DETECTING DANGER IN RENSSELAER COUNTY

Knives, razor blades, scissors, letter openers, brass knuckles, screwdrivers, guns

--see Page 5

CSEA Rensselaer County Sheriff's Deputy Unit Shop Steward George Slagen III, left, operates new metal detector, shown in background, at county court annex. He discusses beefed up security measures with Steve Alviene, CSEA director of Local Government, and Vicki Halse, CSEA Rensselaer County Unit president.

BALLOTS IN MAIL SOON IN CSEA REGION OFFICERS ELECTION. CANDIDATES OFFER STATEMENTS - see pages 16-23
CSEA member marks 36 years as nurses’ aide in Ulster County

KINGSTON — Working at the Ulster County Infirmary is a family tradition for CSEA Local 856 member Betty Kithcart. A 36-year employee and nurses’ aide, Kithcart followed her grandmother and two aunts in caring for the elderly patients. Today’s patients are older and sicker, with Alzheimers disease the most prevalent illness, Kithcart said.

“When I started, we saw a lot of cancer patients dying,” she said. “They didn’t have the chemo and the treatments we have today.” Kithcart works 3 to 11 p.m. She starts the day distributing snacks. After dinner, patients are readied for bed, and many need attention all night.

The job is never boring, Kithcart said. “I like to have fun with the patients,” she said. “They tell you a lot of interesting things like ‘Do you remember when pork chops were five cents a pound?’ I don’t!”

Kithcart is concerned about staff shortages. “Sometimes we have just three of us to take care of 40 patients,” she said. “That’s not easy.” Her job requires the right attitude, she said. “When I started, I liked my job. Some people are here just for the money, not because they care. That affects the patients,” she said. “These people need a lot of caring and understanding.”

Kithcart would like to see her co-workers get more recognition. “The ones who do the caring should get more credit for it,” she said. “Sometimes the supervisor talks to you like you’re a child. We need more respect.”

GOOD HEALTH IS EVERYONE’S CONCERN — Several hundred CSEA members participated in the Town of Hempstead Local 880’s annual health fair. “We want people to take care of themselves and to learn about how CSEA-negotiated benefits can help them to be healthier,” Local President Peter Ellison said. The event included blood pressure checks, cholesterol screening, glaucoma and eye examinations and the opportunity to speak with health care professionals and CSEA staff. Pictured above is CSEA member Claudette Harrison, right, having her blood pressure checked.

CSEA MEMBER Betty Kithcart marks 36 years as a nurse’s aide in Ulster County’s infirmary.
A new look for Nassau County Local 830

CSEA's largest local being restructured, streamlining member services

CSEA's largest local, Nassau County Local 830, is being restructured to provide even better services and response in the Long Island county. CSEA's statewide Board of Directors has approved the restructuring by transferring two classifications of members from Local 830 to two other CSEA locals:
  * All municipal government members currently assigned to Local 830 will be transferred to CSEA Nassau County Municipal Employees Local 882, a newly-created local, and:
  * All school districts and Nassau County BOCES members currently assigned to Local 830 will be transferred to CSEA Nassau County Educational Employees Local 865.

The changes will be made during a transition period over the next several months, with a projected completion by September. The transformation will leave Local 830 with more than 11,400 CSEA members and agency shop fee payors, all of them employed by Nassau County.

The restructuring of Local 830 is consistent with CSEA's efforts over the past several years to decentralize by creating smaller, more homogeneous locals comprised of members with similar job titles and backgrounds. The streamlined locals are more functional and responsive and CSEA is able to act more quickly, more effectively and more decisively to member needs and concerns.

Earlier restructuring of Local 830 involved creation of Town of Hempstead Local 880, with more than 2,300 members, and Town of Oyster Bay Local 881, with more than 1,100 members.

Under the new restructuring program, some 2,400 CSEA members and agency shop fee payors employed by 56 cities, towns, villages, public libraries and authorities, water, sewer and fire districts in Nassau County will be transferred from Local 830 to form the new Nassau County Municipal Employees Local 882. Nassau County Educational Employees Local 865 will nearly double its membership total when more than 2,200 CSEA members and fee payors in 14 school districts transfer from Local 830 to Local 865, which already represents employees in more than 40 school districts in Nassau County.

CSEA-represented employees of the following municipal governments will be transferred from Local 830 to CSEA Nassau County Municipal Employees Local 882

- City of Glen Cove
- City of Long Beach
- Town of North Hempstead
- Town of North Hempstead Solid Waste Management Authority
- Town of North Hempstead Community Development Agency
- Village of Freeport
- Village of Lynbrook DPW
- Village of Garden City
- Garden City Library
- Village of Sea Cliff
- Village of Floral Park & Floral Park Library
- Village of Hempstead
- Village of Massapequa Park
- Village of Great Neck Plaza
- Village of Great Neck Estates
- Village of New Hyde Park
- Village of East Rockaway DPW
- Village of Cedarhurst
- Village of Lawrence
- Village of Malverne DPW
- Village of Westbury
- Village of Manorhaven
- Village of Russell Gardens
- Village of Lake Success
- Village of Farmingdale
- Village of Mineola Public Library
- Baldwin Public Library
- Franklin Square Public Library
- Malverne Public Library
- Farmingdale Public Library
- Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library
- Hicksville Public Library
- Peninsula Public Library
- Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library
- Rockville Centre Public Library
- Wantagh Public Library
- Elmont Public Library
- Levittown Public Library
- Roosevelt Public Library
- Long Beach Public Library (Allard K. Lowenstein Public Library)
- West Long Beach Sewer District
- Roslyn Water District
- Sanitation District #1
- Nassau County Bridge Authority
- Sanitary District #2 - Town of Hempstead
- South Farmingdale Water District
- Port Washington Water Pollution Control District
- Oceanside Sanitation District #7
- Massapequa Water District
- Great Neck Park District
- Manhasset-Lakeville Water & Fire Districts
- Glen Cove Housing Authority
- Vocational Education & Extension Board
- Great Neck Water Pollution Control District
- Town of Hempstead Housing Authority
- North Hempstead Housing Authority

How it works

CSEA Nassau County Local 830 will be restructured during a transition period expected to be completed by September. Here is a list of CSEA bargaining units involved and how they will be affected:

**Nassau County Local 830**

- When restructuring is completed, Local 830 will consist of the Nassau County bargaining unit of more than 11,400 CSEA members and agency shop fee payors, all of them employees of Nassau County.

**CSEA-represented employees in the following school district bargaining units will be transferred from Local 830 to CSEA Nassau County Educational Employees Local 865**

- North Bellmore UFSD
- East Meadow UFSD
- Freeport UFSD
- Garden City Public Schools
- Roosevelt UFSD
- Valley Stream CHSD
- Floral Park-Bellrose UFSD
- Hempstead UFSD
- East Williston UFSD
- Jericho UFSD
- Bellmore-Merrick CHSD
- Long Island UFSD
- New Hyde Park-Garden City Park UFSD
- Nassau County BOCES

May 1993
BROOKHAVEN — Manuel Narvaez is uncomfortable with being called a hero, but the CSEA member just can’t seem to escape it.

An animal control officer and CSEA Town of Brookhaven Unit member, he has earned the Soldier’s Medal of Honor, the highest award for heroism a National Guardsman can receive in peacetime.

Brookhaven also proclaimed a day in his honor last year.

Narvaez risked his life to help pull two pilots out of a fiery plane crash. The two men are alive today because of his courage.

Narvaez, a platoon sergeant in the National Guard, was at training exercises at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, when the crash occurred.

“I saw flames shooting out from a plane in the tree,” he said. “You don’t think about the risk to yourself, you just go.”

As dozens of people fought the fire, Narvaez and several others began the rescue.

“The men were unconscious but we got the first one out pretty easily,” he said. “It was harder getting the second pilot with the flames right behind us.”

The speed of the rescue and helicopter transport to the hospital was a key factor in the pilots’ survival.

A National Guard spokesman praised the rescuers’ efforts.

“If those people hadn’t been on the scene, the pilots would have died in the fire. There were some real heroes.”

The rescue took less than three minutes, but the honors have lasted a lot longer. Narvaez received the Pennsylvania Cross for Valor. CSEA’s Long Island Region honored him, and the rescue received plenty of media attention.

“The greatest reward came less by all the fuss. He credits the others who helped in the crisis.

The greatest reward came less than 24 hours after the crash. Narvaez said.

“One of the pilots came walking up to us to say thanks,” he said. “I thought he was dead when we pulled him out. He looked at us and he was crying. That was the best feeling.”

This isn’t Narvaez’s first act of heroism. He received another service honor from Brookhaven a few years ago after he chased down a drunk driver involved in a hit-and-run accident and held him until the police arrived.

But Narvaez says his fellow animal control officers show real heroism regularly.

“We usually confront nasty and dangerous animals at least once a week,” he said. “You never know what you’ll confront.

“The officers I work with are experts. They know what they’re doing and they work hard in a tough job.”

