Essex County site perfect example of why OSHA was a top priority

PLATTSBURGH — An OSHA law protecting public employees in New York State was signed on July 1 by Gov. Hugh L. Carey. But it does not take effect until 180 days after the signing. Up at the Essex County Government Center here, employees are hoping a major disaster doesn’t occur before then.

The floor and walls of one room in the Essex County Government Center vibrate — the floor in one of the hallways has sunk an inch over the past year — during a heavy rainstorm, water pours over an electrical outlet into the offices — and recently the ceiling in one of the hallways has sunk an inch over the next day, union representatives requested that one group of employees be moved to another office. And the other, since there was no additional space available, be sent home on personal leave.

"We really had to fight for this. It took much discussion and argument just to get these people out of danger," Bronson said. At the time, she also contended that seven employees on a floor below were in danger, but the county refused to even move them.

"This is typical of the county’s attitude toward the employees. Officials refuse to believe they’re putting the employees’ lives in jeopardy," commented Bronson.

Engineers, hired by the county, inspected the structure and reported it to be sound, but could offer no explanation. On some days it’s so bad, the employees say, that hanging plants start swinging and things fall off the tops of desks.

Sometime last year, workers noticed a slant in the floor of a hallway connecting the old and new sections. Since then the entire surface has noticeably dropped an inch. But again Bronson said, an inspection was made and the union was told no danger exists.

"How can a floor sink a whole inch and not have something wrong with it," she and other employees asked.

The county has even said that water flowing around the outlet poses no threat to safety.

When the OSHA law, passed by the New York State Legislature this session, is enacted in January 1981, the county will have to make changes there, says Nels Carlson, Safety Officer for the CSEA.

Meanwhile, if an employee is hurt the county “will be hit with a grievance for sure," Scott said.

Suffolk local set for a tough fight in contract talks

HOLTSVILLE — Suffolk County CSEA Local 852 has opened negotiations for a new contract for its 11,000 members, with the first meeting to set ground rules and dates for the initial negotiations held recently. Attending were Local 852 President Ben Boczkowski, Ken Horstford, negotiations chairman; the ten-member negotiating team, field representative Irwin Scharfield, and representatives of Suffolk County.

"We expect a tough but fair fight from the county," Boczkowski said, "but we’re prepared.

The negotiating team has been selected and demands were formulated from a survey taken of the members. Besides salaries, the number one issue, job security, health benefits, retirement, mileage, seniority and vacation time were key issues. The survey was created by a committee of members from the Department of Labor chaired by Ron Naparano. Horstford from the AFSCME research department.

In addition to the negotiating committee and team, and Region One staff, Boczkowski said he would use the resources of the Albany Headquarters and the research staff of AFSCME’s national headquarters in Washington, D.C. Nels Carlson, collective bargaining specialist, and Frank Abbey, research specialist from the AFSCME staff will help out with negotiations, and Boczkowski said he will have the Suffolk County budget analyzed by the AFSCME research department.

Negotiations will be complicated by the legacy of a four-year contract which abolished increments and established a two-tier system which Boczkowski characterized as a “time bomb” threatening to explode and destroy for good among some employees. Bargains earned less in their new positions than they would have if they remained in their old job.

"The last contract was hammered out in bizarre circumstances. There was a power struggle between the legislature and the county executive and actually there were two contracts. One was agreed to with the legislature with the threat of a Taylor Law imposition hanging over the union’s heads, and finally there was a settlement with the County Executive," Boczkowski said.

"Suffolk County management used the New York City fiscal crisis to freeze wages in 1976 and, because of political squabbling, a hasty four-year agreement was signed," Boczkowski said. "Because of this contract, Suffolk County has a problem of recruiting personnel and there is a high turnover rate. Morale has suffered as well."

This year, the CSEA will capitalize on its resources from within. "We have members with special skills, knowledge and techniques. We plan to use those resources to help us win these negotiations and correct the glaring inequities in Suffolk County," Mr. Boczkowski added.

Sen. Fred Warder eulogized for his concern, sincerity

Editor’s Note: State Sen. Fred and Scharfeld were reduced to negotiating language.

