Education, Law, Motor Vehicles, State Department, Tax and Finance, and Public Corporations.

## Western regional office nominees announced

BUFFALO — The Region 6 Nominating Committee has announced the following nominees for regional office:

**President** — Robert Lattimer; Dominic Spacone Jr.

**1st Vice President** — Genevieve Clark; Patricia Pfleger

**2nd Vice President** — Bob Smith; John P. Eiss; Thomas Warzei

**3rd Vice President** — Dale Hatch; Brian J. Madden; Thomas Bruno;

Gerry Prince

**Secretary** — Geraldine Frieday; Sheila Brogan

**Treasurer** — Barbara Fauser

**Regional Educational Rep** — Dominic Spacone Jr.

Nominees who choose not to run must decline by April 15. Also by this date, independent nominating petitions with four percent of the signatures of eligible voters must be turned in. A "Meet the Candidates Night" has been slated for April 24. The time and place will be announced at a later date.

The Nominating Committee members are Chairman Jim Jayes, Pat Froebel, Joan Poissells, Rosemary Saunders, Sylvia Ebersold, Kay Massimi, Kim Hoffman, Walter Nowicki and Florence Tripi.