Tornado Terror

See page 3

Paul Gaspie, the president of Mechanicville DPW CSEA Unit reports on tornado damage.

Photo by Colleen Brescia
EFFECTIVE JULY 1 CSEA'S NEWEST MEMBER BENEFIT ...

The CSEA WORKERS’ COMPENSATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

covering Workers’ Compensation and Social Security Disability

If you are injured on the job or sustain a job-related illness, CSEA’s new Workers’ Compensation Legal Assistance Program can help you navigate the maze known as Workers’ Compensation. If you become disabled, the program can help you obtain Social Security Disability benefits.

The Program Services Are Absolutely Free, And So Is The Call

- If you have a possible Workers’ Compensation or Social Security Disability case, SIMPLY CALL 1-800-342-4146 TOLL-FREE and select the proper menu options. Your call will be answered by the firm of Fine, Olin and Anderman, P.C., through its statewide network of offices staffed by attorneys who specialize in Workers Compensation and Social Security Disability Law.
- Brochures describing the program in detail and intake forms to assist you in compiling correct and complete information before making the initial call will be available from CSEA Region Offices, CSEA Local and Unit Presidents and CSEA Labor Relations Specialists.
- All calls will be accepted, no cases will be turned down and there is no cost to CSEA members and their dependents for the program services.

1-800-342-4146
Follow the menu options for instructions to access the program

NO out-of-pocket costs to members

The CSEA WORKERS’ COMPENSATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If you are injured on the job or sustain a job-related illness, CSEA’s new Workers’ Compensation Legal Assistance Program can help you navigate the maze known as Workers’ Compensation. If you become disabled, the program can help you obtain Social Security Disability benefits.

The Program Services Are Absolutely Free, And So Is The Call

- If you have a possible Workers’ Compensation or Social Security Disability case, SIMPLY CALL 1-800-342-4146 TOLL-FREE and select the proper menu options. Your call will be answered by the firm of Fine, Olin and Anderman, P.C., through its statewide network of offices staffed by attorneys who specialize in Workers Compensation and Social Security Disability Law.
- Brochures describing the program in detail and intake forms to assist you in compiling correct and complete information before making the initial call will be available from CSEA Region Offices, CSEA Local and Unit Presidents and CSEA Labor Relations Specialists.
- All calls will be accepted, no cases will be turned down and there is no cost to CSEA members and their dependents for the program services.

1-800-342-4146
Follow the menu options for instructions to access the program

NO out-of-pocket costs to members

THE PUBLIC Sector

Official publication of CSEA Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
143 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210-2303
Danny Donohue, President

STEPHEN A. MADARASZ
Communications Director & Publisher
STANLEY HORNAK
Asst. Director of Communications
ROGER A. COLE, Editor
KATHLEEN DALY, Associate Editor
CATHLEEN HORTON
Graphic Design & Support Services
RALPH DISTIN, Graphic Artist
JANICE NUSBAUM
Communications Production Coordinator

THE PUBLIC Sector Committee

Long Island Region: John C. Shepherd
Metropolitan Region: Jimmy Gripper
Southern Region: Diane Hewitt

COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATES

SHERYL C. JENKS
Long Island Region
(516) 462-0030

LILLY GIOIA
Metropolitan Region
(212) 406-2156

ANITA MANLEY
Southern Region
(914) 831-1000

DAN CAMPBELL
Capital Region
(518) 785-4400

MARK M. KOTZIN
Central Region
(315) 433-0050

RON WOFFORD
Western Region
(716) 886-0391

ED MOLITOR
 headquarters
(518) 257-1272

The Public Sector Committee

CSEA workers’ compensation legal assistance program

ALBANY — CSEA’s statewide Board of Directors met here on May 28. In official action, the board:

*Approved the CSEA Workers’ Compensation Legal Assistance Program:
*Placed into administration Ossining Correctional Facility Local 161, St. Lawrence University Local 630, Oneida County Community Action Inc. Local 729, the Town of Andes Unit 6615 and Middle Country School District Building and Grounds Unit 8777;
*Amended and restated the CSEA Inc. Pension Plan Resolution;
*Authorized CSEA’s participation in the 150th Anniversary celebration of the Women’s Suffrage Movement at Seneca Falls;
*Approved various personnel matters affecting the legal department and computer services;
*Dissolved Yank Waste Recycling Workers Local 730;
*Dissolved Pius XII Chester Campus Professional Unit Local 726 and transferred members to Pius XII Chester Campus Institutional Local 725;
*Granted a local charter to Hamilton County Local 821;
*Designated American General Life of New York as the union’s universal life carrier; and
*Elected Rutha Bush to serve on the Region 1 Political Action Committee.

Questions concerning this summary of actions taken by CSEA’s statewide Board of Directors should be directed to CSEA Statewide Secretary Barbara Reeves, CSEA Headquarters, 143 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210, 1-800-342-4146 or (518) 257-1253.

Barbara Reeves
Pension reform high among CSEA priorities as legislative session ends

ALBANY — Significant CSEA legislative priorities appeared close to becoming reality as this edition of The Public Sector went to press. State Lawmakers were working fast and furious on a number of CSEA-backed bills with the legislative session drawing to a close.

CSEA was cautiously optimistic that a package of pension reform bills would gain final approval in both houses of the Legislature. There were also indications that Gov. George Pataki would sign them if they reached his desk.

The pension reforms provide a two-step pension supplementation but also include a number of other reforms to benefit current and future retirees. Among the reforms were boosts in the base allowances for the benefit to help older retirees; vesting in the system after five years instead of the current 10 years; tier reform which eliminates the social security offset in tier 3 and allows tier 4 members to maximize final average salary after 20 years of service rather than 25; and a death benefit for survivors of vested members who have left service.

There was no action on a permanent, automatic Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

"COLA remains our priority," CSEA President Danny Donohue said. "But this package as a whole is a very positive step forward and represents significant reform."

Another legislative bill of interest to CSEA members, approved at press time, was SUNY Upgrade legislation that would require job reclassifications to be subject to Civil Service review.

The Public Sector will provide full wrap up of the Legislative session’s action on CSEA issues in the August edition.

California voters defeat Paycheck Deception Act

CSEA members and other working people were the winners when California voters rejected an extreme measure intended to silence the voices of working people.

Proposition 226, nicknamed "The Paycheck Deception Act," was defeated in early June in a California vote that was closely watched nationwide. The proposition was aimed at gutting political action by unions. It would have required unions to obtain permission from individual members before conducting any lobbying or other political action activity on their behalf. There is no similar prohibition on business or other organizations.

Part of the strategy of the extremists who favor the paycheck deception act, which has also been introduced in Congress, is to force unions to waste valuable money and resources fighting the measure.

Unusually high turnout from union households made the difference in the California vote and demonstrates why CSEA places so much priority on voter registration (see page 19).
After three years Westchester County workers say...

**FINALLY — AN AGREEMENT!**

WHITE PLAINS — After three years of on and off and sometimes acrimonious negotiations, Westchester County CSEA members have entered into a tentative agreement with county officials. The new agreement provides for 2 percent bonuses for 1996 and 1997 and 3.5 percent salary increases for 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001. It also provides for health benefits for domestic partners. In addition, leave time has been restored to Informational Services and Dietary employees who were rehired after being laid off last year during the former county executive’s efforts to privatize those services.

“We look forward to approval of this agreement,” said Westchester County Unit President Jane Fiore, “and we look forward to continuing a cooperative relationship with County Executive Andy Spano and his staff.”

“Although this agreement does not contain all the changes that we needed on behalf of our members,” Fiore said, “it does show that when two sides decide to communicate, our goals can be achieved.”

“It was a long road,” said Labor Relations Specialist and Chief Negotiator Al Sundmark. “Union solidarity paid off. We accomplished our objectives and have a fair deal that everyone can live with. I urge approval of the agreement.”

“On behalf of the region, I’m happy that this period has finally come to an end,” said CSEA Region 3 President Carmine DiBattista. “It has been a difficult three year period under the former county executive that included massive efforts at privatization, layoffs and demands for major givebacks of contractual benefits.”