When he was first elected to the Assembly in 1963, Fred Warder asked to be on the Labor Committee. He later chaired that Committee, using that position to promote progressive labor legislation in both areas as workers compensation benefits and unemployment insurance.

Upon his election to the Senate in 1973, he was appointed Vice Chairman of the Labor Committee, and served in that position until his untimely death.

In 1977, Fred Warder was one of the co-sponsors of the Agency Shop Bill which was eventually signed into law. He has sponsored some of the most important pieces of labor legislation introduced in the New York State Legislature.

"We’ve lost a fine gentleman, one whose mind and heart was concerned with the working man. ‘Red’ was impressed by one thing: sincerity, something he understood.”
ALBANY — About 150 state-division CSEA and management leaders learned how to organize local Employee Assistance Programs (EAP's) at the Capital District Region's recent EAP Implementation Seminar here.

CSEA Capital District Region President Joseph McDermott told the group that, in Region III's pilot program, EAP's were shown to have resulted in better employee morale and less time lost due to illness, and predicted similar results in his region.

"Our union is, for the first time, trying to help employees with personal problems, as well as job-related ones," Mr. McDermott said. "But we feel that this is necessary, because these types of problems, if left untreated, eventually affect a person's performance on the job."

The EAP is a strictly confidential and voluntary treatment-referral program for employees suffering from alcohol or drug abuse, or from financial, emotional, family, medical or other personal problems.

CSEA-EAP Director John Quinn added that EAP's, used by the most successful companies in the private sector for the past 20 years, must have three elements to work: guarantee of strict confidentiality; voluntary support by both labor and management; and adequate funding. CSEA's program has all three, he said.

The program, funded by an $187,000 grant from the State Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (DAAA), "has the complete backing of the Governor," according to James Northrup of the Governor's Office of Employee Relations.

CSEA REGIONAL PRESIDENT Joseph McDermott, right, addressed some 150 union and management officials during a seminar last week on organizing Employee Assistance Programs. Other participants shown are, from left, James Northrup of the Governor's Office of Employee Relations, CSEA EAP Director John Quinn, and EAP Region IV Representative Jim Murphy.

James Stewart of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Northeastern New York informed the group that studies have found that 12% of any work force has a problem which can seriously interfere with job performance. He said that such problems are very costly in that they result in more sick leave, accidents, less productivity, greater morale problems and a high turnover rate, as well as a higher use of health benefits. About half of such problems are alcohol-related, he added.

Blue Cross' own employees' use of an EAP program saved the company an estimated $170,000 over six years, according to Mr. Stewart.

He stressed that the studies found that the most important element in the success or failure of these programs is the assurance of confidentiality.

"Since it is in the interests of everyone involved — management, labor and the troubled employee — to keep all information confidential, any well-run program will do this," he said.

Confidential calls for help from anywhere in the state can be made any time to CSEA's EAP Hotline: 1-800-342-3565.

Raymond Dowling of the DAAA listed four factors in the success of any EAP program: motivation of the employee to seek help; early diagnosis; directing the employee to the proper source of help; and followup on how the treatment is working, and affecting his or her job performance.

Marilyn Guida of DAAA provided encouragement by noting that there is an 80% success rate for employees who enter EAP programs, but she reported a low rate of participation by women in such programs, and suggested special emphasis be put on women's needs to ensure their involvement.

Dr. Mollyo Cohen, of the State Law Department's Personnel Office, said, "it is most important for the employee to be ready to accept help, and in this effort, the union can often help where management cannot. For this reason, CSEA is to be commended for its total support of this program."

After a film was shown dramatizing a successful EAP program, the participants in the seminar returned for an afternoon session of nuts-and-bolts workshops.

EAP Training Specialist Arne Wiplier ran the session on "Training and Fiscal Considerations, along with Sharon Hicks of Hudson River Psychiatric Center and Walter Silver of the DAAA. A second one, on "The Role of the Employee Assistance Coordinator," was run by CSEA-EAP Coordinator John Quinn, with Rose Haley of Wilton Developmental Center, Mary Ellen Mangino of DAAA, and Robert Ruddy of the Division of Substance Abuse Services; and the third was conducted by Shirley Brown of the Labor Department, with Terry Ketterer of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse and Barbara Salis of Wilton Developmental Center.

