ALBANY — The more than one million member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) has endorsed Senator Edward M. Kennedy’s Democratic Party bid for the Presidency of the United States.

Announcing the endorsement with Senator Kennedy at AFSCME’s headquarters in Washington, D.C., last week, AFSCME International President Jerry Wurf said, “Senator Kennedy is saying exactly what needs to be said about the national economy.”

AFSCME’s elected representatives to the International’s Executive Board — union President William L. McGowan and Region One President Irving Flaumenbaum — both endorsed the action of the International prior to the announcement in Washington on April 2.

President Wurf stressed AFSCME’s “disappointment with recent actions — especially the economic and spending policies — taken by the Carter Administration.” The labor leader attacked the Administration for “haphazardly slashing federal programs that protect the old, the sick, the weak and the needy.”

“We believe with Senator Kennedy, that it is counterproductive to balance the federal budget by wiping out revenues that strengthen our state and local governments and the services they provide,” Mr. Wurf said. “The spending cuts announced by President Carter this week will have a devastating impact on these critical services and will have no significant impact at all on the inflation rate.”

AFSCME President Bill McGowan said he supported the International’s action on behalf of AFSCME because he is tired of promises from politicians who want this endorsement. In an Albany press conference to announce his action, Mr. McGowan said that he is convinced that President Carter has failed to deal effectively with the problems of the nation. “The rate of inflation is eating our members alive and interest rates make it impossible to buy a car, but President Carter still refuses to impose mandatory economic controls and instead increases the interest rates and imposes a ten cent a gallon tax on gasoline,” the union leader said.

“Mr. Flaumenbaum concerning the Kennedy endorsement, ‘We’re supporting Senator Kennedy in the primaries because President Carter let us down.’ AFSCME has large membership in many states which have not yet held Democratic presidential primary elections including Pennsylvania, Michigan, Louisiana, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Ohio. The International has pledged to work with affiliates to make Senator Kennedy the Democratic nominee.

Senator Kennedy’s position on many national issues parallels the position of the International including his support of mandatory economic controls, funding of federal aid to states and cities, comprehensive national health insurance and welfare reform.

Call your legislators
To let your state legislators know that further cuts in the State Purposes Fund of the 1980-’81 budget would reduce services to a dangerous and unacceptable level, call them and tell them so, at the numbers listed below.

For senators: (518) 455-2800.
For assemblypersons: (518) 455-4100.

McGowan — ‘the consequences ... will be devastating’

ALBANY — CSEA President William L. McGowan has called upon New York’s legislative leadership to uphold Gov Hugh Carey’s vetoes of reckless budget appropriations, finalize a new $130 million revenue package and appropriate $100 million to the State Purposes Fund.

In telegrams to all Senate and Assembly members last week, President McGowan said that CSEA’s warning of the consequences of reckless budget action had been confirmed by Gov. Hugh Carey’s announcement at the State Capitol on April 3 that 5,000 present state employees would be laid off next month.

The layoffs are in addition to Carey’s earlier plan — also opposed by CSEA — to eliminate 9,000 state jobs through attrition.

Mr. McGowan told legislators that CSEA wants three steps taken now to head off the layoffs plan. First, the union wants the vetoes of Governor Carey upheld to protect a balanced budget and the state’s fiscal integrity. Second, the union wants the Assembly’s new package providing $130 million in new revenue to be adopted by the Senate and signed by the Governor. Third, CSEA will petition the Legislature to commit itself to appropriate $100 million of the new revenue to restore the personal services cuts to the State Purposes Fund.

“If the Legislature fails to restore these reckless appropriations and does not provide needed revenues to support the State Purposes Fund,” McGowan said in the telegrams, “then the consequences to the people of this state will be devastating.”

The union leader said conditions in state agencies are already bad as the direct result of understaffing. Adding to these problems with more job cuts and layoffs will devastate state services and result in severe service reductions to the mentally handicapped, the needy and all state taxpayers.

“The politicians talk about the budget as if they were playing Monopoly but the fact is that there are real, tangible human consequences to this reckless game and people are being hurt,” McGowan said. “What’s more, the people who are hurt the most are the ones who can do the least to protect themselves.”