“The achievement of this contract was a joint effort of CSEA,” said DiBattista, “including the members, the leadership and the staff.”

— Anita Manley

**CSEA school district workers protest stalled contract talks**

Left, Elba Schools Unit members of Genesee County Local 819, seeking their first contract as a CSEA unit, took to the streets to picket the school board meeting over their negotiations impasse. Below, after two years without a contract, more than 150 members and supporters of West Seneca Schools Unit of Erie Education Local 868 staged a massive picket line outside, then went into the board meeting with their picket signs in protest.

**Town of East Hampton members well prepared for fair pact**

EAST HAMPTON — The CSEA members in the wealthy Town of East Hampton showed up at their negotiations on time, armed with sound proposals and research on what their jobs are paying in area towns.

The town showed up late, ill-prepared and demanding givebacks. And that’s how the town has shown up at most of the 12 negotiation sessions which have been held since last October.

The union members have done an excellent job of proving that of their 193 members, 32 people are living below poverty level and of those, 95 percent are women. The town closes its ears.

The union tells the town that 64 percent of the members work two jobs to get by and 11 percent work three jobs. Management looks the other way.

In a town which boasts shops where a blouse is an easy $100, it’s hard to understand why the town refuses to take better care of its employees.

Employees in the town earn 32 to 52 percent less than neighboring employees in the same titles.

“The town wants increased health insurance contributions from a work force who can’t afford to pay it and shouldn’t be asked,” said CSEA Labor Relations Specialist Pat Curtin.

“We are determined to stay unified. And with CSEA leading the way we will not settle until we have a fair contract,” said unit First Vice President and negotiating team member Joan Ford.

The East Hampton Unit is part of CSEA Suffolk Local 852.

— Sheryl C. Jenks

**Local Briefs**

**Long Island locals hold annual school worker conference**

MELVILLE — For the third consecutive year, CSEA Nassau Education Local 865 and CSEA Suffolk Education Local 870 presented a Support Staff Career Development Conference specifically devoted to school district employees.

Local 865 President Denis Michnet and Local 870 President Diane Klement said the conference drew more than 300 school district members with a series of workshops offering opportunities to learn, explore and share practical information, resources, ideas and strategies for use in the workplace.

The conference was held in conjunction with a CSEA Information Fair, allowing members to meet representatives and gather information on the benefits available to them as CSEA members.

Conference topics included: Privacy In The Workplace, Communication Issues and Human Resource Issues.

“I think this conference is a real model. These two local presidents and their boards brought their membership a tremendous program, at no cost. It’s really great!” said CSEA Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte.

— Sheryl C. Jenks

**CSEA mourns loss of Nyack School District Unit President**

NYACK — Members of Rockland County Local 844 are mourning the death of Farrar Martin who was president of the Nyack School District Unit.

Martin, 57, suffered a fatal heart attack on June 4 while he was in a meeting with school district officials. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, a daughter, a stepson and a sister.

Martin, a six-year school district employee, was a head custodian.

Memorial services were held on June 8. Memorial donations can be made to the Disabled American Veterans, PO Box 14391, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250.
Park workers keep the play in Playland

**CSEA members staff 70-year-old amusement landmark in Rye**

RYE — Rye Playland Park, a jewel in Westchester County’s crown, thrives thanks to the CSEA members who maintain it.

Now 70 years old, the park retains its flair, with giant wooden soldiers guarding the gates, the exquisite art deco buildings lending an air of a time long past. Beyond the buildings, Long Island Sound sets the scene for relaxation and fun.

And what better way to spend a summer day than picnicking and enjoying the sights and rides at Playland Park where Westchester County workers get to see their “clients” smile and have fun.

“I love working here or I wouldn’t have stayed so long,” said Operating Superintendent Adam Harvey who started working at Playland 17 years ago while he was still in school. “I have fun. If I can’t get someone to smile, I’m not getting the job done.”

The park has 45 rides, so park employees’ first concern is safety; workers make daily safety checks including an inspection walk on the Dragon Coaster track. Many rides have been restored, like the carousel which dates back to 1915. The new Playland Boardwalk Museum has displays on the park’s colorful history since it opened in 1928.

Playland’s Ice Casino hosts the New York Rangers Hockey team when they practice at home. The Rangers hold two or three open practices each season when the public is invited to watch, said Frances Tartaglia, an assistant games manager. During the rest of the year, the ice rink is open to the public for skating.

Tartaglia has worked for five park superintendents and has seen many changes over 15 years.

“We’ve got a lot of different rides now and a lot of new personnel,” she said. “It’s an interesting job and the customers are nice.”

— Anita Manley

**How to get there and what you’ll find**

Playland is located in Rye, just off Route 95 at Playland Parkway Exit 19. The park is open Tuesday through Thursday and Sundays from 12 noon to 11 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays until midnight. It is closed on Mondays except holidays. Admission and entertainment are free. Playland contains picnic areas, a pool, a 1,200-foot beach, a lake where you can rent rowboats and paddle boats and a 40-acre amusement park. For more information, call 914-967-2040. Be sure and say hello to a CSEA member!

**CSEA Yonkers schools unit urges taxpayers to protest contractor’s agenda**

YONKERS — A contractor’s faulty recommendations to contract out services and lay off employees of the Yonkers School District are unacceptable.

That’s the message CSEA Yonkers School District Unit members want taxpayers to send to school board members. They want taxpayers and the board to see that the contractor is merely promoting a self-serving agenda.

The recommendations came from Educational Alternatives Inc., also known as Tesseract. The board hired the company last year at a cost of $110,000 to make recommendations to improve the district’s efficiency.

The company’s self-serving recommendations include: reducing the cost of benefits, replacing bus monitors with video cameras and sub-contracting the work of some departments.

“Many of Tesseract’s recommendations were based on inaccurate information,” said Unit President Mae Tyropolis. “How can you rely on the credibility of this company when their facts and figures are incorrect?”

For example, Tesseract claimed the food service program was losing money and recommended outsourcing the operation. Tyropolis said.

“The fact is,” she said, “the program has had surpluses which are used from year to year to maintain the low prices for the food offered to the students.”

The district has had efficiency surveys done in the past, she said, but always by educational experts such as the state Education Department.

Tyropolis said she was not surprised that Tesseract’s recommendations.

“This is the way they operate,” she said. “They just don’t understand that support staff is an integral part of the operation of every school district. Now it’s up to the taxpayers to let the school board know that many of their recommendations will do irreparable harm to this district.”

— Anita Manley
Helping avoid potential lawsuits...

**SUNY mechanic solves slippery problem**

WELLSVILLE — The ingenuity of Ben Palmer, a refrigeration mechanic at SUNY Alfred College, has, in a very economical way, solved a nagging humidity problem in a raquetball court, while at the same time saving the college big money from potential lawsuits.

“We have two raquetball courts here in the student activity center,” said Joyce Weimer, Local 600 president and as program aide, manager of the center.” There was no ventilation in the rooms, except for a small observation window near the ceiling of each court.

“When used, the walls and floors became covered with condensation and very slippery. One day hands-on workshop, which involved actual roofing repairs to the armory roof.

---

SUNY Alfred Local 600 member Ben Palmer shows off the air handler and duct work he designed and installed to correct ventilation problems in the student activity center.

---

**DMV workers driven toward better service**

*Editor’s Note: The following is CSEA Communications Associate Daniel X. Campbell’s first-hand account of improved customer service at a Saratoga County DMV office.*

CLIFTON PARK — At 4:05 p.m. Friday I have to get four separate DMV transactions done before the weekend, and the line of customers snakes almost out of the Clifton Country Mall Saratoga County Department of Motor Vehicles Office.

I stand in line hoping for a miracle. A voice from behind the counter asks, “Any plates to surrender?” A hand flies up, and the DMV employee hurries out from behind the crowded counter to help the customers move along.

Again and again the DMV staffers do double duty. I surrender two sets of plates from my late uncle.

I’m taken to a side counter where the DMV clerk quickly evaluates my situation and divides my transactions. Suddenly I’m put back at the head of the line, and a counter spot opens up quickly. The clerk is courteous and very helpful.