All participants got to attend all three workshops.

"We hope these sessions helped give everyone an idea of how to go about developing Employee Assistance Programs at their own work locations," said James Murphy, CSEA-EAP Representative for Region III Thomas Haight, and Mary Morgan, secretary to the EAP Program, which is located at 1215 Western Ave., Albany.
LONG ISLAND REGION I PRESIDENT Irving Flaumenbaum, an AFSCME International vice president, speaks to the Metropolitan Region II Executive Board on the CSEA-AFSCME affiliation. Among those listening are, from left, Region II President James Gripper, First Vice President Felton King and Second Vice President Frances Dubose.

**Management hit with charge at White Plains tax office**

WHITE PLAINS — An Improper Practice charge, citing harassment and coercion against the management of the State Department of Taxation White Plains District Office, is going to be filed, according to CSEA Field Representative Al Sundmark.

The employees allegedly harassed are members of New York City CSEA Local 010.

According to statements by CSEA members working in the district office, Tax Compliance Manager Steve Gosik and Senior Tax Compliance Agent Mario Frusciante in late June interrogated signers of a grievance in an attempt to have the members withdraw their support for the grievance.

Of the approximately 15 persons who originally signed the grievance, four withdrew after the interrogation, Sundmark said.

According to some of the statements, there were implied threats against the signers during the interrogations.

One of the employees interrogated said Gosik told him "no agent had any right to judge his (Gosik's) actions."

Local 010 President Joseph Johnson, upon reading this statement, commented: "I always thought the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives everyone the right to express his opinions."

Sundmark said: "I am sure the Department of Taxation and Finance, which has always demonstrated the highest sensitivity in labor-management matters, will take the appropriate steps to insure there will be no further incidents of this kind."

**Insurance conversion plan**

The Civil Service Employees Assn. has announced that certain members who are insured under the Basic Group Life Insurance Program are eligible to convert part of their coverage (without medical information) to an individual form of insurance with the Travelers Insurance Company. The Basic Group Life Program is a term insurance plan which provides for In-service conversion privileges.

The in-service conversion privilege allows any actively employed member participating in the Group Life Program, who is age 50 or older, to convert up to $5,000 of their term insurance to an individual form of insurance with the Travelers Insurance Company. The Civil Service Employees Association 33 Elk Street Albany, NY 12224

Please send me information concerning the Conversion Privilege for the CSEA Basic Group Life Insurance Program.

NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT:

SOCIAL SECURITY NO:

SEX:

DATE OF BIRTH:

**Job security memo reached in Nassau**

MINEOLA — Nassau County Local 830 and the county recently agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding which protects CSEA members’ jobs in the event the county contracts out.

The agreement came after months of negotiating with the county, Local 830 President Nicholas Abbatiello said.

The key parts of the agreement are:

• Any CSEA-represented security guard or custodial personnel laid off on or after Jan. 1, 1979, are to be given the opportunity to be recalled to their former positions by the county.

• There will be no layoffs of CSEA-represented custodial or security employees as a result of contracting out through Dec. 31, 1981, the expiration date of the contract between Local 830 and the county.

• Local 830 will be provided by the county with copies of all future contracts for work also being done by members of the CSEA bargaining unit.

The agreement is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1979.

**Dutchess executive draws union praise**

WINGDALE — The president of the union representing Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center employees has called on Sen. Jay Rolison and Assemblyman Willis Stephens, accepts the idea of locating a Division for Youth facility at Harlem Valley since, "it’s the only realistic alternative."

"Mrs. Pattison deserves our praise because she realizes that the eastern part of Dutchess County would be economically hard pressed if the Harlem Valley site was totally abandoned, and she knows any alternative use spells J-O-B," Thompson said.

Thompson described suggestions to turn Harlem Valley into a veterans’ hospital as, “well meaning but unrealistic, popular but unfeasible.”