CSEA has been protesting the proposed budget cuts for weeks, saying that Gov. Carey’s plans to provide only 1.8% additional revenue this year to the State Purposes Fund — the source of state agency financing — would result in actual layoffs. Legislative leaders have denied that their cuts would hurt public employees, yet less than a week after CSEA’s action, the state announced the 5,000 layoffs.

The State Purposes Fund is 75% personal services expenditures,” McGowan said, “and what the Governor initially proposed would have cost us 9,000 jobs over two years. The Legislature cut the Governor’s proposal by more than 200 million dollars and the consequences of their action are now obvious. We said all along that people’s jobs were at stake and now it is a fact.”

“This state can’t operate an orderly and efficient government without state employees,” McGowan said.

SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY emphasizes the point that “I’m on your side” in an address before the 1980 Political/Legislative Conference of AFSCME in Washington recently.

McGowan — ‘the consequences ... will be devastating’

Budget mess means 5,000 layoffs
Retirees meeting held

NANUET — CSEA Retirees Coordinator Thomas Gilmartin spoke at a recent meeting of Rockland-Westchester Retirees Local 918.

Among the topics Gilmartin spoke on were the proposed legislation for retirees which is part of the CSEA legislative program for this year.

The luncheon meeting, which was attended by approximately 50 persons, was organized by Local 918 First Vice President Margaret James. Presiding over the meeting was Local 918 President Agnes Durantino.

In addition to Local 918 members, also attending the meeting were James Nolan of Orange-Ulster-Sullivan County Retirees Local 917, Eva Katz of Rockland Psychiatric Center Local 421 and Pat Mascioli of Westchester County Local 860.

Summer school for women

ALBANY — Applications are now being accepted to the 5th Annual Northeast Region Summer School for Union Women.

CSEA Statewide Secretary Irene Carr, who attended last year’s program, calls the experience “extremely valuable.”

“The courses are helpful to anyone who wants to learn about unionism or the role women can play in organizing, making their own union more effective, or taking a bigger role in labor leadership,” she said.

This year’s program runs from July 20 through July 25, at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. The cost is $130 per person, including room, board and tuition. Courses are offered for advanced or beginning students and include: History of the Labor Movement; Effective Public Speaking; and Grievance Handling.

Checks can be made out to Labor Education Center, Rutgers Lane, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903.

For more information, contact coordinator Ida Costra at the address above, or call her at (201) 932-9502.

The program is sponsored by the University and College Labor Education Association, in cooperation with the AFI CIO Education Department and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Plan workshop

BEAR MOUNTAIN — The second Southern Region III education workshop is being planned for Dutchess County sometime in May, the region Education Committee reports.

The first education workshop was held March 31 in Kingston, Ulster County.

The workshop for Dutchess County will be on a weekday evening from 7 to 10 p.m., Education Committee Chairman Janice Schaff said.

Region III Director Thomas Luposello said: “These workshops reach out to the membership and are able to instruct the participants with the flexibility to meet the needs of the participants.”

Ms. Schaff said the committee plans to have “at least one workshop in each county” of the region. The region consists of Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, Orange, Rockland, Putnam and Westchester counties.

Other members of the committee are: Pat Neele, Carollene Zap, Eva Katz, Grace Woods, Madeline Mackey and Millicent DeRosa.

Calendar of EVENTS

APRIL

11—Kingsboro Psychiatric Center Local 402 disco pre-Easter dance, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., St. Joseph’s Golden Hall, 856 Pacific St., Brooklyn.

12—Region VI Women’s Rights Committee training session for Committee members, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Holiday Inn, Batavia.

13—CSEA Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m., Thruway House, Albany.

15—Social Services Local 688 general membership meeting, 5:30 p.m., Knights of St. John, Albany.

15—Local 903, Buffalo-Niagara Frontier Retirees, membership meeting, 1:30 p.m., 140 North Street.

15—Local 913, Syracuse Area Retirees, luncheon meeting, 1 p.m., Fireside Inn, West Genesee Street, Baldwinsville: Reservations by April 9.

16—Hudson Valley Armory Employees Local 252 meeting, 1 p.m., Kingston Armory, North Manor Avenue, Kingston.

17—CSEA Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m., Thruway House, Albany.

19—Local 119, Encon Field Employees, general membership meeting, 10 a.m., Holiday Inn, Clinton & River Streets, Cortland.

20—Saratoga County Local 846, executive board meeting, 1 p.m., Mountain Solar Building, High Street, Ballston Spa.