EASTCHESTER - CSEA won an important victory when the state Department of Labor (DOL) cited the Eastchester School District with a laundry list of safety and health violations.

Shawn McCollister filed the complaint last year after the school district had the high school fumigated over a weekend, then ordered CSEA members to clean up the mess without proper training or equipment.

The exterminator left an oily liquid throughout the building and students, teachers and CSEA members complained of symptoms including dizziness, rashes and burning of the eyes, nose and throat.

CSEA Unit President Roy West contacted DOL and the Westchester County Department of Health. CSEA Labor Relations Specialist Shawn McCollister filed the Public Employee Safety and Health complaint alleging the school was fumigated without proper ventilation.

The district finally closed the building and eventually hired a trained crew to cleanup the hazardous materials, but the health department still would not allow the building to be occupied.

When the district again asked CSEA members to clean, West insisted the district provide safety equipment.

DOL ruled that the school district violated state regulations on at least 10 issues, including failure to make face shields and eye masks available, absence of material safety data sheets for the chemicals, and failing to provide employees with information and training on hazardous materials in their work area.

The ruling also set up a series of deadlines by which the school must comply with the safety and health regulations.

CSEA Safety and Health Specialist Dan Morra credited West for his concern with the safety of his co-workers and the students.

“Roy persevered,” he said. “He was watching out for his members.

“Things happen all over, and they’re never brought to light,” Morra said. “I think this has awakened a lot of people.”

THE REMAINS OF A FIERY CRASH give an idea of the danger CSEA member Manuel Narvaez faced when he helped to rescue two pilots from the flames.

DOL cites Eastchester School District over safety

Olean Unit wins contract approval

OLEAN - After a frustrating battle, workers represented by the CSEA City of Olean Unit now have a contract.

The unit, part of CSEA Cattaraugus County Local 805, had resorted to picketing Olean Common Council meetings after the council had rejected an agreement the city’s negotiators had accepted.

CSEA had also filed an improper practice charge. CSEA Labor Relations Specialist Mike Painter said.

The city finally reversed its original vote and approved the contract. Unit members had earlier ratified the agreement that called for increases in each year of the contract with no change in health care premiums.

“All we wanted was the original deal that we had worked out,” Unit President Bruce Jones said.

“This could have been settled long ago without all the hard feeling their foot-dragging caused.”

Painter said the improper practice charge would be withdrawn once he receives the paperwork and the agreement is signed.
Arms Control

52 weapons found after CSEA pushes for better worksite security in Rensselaer County

TROY -- CSEA was right to worry about workplace security at Rensselaer County worksites. With the help of a new metal detector, security guards collected 52 weapons in just three work days. "Just the first day's results show that we weren't being alarmists about security," CSEA Rensselaer County Unit President Vicki Halse said. "The potential for problems is real, but we can now feel safer."

The detector, set up at the entrance to offices for Social Services Child Support Unit, Family Court and the Probation Department, was part of a CSEA effort to improve security for county employees. "This is a big help," CSEA Rensselaer County Sheriff's Deputy Unit President Mark Mann said. Deputies guard county worksites. "The deputies are a lot more confident about doing their job when they can better screen who and what may be coming into the building."

Workplace security, long a CSEA priority, has become an even bigger concern since four Schuyler County Social Services workers in Watkins Glen were gunned down in their office by a "deadbeat dad" angered over court-ordered child support.

For months CSEA has been meeting with county officials across the state to improve workplace security, an effort coordinated by CSEA's Local Government Services Child Support Unit, upgrading door locks, improving employee training and taking other security steps. "The reality that the metal detector revealed is frightening," CSEA Capital Region President C. Allen Mead said. "CSEA has tremendous respect for County Executive John Buono, Sheriff Daniel Keating and other county officials for recognizing the reality and taking steps to protect people and reduce risks."

What they found

In the first day after the installation of a metal detector at the Family Court Annex, CSEA-represented Rensselaer County sheriff's deputies collected:

- 32 knives
- 7 razor blades
- 9 scissors
- 1 letter opener
- 1 set of brass knuckles
- 1 screwdriver
- 1 gun

Working with troubled kids a way of life for Karen Riddick

By Lilly Gioia
CSEA Communications Associate

WESTBURY -- CSEA Nassau Local 830 member Karen Riddick was named the Region I Secure Detention Worker of the Year by NYS Juvenile Detention Association in its annual awards.

Riddick's supervisor at the Nassau County Youth Detention Center, Judith Back, praised Riddick as "very dedicated, always willing and reliable," working in a facility where staff cutbacks have stretched resources to the limit. Not everybody is geared for this type of work, Back said.

"You act as a mother, case worker, psychiatrist and you have to play it by ear," she said.

In 22 years, Riddick has seen two generations of kids pass through the detention center. "This whole generation is different," she said. Today's youths "curse out their parents. We have kids who have beaten up their parents. Some parents are scared of their kids."

Riddick is greatly troubled by a new generation of 12- and 13-year-olds, most of whom are arrested on gun charges. "Many of these kids fear nothing, she said. Their whole thing is how they're going to beat the system," she said. "A lot of them are going to wind up in jail or dead."

Some kids are so angry and depressed they give up on life. Riddick is no stranger to suicide attempts. "Once, acting on gut feelings, she checked on a 15-year-old girl and found her hanging from knotted bed linens. "When we cut her down," Riddick said, "she tried to attack me."

Staff shortages make supervision increasingly difficult, she said. "We used to have seven women where now we only have two," she said.

"Not everybody who goes through here is a lost cause," she said. Some come back to say hello, to do college internships and a few have returned to get jobs at the detention center. "That's when you really feel good," she said. "when you see kids who have gotten out of the system and made something of themselves."
Six principles for health care reform

Health reform is a top priority for all working Americans. CSEA has done a good job negotiating health benefits. But the chaos in our national health care system threatens every worker's benefits. We expect that President Clinton's Health Care Task Force will lead the way to real reform of our health care system.

While we don't know what the Task Force proposals will look like, here are six principles which CSEA and AFSCME, our International Union, believe must be included in the final plan.

**Universal Access** - Everyone must be covered. Health coverage is a basic right that must be available regardless of a person's income, age, employment status, location, race or gender.

**Comprehensive Standard Benefits** - The package must cover all the services a reasonable person would use to maintain their health or treat an illness.

**Free Choice** - Consumers must have the ability to choose their health care provider.

**Coverage of Long-Term Care** - The needs of people requiring long-term care, either at home or in a nursing home, must be addressed.

**Affordability** - If it is going to work, the plan must be affordable for individuals, for families, for employers and for the country.

The plan must contain costs and eliminate wasteful administrative costs. We strongly oppose taxing negotiated health insurance benefits to pay for the plan.

**Public Accountability** - The plan must provide consumers a voice in the decision-making process. It must respond to patient needs.

Changing our health care system for the better is an enormous task. These principles must be part of the plan. AFSCME has watched this process closely and given our views on a variety of health care issues. But even if the final plan addresses our concerns, our work will not be done. Powerful special interest groups representing doctors, hospitals, insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies will fight any plan that brings about real change.

CSEA must be ready to fight for a plan we support to change our health care system.

You can help stop health care fraud

While President Clinton attempts to provide affordable health care for all American citizens, many state and government agencies try to control another aspect of spiraling health care costs: **health care fraud**.

Since 1988, the cost of health care has consistently outpaced the Gross National Product (GNP). It is estimated that approximately $80 billion was spent in 1992 for inappropriate, duplicative, nonexistent and/or abusive health care. Fraud accounts for 5 percent of all health care costs while another 15 percent is tied to "questionable activities." According to estimates given at a recent hearing held by the NYS Senate's Social Services Committee, Medicaid fraud by pharmacists, physicians, laboratories and patients cost New York State and its localities $150 million to $2.5 billion a year.

A few dishonest health care providers are to blame for most of the money lost to fraud.

One common method dishonest physicians use to submit fraudulent insurance claims is having the patient sign a blank claim form while the physician promises to save time by "filling it in later." They will fill it in later, but also may fill in tests and other services which were never actually performed on the patient.

Some physicians have been disciplined for habitually performing somewhat routine procedures regardless of whether or not they are needed. Dishonest pharmacists have been discovered who fill a prescription with generic drugs, but bill the insurance company for the full cost of a brand name drug as well as additional drugs that the patient never received.

In 1986, the U.S. Justice Department ranked health care fraud as one of the top three white collar crimes, and in 1992, the FBI more than doubled the number of agents investigating the problem by reassigning 50 agents from anti-terrorism posts to anti-fraud activities.

In addition to the establishment of anti-fraud hotlines and task forces, the health care consumer has the power to deter potential health care abusers. Here are some tips for individuals:

* Don't be afraid to ask your doctor questions about tests, alternatives, costs, or claim forms.
* Don't sign blank insurance claim forms for the doctor to "fill in later." Always sign and date a completed claim form.
* When your receive confirmation from your insurance company that a doctor has been paid, be sure to read the Explanation of Benefits (EOB). If you feel that the doctor has charged you for services you did not receive, call your provider and/or insurance carrier and ask for clarification.
* Be leery of health care providers who solicit business by telephone or mail and claim that their services or medical equipment are "free" or paid in full by your insurance.