"Jobs are what Mrs. Pattison is concerned about," he concludes, "and for us that’s the name of the game."
Settlement reached in Cheektowaga

CHEEKTOWAGA — Members of the Cheektowaga school district unit of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) have agreed to terms of a new two-year contract, union officials announced today.

Unit President, Earl Leder, termed himself "satisfied" on behalf of his 60 unit members, noting this was the first settlement in his memory that was reached without an impasse. The agreement was reached "in only four meetings."

The agreement includes wage increases of 10 per cent in the first year, with nine percent plus increments in the second year.

The school district also agreed to a fully-paid health insurance plan, GHI dental plan, additional holiday and sick leave, plus various contract language improvements.
Sullivan County employees vow 'we're not going to just sit... and forget what's been done...'

MONTICELLO - The signs read: NEGOTIATE DON'T DICTATE, SUPPORT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, and TALK TO US, and they accurately summed up the feelings of Sullivan County employees who have just had a one-year contract imposed upon them under the provisions of the Taylor Law.

On June 21, the county Board of Supervisors held a legislative hearing, attended by nearly 200 employees, and then imposed a settlement. Local President Walter Durkin called the hearing a "front" because, "the elected officials had already made up their minds and, in fact, had typed copies of the contract in hand even before the legislative hearing began.

The imposed contract granted nine percent raises, but also lengthened the employees work day.

Social Services Unit President Estelle Schmidt remarked that among the employees' gripes were the fact that the county will grant a nine percent raise to its management people and also give them parity, or equivalency, to salaries paid for similar work in neighboring counties. Yet, when CSEA requested parity for its people, the county in its own words to a factfinder, "strenuously objected to any comparisons to surrounding counties." Now, those same elected officials, in granting management pay raises, adopted a resolution which said in part that, "certain other managerial and confidential employees are... entitled to a parity adjustment of wages."

The bottom line, according to Schmidt, is to, "widen the gap between labor and management in the county."

To keep the heat on, members of various Sullivan County unions, including CSEA, have set up a political action coalition which, Durkin says, "means we're not just going to sit back and forget what's been done to us."

And, according to Regional Director Tom Luposello, the union is considering filing an improper practice charge because the county imposed a settlement without giving its employees a fair hearing. He also calls the situation, "just another example of how unfair the Taylor Law is to us."

LOCAL RADIO REPORTER INTERVIEWS Sullivan County Local 853 Section President William Bunce, right, outside the Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello during the local's picketing against the contract imposed by the county.

LEADING A LINE OF PICKETERS at the Sullivan County Department of Social Services in Liberty is Sullivan County Local 853 member Nancy Presi, who is on roller skates.

JOINING THE PICKET LINE of Sullivan County Local 853 members, left, at the Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello is Southern Region III President James Lennon, second in line.

SOUTHERN REGION III PRESIDENT James Lennon, back to camera, is interviewed by a local radio reporter in front of the Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello during a demonstration by Sullivan County Local 853 against a recently imposed contract by the county. With Lennon are, from left, CSEA Field Representative Bruce Wyngaard and Region III Director Thomas Luposello, right. Demonstrations were held simultaneously at the Government Center, at the Department of Social Services in Liberty and at Sullivan County Community College in Loch Sheldrake.
In expressing its views to the platform committees of both political parties, the AFL-CIO wishes to stress the importance of programs that would be built upon the principles that workers are able to buy the goods and services they produce.

In other words, America works best when all Americans are working. Therefore, the AFL-CIO seeks an unequivocal commitment from both parties to full employment—a job opportunity for each person able and seeking work. Full employment is the cornerstone of our domestic program. And full employment is essential to building a strong America capable of meeting its commitments around the world.

An Economy That Works

Full employment is the only economic policy that would simultaneously fight inflation and the inequities that inflation causes. It would attack inflation through increased production of goods and services and an equitable use of productive capacity that now lies idle. It would provide a better balance between tax revenues and expenditures by turning the unemployed into taxpayers instead of tax users.

Unlike other economic policies which fight inflation by increasing the inequities faced by those at the lower end of the economic spectrum, full employment is not a gimmick. Full employment is not the symbolic and unworkable solution proposed by the budget balancers. It is a workable economic policy which is based on more than statistical legerdemain.