20—Yonkers School District Unit dinner-dance, 7:30 p.m., Chateau Restaurant, Yonkers.

22—State Division Workshop, Kutcher’s Club, Monticello.

23—State Division Workshop, Kutcher’s Club, Monticello.

30—June 2—Suffolk County Department of Social Services Unit I, 2nd annual social weekend, Grassingers Hotel, Grassingers.
NEW YORK CITY — The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) recently met at the Manhattan Psychiatric Center (MPC), Metropolitan CSEA Region II Director George Bispham has charged.

Bispham said patient care will continue to suffer in spite of “window dressing” pronouncements by OMH Commissioner Dr. James A. Prevost’s department and in spite of the public outcry caused by stories in The New York Daily News and in other news media.

“The only thing I’m not certain of is whether Prevost’s actions are an attempt to deceive the public and the union or are just gross in-

Judith Burgess appointed Administrative Assistant

ALBANY — Judith H. Burgess, a former Ontario County CSEA Local President and a long time union activist, has been appointed Administrative Assistant to CSEA President William L. McGowan.

Ms. Burgess has resigned her post in the Local to accept the staff position that assists the President in organizing office operations, answering correspondence, and assisting in other related administrative duties.

In addition to the service as President of Ontario County CSEA Local 835, Ms. Burgess was the county representative to the union’s Board of Directors and the Secretary of CSEA’s Welfare Region.

Prior to her term as Local President, Ms. Burgess had served for eleven years as President of the Geneva School District Unit of the Ontario County Local during which she led a successful job action in 1976. She served on the Board of Directors of the union for most of those eleven years as well.

The new administrative assistant had been elected by the Board of Directors as its representative to the Civil Service Employees Political Action Fund and served as secretary of the Fund since its inception nearly three years ago.

In addition to these activities, Ms. Burgess has also served the union as a member of its Constitution and Bylaws Committee, the Statewide Legal Committee, the Committee to Study Legal Services and the Board of Director’s Committee. She has also held numerous committee positions on the local level.

Agreement signed by Dr. Martin Von Holden, Director of General New York Psychiatric Center, officially began the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at the facility.

EAP is a free confidential counseling service established by the CSEA under a special financial grant from New York State. The voluntary program is available to facility employees who may need assistance with a personal, family, medical, emotional, alcohol or drug related problem.

Central New York Psychiatric Center is the latest in the growing number of state facilities that have begun, or plan to start similar programs throughout New York State. Central New York Psychiatric Center is the latest in the growing number of state facilities that have begun, or plan to start similar programs throughout New York State.

College scholarships are offered

ALBANY — Applications are now being accepted for CSEA College Scholarships for the 1980-81 school year.

The union’s Board of Directors approved the awarding of 12 $500 scholarships (two from each CSEA region) for deserving sons and daughters of CSEA-represented employees.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 30. The Special CSEA Scholarship Fund Committee, chaired by Dominic Spacone, Jr., will review all applications and make its decisions in May. Winners will be announced in June.

Applications are available from all CSEA regional offices, and from CSEA local presidents.

No changes yet at Manhattan Psy Center

NEW YORK CITY — The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) appears to be making no effort to improve direct patient care at Manhattan Psychiatric Center (MPC), Metropolitan CSEA Region II Director George Bispham has charged.

Bispham said patient care will continue to suffer in spite of “window dressing” pronouncements by OMH Commissioner Dr. James A. Prevost’s department and in spite of the public outcry caused by stories in The New York Daily News and in other news media.

“The only thing I’m not certain of is whether Prevost’s actions are an attempt to deceive the public and the union or are just gross in-

Judy Burgess, newly appointed Administrative Assistant to CSEA President William L. McGowan.

Deception or incompetence?

MARCY — Representatives of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) and other public employee union officials recently met with management at the Central New York Psychiatric Center to officially begin an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at the facility.

EAP is a free confidential counseling service established by the CSEA under a special financial grant from New York State. The voluntary program is available to facility employees who may need assistance with a personal, family, medical, emotional, alcohol or drug related problem.

Central New York Psychiatric Center is the latest in the growing number of state facilities that have begun, or plan to start similar programs throughout New York State.

The five areas identified in the letter were security guards and 25 nurses will be hired. Bispham pointed out that those are not new positions but are unfilled items in the MPC budget and those hired will in no way relieve the problems of CSEA-represented direct care staff.