“It’s Friday, and it always happens so we just adjust to the customers’ needs,” the worker says.

It’s 4:25 p.m. I’m done. I have surrendered two sets of plates, returned my own car’s rear plate because the front one was lost during the winter and I need a new set, and I renewed my driver’s license including a new color photo. The line is melting as the office door is locked to late arrivals. All customers inside the glass doors are taken care of in a quick, professional manner.

On Monday morning a new upgraded computer system is installed to help reduce the time needed to renew a driver’s license or register a vehicle. I check in with the workers the following Tuesday.

John Lansburg is busy helping two new Saratoga County residents from New Jersey register their cars. Sally Picinich is helping a person get a replacement for her lost conviction record and Jackie McDonough is taking care of a serviceman who has questions about his California registration.

Within minutes, using both the new WISE-Windows Information Systems Environment and their public service skills, all of their customers needs are taken care of with a smile.

The New Jersey couple say that the service is “faster than in New Jersey.” The customer who needs a conviction record is taken care of, and the time frame of a minor traffic conviction is carefully explained. The soldier from California relaxes. His status allows him 30 days to re-register his car upon his quickly approaching discharge.

“We’re not used to the new computer system,” Lansburg said. “It’s something we have to get used to and master so that we can serve our customers better.”

As I exit I see a worried customer approach the end of the growing line. “Don’t worry,” another customer says. “They’ve got their act together here. You’ll be out in no time.”

---

Jeffrey and Jennifer Cox, formerly of New Jersey, found CSEA Saratoga County DMV member John Lansburg’s service “personal and faster than expected.”
CSEA officials make case to lawmakers...

**Improvements needed for OMH, OMRDD**

ALBANY — Gov. George E. Pataki’s budget veto of legislative appropriations for additional staffing at state Office of Mental Health and Mental Retardation facilities will put terrible stress on a system that is already stretched to the limits.

That was the message delivered by CSEA Executive Vice President Mary Sullivan and local CSEA leaders at a recent hearing before the Assembly Standing Committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. The CSEA leaders told lawmakers that there is simply not enough staff to do the job.

Sullivan said that while OMRDD is a model for the rest of the nation of the right way to deinstitutionalize mentally retarded and developmentally disabled people into the community, years of budget cuts are starting to take their toll on the system to the point where there is not always enough staff to safely care for clients.

“As the client population moves to small, residential settings, staff often face the possibility of working alone,” Sullivan said. “This can put both staff and clients in danger.” Sullivan said staffing problems are even more severe at OMH facilities which have been downsized to the point where only the sickest and most dangerous patients remain. She pointed to a recent meeting held by CSEA where CSEA leaders from OMH facilities throughout the state told OMH Commissioner James Stone and other top level agency officials about the horrendous conditions in the state’s psychiatric centers. Workers at that meeting testified about eroding patient care, dangerously inadequate staffing patterns, safety and health concerns and lack of OMH support.

“The staffing is so bad that OMH no longer will even release their staff-to-patient ratios in any recognizable format consistent with prior years. So no one can tell how bad it really is,” she said.

Sullivan also asked lawmakers to investigate a situation at the Manhattan Psychiatric Center, where OMH officials have mismanaged a major building renovation project, spending tens of millions of dollars with little to show for it, and are now using this as a reason to significantly downsize the facility.

“In essence, OMH is asking the patients, staff and community to pay the price for its own irresponsibility,” she told lawmakers. “This is symptomatic of OMH policies that have abandoned the mentally ill.”

Sullivan was joined by CSEA Central New York DDSO Local 414 President Sheila Thorpe and CSEA Kingsboro Local 402 President Lou Smith who gave first hand accounts of how understaffing at their facilities has hindered the ability of their members to perform their jobs.

— Ed Molitor

From left, CSEA Central New York DDSO Local 414 President Sheila Thorpe, CSEA Executive Vice President Mary Sullivan and CSEA Kingsboro Local 402 President Lou Smith testify about problems caused by understaffing in OMH and OMRDD facilities.

**DMT worker awarded reinstatement, back pay**

STATEN ISLAND — Staten Island CSEA Local 010 member Susan Bryant’s smile showed her relief as she learned of her reinstatement as a motor vehicle representative with full back pay and benefits.

After nearly a year of accusations and worry hanging over her head, she said, “I didn’t do anything wrong, and I didn’t think I should be treated like somebody that did something wrong. I was totally innocent.”

In June 1997, Bryant was called to the Staten Island DMV District Manager’s office where a New York City police detective was waiting to arrest her, and she was railroaded into resigning from her job.

After a court dismissed all criminal charges against her last December, Arbitrator Jeffrey Selchick still questioned the DMV’s motives for failing to have a union representative present when management demanded the 11-year veteran employee resign on the spot.

“Perhaps the DMV was concerned that by allowing grievant (Bryant) a union representative, they would be stymied in their desire to secure (her) immediate resignation.” Selchick wrote in his decision reinstating Bryant.

On her first day back at the job, Bryant said, “I can try to put this behind me, but it’s going to be a big scar for a very long time.”

She thanked CSEA Labor Relations Specialist John Labriel for his hard work on her behalf.

— Lilly Gioia

**State Govt. Briefs**

New DMV uniforms win award

CSEA/DMV Statewide Labor-Management Chair Barbara Stack recently accepted, on behalf of DMV Commissioner Richard E. Jackson Jr. and the Department of Motor Vehicles, the National Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors Career Attire award.

Stack was a member of DMV’s Quality QIRF Career Attire Project Team which selected and obtained improved career attire for the DMV Statewide Testing and Investigation staff and also revised the Career Attire Policy and Procedure Manual.

Brooklyn members seeing stars

BROOKLYN — Kingsboro Psychiatric Center and Marcy Avenue Armory CSEA members found themselves surrounded by film crews and movie stars like Susan Sarandon and Julia Roberts this spring.

Walt Disney Pictures and actor/director Tim Robbins shot two days of pre-production film for a motion picture about the young Orson Welles and a 1937 WPA Theatre Project, “The Cradle Will Rock,” starring Sarandon, said CSEA Kingsboro Local 402 President Lou Smith.

DMV Armory Local 254 member Orlando Pinnock said the 150-year-old Marcy Avenue Armory housed two sets for Roberts and Sarandon for six months. With its 81-foot ceiling and 60,000 square feet of floor space, the film crews built a replica of a Nyack, NY, mansion inside the armory, as well as a second set for a psychiatrist’s office.

“It was fabulous how they constructed the whole house,” CSEA Labor Relations Specialist Phyllis Babb said after she and the CSEA armory staff joined the film crew party at the end of filming.

The Dependent Care Advantage Account

A pre-tax benefit for state employees

Sponsored by the New York State Labor-Management Child Care Advisory Committee

Did You Miss Out?

The open enrollment period to save on your child and elder care expenses ... is over.

It May Not Be Too Late for 1998.

(You can still enroll if you had a family status change within the last 60 days)

DCAAccount Hotline

1-800-358-7202
In 1848 Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony organized the first Women’s Rights Convention in the Finger Lakes town of Seneca Falls, New York. Their proclamation which began “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men and women are created equal...” was a bold statement in its time. Women have made great strides since then but, sadly, many issues of fairness and respect for men and women are still with us today.

The men and women of CSEA have accomplished much to improve working conditions and promote equality by working together. In the past 20 years alone we have had breakthrough achievements in areas of pay equity, negotiated day care benefits; dependent care accounts; career mobility programs; non-discrimination protections; and health insurance flexibility that have benefitted working families. There is still much to be done to provide a better life for our members and other workers. This summer provides an opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to that task as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Women’s Rights Convention. Week-long festivities will take place in Seneca Falls July 13-19th. A CSEA booth will ensure our presence throughout the celebration; additionally, the CSEA Women’s Committee is coordinating our participation in a Working Women’s rally scheduled for Friday, July 17th. For more information, contact the CSEA communications associate in your region office.

P.S. See our survey on the 10 most influential women in American history on page 12.

Coming in October

The Work Force

Extra! Extra! Read all about it...