Economic theories that ignore the integral role of the federal government in the economy in order to place the blame for unemployment and poverty squarely on the workers who have failed to educate themselves and find work are indefensible. It is a workable economic policy which is based on more than statistical legerdemain.

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Protesting Those Who Work

The AFL-CIO believes that the American dream has currency; workers have the right to continue to seek a better life. In a democratic society, it is wrong for one group to impose expectations on another group, to demand a degree of sacrifice not demanded of all, to permit exploitation of some for the profit of others. The nation agreed with this principle when it enacted laws prohibiting child labor, establishing a fair minimum wage, promoting safety and health in the workplace, protecting prevailing pay standards and, most importantly, permitting workers to freely join unions and bargain collectively with their employers.

This body of law sets the ground rules for employer conduct. It is the sine qua non which sets the American free enterprise system apart from that practiced in other nations. Human life and dignity are not commodities that can be sold, traded or barred.

Resolving the inevitable conflicts between employer zeal for profits and the determination of workers for fair compensation is never easy in a democratic society. The quick solution, of course, is government compulsion, but democracy is not designed to be convenient; it is supposed to give the participants the opportunity to live their own lives.

In recent years as inflation accelerated, those who have always opposed safeguards for workers and their rights have stepped up their attack on these protections. They hope that a public concerned about inflation will accept any proposals to reduce employer costs and ignore the consequences to life and liberty. They couldn't be more wrong.

This society places too great a value on human life to jeopardize the health and safety of workers in order to increase corporate profits in the dubious hope that corporate largesse will reduce prices.

The American people also know that if businesses are permitted to continue to flout the labor laws with impunity, such disrespect for the law soon becomes "normal." Property rights mean something only when labor law simply does not work effectively. Rather than serving as an instrument to provide industrial democracy, it has become a tool to frustrate workers' rights.

Laws that protect workers protect all of society. Unemployment insurance benefits not only the workers who lose their jobs, it also cushions the economy from a total loss of purchasing power. Workers' compensation insures society against having to assume the burden of the care of injured workers and their families. Trade adjustment assistance for workers injured by foreign trade also helps their communities adjust to the loss of a skilled workforce.

The AFL-CIO asks both parties to commit themselves and their standard bearers to protecting and improving these programs and laws that are vital to workers and to everyone.

Conclusion

The complex problems confronting the United States require strong leadership, deep commitment and firm resolve.

Both parties must address these issues in their platforms. The parties must present their proposals squarely, honestly and factually, and bind their standard bearers and legislative leaders to keeping the party's word as set forth in its platform with actions necessary to restore public confidence in the political institutions of this country.

Issues, and not personalities, should be the basis on which the American people determine their vote in November. Issues will be the sole determinant for the AFL-CIO. We shall examine and evaluate the platforms of both parties and report to the union members the positions of the parties on the issues of concern to working people.

President
Metropolitan Region Committees meet

REGION II PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE, from left, Dennis Tobin, Local 350; Sarah Johnson, Local 351; Charles Bell, Local 406; Glinnie Chamble, Local 447; James Wood, Local 646.

REGION II SOCIAL COMMITTEE (left) Mattie Bryant, Local 447 at the left; Charles Bell, Local 406; and Irene Brandt, Local 429.

REGION II LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (right) from left standing: Jerome Wilks, Local 447; Joseph Healy, Local 406; Leroy Edwards, Local 401; Tyrone Daniels, Local 428; sitting: Ann Brown, Local 259; Adele Borocov, Local 010; Ronnie Smith, Local 428; and Jackie Goodwin, Local 450.

REGION II AUDIT AND BUDGET COMMITTEES, from left, Virginia Casey and Eleanor Mooney, Local 447; Brenda Grasso, Local 446; Tony Copeland, Local 402; Shirley Kreisberg, Local 406; Connie Brown Jr., Local 402; and Jeri Bell, Local 429.

REGION II EDUCATION AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, from left, Mary Edwards, Local 406; Keith Edwards, Local 445; Carlos Rivera, Local 447; and Sue Techky, Local 429.

REGION II BEEPER COMMITTEE, from left, Stella Williams, Local 331; Ismael Lopez, Local 413; and Frances DuBoise, Local 446.

REGION II MENTAL HYGIENE TASK FORCE, (below) from left back row: Helen Cugno Carter, Local 438; Margaret Meaders, Local 443; Mary Bowman, Local 402; Felton King, Local 428; middle row: CSEA Field Representative Bart Brid; Mohamed Hussein, Local 413; Region II President James Gripper; George Boncoragio, Local 446; front row: A. David, Local 419; William Baer, Local 438; Brenda Nichols, Local 447; Roy Johnson, Local 435; and Ismael Lopez, Local 413.

REGION II PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE, from left, Earl Washington, Local 259; James Wood, Local 646; Charlotte Rue, Local 438; and Bernarrío Osorio, Local 402.

METROPOLITAN REGION II EXECUTIVE BOARD, from left back row: Keith Edwards, Brenda Nichols, President James Gripper, Jackie Goodwin, Cassell Brockett, William Baer, George Caloumeno, Roy Johnson, Charles Bell, Mohamed Hussein, Ismael Lopez, John LaSand, Ronnie Smith, Mary Bowman; middle row: Clinton Thomas, Felton King, Frances DuBoise, Helen Cugno Carter, Robert Diaz, A. David; front row: Ann Brown, Shirley Kreisberg, Jeri Bell, Stella Williams, Joseph Johnson, Margaret Meaders, Hugo Forde, George Boncoragio and Charlotte Rue.
Suffolk Local 852 plans reorganization

HOLTSVILLE — A reorganization of Suffolk County Department of Public Works units of CSEA Local 852 was approved recently by the Local 852 Executive Committee. The reorganization was made necessary following a reorganization of the department by the county earlier this year.

Under the approved reorganization:

- The Buildings and Grounds Department White Collar Unit and the Public Works Department White Collar Unit are consolidated.
- A Department of Public Work, Division of Buildings Unit is established.
- The Department of Public Works Blue Collar Unit remains intact.

Under the reorganization, an election in the new consolidated white collar unit will be held within 90 days of the passage of the reorganization. Until that time, the Public Works White Collar Unit President Edgar Ostrander will serve as unit president.

Elections also will be held in the Division of Buildings Unit and the Public Works Blue Collar Unit as stipulated in the reorganization.

The reorganization was worked out at meetings chaired by Local 852 Executive Vice President Robert Kotlerman. Also taking part in these meetings were Local 852 Fourth Vice President Kenneth Horford and presidents of the former units: Ostrander, Charles DeMartino, Sam Iadicicco and Leo Argano.

DISCUSSING THE LAYOFF SITUATION in the Town of Brookhaven are Brookhaven Highway Unit President Charles Novo, left, and Suffolk County Representative to the CSEA Board of Directors Edward Garcia. The two talked before the recent Suffolk County 852 Executive Committee meeting.

ATTENDING A RECENT MEETING of the Suffolk County Local 852 Executive Committee in Holtsville are, from left, Mary O’Campo and Robert O’Brien, both of the BOCES II Unit; and John Desmond, Probation Unit.

SPEAKING AT THE RECENT MEETING of the Suffolk County Local 852 Executive Committee in Holtsville is Steve Regenstrief of AFSCME, right. Before the meeting he spoke with Norman Bohrer of Local 852.

Gallagher to head election year programs

ALBANY — In preparation for its most active election-year ever, CSEA has hired a Training Specialist to develop workshops, seminars and other programs to get members involved with the political process.

Ramona Gallagher of Buffalo will be “teaching members why they should get involved if they don’t already know, and showing them how to get involved if they want to, but don’t know where to start,” said CSEA Political Action Director Bernard J. Ryan.

Ms. Gallagher will deal with all areas of political action, including voter registration; the endorsement process; telephone canvassing and polling.

She will be designing programs for all regions of the state, and will be available to set up such programs for local presidents who request them from their regional offices. Ms. Gallagher can be contacted by calling or writing CSEA’s Political Action Department in Albany.

“Public employees are forced by nature to be political animals,” she says. “Whether we like it or not, we are the only group of workers that elects its own bosses. The fact that they can, in this state, legally ‘impose settlements’ on us means that our financial security directly depends on who gets elected.”

This year, the entire 210-member state legislature is up for re-election. In addition, this was a census year, and the party that wins control of the legislature gets to redistrict the state, insuring its dominance for the rest of the decade.

Finally, this is a Presidential and Congressional election year, and dozens of local and county seats are up for grabs, too.

“All these factors make this the most important political year for CSEA members in a long time,” Ms. Gallagher said. “There’s never been a better time for us to get involved.”

As New York State’s largest public employees union, CSEA has long had a vested interest in politics, but it is only in recent years that the giant union has shifted its political activities into high gear, with the creation of a Political Action Fund for backing candidates and a separate Political Action Department.

Ms. Gallagher, a former president of CSEA Local 352 (Labor Department — Buffalo), also served as co-chair of the Region VI Political Action Committee and as a member of the Statewide Political Action Committee, as well as third vice-president of Region VI for two terms.

She recently returned from AFSCME headquarters in Washington, D.C., where she participated in a series of political briefings on the upcoming campaigns. She will maintain her residence in Buffalo, while working under the direct supervision of Mr. Ryan.

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Local 412 dinner dance

LEITCHWORTH VILLAGE Developmental Center CSEA Local 412 recently held its second annual dinner dance, with a Mardi Gras theme. In the above, Local 412 members Brenda Ludwig, left, and Melinda Rodriguez appeared as Mickey and Minnie Mouse. In photo at right, Local 412 President Vincent Covati relaxes during the program.

State employees win a total of $3,040 for suggestions

Twenty-nine state employees received a total of $3,040 in cash awards in May and June 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 $34,000.

Award recipients were:

$1,000 — Frank D'Amico, Principal Mail and Supply Clerk, Higher Education Services Corporation, Albany.

$50 — David W. Parkis, Driver Improvement Adjudicator, Department of Motor Vehicles, Albany.

$100 — Bruce Lester, John Stoliker and Elizabeth Lake, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Albany; Anne McDonald, and a joint award shared by Carol Ormoski, Nance Menegro, Betty Farrell and Nancy Rodemacher, Motor Vehicles, Albany.

$75 — David Decker, Department of Health, Slingerlands.

$50 — Marjorie Higgins, Health, Glens Falls; Daniel Buczynski, Division of Mental Hygiene and Substance Abuse Prevention and Education, Albany; George Howard, Jr., Department of Transportation, Albany; and Edward Cohen, Department of Public Health, Slingerlands.

$25 — A joint award shared by Doris Markel and Marian Apel, Transportation, Oneonta; Joyce Moscibi, Transportation, Delhi; Paul Brendel, Department of Labor, Buffalo; Monica Jacobs, Department of Audit and Control, Albany; Angela Rainville, Health, Glens Falls; Craig Chapman, Motor Vehicles, Syracuse; Lee Burns, Dorothy Conroy, Kristin Bliven, and Patricia Barden, Department of Taxation and Finance, Albany; Ralph Welkinson, Workers' Compensation Board, New York City, and Ruth Steinberg, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Albany.

Cash award recipients also received Certificates of Merit. Certificates of Merit were also awarded to Donna Coel, Department of Social Services, Albany; Thomas Williams, Division of State Police, Cortland; William Dorries, Criminal Justice, Albany; Matthew Klinskyovitz, Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Albany, and Celestine Anderson, Tax, New York City.

AMONG THOSE ATTENDING THE ANNUAL New York State Bridge authority Local 650 annual picnic in Poughkeepsie are, from left back: Mickey Flynn, Dean Davis, Roland Kelly and John Brooks; front: Ed Barker, President Frank McDermott, Mike Viviano and Jim Ban.

Page 10 THE PUBLIC SECTOR, Wednesday, August 6, 1980
Sponsor an Athlete.

The Special Olympics is truly Special.

During the International Special Olympics held last year at Brockport, some two-hundred New York Special Olympians represented our state.

CSEA is proud to have been a continuing sponsor for the Special Olympics — for the International Special Olympics alone, we raised over $12,000. But now the Special Olympics need you to become personally involved. There are over 40,000 Special Olympians here in New York who continue to need your support.