Bispham said Prevost should unfreeze the Grade 7 therapy aide position to permit MPC to hire the 125 persons who have already passed the examination to work at MPC. He said the cost of 125 new employees would be approximately the same as the $1.6 million MPC spent for overtime in 1979.

Increasing the staff — at no additional cost — would also permit MPC to admit more patients, he said. “Not only do you have the problem of
Twenty-three State employees received a total of $1,325 in cash awards in January and February for money-saving ideas submitted to the New York State Employee Suggestion Program, a program administered by the New York State Department of Civil Service. Estimated first-year savings from these suggestions total more than $21,700.

Award Recipients were:

- $135 — Rita M. Johnson, Senior Identification Clerk, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Albany.
- $100 — Rita M. Johnson (who also received the $135 award) and Chester and Josephine L. Gambino, Civil Service Commissioner.
- $80 — Leslie Braun, Audit and Control, Albany.
- $75 — M. Elizabeth Reddish, Audit and Control, Albany, and Christina Culligan, Department of Labor, Albany.
- $50 — M. Elizabeth Reddish, Audit and Control, Albany (who also received a $75 award), Bernard Cohen and Max Wasserman, Workers’ Compensation Board, New York City.
- $35 — Julia Martin, Audit and Control, Albany.
- $25 — Edith Kugler and Doris Bauer.

Call impasse in Glens Falls

GLENS FALLS — Negotiators for the City of Glens Falls Unit of the Civil Service Employees Assn. declared an impasse in contract talks, after four months of meetings could not produce economic agreements between the two sides.

According to Wilson Monroe, a spokesperson for the Warren County area of the CSEA, the city has rejected the union’s proposals for a ten percent cost of living increase to be computed into salary schedules over the next two years, and a prescription drug plan.

The subject of fringe benefits, said Monroe, has not even been discussed.

Pension report lists averages

The average state employee who retired last year was eligible for pension and annuity benefits averaging $5,753 a year, and most of those chose options which further reduced their benefits to an average of $5,135 a year. The figures are from a summary prepared recently by the State Department of Civil Service and help dispel the misconception that the average state worker receives a large pension upon retirement.
VOTING GUIDE

election of delegates
1980 AFSCME Convention

CSEA will be sending 223 elected delegates to the 1980 AFSCME biennial Convention June 9-13 in Anaheim, California. CSEA Local 1000 is the largest Local within AFSCME, and as such will have the largest single block of delegates at the Convention. Ballots for the election of those delegates will be mailed to eligible CSEA members on April 10. This handy voting guide contains all necessary information pertaining to that election, including samples of official regional ballots of candidates. In addition to the required notice of election of delegates on page 1 of this issue, voting information may be found within this Voting Guide on pages 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Ballots to be mailed this week by union

ALBANY — Ballots for election of CSEA’s Delegates to the 1980 AFSCME International Convention will be mailed to all union members this week.

CSEA Executive Director Joseph J. Dolan, Jr., said the ballots will be delivered to the Post Office for mailing on April 10. Ballots must be carefully completed and received back no later than May 1.

Sample ballots have appeared in the two most recent issues of the Public Sector. There are different ballots for each of CSEA’s six Regions and each Region will be electing a certain number of Delegates based on the population of members within the Region.

To cast a vote, a member waits for the ballot mailer to arrive at his or her home and then carefully reads the instructions on the ballot. The member then votes by marking boxes on the ballot. After voting the marked ballot is placed in the pre-addressed, postage-paid return envelope for mailing back to Albany, but a voter must put his or her name and social security number on the spaces provided on the outside of the envelope before mailing the ballot back.

At the ballot count, these names and social security numbers are used to verify eligibility of voters. Envelopes are opened and ballots removed and sorted for counting in separate operations to protect the privacy of each voter.

When marking the ballot, a voter can cast a vote for any number of candidates up to the allowable number of Delegates which is clearly marked on the ballot. Voting for more than the allowable amount of candidates will void the ballot.

Candidates are listed on ballots in the order in which they were nominated. Voters can vote for individual candidates, slates of candidates or both, but the voter must be careful that the number of candidates that he or she votes for does not exceed the number printed on the face of the ballot.

All members are urged to carefully read the instructions for voting printed on every ballot and to follow those instructions carefully to insure that the member’s vote will count.