**Millions of Americans can't afford health care. Now, that's an emergency**
Applications available for AFSCME’s Clark scholarship

Applications for the 1993 Jerry Clark Memorial Scholarship Program are now available. Applicants must be a child of an AFSCME member and a sophomore in college majoring in political science with specific grade average requirements. The scholarship was established in honor of Jerry Clark, the late AFSCME political action director who was deeply committed to progressive social and economic ideals.

Under the program, the scholarship will be awarded to one student who is a college sophomore majoring in political science. The winner will be selected from the applicants who meet the eligibility requirements and will receive $10,000 a year for the junior and senior years of study.

To be considered, a student must be the child of an AFSCME member; must have a grade point average of 3.0 or better; and must be a political science major.

For an application, write:
Jerry Clark Memorial Scholarship Program
AFSCME, AFL-CIO
Attention: Education Department
1625 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Completed applications for the 1993 scholarship must be postmarked no later than July 1, 1993. The scholarship winner will be announced by Aug. 1.

Summary of actions taken at March CSEA Board meeting

Editor’s note: The Public Sector regularly publishes a summary of actions taken by CSEA’s Board of Directors at the Board’s official meetings. The summary is prepared by CSEA Statewide Secretary Irene Carr for the information of members.

In official action at the March meeting, the Board:
* Approved the placement of West Seneca School District Unit of Local 868 and the Southport Correctional Facility Local 193 in administratorship;
* Approved the adoption of resolutions, originally submitted at the Annual Delegates Meeting, endorsing and clarifying the use of union funds for Coalition of Black Trade Unionists activities; opposing the concept of privatization of public services and deinstitutionalization and supporting increased efforts to organize non-union employees in private agencies involved in privatization; amending resolutions dealing with the urban crisis and fighting discrimination;
* Approved adoption of the "Workers' Rights - The Need to Organize" resolution and the "Government and the Economy in the 1990s" resolution, originally submitted at the Annual Delegates Meeting;
* Approved creation of Nassau County Municipal Employees Local 882, a new local, to encompass municipal employees currently assigned to Nassau County Local 830, with a transition period effective by September 1993;
* Approved the transfer of school district and Nassau County BOCES employees currently assigned to Nassau County Local 830 to Nassau County Educational Employees Local 865 with a transition period to be effective by September 1993;
* Approved amending the membership clause of Nassau County Local 830 to include only employees of Nassau County;
* Referred a report by the Election Committee regarding a procedure for slate voting back to the committee for further review and action;
* Approved the appointment of Marge Higgins to the Long Island Region Political Action Committee;
* Authorized a claims audit of CSEA’s employee health insurance carrier; and
* Approved retention of the accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand for 1993.

Questions concerning this summary of actions taken by CSEA’s statewide Board of Directors should be directed to CSEA Statewide Secretary Irene Carr, CSEA Headquarters, 143 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210, 1-800-342-4146 or (518) 434-0191.

Deadlines announced for submission of Constitution & By-Laws changes, resolutions for CSEA's Annual Delegates Meeting

Deadlines have been announced for submission of proposed changes to CSEA’s Constitution and By-Laws and proposed resolutions to be considered at CSEA’s Annual Delegates Meeting scheduled for Nov. 15 to 19, 1993, in Washington, D.C.

Proposed amendments to CSEA’s Constitution and By-Laws must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the meeting. The deadline for submission of proposed amendments is Aug. 16, 1993.

Proposed resolutions to be considered at the annual meeting must be submitted at least 60 days before the meeting. The deadline for submissions of proposed resolutions is Sept. 15, 1993.

Proposed amendments and proposed resolutions must be submitted on or before the deadline to:
CSEA statewide Secretary Irene Carr
CSEA Headquarters
143 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.
TB a workplace threat

**Editor's note:** CSEA members in a wide variety of workplaces across the state face the growing threat of tuberculosis every day. On these two pages, some of those members talk about their fears and tell their stories.

**Will he bring TB home?**

WESTBURY - Raphael Garrett and other CSEA Social Services Department (DSS) members working at Nassau County's Westbury Youth Detention Center worry about tuberculosis. Young offenders come to Westbury from a number of foreign countries as well as from other NYS youth facilities, Garrett said.

"I am very concerned about the air and the diseases and I do have young kids in my household," CSEA member Keith Hudson, said. "I go for a walk on my lunch hour to get some air."

CSEA members worry about airborne bacteria in an air-tight building with no windows. They reported monitoring a youth who was "bleeding from the mouth when he was coughing."

Nassau County picks up the expense of annual TB screening for DSS Westbury members because youthful offenders are considered at risk for carrying TB. As more employees test positive for TB exposure and with everyone breathing the same recirculated air, CSEA Westbury members feel more and more anxious. They are not alone in their concerns.

"The ventilation system in the Mineola Social Services building is notoriously poor," Nassau County DSS Unit President Bob Cauldwell said. "CSEA members are worried about airborne diseases like TB."

Under the PESH standards for TB that CSEA helped get implemented, workers dealing with high-risk populations must get annual screening and training. CSEA has asked the new county Social Services commissioner to make compliance a top priority.

"It's all started for me with a needle stick from an HIV patient," Pauline Powers said.

A CSEA-represented licensed practical nurse at Clinton Correctional Facility, she and two co-workers started the only support group in the state for public employees who have suffered high risk exposures to blood-borne pathogens like hepatitis B and HIV.

"So when the three of us found out that there was no mechanism of support or even a pro-active medication program to enhance individual immune systems available on the outside, we created one."

When she suffered that one needle stick, Powers went immediately to her family doctor for a test. "My doctor told me to come back in three or four months for another HIV test," she said. "I asked what I could do in the meantime as a possible preventive measure. He had no answer."

Complicating matters for Powers, the state refused to pay for her HIV testing until CSEA Local 154 President Richard Plumadore got involved.

"CSEA got her the money once it was understood what had happened, and the bills were promptly paid," he said. Neither Phillips, who suffered a needle stick, nor Bowman, who was bitten by an HIV-positive inmate, found any pro-active treatments, either.

DOCS members appreciate effort

BUFFALO - While tuberculosis is a concern in correctional facilities, CSEA members at Wende Correctional Facility are confident that labor and management are addressing the issue.

There's been ongoing effort to stay on top of any possible outbreaks with regular testing following the screening of all corrections employees and inmates last year.

"They're on top of it pretty good here," CSEA Wende Correctional Local 175 Terry Pusch said. "Everyone gets tested, but the results are, of course, confidential."

"The TB testing once a year is a good start," CSEA Attica Correctional Local 152 President Marco Hume said.

Through the CSEA contract Hepatitis-B shots are made available to corrections employees. But since that CSEA benefit was negotiated, CSEA helped establish that provision in law for all workers in high-risk jobs through the new PESH standards on blood-borne disease.

"We decided to do something to help ourselves and our fellow correction facility employees," Powers said.

"They explained the idea to management and with help from medical staff developed a protocol to help fight off the onset of the diseases." Powers said.

The health-oriented programs offer no guarantees, but help those at risk to actively try to remain healthy.

Once off the ground, Powers said, the group used the facility's internal communications system to inform all workers and management about the support group.

"It really took off," she said. "Now because of the numbers of calls the group has already received, the three of us have beepers and we're available 24 hours a day to answer inquiries about what a person who has been exposed to a high risk of HIV or hep B can do to help themselves fight any possible infection in the earliest stages." Powers said. "We're not guaranteeing our protocol, but it's better than sitting around and waiting for test results or waiting to get sick."

CSEA member helps start support group

**Editor's Note:** While the story below deals with HIV and hepatitis B, it's an important example of how people can fight workplace illness.

DANNEMORA — "It all started for me with a needle stick from an HIV patient," Pauline Powers said.

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**GENERAL NEWS**

**Orange County gets NIOSH help**

GOSHEN — CSEA Orange County Local 836 member Pat Roche thinks about TB often. As a clinical financial coordinator in the county mental health department, she sees 20 or more patients a day. Since TB is transmitted by breathing the same air as a person with the disease, she risks exposure. “I see everyone’s clients,” she said. “I have to worry about all of them.”

She is relieved the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is screening county employees. County Health Commissioner Dr. Sally Faith Dorfman requested NIOSH screen at-risk workers in the county jail and the probation, social services, health and mental health departments. NIOSH has already given the county its preliminary findings and early recommendations.

**DMNA worker fears homeless**

NEW YORK CITY -- CSEA member Carlos Roman worries about exposure to tuberculosis.

He is one of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) employees who works in a New York City armory that also houses a homeless shelter. A maintenance worker, Roman must clean the area used as a 120-bed homeless shelter.

“It’s my job,” he said. “I have to go in there, but I’m scared.”

Roman has reason to worry. The risk is constant,” Local 254 President Judy Gather said. DMNA has provided education and testing, which is now required by the Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) standard.

“The shelter residents are a high risk population. We’re not isolated from direct contact in close environments,” Gather said. “We’d like to know what is being done to identify shelter residents who have TB and to isolate them.”

So far management has not answered, but New York City is in the process of adopting a controversial health regulation which would detain individuals who do not voluntarily complete tuberculosis treatment to prevent the disease from spreading.

Individuals who start treatment but don’t complete it contribute to the growing problem of drug-resistant TB strains.

“We have shelter residents who are mentally ill and are not being helped,” Gather said. “It makes you wonder if residents with TB are being treated.”

**TB haunts workers in Medical Examiner’s Office**

SYRACUSE -- CSEA members working at the Onondaga County Medical Examiner’s Office knew exposure to tuberculosis was always a possibility, but they didn’t get alarmed until they learned of a new deadly strain that resists the normal medical treatments.

“I think the fear developed with the multiple-drug resistant strain of TB,” CSEA Local 834 member Mike Birchmeyer said.

The office instituted new safety procedures once the drug-resistant strain of the virus was discovered, he said.

Birchmeyer, a forensic investigator and former CSEA unit president, said the six CSEA members in the office face TB exposure when they assist with autopsies and when they talk with family members who may have been exposed. The county started testing the morgue workers about two years ago, Birchmeyer said, and he is one of several who has tested positive.

The county health department provided preventative treatments for those with positive test results and the county examined safety controls to stop the virus’ spread.

CSEA worked with the county to ensure it used proper controls, Birchmeyer said. Now workers wear high-efficiency respirators and work under ultraviolet lighting to minimize exposure. But the fear is still present, Birchmeyer said.

“Some of us are fearful, even with the respirators,” he said, “because we have children and families, and we don’t want to bring something like this home.”

The Department of Labor is monitoring the office’s compliance with PESH standards and has cited the county for not properly ventilating autopsy rooms. The union will continue to push for compliance and close monitoring.

Mike Birchmeyer with a respirator he uses to fight TB exposure.
It's your flag - fly it properly

Memorial Day, May 31 this year, is one of the most popular days of the year for flying the American flag.

State Executive Law dictates the rules and procedures for displaying the flag on public buildings within New York state. Many of the same rules and customs apply to the American flag as well.

Here are some of the general rules and customs for displaying your flag:

1. The flag shall not be displayed when the weather is inclement, and should only be displayed from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at night upon special occasions to produce a patriotic effect.
2. No person shall display any national or international flag equal, above or in a position of superior prominence or honor to the flag of the United States. The only exception is that the flag of the United Nations may be flown equal to the flag of the United States at the headquarters of the United Nations.
3. The flag shall be flown at full staff at all times except when flown at half-staff to mourn the death of officially designated individuals.
4. No disrespect shall be shown to the flag, nor shall the flag be dipped to half-staff to mourn the death of the United Nations.

The only exception above or in a position of superior national or international flag equal, should only be displayed from officially designated individuals; at all times except when flown at United States at the headquarters of the United Nations.

The final budget is better than we could have expected several months ago

ALBANY -- CSEA made important gains in the state budget battle of 1993.

“Thanks to intensive lobbying, and grassroots support from our membership, the final budget is much better than we could have expected several months ago,” CSEA President Joe McDermott said.

The state Legislature approved a budget that includes significant reductions in state employee layoffs and keeps open state offices and facilities the Governor originally proposed closing.

Here are the highlights of the budget, which the Governor has signed into law.

- Proposed state employee layoffs have been substantially reduced to fewer than 600 jobs from the entire workforce. The Governor's proposed budget included 2,860 CSEA layoffs.
- Aid to school districts was increased by more than $300 million. This is an important victory over the Governor’s proposal to cut aid by $130 million.
- The Division of Probation and Correction Alternatives (DPCA) will not be consolidated with the Division of Criminal Justice Services.
- Local Alcohol Beverage Control Boards will remain open.
- Funds to care for the mentally ill were increased by $25 million. Central Islip Psychiatric Center will remain open throughout the fiscal year. Plans for the imminent closure of Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center have been postponed. Harlem Valley will now remain open until at least Nov. 1 (see related story on page 13). About 70 percent of the OMH jobs the Governor proposed eliminating have been restored.
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices in Binghamton, Buffalo, Newburgh and Utica will remain open (see related story page 14).
- Approximately 90 positions have been restored to the Division for Youth (DFY), which means that 13 DFY homes recently closed will now reopen.

Free retirement counseling for CSEA members

One of the benefits of CSEA membership is access to free retirement counseling.

Jardine Group Services Corp., official broker for CSEA insurance programs, employs five professional retirement counselors who will meet with CSEA members for a no-cost, no-obligation analysis and assist you in resolving your future financial plans.

There are four variable program options, depending on your personal circumstances and budget and whether you choose to name a beneficiary.

These counselors will explain in detail how you may continue your CSEA life insurance after retirement and provide a clear understanding of the retirement options available to you. They will show you how to maximize available retirement income while still providing for your family. The Jardine retirement counselors will also provide the financial comparisons involved in any of the several choices available to you, and answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Anyone with 10 years in New York state public service is eligible for a pension. Check at right for the name and number of the appropriate retirement counselor and call for an appointment, or call Jardine toll-free at 1-800-894-1960.

CSEA scores wins in 1993-94 budget
CSEA members help co-worker devastated by fire

WITHERBEE - CSEA members are rallying around Bill Burke, a member of CSEA state Department of Transportation (DOT) Local 676, who lost his home to fire last month.

More than 100 fire fighters helped put out the early morning fire in the multi-unit building. Two other families also lost all their possessions in the blaze. Burke was not insured against the loss.

CSEA State DOT Local 676 President Tom Edwards, who is also an assistant chief with the Port Henry Fire Department, urges any member who would like to help Bill Burke rebuild his home and family life to send their donations to:

The William Burke Disaster Fund
23 So. Main Street
Port Henry, NY 12974-0262

Edwards urges all CSEA members to install smoke detectors in their homes or apartments and to have a plan on how to evacuate a building in case of fire.

State News

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The state is contracting out its huge automobile fleet, and CSEA is angry about the layoffs and expected cost increases the move will cause.

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A history of Gowanda Psychiatric Center as it closes its doors.

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The homeless mentally ill transported to a shelter in Orange County frighten the community and are left without care.

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CSEA member Lyle Evans keeps leaving his hometown, but he always winds up in Utica.

Leave program benefits DOT Local 507 member

POUGHKEEPSIE - Al Baker didn't know he had so many friends.

The state Department of Transportation Local 507 member suffered from heart problems and had used all his sick leave when he became ill again.

But thanks to generous co-workers, Baker was able to get well and get paid at the same time using a pilot state leave donation program.

"I had some tough times," he said. "I had family problems and became very depressed."

Baker's co-workers donated a total of 18 days so that he could continue to be paid while he was being treated.

"They really surprised me," Baker said. "You work with guys and you don't think you're close, but when it comes right down to it, they were there when I needed them. I want to let them know how much I appreciate them. Now I have a chance to thank them all."

The pilot program allows CSEA-represented employees, Council 82-represented employees and management-confidential employees to donate annual leave time to other employees in those groups who have used up all their leave time due to illness.

Baker had seen the notification about the leave donation program on the bulletin board at the DOT building.

"I never thought I'd need it for myself," he said.

SUNY Plattsburgh Local 612 scholarships

CSEA SUNY PLATTSBURGH LOCAL 612 has presented scholarships to two Local 612 members for the Empire Plan of another Local 612 member.

CSEA employees at SUNY Plattsburgh support the CSEA scholarship program by contributing to the Plattsburgh College Foundation. Local 612 President Betty Lennon said.

Local 612 members Denise Bell and Cherice Granger each were awarded $100 continuing education scholarships. Denise Sypek and Brian Sypek each received $200 scholarships from the local.

Denise and Brian are children of Arlene Sypek, a CSEA member who works in the Dean of Professional Studies Office. Denise Bell works in the Registrar's Office and Cherice Granger works in Academic Advisement.

Longest-serving treasurer retires

NEW YORK - Retiring after 17 years as CSEA Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor Local 066 treasurer, Nick Franciosa's claim to fame is being the longest-serving, continually re-elected local treasurer in CSEA's Metropolitan Region.

At age 71 he's still going strong. Franciosa took a leadership role in organizing Local 066 in the late 1960's.

"We went around to all the employees and got signatures to get into CSEA. I said that employees acting as their own spokesmen with management wasn't working," he said. "We had to have better strength if we had union backing."

After CSEA won the representation election, the legislatures of both New York and New Jersey had to approve the local in order to get collective bargaining. Franciosa plans to stay involved with CSEA as a retiree.

Empire Plan reduces co-insurance maximum

The annual co-insurance maximum for the Empire Plan of $776 is reduced to $500 per calendar year for employees earning $19,234 or less in base salary on April 1, 1993, $20,000 or less in base salary on April 1, 1994, and $20,253 or less in base salary on October 1, 1994.

Enrollees who believe they are eligible for this reduction should send an application to the Department of Civil Service for such reduction and show that you are the head of household and sole wage earner in your family.

State of New York The Department of Civil Service Division of Employee Benefits The W. Averell Harriman State Office Building Campus Albany, New York 12239

May 1993
ALBANY — A scheme to fundamentally change the way New York state purchases, maintains and manages one of the largest fleet of vehicles in the country will be a costly mistake of monumental proportions, CSEA warns.

The state Office of General Services (OGS) wants to lease rather than purchase its fleet of almost 7,000 vehicles. The OGS Fleet Operations is primarily based in Albany and administers the fleet for most state agencies. OGS also plans to contract out fleet maintenance and management to for-profit vendors. Those plans include laying off 34 employees who currently maintain the fleet. State lawmakers eliminated the fleet management services in the new state budget.

Union officials are angry that OGS has been secretive about the leasing plans. "OGS says they're laying off our members on June 1 but beyond that they've been unwilling to provide any detailed information about the leasing scheme itself," CSEA President Joe McDermott said. "They will end up with a gigantic fleet of 7,000 vehicles and no one to maintain them," Mead said.

The state will end up with a fleet of leased vehicles that cost more than purchased vehicles, and no one to maintain them, or worse yet, the administrative nightmare of thousands of day-to-day leases with absolutely no accountability, CSEA says. "Federal studies prove that leasing is more costly than purchasing when it comes to government vehicle fleets," McDermott said. "And when they give away maintenance and management of the fleet to private contractors, the state will lose all control. This ill-conceived scheme will prove to be a financial disaster for taxpayers."

"It's idiotic," CSEA Capital Region President C. Allen Mead said. "OGS issued a 'not needed' list of vehicle maintenance workers to be laid off by June even before they let bids for the leasing scheme. They'll have almost 7,000 vehicles and no one to maintain them," Mead said.

"It will take years to transition the fleet from owned to leased, and it'll still be costlier," Mead predicted. "State mechanics could maintain those vehicles at a much lower cost than private contractors."

Almost all maintenance work on state vehicles, owned or leased, will have to be done by private garages, CSEA OGS Local 660 President Ron Daniels said. That will drive up costs to taxpayers because the state will have lost control over the cost and quality of maintenance and repair, he said.

"All 34 people targeted for layoff are CSEA represented workers. Not a single management person is targeted," Daniels said. "OGS has a history of protecting management during layoffs. That's why OGS is so top-heavy with management today."

"We lost more than a quarter of the bargaining unit when OGS had layoffs three years ago but only 2 percent of the total layoffs were in management," Daniels said. "That left more supervisors managing fewer employees. In one unit now OGS has four supervisors managing 13 employees!"

Mead disputes state claims that leasing contracting out vehicle maintenance will save money. He cited two major federal studies that concluded leasing vehicles is more costly than purchasing when it comes to ownership, he said. A second federal study concluded "ownership is the least costly approach, or that closed-ended leasing is 6 percent more expensive than buying.

In letters to area state legislators, Mead pointed to a federal study that concluded in the long run it is less costly to purchase rather than lease and "simply stated, in the long run ownership is significantly less costly." A second federal study concluded "ownership is the least costly approach, or ended leasing is approximately 12 percent more costly, and closed-ended leasing is 60 percent more expensive than ownership."

CSEA member rapped, assaulted at work

SYRACUSE - CSEA officials are praising management at the SUNY Health Science Center for working quickly with the union after the recent assault and rape of a CSEA member.

CSEA Central Region President Jim Moore and SUNY HSC Local 615 President Ken Burwell said they were pleased with management’s quick response.

Late one night, the victim, a housekeeper, was working alone in an area that is closed at night. Her attacker reportedly asked her for directions, left and came back to rape and assault her. As this issue of The Public Sector went to press, police had made no arrests.

The screaming victim was found by a co-worker soon after her attacker fled. She was treated for slash wounds as well as the rape in the emergency room. At the time of the attack, there were no security personnel on the floor.

The next day, union officials met with management over concerns about security and the easy accessibility of all hospital areas, which puts workers at risk, Burwell said. Management was very willing to listen to the union’s suggestions, he said.

Burwell and Moore attended a meeting that day for hospital workers to outline security changes that limit access to buildings, enforce the hospital’s identification tag system, increase the security force and provide portable shriek alarms to employees who work alone.

"This was such an unfortunate incident," Moore said. "It was certainly comforting to see that the hospital administration was so willing to listen to the concerns of the union and the workers," he said. "I was very impressed that they were able to make the changes so quickly."

Burwell agreed, saying CSEA would continue to investigate security issues and would address concerns in a labor-management forum.

"Our workers need to be and feel safe on the job," he said.

BINGHAMTON - Union officials are enraged at the latest in a series of violent attacks by a client at the Binghamton Psychiatric Center. CSEA blames the attacks on Office of Mental Health policies that have decreased staff levels.

The most recent victim, CSEA BPC Local 441 member Diane Kitchner suffered two black eyes and a welt on her forehead after the client threw hot coffee at her and hit her with a plastic cup.

The client has attacked several BPC workers in the past, including Rosalie Atkinson, who suffered neck and back injuries and permanent facial scars in two attacks. The client was transferred to another center for two months then returned to the secure ward at BPC. Local 441 President Keith Zulko said the facility’s secure ward has a minimum of three workers during the day, down from five a few years ago. The decrease has lead to more violent attacks in which workers have been injured, he said. Because of the client’s AIDS diagnosis, Zulko said, management is allowing her special privileges, including keeping her own coffee cup, which became a weapon.

Zulko said management is more concerned for the client than the workers she attacks. "The facility is showing lots of concern for this client and virtually none for the workers," he said. "It’s just plain wrong." CSEA has demanded AIDS counseling and treatment for the workers the client attacked.

The union will continue to push to make sure that no one else is victimized by this or any other dangerous client.
Court rules for Harlem Valley

ALBANY — Basing his decision on a law CSEA pushed through the state Legislature last year, a State Supreme Court judge ruled against the state over the inadequate notice it gave for the closing of Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center.

Under mental hygiene law, the state is required to provide 12 months' notice of "a significant service reduction" to the community and employee unions to minimize the impact and disruption.

Supreme Court Judge John Connor ruled that the state broke that law and the state's failure to provide proper notice would cause irreparable harm.

The lawsuit, filed by the Town of Dover and joined by CSEA, charged that the state was ignoring state mental hygiene law when it announced in January plans to close Harlem Valley by April 28.

Thanks to CSEA lobbying efforts, the state Legislature has delayed the closing until at least November through state budget legislation.

As this issue of The Public Sector went to press, the review of the decision's impact on Harlem Valley was continuing.

"This court decision does not address all the deficiencies in the state's policy," CSEA President Joe McDermott said, "but it does at least establish that the state must provide fair warning before walking away from its responsibility."

CSEA fights off most OMH cuts

ALBANY -- CSEA made important progress in the state budget battle by reducing what could have been 2,700 job cuts in the Office of Mental Health (OMH). The final state budget reduced layoffs to about 300.

In the budget battle, CSEA delayed Harlem Valley's closing, which OMH had pushed up a year to April 28.

After CSEA lobbied hard, the state Legislature pushed the closing date back to November. That date may be affected by the recent Harlem Valley court decision (see story above).

Another significant victory stopped the relocation of Central Islip Psychiatric Center that would have cost jobs and threatened the geriatric clients' well-being.

Despite these wins, CSEA knows a lot of work remains to be done to improve New York state's mental health system.

"Our top priority is to improve staffing ratios systemwide," CSEA Executive Vice President Dan Donohue said.

Goodbye, Gowanda

GOWANDA - With the closing of the nearly-century-old Gowanda Psychiatric Center expected any day, CSEA Local 408 President "Red" Jones said he felt a need to put the facility's history and the fight to save it down on paper.

A 35-year employee, Jones detailed the struggles in an article for the Gowanda Penny-saver, excerpted below.

Although the closing is still imminent, the scheduled April 29 closing was being renegotiated to a new date as this edition of The Public Sector went to press.

Jones has been local president since 1986 and a vice president and union activist for many years before that. He has been in the forefront of the CSEA and community fight to keep the historic Gowanda Psychiatric Center open and serving the community.

He is proud of the facility and the employees who have made it one of the finest in the state. It should not be shut down or converted into a state prison, he says.

Soon Jones and the last 20 or so CSEA members left at the facility will exercise their seniority rights and likely transfer to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, taking with them memories that will stay with them forever.

"We fought and won a lot of battles here," Jones said.

A Brief History of Gowanda

By Wayne B. Jones
President, CSEA Local 408

Jones begins his narrative in 1891, when Erie County decided to build a hospital for the mentally ill. Over the last century it has housed a homeopathic hospital and a nursing school. It grew from a 47-bed county medical hospital to Gowanda Psychiatric Center, a 2,800-bed state mental facility in 1936 to a complex of medical facilities serving 3,662 patients in 1965. Jones picks up the story again in the 1970s.

In the early 70's the Father Growney Building was constructed and taken over by corrections in exchange for a $5.37 million rehabilitation building, known as Building 99. Gov. Cuomo made a "longtime commitment to the future of Gowanda Psychiatric Center" at the time of the dedication. The "longtime commitment" abruptly ended October 1, 1991. The first closure phase displaced approximately 600 of Gowanda's dedicated employees, who for years provided quality patient care.

In the late 60's and early 70's the Office of Mental Health (OMH) introduced a new term, "deinstitutionalization," which resulted in the downsizing of state facilities. At first, some good came out of all of this; patients who could receive services elsewhere were directed there and many who could live in the community were discharged. In the late 80's and early 90's the bottom had been reached, the statewide census had decreased from 110,000 to 14,000. However, as the state continues its push, you now could more appropriately define the term of deinstitutionalization as patient dumping.

As a result of all of this, in April of 1993, after serving the public for nearly 100 years Gowanda Psychiatric Center will be closing its doors forever, the end of an era.

Commissioner Richard C. Surles will have successfully completed the closure of one of the best psychiatric centers in the State of New York. In my opinion, to achieve this goal was somewhat less than honorable. A budget driven system which locked the front door and dumped out the back, making our city streets dangerous and filling up our jails with the mentally ill, was a tragedy. In the long-term no one benefited, certainly not the taxpayers and much less the mentally ill. We definitely are in need of leadership in this state that is motivated by common sense not numbers and that will bring reality back into the system. To save a million here resulting in spending 2 million there makes absolutely no sense. Gowanda Psychiatric Should have never been closed.

May this serve as a tribute to Gowanda Psychiatric Center, and a fond farewell from CSEA Local 408, Wayne B. Jones, President.
Members promote school for the blind

BATAVIA - For more than 100 years the NYS School for the Blind has been helping visually impaired children learn about the world around them.

A part of that proud history, CSEA Local 200 members are publicizing the school's services.

"We're having an open house so everyone from anywhere in the state can look at the services we provide to the families and to children who are multi-handicapped," said Sharon Armstrong, a child care aide and Local 200 president. "I don't think there's a facility like ours anywhere in the country."

The Open House Week will begin June 1, and include tours, workshops, luncheons and presentations throughout the school's 16-acre campus.

The school provides more than a quality education, Armstrong said. For example, transportation is paid for.

"This would include airfare for those who need to fly from downstate, and ground transportation for those closer," she said.

"For those children who board at the school during the week, transportation home for the weekends is provided."

"We believe every child has the right to enjoy life fully, discover, grow and learn in a caring and nurturing environment," Local Treasurer Sue Squires said.

The educational programs are tailored to the students' individual needs and are arrived at in cooperation with the parents.

"We also have wonderful recreation programs, which also are helpful in learning social skills," Armstrong said.

Students can commute, stay on campus during the week or reside at the intermediate care facility year-round.

"It's difficult to put in words how valuable a service this is to those in need," Armstrong said. "So we hope anyone who feels they could use our services will visit."

Those interested in attending the open house should call the school at 716-343-5384.

CSEA Local 220 President Sharon Armstrong and a student from the NYS School for the Blind.

CSEA blocks DMV contracting out plan

ALBANY — CSEA successfully fought legislation that would have allowed the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to contract out virtually all of its services and functions.

As soon as the union heard that a budget bill being considered in the state Legislature contained language that would allow the massive contracting out, the CSEA Legislative and Political Action Department went into high gear.

"We learned about the contracting out threat on a Friday," CSEA Legislative and Political Action Director Ed LaPlante said. "By Monday, we got the state Legislature to pass a bill that allows DMV to contract out its printing operations something state law has allowed for several years."

"DMV is allowed to contract out for the printing of drivers manuals because it doesn't have the capability to print them itself."

The legislation, already signed into law, also removed the ability the agency once had to contract out for written drivers' tests for drivers' license applications.

"The law also requires the DMV commissioner to report to the Assembly Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees every year on any contracting out initiatives. That, LaPlante said, means CSEA will know well ahead of time of any attempts to contract out DMV services so the union can fight them."

"CSEA moved quickly, decisively and successfully to fight DMV's contracting out plan," CSEA President Joe McDermott said. "It's just one more example of our determination to fight the costly selling off of state services to for-profit vendors."
CSEA fights layoffs caused by contracting out

BROCKPORT - Three SUNY College at Brockport employees are working at their appropriate job levels with back pay, thanks to a settlement CSEA reached with management.

CSEA filed a grievance after the college contracted out its storehouse because three management.

about five years ago, when he was traveling through Illinois, Evans saw a sign reading “Utica - 1 mile.” Born and raised in Utica, NY, Evans and his wife, Carol, decided to see what Utica, IL, was like. Then he saw a newspaper column listing 20 Uticas in the US, plus one each in Canada and England. He started planning vacations around those cities.

After visiting Utica, OH, he was hooked. “Then I decided I was going to do them all,” he said.

So far, Evans has visited all the Uticas in North America except for those in Alaska and Canada. One two-week trip included four — South Carolina, Mississippi, South Dakota and Oklahoma.

His hobby is interesting and just plain fun, Evans said.

Tel-Med puts health-related information right at your fingertips

The CSEA Joint Committee on Health Benefits (JCHB) is pleased to provide information regarding “Tel-Med,” an automated telephone system which offers access and easy-to-understand information on health-related issues.

Tel-Med is a collection of audio tapes which provide information on illness and disease, medical procedures and helpful hints for becoming and remaining healthy. Each tape runs between three and seven minutes and can be accessed by calling one of the Tel-Med providers listed below.

It is essential to note that Tel-Med provides information and should not be used in an emergency, to diagnose an illness or to replace your health care provider.

Tel-Med enables people to obtain general information on a range of health-care topics through the privacy of their home telephone.

Although some areas are not currently able to access a local Tel-Med system, several institutions in these areas have inquired about offering the Tel-Med service. As we become aware of any new sources, we will make that information available.

To access the Tel-Med system where applicable, you should first call your local facility and request a brochure which lists the tapes available. Since tapes are selected at the discretion of the facility, each will have different tapes available.

With this listing, you will have access to confidential and concise health-related information.
ELECTION NEWS

Ballots will be mailed May 17 to CSEA members eligible to vote in secret ballot elections for officers in CSEA's six regions. Members in good standing as of April 1, 1993, are eligible to vote.

Replacement ballots will be available beginning May 24 for eligible CSEA members who did not receive an original ballot by contacting Linda Masak at (516) 679-1612 COLLECT.

The deadline for receipt of completed ballots is 8 a.m., June 7. All ballots must be enclosed in the secret ballot envelope provided with the ballot and mailed in the postage-paid envelope, also provided, to WM Applications, Inc., PO Box 9003, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9003.

Members must sign and return the Member Validation Certificate provided with the ballot. The signature and Member Validation Number should be visible through the window of the postage-paid return envelope.

The ballot will be void if the member fails to sign and return the Member Validation Certificate or fails to enclose the ballot in the secret ballot envelope. Read the voting instruction sheet enclosed in the ballot package for voting instructions and directions.

The counting of ballots will begin on June 7 at WM Applications, Inc., 91 Executive Blvd., Farmingdale. Results will be announced at the conclusion of the ballot count.

SEE PAGES 16-23 FOR STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR REGION OFFICES

LONG ISLAND REGION 1

PAT HAHN
Member 18 yrs., Housekeeping/MHFA. 6 years Local President, Pilgrim. 3 terms Statewide Board/Directors. 9 years Regional Board & Political Action. President Small World Daycare. Honesty, Experience, Dedicated Leadership. I'll work for & with you. Let's make some changes. Our jobs depend on it. Thank you for your support.

Gloria Moran
I will work with all my brothers and sisters to restore the respect and self-esteem due to all public employees. My first priority has always been, and will continue to be, "Members First." Remember that working together "member-to-member" we can achieve all the goals we set for ourselves.

Nick LaMorte
A change is needed in our Regional leadership. Currently, Region One has no goals, direction or solutions to our problems. We face tough economic times laced with layoffs, benefit reductions and decertifications. I want a chance to show what I can do to bring new ideas and a new direction to Region One.

Willard J. Walsh
For the past 10 years I have worked towards enhancing the "SPIRIT" of unionism here in Region I. We all need to work together to bring about the changes necessary to represent our membership. I will never forget that the membership is the most important "ASSET" this union has - I feel "MEMBERS COME FIRST."

Carol Guarino
I am seeking RE-ELECTION as 1st VP in Region I. A member in good standing 21 years. An EXPERIENCED union officer. DEDICATION, LOYALTY AND HONESTY are my first concerns to the members. With the layoffs in OMH, I have been there to assist, comfort and fight for you. Let me continue.

Sue Duffe
I have been an activist in CSEA for 17 years and currently am President of NCMA, secretary of Local 830 and 2nd VP of Region 1. Under my leadership a unity and activist committee has been formed. With your help I will continue to fight against privatization and support our membership.

(Collapsed on next page)
ELECTION NEWS

LONG ISLAND REGION 1

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN ALOISIO JR.

It’s time for a change. It’s time for the membership to elect a candidate who will work for the membership. I’m that candidate. John Aloisio for 2nd VP Region 1. Over 20 years of experience in CSEA.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

CATHY GREEN

Statement and photo not submitted

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

ANTHONY GIUSTINO

I have been a County Employee and CSEA member since September 1972. I am the Senior Assistant to the President and Grievance Chairman of Local 830. A graduate of St. John’s Law School, I feel that I am particularly qualified for the position of 3rd Vice President of Region 1.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

(Photo not submitted)

4th VICE PRESIDENT

GRACE ROY

I seek your vote as 4th Vice President of Region 1. I don’t claim to know about all of your problems, but I will be there for you, and I will educate myself to represent you the way you should be represented. I bring experience, honesty and integrity to this office.

4th VICE PRESIDENT

(Photo not submitted)

SECRETARY

KEN DASH

I, Ken Dash, will bring (if elected) to the Office of Regional Secretary my personal and interpersonal skills. I am currently the secretary of Local 830’s Unity Committee, secretary to the Freeport-Roosevelt Branch of the NAACP and former secretary to Dignity Long Island. As Secretary, I, Ken Dash, will be your ombudsman and advocate.

4th VICE PRESIDENT

BARBARA J. JONES

Inclusion, Integrity, Involvement = Barbara J. Jones, 4th Vice President Region 1.

Inclusion - representing members regardless of lifestyles, sex, disability, color, religion, origin. Integrity- having fiduciary responsibility to insure the quality or state of being of sound moral principles. Involvement - people, women, PAC, minority committees, to simplify complicated affairs from all segments.

4th VICE PRESIDENT

(Photo not submitted)

TREASURER

BARBARA ALLEN

Currently serving as Regional Treasurer with 25 years of accounting experience, I have been committed to conscientiously managing the union funds entrusted to my care.

I wish to thank you for past support and hope I can continue to gain your support in this upcoming election.

SECRETARY

ALFREDO CARLO

Sisters and Brothers, I am asking for your support in my bid to be elected for Region 1 Secretary, the position I have held for the past two years. Dedication, Loyalty and Honesty are my first concerns to the Members of Region 1. MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

TREASURER

MARIE ARDELL

Qualifications: Honesty, Integrity, Truthfulness, Experience. I will make a good treasurer, no one will have to wait 4-8 weeks for their check. I have been a treasurer. Allow me to serve you as I have in other capacities. Make your vote count. Vote Marie Ardell Treasurer Region 1.

(Continued on next page)

All candidates were given an opportunity to submit statements and photographs for publication in this edition of The Public Sector. Remarks are the personal statement of the candidate and are not to be construed as reflecting the opinions or beliefs of The Public Sector or CSEA, Inc.
ELECTION NEWS

METROPOLITAN REGION 2

PRESIDENT

GEORGE BONCORAGLIO
Region II became a pace-setter with my leadership.

From small fractured groups, a house divided, we built a strong union, rich in diversity.

I ask your support and belief in a CSEA that looks like New York, where everybody is somebody.

I pledge guts, integrity and independence to do what's right!

DENISE BERKLEY

I am running for President in Region 2 of the "New Spirit Team."

I believe in mobilizing our membership to fight for job security and no more layoffs. I will fight for better contracts, meaningful wage increases and fight against worker's compensation givebacks.

We need "leadership we can count on."

BARBARA MOORE

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT As Region II Executive Vice President. I believe it doesn't matter who you are, when it comes to UNIONISM we are all ONE. There can be no SEPARATISM. THE STRUGGLE MUST CONTINUE AS ONE!

LEONITA WILSON

I have served in many capacities in CSEA including Shop Steward, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, Local President, State Insurance Fund Labor/Management Committee Chair, F.A.L., to name a few.

I am presently a representative in the Statewide Women's Committee and Region II Secretary.

Peggy Eason

I, Peggy Eason, am running for Secretary in Region 2 on the "New Spirit Team." I believe that union officials should be closer to the membership they represent and actively seek the options of their constituency through education and empowerment.

I plan to make a difference within CSEA's Region 2.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

BOB NURSE

Experienced leadership and the ability to work together for the membership is more important than ever before.

I PLEDGE to use my experience and knowledge on your behalf.

President of CSEA Local 402 since 1979. Currently serving 2nd term on Statewide Board of Directors & State Executive Committee.

VOTE BOB NURSE.

TREASURER

ANITA SCHIOWITZ

MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

Now that I have your attention, please mark your ballot by my name. I bring DIGNITY AND EXPERIENCE. I offer 24 years service at State University, 15 as a union activist serving as Local Treasurer, Secretary, Grievance Representative, Regional People Coordinator; Regional Budget Committee Chairperson and Audit Committee member.

ANA DIAZ

(Statement and photo not submitted)

ELY BAR

Dedicated; Experienced; Honest; Trustworthy.

Long standing CSEA member, Local 010. Officer of Judiciary Unit. Grievance rep, elected Local 010 State Delegate; active member of Region II Political Action Committee. Treasurer for over eight years. I pledge to devote my time and efforts for the best interests of all members.

SECRETARY

HARRIET HART

I served in many capacities in CSEA including Shop Steward, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, Local President, State Insurance Fund Labor/Management Committee Chair, F.A.L., to name a few.

I am presently a representative in the Statewide Women's Committee and Region II Secretary.

TREASURER

ANA DIAZ

(Statement and photo not submitted)

ELY BAR

(Continued on next page)
ELECTION NEWS

SOUTHERN REGION 3

PRESIDENT

DIANE LUCCHESI
It's time for Region III to unite!
It's time for the change in leadership and direction that will bring our region into the 21st Century. I have the experience, enthusiasm and leadership abilities to successfully direct the future of Region III.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

JUDY WATTS
As a union activist in many capacities for 24 years, I feel an effective union must have hard working members in the regional office. A strong voice from MH and MR should be on the Regional Executive Board.
Hard times are upon all members and your support is critical.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

CAROLINE OSINGA
I am running for Region III 1st VP because I believe I can make a difference on the Regional level by bringing new enthusiasm, ideas and interests expanding them throughout the region. As the country has decided in a change of leadership, I believe it is time for a change in Region III.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

HENRY W. WALTERS
It's time for a REAL CHANGE.
It's time for CSEA to enter into a NEW AGE.
Taking back AMERICA by first making AGENCY SHOP and JOB SECURITY paramount. I believe in doing whatever has to be done to protect the RIGHTS of ALL MEMBERS to the best of my ability.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

MARYJANE MacNAIR
I have worked hard as Regional Secretary to increase communication and solidarity throughout the Region for the past 3 years. We need active and vocal leadership that can represent all our diverse membership. I hope you'll allow me to continue working for you as 1st Vice President for the next 3 years.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

PATRICIA (PAT) NEALON
I feel that the membership should have officers who are knowledgeable and loyal to them and will be there when needed. My integrity and professionalism will continue as it has in the past. I am a person who cares for ALL members. REMEMBER! VOTE!!! IT'S YOUR RIGHT...DON'T loose it!!!

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

MARYJANE MacNAIR
I have worked hard as Regional Secretary to increase communication and solidarity throughout the Region for the past 3 years. We need active and vocal leadership that can represent all our diverse membership. I hope you'll allow me to continue working for you as 1st Vice President for the next 3 years.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

ED CARAFA
I have demonstrated over the past 27 years my strong belief in, and commitment to, CSEA and the members I believe make this Union strong. I am asking for your support and vote so that I may continue to serve the membership of Region III in the capacity of 2nd Vice President.

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ELECTION NEWS

SOUTHERN REGION 3

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF HOWARTH
Erect a leader who believes that the union is its membership. An experienced leader with integrity, perseverance and the total commitment to fight for all union members. Some union leaders seem to forget where they came from once they get elected. Not true in this case. Vote for Jeff Howarth.

RECORDING SECRETARY

MARIANNA NELSON
As the Secretary, I will bring a strong feeling for change and for unity; a clasping of hands together between the Unit, Local, Region and Inc.; Unity = Strength. A strong activist in the Newburgh School District as the Chief Shop Steward and Secretary, Orange County Local Treasurer and Board of Directors Representative.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

JAY R. McCLINTOCK
My Brothers and Sisters: I am mindful of the fundamental qualities for all CSEA members. They are responsibilities, hard work, honesty and caring for each of you. These are hard times, you and I must unite and help our brothers and sisters in trouble. Let's show the politicians we are united.

RECORDING SECRETARY

BARBARA RITSHIE
The position of secretary is not one of policy making, yet important when recording those that are made by the executive board of Region III. Following in the footsteps of our outgoing secretary, I will continue the prompt distribution of all meeting minutes and information. I welcome and appreciate your support.

TREASURER

ALAN L. ACKERMAN
(Statement and photo not submitted)

CAPITAL REGION 4

PRESIDENT

A. JUNE ROBAK
The TIME FOR A CHANGE in leadership is NOW! I have been a member for 32 years, an activist for 20 having won many grievances and improvements in health and safety. Please let me put my knowledge to work for you. Only you can help yourself - VOTE FOR A CHANGE!

1st VICE PRESIDENT

JOAN TOBIN
Members of CSEA Region IV, thank you for your continued support. I hope to continue working on your behalf and best interests.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

CARMEN BAGNOLI
As Second Vice President of Region IV for six years I have had the pleasure of working with the other Officers on your behalf. Together we have attempted to resolve problems that affected you. In my opinion this team represents experience, dedication and professionalism. Now we need your support in this election.

PRESIDENT

C. ALLEN MEAD
THE MEAD TEAM - Partners for a change. The new union of the 1990's requires experienced leadership and creativity. Our education, safety, communications and member benefit initiatives have strengthened our collective bargaining message - we will protect and represent our members in every way! Your support keeps us moving forward together. Thanks.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL R. KAPLAN
The worth of a promise is in its keeping! I will not make any statement that would give you the membership a false hope. However, I will address all of your concerns as if they were my own. I'm fresh and dedicated, and that is my promise.

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ELECTION NEWS

CAPITAL REGION 4

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN NICHOLAS POLYTDOURIS
My ancestors created Democracy - I will fight for it.
*Name means MANY SPEARS. Will arm CSEA to fight for you!
*No spending money on trips and meetings.
*Stop contracting out.
*Mother was Secretary, teachers' union member.
*SUNYA, HARVARD - B.A., C.A.S. M.S.
*Economic Justice Fairness
*BROTHERS - SISTERS, IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE!

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL CANTIELLO
Don't let the FEW elect the same, take the first critical step VOTE. WHY Problems - Safety, Comparable Worth, Privatization, Layoffs cannot be allowed to continue. Positions held. LOCAL PRESIDENT, REGIONAL APARTHEID, CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS committees. I'm qualified and want to represent you. CANTIELLO- fresh approach, brighter ideas for CAPITAL REGION.

SECRETARY

JUDY REMINGTON
As a member of the CAPITAL REGION TEAM I am asking each of you for continued support of the incumbents. As a team, we have worked collectively in serving the diversity of the region's structure and were the first to establish scholarships in the region, leadership conferences and LUTI training. SUPPORT THE TEAM!

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

LOU ALTIERI
Each year the problems facing Public Employees becomes more difficult. Leadership and experience become more necessary. As incumbent for the position of Region IV 3rd Vice President, a CSEA member for 35 years, Board member and Local 847 President, I bring this experience and dedication. Your continued support would be appreciated.

CENTRAL REGION 5

PRESIDENT

JIM MOORE
CHANGE, COMPROMISE, CUTS - 3C's that threaten us daily as public employees. We need the knowledge and unity of experienced, proven leadership to act and react on a daily basis. ELECT JIM MOORE Central Region V PRESIDENT. Vote for proven leadership and keep the spirit alive in V.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

JON PREMO
I'm an experienced, knowledgeable, dedicated union leader.
"NO Politics. NO puppet on a string"...just hard work.
I've set goals/plans for the Region, that's a good start! Ask your Local or Unit President to see material I've sent them.
Vote PREMO. (Candidacy supported by statewide President Joseph E. McDermott.)

TREASURER

BARBARA A. STACK
It has been a privilege to serve this past term with Al, Joan, Carmen, Lou and Judy and have participated in a partnership for positive change.
Our experience and professionalism have resulted in the successful initiation of many changes for a stronger, unified Region.
Continue qualified leadership - Re-elect "Your" team.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

KATHY COLLINS
I have had the honor of serving Region V as a member of Regional and Statewide committees and now seek the office of Executive Vice President to better serve the membership in a leadership role. Region V demands knowledgeable and experienced leadership to guide our Region. I ask that you honor me with your vote.

(Continued on next page)

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ELECTION NEWS

CENTRAL REGION 5

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

WILL STREETER
The most important asset of CSEA is its Local, State and School District rank and file membership.
As Region V Executive Vice President, I will use my education and 20 years of experience as a union activist to ensure that our members are treated with respect and dignity on the job.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

DANIEL D. LASKY
Our Mission Statement:
To represent membership as best WE can, any way WE can.
WE will promote and protect union democracy.
WE will defend worker's rights.
WE will represent membership in the best, most effective manner possible.
TOGETHER, we can.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

ROSLIE M. TALLMAN
As Second Vice President Elect, I would like to thank the members throughout Region V for your continued support and confidence by making it possible for me to serve you another term. This second term allows me to continue working for the betterment of all members of Region V. Thank you.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

BOB TIMPANO
ELECT BOB TIMPANO
Region V 3rd Vice President and your vote is cast for dedicated leadership. Having served the region the past three years, I have worked with and met many caring, dedicated Members. I want to continue to serve and ask for your vote. Let's keep V alive. ELECT BOB TIMPANO.

TREASURER

MAUREEN S. MALONE
For the past six years, I have shown my commitment and desire to serve as Central Region V Treasurer. I ask for your vote in this election so that I may continue to assist you and help provide the unity necessary to keep the spirit alive in Region V.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

GINGER SHEFFEY
The need to know that we count in the lives of others, that our presence has not gone unnoticed, is universal. I hope the work I do as a Unit, Local, Region and Statewide Officer has been noticed and you will vote to make me your next 3rd Vice President.

RECORDING SECRETARY

DOROTHY BREEN
I am seeking re-election as Region V's Recording Secretary. I wish to continue my record of service to and concern for our members. Your vote will allow me the privilege of serving you and addressing your issues for another term.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

SHARON CONNOR
I'm seeking re-election to my regional office. I have 18 years of officer experience and am currently enrolled in Cornell's Labor Studies Program. I will continue to serve our membership to the best of my ability. Thanks for your help, support and for your vote of confidence.

DAVID BERRY
When elected to the position of Region 5 Treasurer, my commitment will be to make sure I not only fulfill my responsibility to the office but also to the members of Region V.
A VOTE FOR ME IS A VOTE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

(Continued on next page)

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ELECTION NEWS

WESTERN REGION 6

PRESIDENT

MARK P. HERON

The paradigms that worked for solving problems in the 1970s won't work in the 1990s. Worker safety, skyrocketing health care costs, massive state and local budget cuts, and privatization all have to be dealt with more effectively.

If elected, I pledge to fight for the rights of our dedicated workforce.

STEPHEN J. SZYMURA

It's time for a change. Mark Heron and myself see no reason for any CSEA member to have a zero percent raise.

If elected I pledge to fight for every member in Region VI.

PRESIDENT

ROBERT LATTIMER

My total interest is to represent the membership fairly. We've been through some tough times, but have been able to marshal the union's resources to resolve our problems.

I'm proud of my track record, but I ask for your vote and support to continue as Region VI President. Thank you.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

MARIE PRINCE

I would like to thank the membership for its continued support, and promise to use my increasing experience for their benefit.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

FLORENCE TRIPPI

Brothers and Sisters:

As the Incumbent, I seek re-election as First Vice President of Region 6 and I ask for your vote. I believe strongly in Unionism and continue to be an Advocate for CSEA members. I am committed to protecting the diversity and dignity of all workers. I work to that goal always.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

KATHY BUTTON

We need CSEA elected officials who have the courage, commitment, and experience to take on future challenges. Our Regional officers need to be able to stand up to politicians with their "quick fix" schemes like "privatization" that cost so many CSEA jobs. As a CSEA activist for 23 years, I ask your support.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

MARY (CANDY) SAXON

Thank you to all the officers, activists and members who signed and circulated my petitions. Your overwhelming support is gratifying and certainly appreciated. I'm grateful for this opportunity to continue to represent the members on the Region VI team and look forward to continuing to serve you and CSEA.

SECRETARY

TERRENCE MELVIN

Do you want strong, tough leadership? Do you want leadership who is willing to listen to the needs and concerns of the rank and file membership? Do you want leadership with a working knowledge of our union? If your answer is yes, then vote for: Terrence Melvin - 3rd Vice President of Region 6.

TREASURER

JAMES V. KURTZ

(Statement and photo not submitted)

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LEASING A LEMON

HOW NYS PLANS TO SINK ITS FLEET -see page 12

BALLOTS IN MAIL SOON IN CSEA REGION OFFICERS ELECTION. CANDIDATES OFFER STATEMENTS - see pages 16-23