You can personally sponsor a Special Olympian in the 1980 program of training and competition for only $19.50! Think of it... for roughly the price of dinner out for two, you can make a very real contribution to those who need it most.

Whoever said you can't buy joy has never looked into the faces of Special Olympians as they run their races, jump their jumps, do their pushups and win their medals. And the joy won't stop there. Because everyone who helped — from the volunteers to each financial contributor — shares a special joy quite unlike anything else.

Even if you can't afford the $19.50 by yourself, you can SPONSOR AN ATHLETE with several co-workers or friends. For example, it would cost only $9.75 an athlete for two people; only $3.90 each for five people. Of course, you can contribute more.

Each sponsor will receive the name and address of his or her athlete and information on when and where the Olympian will compete. And so you'll have something special to remind you of your help, you'll receive a certificate from New York Special Olympics, Inc. that you'll be proud to keep.

Please help. For your convenience, use the attached coupon. Send your tax-deductible contribution to:

CSEA Supports Special Olympics
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Intentions may be best, BUT state’s mental hygiene plan is a blueprint for disaster

CENTRAL ISLIP — "The road to disaster is paved with the best of intentions. That appears to be the route New York State is taking regarding the future care of those in need of mental health services." CSEA Mental Hygiene Presidents Committee Chairman Danny Donohue gave that assessment in an interview this week with The Public Sector.

"The patient-care employees represented by CSEA are the best trained and most experienced workforce in New York State to provide the necessary care for those in need of that care. The state hospitals also have experienced operational and administrative employees necessary as well as for those programs now in effect," Donohue said.

The key question in Donohue’s mind is when will New York State realize that attempts to gut state-run patient care will backfire.

"I recently heard about a private nursing home spending less than two dollars a day per patient for food but paying huge administrative salaries. This is a danger when government gives up control of patient care to those influenced by personal profit motives. Government should be interested in where money is going and it should not give up control, for the sake of the mental patients," he said.

He reminds taxpayers that the 60,000 mental health employees of New York State in the 54 hospitals "are directly responsible to the state, and the tax dollars are closely watched and carefully spent."

Donohue, not taking the current situation lightly, said: "Employees of Mental Hygiene, who are proud of the important jobs they perform, should let their friends, relatives, neighbors, civic groups, etc., know about the problems from Albany that we face — job freezes, closings, rumors of closings and broken promises. "It also is important for the state legislators and the governor to know where we stand. Sixty-thousand potential voters can make an impact on this fall's elections. "It is up to all the persons in Mental Hygiene to demand solutions to our problems. The problems are not going to go away," Donohue said.

He said based on the actions this year by the governor and by the State Legislature, there is no way for the state to keep its commitments for community programs and hospital staffing (Morgado memorandum).

Donohue believes the State should be retooling the hospitals to meet the redefined primary mission of mental hygiene care. "Changing the institutions for community-oriented programs, including a return of those patients already dumped into the community, may be the only way for the State of New York to avert a disaster in Mental Hygiene. "Such a retooling would provide proper care and followups which would allow the patients to function in our communities and would allow the State to live up to its commitments," he said.

Informational program held

BUFFALO — CSEA Collective Bargaining Specialist Jack Conoby and Jim Guifford, a representative from Youth Services, Inc., were on hand at the Donovan Building downtown July 17 to conduct an information session for Buffalo City Local 003 members working for YSI.

About 30 employees took the opportunity to ask any questions and straighten out any problems they had resulting from their transfer from state service.

Conoby explained that although the employees were now in effect working for a private corporation, their rights and benefits remain as they were under state contract. He assured the group that a problem with incorrectly-issued prescription cards would be remedied as soon as possible.

CSEA ORGANIZER Bob Massey was also on hand to help answer questions from employees.

JACK CONOBY, above, explains the circumstances involved with YSI employees.

LOCAL 003 President Pat Pfleger, below attended the informational session for members of her local who work for YSI.

CSEA FIELD REP Jim Stewart, right, discusses the rights of employees with one of the YSI employees who attended the informational meeting.