The returned ballots will be counted beginning on May 2 at Albany in the presence of a special CSEA committee appointed to supervise the election process and candidates or their observers may attend the ballot count.

Results of the ballot count will be published in the Public Sector and winners will be notified by mail. The AFSCME Convention will be held in June in Anaheim, California.

IMPORTANT:
READ INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE BEFORE VOTING

Region 1

Slate 1 (56 candidates)

- Irving Flahmenbaum
- Danny Donohue
- Sal Russo
- Joseph T. LaValle
- Vivian A. Landstrom
- James P. Madison
- Charles Solomon
- Arthur Loving, Sr.
- Eda McDaniell
- Laura Formar
- Louis Mannellino
- Charles DeMartino
- James T. Farrell
- Edwin Garcia
- Dorothy Goetz
- Catherine Green
- Charles Novo
- Rose Orendo
- Ben Kosiorowski
- Kenneth Horsford
- Barbara Rotunno
- Therese Ribaucou
- Robert Conion
- Michael Curtin
- Carol Craig
- Frances Bates
- John Madlon
- Ann Gonzalez
- Bill Chacona
- Jean A. Adler
- Julia (Betty) Duffy
- Nicholas G. Belviso
- Ruth Braverbman
- Kenneth Cadieux
- Kenneth Derby
- Mary Caffapietra
- Robert Campbell
- Nicholas Dellisanti
- Thomas Gariglio
- Ralph Spagnola
- Doris Kasper
- Dudley Kinsley
- James Mottar
- Edward Ochenkoski
- Esther Phillips
- Gregory G. Zunicki
- H.A. (Tony) Bentvena
- Sam Piscitelli
- Thomas Stapleton
- Carlo Pugliese
- Trudy Schwid
- Rita Wallace
- Jean Wichmann
- Ben Borackowski
- Frank Fasano
- William J. Link

Slate 2 (7 candidates)

- John Aloisio, Jr.
- John M. Geraghty
- Gus Nielson, Jr.
- Louis Corte
- Alex Bozza
- Benjamin A. Perryman
- Howard S. Quinn

Slate 3 (5 candidates)

- Edward Logan
- Donald Cudabhy
- Peter Dato
- Joseph Cor
- Edward T. Plumber

Slate 4 (7 candidates)

- Sylvia Weinstock
- Joseph Lind
- John M. Jackson
- Virgilio Torres
- Paula Salzmann
- Charles Salzmann
- Santo Cavallaro

Slate 5 (21 candidates)

- Jerome Donohue
- Donald Belano
- James Brit
- Marlene Costello
- John E. Considine
- Dorothy M. Garage
- Joseph Greaver
- Nancy Hernandez
- Arthur Goliksky
- William Linn
- Paul Olenick
- Robert P. Preus
- John Revall
- Michael Tramutolo
- John Vione
- Steve Zwearing
- Ann Lohwasser
- Robert T. Smith
- Arthur R. Morton
- Richard Hallin
- Harry Springer

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 56 CANDIDATES
Voting Guide for electoral delegates to AFSCME '80 Convention

Ballots for the election of the AFSCME delegates to the 1980 AFSCME Convention will be mailed to eligible members on April 15, 1980. Members who do not receive a ballot by April 21 should call their AFSCME Regional Office between April 22 and April 24 to obtain a replacement ballot. Ballots must be received no later than May 1, 1980, to be valid. Unclaimed ballots will be cancelled on May 2, 1980, and contests will be completed. Delegates will be elected on a Regional basis, with each Regional election representing a specific number of delegates to which it is entitled in accordance with the AFSCME Constitution. The AFSCME Convention will be held June 20–23 at Anaheim, California.

The SAMPLE BALLOTS are printed here for informational purposes only. These are NOT official ballots. All official ballots will be received in the mail from AFSCME. The official ballot will contain specific information and directions on the reverse side. You are advised to read those instructions and follow the directions carefully before using your official ballot.
Ballots for the election of CSEA delegates to the 1989 AFSCME Convention will be mailed to eligible members on April 10, 1980. Members who do not receive a ballot by April 21 should call their CSEA Regional Office between April 22 and April 25 to obtain a replacement ballot. Ballots must be received no later than May 1, 1980 to be counted. Tabulation of ballots will commence on May 2, 1980 and continue until completed. Delegates will be elected on a Regional basis, with each CSEA Region electing a specific number of delegates to which it is entitled in accordance with the AFSCME and CSEA Constitutions. The AFSCME Convention will be held June 9-13 in Anaheim, California.