CSEA is proud to report that effective with the October edition, our official publication will be renamed The Work Force. The Public Sector has served CSEA members well for nearly 21 years. But as part of our ongoing commitment to become an even stronger and more effective union, it was decided we need a new name to better reflect what we are all about.

In addition to the name change a number of other ideas are under consideration to improve the publication and make it even more relevant to you. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on this exciting opportunity now before us! Send your suggestions to:
CSEA Communications Dept.
143 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210
A great job in the fields of summer

CSEA members maintain ball yards across the state

See pages 10 and 11

Chemung County Parks Supervisor Dale Storch

Photo by Mark M. Kotzin
ELMIRA — Chemung County Park Supervisor Dale Storch has always loved baseball and played in high school. So when a job opened up for the head groundskeeper at the municipal ballfield five years ago, he jumped at it. “It’s something I always wanted to do,” Storch said.

Storch, a member of Chemung County Local 808, has been with the county for 28 years, but has really enjoyed the past five years, supervising several part-time workers and maintaining and manicuring the field at Dunn Field, home of the Elmira Pioneers, an affiliate of the Northeast Independent League. It was previously home to the Florida Marlins farm team.

In order to do his job well, he works closely with the team’s coaches and managers, Storch said. “It’s very friendly. It’s an open relationship,” he said. “If they want something, they come to me and ask.”

Obviously, the teams feel the same way. In 1994 Storch was honored to be voted Groundskeeper of the Year by the managers and umpires of the Florida Marlins farm team.

Many of the players and coaches compliment him on a regular basis, he said. “They say it’s one of the best facilities in the league.”

— Mark M. Kotzin

COLONIE — Maintaining playing fields in Glens Falls and Colonie requires precision and knowledge, as shown by the CSEA members who do the job.

Sean Marshall and Kevin Aratare recently cut back the pitcher’s mound at East Field in Glens Falls. “It’s crept forward a couple of feet over the years,” Marshall said. “We have to see that it’s the right distance from the batter’s box.”

At Heritage Park in Colonie, David Hildenbrandt, Bill Conlen and David Berry recently put down chalk lines. “If the lines are off, the calls — fair and foul — could be off too. So we’re careful,” Hildenbrandt explained.

It’s a great job, the workers say, and both crews are enthusiastic supporters of their home teams — the Albany-Colonie Diamond Dogs and the Adirondack Lumberjacks of the Independent Northeast League.

— Daniel X. Campbell

City workers maintain ball yards in Newburgh

NEWBURGH — City of Newburgh residents have their own professional ball team, and CSEA members are making sure the stadium is ready for them. The Black Diamonds, a minor league ball team affiliated with the newly organized Atlantic League, will be playing to crowds throughout the summer in the city’s refurbished DeWitt Stadium.

Thanks to city workers and CSEA City of Newburgh Unit members Modesto Sanchez, Mike Negron and Biono Faison, the stadium will be ready for the players and the fans.

— CSEA

Riverside Park workers maintain park for the kids

MANHATTAN — Spring training started in May at Riverbank State Park for Spanish Harlem’s only officially sanctioned Negro Baseball Little League. As eight- to 12-year-olds from across New York City stepped up to the plate with big dreams of making it onto a major league team, CSEA New York City Local 010 Riverbank members took great pride in how they’ve kept that special ball field in top-notch condition since the park opened five years ago.

During July and August six teams named for ones in the Old Negro Baseball League play for the championship. On Saturdays and Sundays some 100 kids and 25 coaches wear the authentic hats and uniforms worn by such Negro League teams as the Kansas City Monarchs, honoring the black athletes who played long before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in major league baseball.

Of the thousands who flock to Riverbank State Park each year, CSEA members look forward to welcoming the young kids of summer arriving at their field of dreams overlooking the Hudson River.

— Lilly Gioia

Riverbank Park member Rachelle Ollano, center, a park worker II, with neighborhood kids who play ball at Riverbank State Park.
BUFFALO — The arrest of the president of the United Farm Workers did more than interrupt the 20th anniversary dinner of the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety and Health. It galvanized 200 unionists to march on the police station, demanding that UFW President Arturo Rodriguez and several others arrested with him be released. CSEA Western Region 6 President Robert Lattimer, Region Vice President Florence Tripi and Erie County Local 815 President Michael Bogulski joined those who rushed to the police station.

Rodriguez, scheduled to speak at the WNYCOSH dinner, was arrested when he stopped by a local Wegman’s supermarket, which carries strawberries harvested by Driscoll Strawberry Association growers.

When Rodriguez and several activists asked to speak to the manager, hoping to explain the UFW position regarding growers like Driscoll who have not signed a pledge against farm worker abuses, they were arrested for trespassing.

After about two hours, the activists were released. Arrested and released with Rodriguez were Roger Cook, WNYCOSH director; Alan Davidoff, AFL-CIO New York state liaison; and students, Jeanna Chebat and Rebekah Williams.

CSEA OSH specialist John Bieger was among those to be honored at the WNYCOSH dinner.

— Ron Wofford

Cast your vote for the Top Ten Women in American History

CSEA is observing the 150th Anniversary of the Women’s Rights Movement by putting together a list of the top ten most influential women in American History.

The choice will be made popular vote. Ballots will be available at the CSEA booth in Seneca Falls, but for those of you who will not be there, this is your chance to vote.

Check of the names of your 10 most influential women and/or add your own and send this form to:

CSEA Standing Women’s Committee,
143 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12210.

Results will be announced at the end of the Seneca Falls celebration.

Field of candidates

Pick someone below or add a name.

- Abigail Adams
- Althea Gibson
- Amelia Earhart
- Ann Lee
- Ann Morrow Lindbergh
- Annie Oakley
- Barbara Bush
- Barbara Jordan
- Barbara Walters
- Barbra Streisand
- Bess Truman
- Betsy Ross
- Betty Ford
- Betty Friedan
- Beverly Sills
- Billie Holliday
- Billie Jean King
- Claire Booth Luce
- Clara Barton
- Coretta Scott King
- Dorothea Dix
- Dorothea Lange
- Dorothy Day
- Edith Wharton
- Edith Wilson
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Elizabeth Blackwell
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Elizabeth Dole
- Elizabeth Seton
- Elizabeth Taylor
- Ella Grasso
- Emily Dickinson
- Emma Lazarus
- Esther Peterson
- Ethel Barrymore
- Fannie Bryce
- Florence Nightengale
- Frances Perkins
- Georgia O’Keeffe
- Geraldine Ferraro
- Gertrude Stein
- Gloria Johnson
- Gloria Steinem
- Grandma Moses
- Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Harriet Tubman
- Helen Gurley Brown
- Helen Hayes
- Helen Keller
- Hillary Clinton
- Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis
- Jane Addams
- Jane Bryant Quinn
- Jane Fonda
- Jane Roe
- Joan Baez
- Judy Garland
- Katherine Graham
- Ladybird Johnson
- Lena Horn
- Lillian Hellman
- Linda Chavez-Thompson
- Lindy Boggs
- Louisa May Alcott
- Lucille Ball
- Madeline Albright
- Madonna
- Mae West
- Margaret Chase Smith
- Margaret Mead
- Marilyn Monroe
- Marian Anderson
- Marion Wright Edelman
- Martha Washington
- Mary Baker Eddy
- Mary Cassatt
- Mary Harris (Mother) Jones
- Mary McLeod Bethune
- Mary Todd Lincoln
- Maya Angelou
- Mildred “Babe” Dedrickson
- Mother Hale
- Nancy Reagan
- Nellie Blye
- Oprah Winfrey
- Pat Nixon
- Rosa Parks
- Rosalynn Carter
- Rose Kennedy
- Ruth Bader Ginsberg
- Sally Ride
- Sandra Day O’Connor
- Sarah Brady
- Sojourner Truth
- Susan B. Anthony
- Toni Morrison
- Wilma Mankiller
- Other:

— Ron Wofford
our struggle

Workshop emphasizes industries

is one and the same

See pages 2 & 3

Photo by Ed Molitor

The Private Eye  •  July 1998
Workers share common concerns in joint workshop

A Message from CSEA President Danny Donohue
We are one union

We began another chapter in the history of this great union when members of CSEA’s private sector joined forces with their brothers and sisters in the government division at the 1998 Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial Workshop. That’s because our issues are not about public vs. private sector, they’re about union vs. non-union.

All across the country, union membership is dwindling and workers’ wages, benefits and rights have stagnated. As long as employers can get cheaper labor, they will take it. Non-unionized workers leading a downward spiral of wages and benefits. So we have to organize those non-union workers, bring them up to our wages, and build our power to represent our members. But organizing new members is only part of the challenge we face. We must also reinvigorate and empower the members we already have, and make ourselves more relevant to each and every one of them.

And we’re not talking about a difficult road ahead but it’s a road CSEA is prepared to travel. CSEA is the best union in New York, in fact the best in the country, because we are always ready to take on the challenge. And we’re always ready to grow.

Irwin Schafroth, special assistant for membership to CSEA President Danny Donohue, and CSEA Private Sector Division Chair Dan Vallee, right.

CSEA Westchester Housekeeping and Laundry Local 713 Vice President Ed Scharf, left, talks with Irwin Schafroth, CSEA Executive Vice President Mary Sullivan and Long Island Region 1 President Nick LaMorte, right.

Joe Rodrigues of CSEA PIns XII Local 725 comments during the workshop.

In Solidarity

The Private Eye is published three times a year as an insert in The Public Sector

July 30-31 Westchester area
September 13-15 Long Island area
September 17-22 Staten Island & Queens & Northern Hudson Valley

Help organize the unorganized

CSEA is leafleting work sites across the state to let unorganized workers know the advantages of belonging to CSEA. You can help by joining the effort and telling people what CSEA membership means to you.

Check the schedule below, and if you can help, call the CSEA Organizing Department at 1-800-542-4146 ext. 1300.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Contact: 1-800-542-4146 ext. 1300</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 30-31 Westchester</td>
<td>September 27-29</td>
<td>Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 13-15</td>
<td>Long Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 17-22</td>
<td>Queens &amp; Northern Hudson Valley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Message from Private Sector Division Chair Dan Vallee
Working together

A little over a year ago, in the first edition of The Private Eye, I mentioned that communication is where it starts.

Now our first Spanish language edition of The Private Eye for our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters is in the works and will be distributed soon. I welcome your feedback on the publication. We welcome your feedback on the articles, and I urge you to take advantage of the many benefits of your union rank has to offer you.

On May 8-10, the Private Sector Division representatives from local attended the first joint conference/workshop with our Local Government activists.

Your union leaders had the opportunity to interact with other leaders who work in similar industries in which we work. This joint conference promotes the sharing of ideas on how to best represent the members we serve.

We were given the chance to learn about the common problems that confront the industries in which we work. It was as though we had to reinvent the wheel to solve problems that in the past we faced and are now experiencing.

It doesn’t matter what industry or work we are working in. CSEA members join together it truly makes a difference. There is strength in numbers, and we continue to grow.

In Solidarity

Joe Rodrigues of CSEA Pins XII Local 725 makes a comment during the workshop.

CSEA Nings Library System Local 717 Diane Hunt at work in Lockport.

AMSTERDAM — The 19 employees of the Amsterdam Head Start CSEA Bargaining unit have ratified their first contract with a 94.5% vote.


The contract was negotiated by CSEA Head Local 733 President Harry Shaffer and Secretary Down Garri, assisted by CSEA Labor Relations Specialist A. Fleischman.

It includes binding arbitration, seniority, layoffs, full rights, an agreed clause for a retroactive wage increase of 3.9 percent plus $123. The increases in 1999 and 1998 will reflect the federal past due salary increases.

"The administration has done a tremendous job since we started the union here," he said. "They’re more cooperative than they used to be."
It pays to belong

Just carrying a CSEA membership card entitles you to a wide variety of special deals and advantages beyond those protections negotiated in your contract. Here's a list of membership benefits available to all CSEA members.

AFSCME Advantage

AFSCME Advantage Mastercard
Features one of the lowest interest rates - 5 percent above the prime lending rate. No annual fee. For an application, call your CSEA region office or the Membership Benefits Department at Headquarters, 1-800-342-4146, ext. 1307 or 1224. To apply by phone, call 1-800-522-4000.

AFSCME Advantage Union Driver and Traveler Program Discounts
The AFSCME Union Driver and Traveler Program saves you money whether you're traveling by car, bus, train or plane. It's a motor club, travel service and auto repair service all in one. Annual cost: $49.95. Call 1-800-547-4663.

AFSCME Advantage Loan Program
Unsecured personal loans from $2,500 to $15,000 with affordable monthly payments are available to credit-qualified applicants. Call toll-free 1-888-235-2759 for applications and information.

AFSCME Advantage Mortgage Program
Makes buying a home or refinancing your mortgage easier and more affordable. Savings for buyers and sellers. Special help for first-time buyers. Call toll free: 1-800-848-6466.

AFSCME Advantage Legal Services
You can obtain high quality, affordable legal services for many personal legal matters through the AFSCME Advantage Union Privilege Legal Services Program. For details and a list of participating lawyers in your area, call your CSEA region office or the Membership Benefits Department at Headquarters, 1-800-342-4146, ext. 1307 or 1224.

AFSCME Advantage Dental Program
A discount dental program (not dental insurance) that allows you and your family to choose your dentist from a lengthy list of qualified professionals and receive instant discounts on a wide variety of dental services on every visit. May help lower your out-of-pocket expenses even more if you are already covered by dental insurance. Membership fee $29.95 annually. For more information call toll-free 1-800-257-8352.

Disney World, Theme Parks Discounts
Discount admission to Disney World in Florida, Disney Land in California, Six Flags Amusement Parks and Anheuser Busch Theme Parks Clubs (i.e. Sea World and Busch Gardens). To receive discounts, call 1-800-238-2539 between 7:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday-Friday. Identify yourself as a CSEA/AFSCME Local 1000 member and provide your Social Security number.

The Buyer’s Edge
It's your buy-by-phone service designed to save you money on major purchases. The Buyer's Edge negotiates extra discounts and lowest price guarantees individual buyers don’t get. The appropriate information and toll-free numbers are in your Buyer's Edge brochure. To receive a brochure contact your CSEA region office or call the Membership Benefits Department at Headquarters, 1-800-342-4146, ext. 1307 or 1224.

Insurance
CSEA offers several insurance programs at low group rates with the convenience of payroll deduction.
For details on Auto Insurance and Homeowners/Renters insurance, call toll free: 1-800-833-4657.
For details on the CSEA Long Term Care Program, call toll free: 1-800-366-5273.

The CSEA Workers’ Compensation Legal Assistance Program
If you are injured on the job or sustain a job-related illness, CSEA’s new Workers’ Compensation Legal Assistance Program can help you navigate the maze known as Workers’ Compensation. If you become disabled, the program can help you obtain Social Security Disability benefits.
The program services are absolutely free, and so is the call 1-800-342-4146 and follow the menu options for instructions to access the program.
COMMACK — CSEA in Long Island Region 1 merged a celebration of unionism and diversity recently.

Along with the fourth annual International Festival, the region celebrated Solidarity Day as a way to introduce CSEA members to the benefits of membership and non-members to the benefits of unionism.

The Long Island Region 1 office in Commack was transformed into a league of nations as flags from scores of countries were hung from the ceiling and a wide variety of ethnic foods were available.

CSEA officers, members and staff enjoyed a beautiful day, a barbecue and entertainment.

Human Rights Committee Chairperson Barbara Jones and Director of Organizing Diane Campion worked with two committees to make the event a success.

CSEA Statewide President Danny Donohue, Executive Vice President Mary Sullivan, Secretary Barbara Reeves and Treasurer Maureen Malone all attended.

Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy gave members a gregarious welcome.

"I am always proud of my relationship with the unions, especially with CSEA," she said.

"The Human Rights Committee and the Solidarity Day Committee worked extremely hard on this event," said CSEA Long Island Region I President Nick LaMorte. "It was a celebration of what CSEA is all about."

I am ranked number one on an eligible list but others with lower scores have been appointed instead of me. How can this happen?

Section 61 of the Civil Service Law requires that appointments to positions in the competitive class shall be made by the selection of a person on the appropriate eligible list whose final rating is equal to or higher than the rating of the third highest ranking eligible on the list who is willing to accept appointment. This is sometimes referred to as the Rule of Three.

One mistaken notion that some people have is that if you are number one on the list you must receive the appointment. This is untrue. The appointing officer may select one of three and may continually reject the number one ranking eligible.

Sometimes, due to tie scores, an appointing officer has more than three names from which to make an appointment. Tie breaking on eligible lists can be made by selecting any eligible whose final exam rating is equal to or higher than the rating of the third highest eligible. For example, if three people score 100, two people score 95 and one person scores 90, the three people with scores of 100 will be certified as eligible for appointment. However, if one person scores 100, one person scores 95 and ten people score 90, the appointing officer may choose from all twelve certified eligibles.
Nassau Local 830 members help prepare for world class, international athletic competition

The Goodwill Games began 10 years ago and since then have been held in such venues as Moscow, Seattle, Washington and St. Petersburg Russia.

CSEA members of Nassau County Local 830 are already world class — now they get to show off their skills to world-class athletes.

Nassau County and New York City are the proud co-sponsors of the 1998 Goodwill Games, a 15-day, world-class, international athletic competition which will be held July 19 through Aug. 2.

Together, they will play host to the greatest athletes in the world, including two-time gold medal Olympian Michael Johnson, Olympic and World Champion Jackie Joyner Kersee and recent Olympic silver medalist Michelle Kwan.

CSEA Nassau Local 830 members have been actively involved in preparing for the games and will continue working on the event throughout the games.

“The best athletes in the world will be using this facility for the Goodwill Games and many different people will use it for years to come,” said CSEA member Leroy Hampton, resident engineer on the Mitchel Athletic Complex. “I take pride in knowing they will enjoy it because it’s all quality work.”

Parks workers are running the new, state-funded swimming facility. The Department of Highways and General Engineering monitored renovations of the Mitchel Athletic Complex, which also has a new track stadium. Parks employees are working with officials to ensure the track and field are ready for competition, parks security will be called out in full force, the Fire Marshals Department will be heavily utilized to enforce all fire safety rules and regulations, and the Department of Public Works will put up temporary traffic signals for pedestrian traffic during the games.

Technical Services will be called on to handle any repairs, the Planning Department will provide transportation, and the Emergency Management Department will be on call to handle emergencies such as an electrical storm.

“In addition to working on the Games as part of their county duties, CSEA members are volunteering their own time to make the Goodwill Games a success,” said CSEA Nassau Local 830 President Tony Giustino.

“I am extremely proud of all the hard work provided by our CSEA work force in preparation of the Goodwill Games and of the large role they will play throughout the events.”

For more information, visit their website at www.goodwillgames98.com. To volunteer, call 212-484-7665. — Sheryl Jenks

The Goodwill Games, a division of Turner Sports, has a new mission to benefit children around the world through the Girls and Boys Club.

The games will feature 15 sporting events: athletics, basketball, boxing, cycling, diving, figure skating, gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, swimming, synchronized swimming, triathlon, beach volleyball, wrestling and water polo.

New York was chosen after a two-year site selection process.

CSEA laborer Dennis Kaut keeps the grounds at the entrance to Eisenhower Park in great shape.

CSEA member Leroy Hampton looks out over the new Mitchel Athletic Complex.
Niagara Parks workers bring on natural exterminators

GRAND ISLAND—When the heavier-than-usual bug invasion that’s forecast for the summer of 1998 hits Western New York, there’s an aerial armada of the winged type awaiting, at least at Beaver Island State Park.

Members of CSEA Niagara Parks Local 104 have constructed a series of birdhouses and bat houses that could be a line of defense against the hordes of mosquitoes and other bugs said to be on the way, due to a warmer and wetter than normal winter and spring.

“We’ve built eight birdhouses for purple martins and bluebirds,” said Ion Meyers, a general mechanic. “They both eat a lot of bugs on the fly.”

Another winged creature is available for the battle — bats. “We have at least four bat houses,” said Brian Carrier, a talented carpenter and woodworker. “But at one place, a salt tent, they’ve gone from the bat house to under the tent’s tar paper. I guess because it’s even darker and warmer there. But it doesn’t matter where they sleep, because when they are awake they’re feasting on plenty of bugs.”

The purple martin houses were put up last year, and the parks workers are hoping to see birds return this year. And if the bug invasion does occur, our winged friends will be ready for them.

— Ron Wofford

Insects are swarming Long Island

LONG ISLAND — The bugs are here; just ask park workers on Long Island.

“I’ve seen some mosquitoes that are huge,” Hecksher State Park employee Chris Teter said. “When you get the big machines running in the morning near the water areas the bugs literally swarm out.”

Bob “Bullet” Maury agreed. “I spray my clothing and my body,” he said. “Sometimes, no matter what you do they get you.”

At Jones Beach State Park, workers cut drainage ditches and filled in low lying areas to cut down on the bugs, especially mosquitoes, said CSEA Parks and Recreation Local 102 President Paul D’Aleo.

“Employees who were cutting the high grass around these areas had to be outfitted with full mosquito netting coveralls because they were just getting swarmed,” he said.

Covering up is one way employees protect themselves from bug attacks, but that’s tough when it gets hot. “We need to protect ourselves from the bugs and the heat at the same time,” said Local 102 Shop Steward Bob Dorsey.

“That’s not always easy to do.”

— Sheryl C. Jenks

Worker is buggy for insects

STATEN ISLAND — In the lush green foliage of Clay Pit Ponds State Park and Preserve, Laura Meyer teaches visiting children about all the creepy, crawly and flying insects that call Staten Island home.

“I pick them up and help the children identify what we have caught in the woods,” Meyer said. “Then we release them.”

A CSEA NYC Local 010 member and park recreation activities specialist, Meyer is bracing for bumper crops of ticks and other insects courtesy of a very rainy spring.

Because several park staffers have contracted Lyme Disease, which comes from tick bites, Meyer follows strict precautions when coming in from nature walks. She always checks her clothes carefully for ticks, shakes them out well, never drops them on a bed where ticks could jump out and checks her body and hair for ticks. She advises using insect repellents with deet only be used on clothing, not directly on skin.

Meyer expects some positives to the insect invasion. “First, there will be more butterflies. Second, because of the greater supply of bugs, wild life could increase in numbers because there is more to eat,” she said, smacking a passing mosquito.

— Lilly Giola

DOT worker ready to take on bugs in Sullivan County

KENOZA LAKE — Sullivan County with its miles of forests, trails, lakes and swamps is ripe for a “buggy” summer season, thanks to a relatively warm winter and an early spring.

Thousands of tourists will surely be slathering on bug repellent with a vengeance as they face an overload of mosquitoes, ticks and May flies. DOT Local 521 President Jeff Sayers has unpleasant memories of spraying for tent caterpillars some years ago because the ravenous creatures were eating leaves off the trees.

“We all had to wear coveralls, respirators, boots and hats to protect ourselves from the chemicals,” Sayers said. While he has no orders to spray yet, Sayers said he’s ready to tackle the assignment if necessary.

“We usually don’t spray for bugs too much,” he said, ”but there could be a problem this year.”

— Anita Manley
Workers at risk push for broader TB protections

MANHATTAN — Three front-line CSEA members urged the federal government to broaden and toughen its standards for protection against tuberculosis infection at US Labor Department hearings held by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Assisted by CSEA Occupational Safety and Health Project Developer Janet Foley, Nassau County CSEA Local 830 Supervising Probation Officer Maria Rowe testified about poorly ventilated areas and home visits where many probationers, often from developing countries, must be interviewed.

"The people we have to deal with are at a very high risk of having contagious tuberculosis," said Rowe, stressing the need for Probation and Parole employees to be protected by the new OSHA TB regulations.

CSEA Local 814 Dutchess County Public Health Nurse Judy Lyons, who coordinates a TB Control Program, told of noncompliant infected patients not wearing required masks and coming in contact with public employees. She told of patients with active TB she later learned had been jailed overnight or gone to a court appearance without wearing a required mask.

Lyons urged officials not to curtail TB controls as active cases decline. She reminded them that when US tuberculosis funding and personnel were mistakenly cut back in the 1980s, epidemics broke out in the 1990s in New York and other states with high immigrant populations. Earlier this year the United Nations World Health Organization reported that worldwide tuberculosis cases are increasing.

New York Psychiatric Institute CSEA Local 419 President Tony Bailous credited the high degree of TB screening at his upper Manhattan facility with protecting all workers' health.

"I can't stress enough the importance of including the Mental Health field in the new testing standards for TB," he said. "We are on the front line in assisting the (high risk) mentally ill."

Bailous told OSHA that the health of workers and their families "depends" on testing for TB. "Anything less than this is, to put it bluntly, insane."

CSEA President Danny Donohue, in a letter to OSHA, drove home the need to broaden the scope of TB standards. He cautioned that current proposals to limit protection to a few workplaces will leave public employees exposed to too many high risk populations.

"As always, the grim reality of America's workplaces is that the vast majority of employers will not voluntarily protect workers from hazards unless a law tells them to do so, especially the hazard of disease transmission," Donohue said.

CSEA supports expansion of OSHA TB protections to include probation, mental health, mental retardation, parole, social services and courts workers. These public employees are most often exposed to high risk populations including foreign-born individuals, the homeless, alcoholics and drug addicts or HIV infected persons. Poor people living in homeless shelters or in crowded housing with poor nutrition and inadequate medical care often dwell in environments conducive to breeding and contracting tuberculosis.

Foley told OSHA that New York state public employees have had TB protections since 1992 when outbreaks of multiple drug resistant TB strains killed a corrections officer and exposed CSEA hospital and mortuary workers.

"At one time TB was the number one killer in New York State," Foley said. "In 1996, the NYS Health Department Bureau of Tuberculosis Control reported TB cases in all but 13 of the 62 counties," she added. Far too many people will be put at risk of contracting this dangerous but preventable disease unless the proposed new TB standard covers all those who may be reasonably exposed to high risk populations, she concluded.

— Lily Gioia

CSEA and CBTU — a growing partnership in unionism

When the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) held its 27th annual conference in Minneapolis last month, a 100-delegate-strong contingent of CSEA members was actively involved, marking a partnership that is growing at the grassroots and leadership levels.

The conference addressed many concerns of CSEA/AFSCME activists: welfare reform, the year 2000 census, preparing for the November elections and jobs with a living wage.

CBTU consists of members from 77 national and international unions, with 40 chapters with members from across the country. Most CSEA CBTU members belong to the New York City or Buffalo chapters.

AFSCME secretary-treasurer Bill Lucy is one of the seven CBTU founders and was re-elected CBTU national president at the Minneapolis conference. CSEA President Danny Donohue, a CBTU member and AFSCME international vice president, praised Lucy for his leadership role in the vital and growing organization.

Donohue is encouraging more CSEA members to join the CBTU.

"We believe the CBTU is an excellent way of building bridges with communities that share our interests and needs," Donohue said. "We encourage our members to become active because the CBTU is a catalyst for change."

The CBTU mission statement says its objectives include: to put forth greater and more creative efforts to improve the image of labor; working within the framework of the trade union movement to provide a voice and vehicle for greater black and minority participation; extensive and increased involvement in voter registration and voter education; campaigns and programs to improve poor workers; organizing the unorganized; providing active support for civil rights, civic and related groups to improve working conditions in the black community.

Rev. Wayne A. Johnson, chaplain of Erie County Correctional Facility and Home and Infirmary, a member of CSEA Local 815 and the Buffalo Chapter, delivered the sermon at the Sunday morning worship service.

Among CSEA staff and activists serving in CBTU leadership positions are: Portia Given of CSEA's human resources department and a member of the credentials committee; Robert Bradshaw, organizer, involved in conference registration; Terry Melvin, executive assistant to President Donohue, on the constitution and by-laws committee and CBTU Region 1 director; and Herman Dorsey of CSEA Western New York DDSO Local 425 and a sergeant-at-arms.

CSEA members who want more information about CBTU should call Portia Given at 1-800-342-4146, ext. 1209.

— Ron Wofford

United States Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, left, extends a hand to CSEA President Danny Donohue, right, and AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer Bill Lucy at the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists 27th annual conference in Minneapolis last month.

LILY GIOIA
Scholarships award achievements of CSEA union members’ sons, daughters

CSEA has announced the 1998 winners of the Irving Flaumenbaum and Jardine/MetLife Scholarship Awards.

The Flaumenbaum Scholarship awards 18 $5000 scholarships annually to high school seniors. Three awards are granted in each of CSEA’s six regions.

Two additional scholarships sponsored by the Jardine Group Services Corp. and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company are being awarded. These awards are $2,500 each.

Members of the CSEA Scholarship Committee are Diane Lucchesi, chair; Kathy Martinez-Walsh, Lamont “Dutch” Wade, Lorraine Johnson, Helen Flischedick, Sandra Delia, Jeanette Newman and Bruce Norton.

IRVING FLAUMENBAUM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Irving Flaumenbaum scholarships are named in memory of the former longtime CSEA Long Island Region and Nassau County Local president who died in 1980. The awards go to graduating high school seniors planning to attend college and are given on the basis of academic and personal achievements. Nearly 1,000 applications were considered.

The 1998 winners of $500 Flaumenbaum scholarships are:

LONG ISLAND REGION 1

Jamie Tekald of Seafield, a graduate of Seafield High School, whose mother, Melanie Tekald, is a computer aide with the Seafield U.F. School District and a member of Local 865.

Edward J. Scal Jr. of Massapequa Park, a graduate of Massapequa High School, whose mother, Denise Scal, is a teacher aide with Nassau BOCES and a member of Local 865.

Lisa M. Giusto of Medford, a graduate of Patchogue-Medford High School, whose mother, Susan Giusto, is a secretary with Patchogue-Medford Schools and a member of Local 870.

CENTRAL REGION 5

Christina Spangler of Rome, a graduate of Rome Free Academy, whose mother, Patricia Spangler, is a teacher assistant with Rome City School District and a member of Local 869.

Ann Marie Ilczyszyn of Syracuse, a graduate of Bishop Ludden Jr./Sr. High School, whose mother, Danuta Ilczyszyn, a duplicating machine operator and whose father, Wasyl Ilczyszyn, a custodian, both in the Syracuse City School District, are members of Local 834.

Jennifer L. Radley of Cape Vincent, a graduate of Thousand Islands High School, whose mother, Jolene A. Radley, is a keyboard specialist with NYS DOCS, Cape Vincent Correctional Facility and a member of Local 187.

SOUTHERN REGION 3

Albena Moshkovich of Wappingers Falls, a graduate of Arlington High School, whose father, Roman Moshkovich, is a highway maintenance worker and a member of DOT Local 507.

Robert Lattner of Peekskill, a graduate of Peekskill High School, whose mother, Irene Lattner, is a keyboard specialist with Letchworth DDDSO and a member of Local 412.

Gabrielle Rizutto of Croton-on-Hudson, a graduate of Croton-Harmon High School, whose mother, Rosemary Rizutto, is a secretary with Croton-Harmon School District and a member of Local 860.

CAPITAL REGION 4

Heather M. Lord of Johnstown, a graduate of Johnstown High School, whose mother, Meredith Lord, is an aging services specialist with Fulton County Office for the Aging and a member of Local 818.

Ellen Marie O’Clair of Waterford, a graduate of Waterford-Halfmoon High School, whose mother, Theresa O’Clair, is a bus driver/food service worker with Waterford-Halfmoon School District and a member of Local 864.

Jeff Alan Hoffman of Petkessburg, a graduate of Berlin Jr./Sr. High School, whose mother, June Hoffman, is an information proc. specialist with Berlin Central Schools and a member of Local 871.

WESTERN REGION 6

Tamara J. Coffey of Shortsville, a graduate of Manchester-Shortsville High School, whose mother, Cynthia Coffey, is a bus driver with Manchester-Shortsville CS and whose father, Richard Coffey, is a deputy sheriff with Ontario County Sheriff Dept. are members of Local 835.

Kendra Lee Weis of Macedon, a graduate of Gananda High School, whose mother, Sandra Lee Weis, is a registrar/typist at Wayne High School and a member of Local 859.

Holly Fodge of Avoca, a graduate of Avoca Central School, whose mother, June Fodge, is a teacher aide at Avoca Central School and a member of Local 851.

JARDINE GROUP SERVICES AWARD

The Jardine Group Services Award of $2,500 is named in memory of Charles Foster, a longtime CSEA activist who began his career with CSEA in the 1930s and was also the first business officer of the SUNY system. The recipient must attend a SUNY school.

The 1998 winner is Alan M. Frydrychowski of West Seneca. His mother, Virginia Frydrychowski, is a secretary for the state Labor Department and a member of Local 352.

METLIFE INSURANCE COMPANY AWARD

The MetLife Award of $2,500 is being provided for the first time by MetLife Insurance Company and was previously awarded by Travelers. It is given in memory of the late Joseph D. Lochner, CSEA’s first employee and former executive director who was a CSEA employee for more than 40 years.

The winner is Stephen T. Erwin of Elbridge. His mother, Lorraine Erwin, is a calculations clerk with SUNY Health Science and a member of Local 615.

Attention all veterans

The president has recently signed into law a bill that affects all veterans. This law states that if a veteran has not registered at a veterans hospital since Oct. 1, 1996, then on Oct. 1, 1998 he or she will lose all medical benefits for life.

To make it worse, the V.A. cannot notify veterans about it. That information must be disseminated via word of mouth or by letter. The Veteran Administration recommends that everyone eligible for benefits come by their office and sign up prior to the Oct. 1, 1998 deadline regardless of whether they have received treatment at a V.A. hospital since Oct. 1, 1996. You will need to bring your DD-214 (discharge papers) to your local office, and it will take about 5 minutes to complete the form.
Always protect your membership status

Break in membership affects eligibility for union office, voting privileges

A break in union membership status can have long-term future implications. Your membership status affects your eligibility with respect to:
- seeking or holding union office;
- signing nominating petitions for potential candidates;
- voting in union elections, and;
- voting on collective bargaining contracts.

Only members “in good standing” can participate in these activities. To be in “good standing,” your dues cannot be delinquent.

If you go on unpaid leave or for any other reason have a break in your employment status, your dues will not continue to be paid through payroll deductions. You must make arrangements to pay your dues directly to CSEA to continue your membership status. If you are either laid off or placed on leave-without-pay status due to becoming disabled by accident, illness, maternity or paternity, you may be eligible for dues-free membership status for a period not to exceed one year.

Note, however, you must continue to pay dues to run for office. Dues-free or gratuitous membership allows members to continue their insurance coverage while out of work. It does not protect your right to run for or hold office.

You must notify the CSEA Membership Records Department at 1-800-342-4146, Ext. 1327, of any change in your status and what arrangements you are making to continue your membership in CSEA.

What Do You Know About Insurance?

As a service to our members, CSEA, along with Jardine Group Services Corporation, presents the second in a series of Clip-N-Save Insurance Facts.

Your CSEA insurance broker, Jardine Group Services Corporation, can help with all your insurance needs. Jardines works with CSEA to provide a wide range of insurance programs available exclusively to CSEA members. To set up an appointment for a personal insurance review, please contact your local Jardines insurance representative. To find out who your Jardines agent is, please call 1-800-697-CSEA (2732).

Disability Insurance Q & A

Disability Insurance protects your single most valuable asset: your ability to earn an income. This plan provides monthly benefits to you if you suffer a disabling illness or injury that leaves you unable to work and without a paycheck.

Q. Do I need disability insurance?
A. Although many people own life insurance because they’re aware of the risk of dying, most people ignore the risk of disability. But it’s a fact that disability is a greater risk for younger people: between the ages of 25 and 55 you’re more than twice as likely to become disabled as you are to die. Think about the financial impact on your lifestyle if you were unable to work. Could you live without your salary for six months, a year — perhaps longer? If not, you need disability income insurance.

Q. What are the most important coverage features I should look for?
A. 1. The plan should not require you to be hospitalized in order to receive benefits.
   2. The plan should include benefits for sickness and pregnancy as well as accidents.
   3. Coverage for accidents should include both on-the-job and off-the-job accidents.
   4. Offsets — some circumstances can decrease the amount of benefits you receive. Make sure you understand any and all limitations to your monthly benefit.

Q. What are the differences between short-term and long-term disability plans?
A. Short-term plans pay for disabilities that last from a few months to longer, with some covering you for up to two years. Long-term coverage often lasts until retirement, or perhaps even for life.

Q. What factors will affect my rates?
A. 1. Benefit Period: A plan that pays lifetime benefits will be more expensive than one that provides benefits for a limited period of time (e.g., to age 65, or for five years).
   2. Amount of Benefit: The greater the benefit amount, the higher your premium will be.
   3. Waiting Period: You can reduce the cost of your policy by increasing the length of the waiting period. The waiting period is how long you must be disabled before you can start collecting your disability benefits.
   4. Cheaper is not always better. Compare benefits, offsets and waiting periods to make sure you get the plan that’s right for you.
Make Your Vote Count

"Make Your Vote Count" is the theme of CSEA's 1998 Voter Registration Drive, and CSEA President Danny Donohue has set a simple goal: 100 percent of our members registered to vote.

The campaign, which kicked off July 1, is being coordinated by CSEA region political action coordinators. There is a contest with exciting prizes for CSEA members who register to vote and a special contest for members who sign up their coworkers.

Brochures and fliers about the campaign, including contest rules, are available from CSEA local and unit presidents, as well as region political action coordinators.

Our power is in the vote. Make it happen in '98.

Capital Region 4 drive already underway

ALBANY — With the sounds of the Marshall Tucker Band playing in the background, CSEA Capital Region 4 members got a headstart on CSEA's 1998 voter registration drive last month at one of many CSEA-sponsored outdoor music events. CSEA is sponsoring the events to register voters and build stronger ties with the community.

Top left: CSEA Health Department Local 664 Treasurer Carol Bruno counts registration forms as CSEA Higher Education Services Corporation Local 667 First Vice President Bill VanGuilder ties a CSEA balloon. Bottom left: Department of Motor Vehicles Local 674 President and Region 4 PAC Chair Mike Febraio signs up CSEA Rensselaer County Educational Employees Local 871 President and Troy City School Unit President Linda Hillje who had to re-register due to an address change.

Top right: CSEA Department of Social Services Local 688 Secretary Ken Koopman, a five-year volunteer for the City of Albany Office of Special Events, heads up security for the crowd of thousands. Bottom right: CSEA Political Action Coordinator Adam Acquario and daughter Stephanie get a balloon from CSEA Department of Motor Vehicles Local 674 Grievance Representative Bill Rosenberger.
Half-price admission for CSEA members and families on Sept. 5

Saturday Sept. 5 is CSEA Day at the New York State Fair in Syracuse. CSEA members and their families will be admitted to the fair for half-price that day, compliments of CSEA and The New York State Fair.

CSEA will maintain a booth in the Center of Progress Building on the fairgrounds throughout the entire fair, so stop by and visit the CSEA booth any time. The half-price coupons at right, however, are good only on CSEA Day at the Fair, Saturday Sept. 5.

The New York State Fair is at the Empire Expo Center located off exit 7 of Interstate 690, 3 miles west of Syracuse. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

THE PUBLIC

INSIDE THIS EDITION

☆ CSEA AND THE TORNADO CLEANUP - Page 3
☆ LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS - Pages 4 and 5
☆ STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS - Pages 6 and 7
☆ TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME - Pages 9, 10 and 11

Official publication of
The Civil Service Employees Association, Inc.
Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
143 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210-2303

July 1998