BUFFALO — Anybody can call itself, "Erie County Rank and File Association," but what is R and F really all about?

First, it sure isn’t about Erie County employees. R and F doesn’t represent any Erie County employees. It’s never negotiated a contract, it’s never had any membership elections, it doesn’t have any offices, it doesn’t have any professional staff, it doesn’t have any political action program, in short, it doesn’t have anything that is needed to make a real union work.

It’s time to ask some really hard questions about R and F and the kind of group it is. Remember the pathetic "you lose, you win" ad they ran in the newspaper desperately trying to get anybody to sign designation cards to get an election? Take a hard look at some of the things they said and you’ll know the nonsense. Go back and look at your old contracts and you will see the truth for yourself. They say you have no say in union decisions and that’s a lie. CSEA makes a real union work.

They claim CSEA doesn’t fight for retroactivity in contracts, and that’s nonsense. Go back and look at your old contracts and you will see the truth for yourself. They have no staff. They have never negotiated a contract. They probably even know less about dealing with job protection, political action and other issues vital to your future.

When you get your representation election ballot during the week of January 18, compare what you know about CSEA and what you have seen it do for you against the unsubstantiated promises and distortions of R and F.

CSEA: Performance, not distortions

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BUFFALO — Protecting the jobs of Erie County employees is a full-time effort that requires the experience and resources that only a professional, full-time public employee union like CSEA can provide.

There are hard times ahead for public employees as they are facing and protecting the jobs of county workers. There are three reasons that the union is needed: jobs, money, and experience.

Jobs: The targeting aspect will become more critically important as the federal budget cuts continue. Efforts to cut the federal budget will be made, along with attempts to phase out the programs completely by September 30, 1982.

Money: Job security in the public sector went the way of low-priced gasoline. The unions are being hit with waves of layoffs, cutbacks, and curtailments that are killing private sector people, but CSEA and AFSCME won a three-year contract that protects this vital source of funding for Erie County jobs.

Experience: The unions, led by AFSCME, began immediately in its battle plans to combat similar referendums, and it is quite clear that all investors in the stock that reached successful outcome on that day.

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BUFFALO — John Eiss knows what public employee unions are all about, so he knows where his support will be in the upcoming representation election for Erie County employees. John is voting for CSEA.

John Eiss is an Environmental Health Technician with the Erie County Health Department and has been active in unionism in Erie County for the past decade. He is the President of CSEA’s Erie County Local 815, an honor bestowed upon him by CSEA members in the Local three years ago.

“In my experience with unions, I’ve found CSEA to be the most responsive and democratic union I’ve ever dealt with: No union is perfect, but CSEA stands above the rest,” he says.

John is a firm believer in unionism and feels that many of the benefits of representation delivered to Erie County employees by CSEA, simply aren’t recognized.

Region President Robert Lattimer tells why you should support CSEA

“CSEA is a democratic labor union run by the members, for the members. In Erie County, we have proven our value to county employees time and again and we will continue to do that in the future because that is what CSEA is all about. Anybody can make promises and Erie County employees have heard plenty of them from the challenger in this election, but that’s all the challenger has offered.

“CSEA provides professional labor relations staff to service Local 815 and its membership. We provide legal assistance to the tune of $25,000 per year to Erie County employees. We use our considerable resources at the state level to fight in the Legislature on your behalf. CSEA spearheaded the drive for occupational safety and health legislation (OSHA) for public employees, it won the first real reform of the Taylor Law, it fights constantly to protect our share of the State Budget.

“Through AFSCME, CSEA is fighting to protect Erie County’s share of federal revenue sharing and other federal aid programs that provide nearly a quarter of our member’s paychecks in Erie County, and no local ‘association’ can do that.

“Anybody can promise, but only an effective labor union can provide regional offices, professional staff, legal assistance, legislative clout, communications expertise, and input into federal programs that Erie County depends upon. CSEA is the union for Erie County employees.’’

—Robert Lattimer
CSEA Region VI President

These members urge you to vote CSEA

“CSEA has been doing a great job in protecting job rights. Many people have been working out of title and our union has been winning grievances and protecting worker’s rights.”

—TOM SWEENEY, Social Worker

“This city deserves a public hospital and our union was instrumental in seeing that the Medical Center remained a public hospital. Without CSEA support on this issue, I’m sure many jobs would have been lost. Another indication of the value of CSEA to its members is the recent enactment of OSHA for public employees and Right To Know laws. CSEA’s initiative has made worker’s protection an across-the-board fact. A strong union is important for public employees and CSEA has a proven track record. I’m sticking with a winner.”

—DOUG MYERS, Senior Lab Technician

“Several of my co-workers have won grievances for out-of-title work, with CSEA support, so it’s good to know that they’ll be there if I ever need assistance. I also know that in the last contract CSEA helped improve the shift differential pay for all the switchboard operators. CSEA gets my vote.”

—SUSAN MATUSZEWSKI, Switchboard Operator

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—John Eiss