Members who do not receive a ballot by April 21, 1980 should call their Civil Service Employees Association Regional Office between April 22 and April 25, 1980 in order to obtain a replacement ballot. Regional Offices may be contacted at the following telephone numbers:

Region 1 516/691-1170
Region 2 212/962-3090
Region 3 914/569-8150
Region 4 518/489-5424
Region 5 315/451-6330
Region 6 716/634-3540

**VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 35 CANDIDATES**
BEFORE — From mid-August of 1978 until December 10, 1979, this was the sanitary facility employees at Grass Point State Park were forced to use.

AFTER — Three steps of the grievance procedure and a call to CSEA’s Hotline number in Albany finally achieved more modern offices and sanitary facilities for the employees.

ALEXANDRIA BAY — After three steps of the grievance procedure and a call to the CSEA HOTLINE (1-800-342-4824) in Albany, 127 employees at the Grass Point State Park here have finally acquired adequate sanitary facilities.

According to Rocco S. Crescenzi of Local 015, which represents state employees at the Grass Point Park, the problem began when a fire in August 1978 destroyed the maintenance shop which housed facilities for employees. The new shop construction did not meet the agency criteria of high public use and was subsequently assigned a low budget priority. An existing small wood frame building was modified for shop use with sanitary facilities consisting of a separate outhouse which was utilized during the Fall, Winter and early Spring.

"North Country people are hearty and tough, but an outhouse in the winter was asking too much," Crescenzi said.

On October 29, 1979, a non-contract grievance was submitted to the Thousand Islands State Park and Recreation Commission, with the suggested remedy of building a facility where the present well and sewer existed. The Commission felt the recommendation would present a budget problem.

Following first and second grievance steps, a union representative placed a call to the CSEA Hotline in Albany.

"We think the Hot Line call got us some action," Crescenzi said, "because a third step recommendation filed November 19, 1979 was accepted. December 10 — less than a month later — a 12 by 55 feet trailer was erected by the regional maintenance staff. We think this is an outstanding example of how cooperation between the State Office of Parks and Recreation and CSEA representatives brought about a speedy solution to a grievance."

Charge tokenism

By Jack Murphy
Staff Writer

KINGSTON — CSEA has branded as "tokenism" a wage offer from Ulster County that covered three years and totaled $350 effective Jan. 1, 1980, 3.5 percent Jan. 1, 1981 and 4 percent Jan. 1, 1982. The charge came after a recent negotiating session that saw the Ulster County Unit of Ulster County Local 856 modify and withdraw some of its demands.

The county immediately responded that it would move no further on any of CSEA’s demands unless the union agreed to negotiate "their way;" that is, by moving on the union’s demands to the degree the county negotiators think would be proportional to their moves.

Shirley Blum, spokesperson for the negotiating committee said that CSEA strongly objected to this tactic and rejected the action outright. Ms. Blum said that the union would continue its efforts to get the county to become more responsive to the concerns of the employees — the principal one being salary.

The county has since declared negotiations at an impasse and indicated it would file a declaration of impasse with the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB). The next step is the appointment of a mediator.

The negotiation session was "informally picketed" by about 50 members of the unit. John Naughter of CSEA Region 3 is the field representative to the Ulster County unit.
On-going programs meeting today’s issues, setting stage for resolving future items

By William Hidlay

LIVERPOOL — CSEA’s Region V is “on the move as a union,” according to Regional President James Moore.

In a recent interview at Region V’s headquarters, Moore identified four major issues that will affect CSEA members in the region during the next few years and he praised many of the on-going programs in the region as part of his regional report.

“We’ve shed the old image of being an in-house insurance program and we’ve established ourselves, at least in this region,” Moore said.

“Two examples come to mind quickly. We just had a challenge from NYEA in the Susquehanna Valley School District where NYEA poured a great deal of money in there to beat us, and we beat them, I think, three-to-one in the recent election. Secondly, in Onondaga County certainly the results of the contract ratification is a good indication that the members in Onondaga County are happy with CSEA.”

When asked what some of the important issues facing the region in the next few years are, Moore replied: “Contracts. The ability of this union to provide good wage increases for its members in this inflation-bound period we’re in.

“Also our ability to negotiate benefits in addition to wages — non-monetary benefits — those kinds of things are important. Seniority is coming on its own. We’ve had a difficult time over the years with it. But seniority is a priority that you’ve got to be concerned with and sometimes you give up a little money to get it. For items like job security, vacations, shift assignments — all of those kinds of things should be based on seniority,” Moore said.

The regional president also pointed out that a third area of importance for Region V and for CSEA as a whole is the union’s affiliation with AFSCME.

“The region can’t function unless there is a good team of people working together and I think this region has got an exceptional team of people. And the best part is they represent all of the divisions in this region — the state, the counties, the school districts, the towns, the cities and the villages.”

A candid interview with James Moore

On-going programs meeting today’s issues, setting stage for resolving future items

By William Hidlay

LIVERPOOL — CSEA’s Region V is “on the move as a union,” according to Regional President James Moore.

In a recent interview at Region V’s headquarters, Moore identified four major issues that will affect CSEA members in the region during the next few years and he praised many of the on-going programs in the region as part of his regional report.

“We’ve shed the old image of being an in-house insurance program and we’ve established ourselves, at least in this region,” Moore said.

“Two examples come to mind quickly. We just had a challenge from NYEA in the Susquehanna Valley School District where NYEA poured a great deal of money in there to beat us, and we beat them, I think, three-to-one in the recent election. Secondly, in Onondaga County certainly the results of the contract ratification is a good indication that the members in Onondaga County are happy with CSEA.”

When asked what some of the important issues facing the region in the next few years are, Moore replied: “Contracts. The ability of this union to provide good wage increases for its members in this inflation-bound period we’re in.

“Also our ability to negotiate benefits in addition to wages — non-monetary benefits — those kinds of things are important. Seniority is coming on its own. We’ve had a difficult time over the years with it. But seniority is a priority that you’ve got to be concerned with and sometimes you give up a little money to get it. For items like job security, vacations, shift assignments — all of those kinds of things should be based on seniority,” Moore said.

The regional president also pointed out that a third area of importance for Region V and for CSEA as a whole is the union’s affiliation with AFSCME.

“The region can’t function unless there is a good team of people working together and I think this region has got an exceptional team of people. And the best part is they represent all of the divisions in this region — the state, the counties, the school districts, the towns, the cities and the villages.”
Local 421 sends 3,500 letters to Albany seeking restoration of state budget cuts

ORANGEBURG — Rockland Psychiatric Center (RPC) CSEA Local 421 members have mailed approximately 3,500 letters urging restoration of proposed state budget cuts.

Local 421 President Eva Katz said the letters were sent to Governor Hugh L. Carey, to State Senator Linda Winikow and Assemblyman Eugene Levy and Robert Connor, all of whom represent Rockland County in the State Legislature; and to Assemblyman Arthur Kremer, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

The letter reads: "We understand that the proposed budget will cause cutbacks in both mental health and mental retardation which would critically affect both patients and employees. "We strongly protest such cuts as we are understaffed now. This would prematurely effect release of patients into the community."

"As taxpayers, in addition to being State employees, we do have some questions. The situation is critical and requires an in-depth study as to whether these cutbacks will adversely affect the care of our clients."

The letters were mailed in bulk on March 20 and 21 from a number of post offices in Rockland County, including Orangeburg, Pomona, Pearl River and Nyack.

"We didn't want to take any chances that the letters might get stuck in one post office," Ms. Katz said.

Ms. Katz, who is a member of the Southern Region III Legislative and Political Action Committee and the CSEA Board of Directors, said she thought of the idea for the mailing on March 17.

"I discussed it with my executive vice president, Bob Coleman, and then we polled the local board. It was unanimous, and we swung into action," she said.

She said this was not the first mailing to Albany the RPC Local has undertaken. Ms. Katz said her predecessor as Local 421 president was Martin Langer, former chairman of the CSEA Legislative and Political Action Committee."We understand political action," Ms. Katz said.

The work involved in the mailing involved the distribution, collection, folding, stuffing, sealing and stamping of the 3,500 letters.

Ms. Katz praised the efforts of the members of Local 421 who helped in the massive effort to get the mailing out in less than five days. Among those involved in the effort, though the list is far from complete, were: