AFL-CIO SOLIDARITY DAY
‘taking a stand for a decent America’

Thousands of CSEA members will join the massive Solidarity Day march on Washington this Saturday, September 19, to protest the Reagan Administration’s heartless budget cuts.

Our members, their families and their friends will march with tens of thousands of concerned American workers and citizens, adding their voices to the powerful “no” against the inhumanity of Reagangonics that will reverberate in the nation’s capital.

The one-day demonstration called by the AFL-CIO promises to take its place in history as one of the great moments in the American labor movement. CSEA is proud to link hands with our brothers and sisters in the labor movement across the country to be part of it.

From each CSEA region, buses will roll forth jammed with union members eager to make their voices heard for jobs, justice, human rights and social equity.

Our message will be strong and clear: We are marching to reject the attacks upon education, social security, labor, health care and social programs. For the Administration’s callous cutting of these programs touches us all in some way.

We are marching because we’re concerned about threats to cut back the Social Security system. We’re marching because unemployment is rising while unemployment coverage is being curtailed. We’re marching because our jobs are being axed. We’re marching because we can no longer count on federal grants to help send our kids to college.

And we’re marching because we thought maybe we’d get a big tax cut from this administration, but they gave it to the rich guys, instead.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the American labor movement, there can be no better — or more important — time to stand up and be counted. To fight back. To do something about what’s happening to this country, to the economy and to American workers.

The Solidarity Day march on Washington, D.C. will be remembered as a peaceful demonstration by middle-class working people who will not accept this nation’s retreat from social responsibility.

On behalf of the 200,000 members of CSEA, and all of our brothers and sisters in the labor movement across America, I want to express my thanks to the CSEA Solidarity Day marchers for taking a stand for a decent America by joining in one of the great social demonstrations of all time.

WILLIAM L. McGOWAN
President
Scholarship winners ready for college

As summer comes to a close, the prospect of college brightens — especially for recipients of the Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial Scholarship awards.

A total of 18 grants ($500 each) were awarded to three graduating high school students in each of CSEA’s six regions. Only children of members qualified.

Best of luck to the scholarship winners, five of which are pictured on this page, as they begin their first of many semesters at college.

REGION I SCHOLARSHIP winners (right photo) Robert Petrelli, left, a Centerreach High School grad attending Columbia University, and John Yorke, right, of Massapequa High who is attending SUNY at Albany, accept CSEA Scholarship awards from CSEA Region I President Danny Donohue.

DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER Local 646 president Frances DuBose presents an Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial CSEA Scholarship check for $500 to Deborah Barfield, daughter of Local 646 member Carrie Barfield. Deborah plans to attend the University of Maryland and pursue a career in journalism.

RONALD T. KOSIER, second from left, holds an Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial CSEA Scholarship award presented by Albert Church, left, president of State University College at Oneonta Local 635. Ronald’s proud parents, Jean and Joseph Kosier, are at right. Joseph Kosier is a member of CSEA Local 635, and his son, Ronald, is majoring in meteorology at Pennsylvania State University.

NORTH COUNTRY SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION HELD — CSEA Capital Region President Joseph E. McDermott, right, presents a 1981 CSEA one-year $500 Scholarship award to Carol Tesar, daughter of Ann Tesar, second from left, an Account Clerk/Typist in Essex County and a member of CSEA Local 816. New CSEA Essex County President John McAlonan is at left.

CREEDMOOR PSYCHIATRIC CENTER Local 406 president Clinton Thomas presents an Irving Flaumenbaum Memorial CSEA Scholarship check for $500 to Karen Heyward, daughter of Local 406 member Lillian Heyward. Karen’s father, Jack Heyward, looks on. Karen will attend Harvard University to study international relations.

CSEA JOB OPENINGS

Union seeking Benefit Fund Representative

ALBANY — CSEA is looking for an Employee Benefit Fund Representative to work at the Fund office at One Park Place here.

Duties include marketing various Fund programs to political subdivisions and state groups not already participating in them; assisting CSEA negotiators in collective bargaining; and explaining all aspects of Fund programs, including dental, prescription drug and optical plans.

The representative must have a good knowledge of the technical terminology peculiar to the dental, pharmaceutical and optical industries, and may be required to act as a consultant to CSEA field representatives.

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in labor or industrial relations or public administration, or four years experience in administering a health insurance plan similar to Benefit Fund programs. Two years of comparable experience may be substituted for each year of formal education. Experience in labor relations is desirable.

The starting salary range is $18,000-22,000. Candidates must be in sound health and have a car for business use.

Submit resumes to Thomas P. Collins, Director, Employee Benefit Fund, One Park Place, Albany, N.Y. 12205.
BUFFALO — The Buffalo Labor Studies Program has announced its list of courses for the 1981-82 term, marking the tenth year the division of Cornell University’s New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations has offered a wide range of labor-related courses for working adults.

Coordinator Lou Jean Fleron said the courses are taught by experienced professionals in the labor relations field with a special interest in adult education.

“Our teaching methods utilize a maximum of discussion and emphasize understanding and application,” said Ms. Fleron. “Assignments are given for preparation between classes, and we also have tutors available for help on writing and study skills to any student who needs it.”


Supplemental courses include OSHA Law and Administration, Industrial Hygiene, Written and Oral Communication, Labor and the Arts, Workers Compensation, and Labor and Urban Problems.

A certificate in Labor Studies is awarded at the end of two years for completion of the ten basic courses. Each course carries one and a half undergraduate credits, the program totaling 15 credit hours.

Classes meet Wednesday evenings from 6:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on the State University College campus through three terms. Term I is September 23 through December 16, Term II is January 6 through March 24, and Term III is April 7 through May 12.

Tuition for Terms I and II is $105 each and $52.50 for the shorter Term III. Region VI President Robert Lattimer said all tuition fees are refundable by CSEA to any member upon proof of successful completion of the course.

Interested students should contact Lou Jean Fleron, in care of NYSSILR, Cornell University, 120 Delaware Ave., Room 223, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202, phone 716-842-4270 for further information on registration, which is open on first-come-first-served basis.

Locals are still unreported

ALBANY — Some 149 Locals have still not reported their election results to CSEA Headquarters.

This means we don’t have a mailing and contact list for 47 percent of the Locals,” commented Bernadine Dougall, CSEA’s supervisor of stenographic services. “This, in turn, translates into a delay in mailing important materials to Locals, including new publications and reference materials and information about upcoming meetings.

She added that only a small percentage of the Units have submitted the necessary information, which includes the names, addresses and business and home phone numbers of officers.

Information should be sent immediately to Stenographic Department, CSEA, 33 Elk Street, Albany, NY 12224.

DOL placement assistance bulletins are designed to aid federal budget victims

The Department of Labor has circulated Placement Assistance Bulletins in an effort to identify job opportunities available in other state agencies for employees affected or potentially affected by federal budget cuts.

The opportunities available will vary depending on an employee’s status, preferred list rights, training and experience, and are not meant to replace any preferred list rights a laid-off worker may have.

The bulletins, printed on blue paper, have been posted on bulletin boards in various labor department offices throughout the state. CSEA members with questions about the bulletins should contact their local president.

While most of the anticipated job cuts in the Department of Labor will affect temporary and provisional employees and state workers in the Professional, Scientific and Technical (PS&T) bargaining units, the jobs of many CSEA members will also be affected.

Syosset unit gains 9.5% increase

SYOSSET — The Syosset unit of the Nassau Educational Local 865 has negotiated salary increases averaging 9.5 percent for the 1981-82 school year and the second year of the unit’s two-year contract with the school.

In addition, the school board agreed to agency shop and an improved optical plan, according to Ben Gumin, president of the 220-member unit.

Edward LaPlante named chairman Rensselaer PAC

TROY — Edward LaPlante, an employee of the city of Troy Department of Public Utilities, has been named chairman of the Political Action Committee of Rensselaer County Local 842, according to Local President Marianne Herkenham. John Valle, an employee of the Rensselaer Manor, has been named co-chairman.

Monte Hayde, a Troy City Hall employee, Richard Evans an employee of Hudson Valley Community College, Joseph Montepare, an employee of the Town of Brunswick, Gary Bryer, a County Deputy Sheriff, and Marta Tuthill, an employee of the Rensselaer County Social Services Department were also appointed to the Committee.

Endorsements by the CSEA Capital Region PAC of candidates seeking office in Rensselaer County will be based heavily on the recommendations of this Local Committee.

Mrs. Herkenham noted that over 11,000 public employees represented by CSEA or its national affiliate, AFSCME, reside within Rensselaer County.

Black River Valley Local 815 recently installed new officers at a meeting in Watertown. George McCarthy, Region V Executive Secretary, right, administers the oath to, left to right, Rocco Crescenzi, First Vice-President; Marie Oakes, Treasurer; Debbie Gillan, Secretary; Francis Mitchell, President. Absent for the photo session was Dave Shorttieve, Second Vice-President.

Starpoint ratifies contract

PENDLETON — A new three-year contract for members of Starpoint School Unit of CSEA Local 872 is highlighted by increased wages.

The 50-member unit, comprised of custodians, grounds personnel, bus drivers and cafeteria monitors, will receive hourly wage increases of 45 cents, 50 cents and 50 cents in each of the three years, respectively, of the pact.

Cleaners will receive an additional 25 cents per hour for work performed during Easter and Christmas holidays, and a 35 cents per hour bonus for work performed between July 1 and September 1 of each year.

An agency shop clause for employees hired after July 1, 1982, rounds out the major features of the contract.

The negotiating team led by CSEA Field Representative Tom Christy included President Doris Gabrys, Harold Leising and Shirley Woodcock.
As the American labor movement celebrates its Centennial in 1981, it is appropriate to look back at the history of the trade union movement in the United States to see where we've been, how far we've come, and where we're going. This article, seventh in a series, is condensed from the AFL-CIO publication "A Short History of American Labor."

When the modern labor movement observed its 50th anniversary in 1931, America and much of the world was sliding into a cataclysmic economic depression. Businesses failed by the thousands, production plummeted, and unemployment went through the roof. About 13.7 million Americans were unemployed, and national wage payments had dropped by 60 percent. When the modern labor movement observed its 50th anniversary in 1931, the union movement was but a ghost of its former strength and numbers.

The next year, Congress passed the National Recovery Administration (NRA) act, which placed on the statute books the right of unions to exist and to negotiate with employers. AFL unions took advantage of the new green light and soon began to gain membership. Some issued leaflets suggesting that "President Roosevelt wants you to join the union."

The NRA was struck down by the courts. But in 1936, under the leadership of Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, Congress enacted the National Labor Relations Act — known as the Wagner Act. It established a legal basis for unions; set collective bargaining as a matter of national policy required by law; provided for secret ballot elections for the choosing of unions; and protected union members from employer intimidation and coercion.

The Wagner Act, as amended in 1947 by the Taft-Hartley Act and in 1959 by the Landrum-Griffin Act, is still in force. It marked the coming-of-age of the American labor movement.

Union membership surged in the early years of the New Deal. But the great potential for organizing the important steel, automobile, rubber and textile industries led to the most serious schism in the history of the modern labor movement.

Heads of a number of the industrial unions in the AFL — headed by John L. Lewis of the Mine Workers — called upon the Federation to support big organizing campaigns in the non-union industries. These leaders wanted all workers in each industry to belong to one industrial, or "vertical," union. Until then, AFL-affiliated unions had been divided along craft, or "horizontal," lines.

In 1935, Lewis announced the creation of the Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO) to carry on the effort for industrial unionism.

Born in Iowa in 1880 of Welsh immigrant parents, Lewis worked as a miner and later was known as a remarkable orator. He voiced increasingly bitter attacks on the AFL leadership, and as a result, various CIO unions were expelled from the Federation in 1936.

In 1938, the CIO held its first constitutional convention and changed its name to the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Its organizing success was remarkable, especially in the steel, auto, rubber, glass, maritime, meat packing, and other mass production industries.

Growth in union strength of both the AFL and CIO throughout the period, coupled with President Roosevelt's domestic program, led to passage of a number of national social programs long advocated by the labor movement. These included the national social security program, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, and a federal minimum wage law. (The original minimum hourly wage set by the 1938 statute was 25 cents an hour.)

Restrictive eligibility requirements holding back women and minorities from top civil service jobs

ALBANY — Narrow eligibility requirements bar many women and minorities from top civil service jobs, a study by the Center for Women in Government has found.

"We found that when women and minorities are allowed to compete in the examination process, they do well," said Karen Burstein, President of the Center's Board of Directors. "The problem is they seldom hold one of a narrow group of job titles that make them eligible to compete for managerial positions."

Funded by the William H. Donner and Ford foundations, the Center study examined each stage of the New York State promotion process for 249 managerial selections in 1978-79. Only an average of 12 percent of those eligible to compete were women, noted Burstein, and only four percent were minorities.

The Center conducted this study to find out why the numbers are so low and what we can do to increase them," Burstein said. "New York State is firmly committed to affirmative action. In recent years, New York's governor, Legislature, unions and state agencies have been particularly concerned about the low numbers of women and minorities in top level managerial positions."

CSEA is part of a task force the Center has organized to respond to the study findings. The task force will work with the state, its public employee unions, the New York State Personnel and Affirmative Action Advisory councils, the Women's Advisors and other interested groups.

Poughkeepsie pact ok'd

POUGHKEEPSIE — A two-year contract for Town of Poughkeepsie employees was recently ok'd by CSEA members, according to Unit President Sue Fike.

The agreement covers most clerical workers as well as sewer and recreation department employees, and also adds five new positions — Deputy Building Inspector, Plumbing Inspector, Sr. Engineering Aide, Jr. Planner and Court Clerk — to the bargaining unit.

Wages, according to Collective Bargaining Specialist John Naughter, will increase 8.5 percent to 8.5 percent this year, depending on salary grade, and by seven percent next year for all workers on the schedule and 8.5 percent for those off schedule.
BUFFALO — Relatives of terminally ill patients at Roswell Park Memorial Institute, one of the world’s leading cancer research facilities, will soon benefit from the volunteer efforts of staff members and employees who desire “to help ease their burdens as much as we can.”

Members of CSEA Local 315 have pooled their resources to purchase T-shirts, caps and tote bags for a benefit sale. The proceeds will go as a donation to the Kevin House, a guest home near the Roswell Park facility that out of town relatives of patients can use to help defray the costs that often accompany any serious illness. Accommodations are free of charge to patients’ relatives.

“This is one way we wanted to express our care and concern for the patients and their families,” said Local President Jim Jayes. “We also wanted to show our support for the Volunteer Services Department, which has been operating the Kevin House for over ten years.”

Vice President Judy Goranson said the move was also part of the Local’s attempt to create a more positive image of public employees. “We had a slogan contest among the members, the winner of which we had put on the T-shirts which we will continue to use in other projects,” she said.

The winning slogan, submitted by Woodrow Markwardt, is “Serving You and Your Needs.”

“We hope to raise at least $300 from this sale,” said Ms. Goranson at the stand set up near Roswell’s employee cafeteria. “With over 1700 employees that pass this way, we’ve got a great chance of surpassing that goal.”

Betty Riffel, Director of Roswell’s Volunteer Services Department, said the donations “will be a big help. We’ll be able to replenish our supplies of staples and other amenities that we try to furnish our guests with. They are always very appreciative and I’m sure this will go a long way. It’s very admirable of the union to help out in this way,” she concluded.

“This was our first venture of this type,” said President Jayes. “But it won’t be our last. I’m sure our benefit for the Kevin House will become an annual event. In joining the Local’s sale of T-shirts, caps and tote bags were Grace Steffen-Boyer, Jeannie Shaver, Alforna Evans, Barbara Fauser and Gayle Ablove.

BENEFIT SALE — Roswell Park Local 315 members Grace Steffen-Boyer, Local President Jim Jayes, and Alforna Evans model t-shirts and caps the Local sold, along with tote bags, to benefit Kevin House, a not-for-profit guest house for relatives of patients at the cancer research and treatment facility.

THE PUBLIC SECTOR, Wednesday, September 16, 1981.
We must all join hands and march as a living testimony to our concern for the future of our nation and the quality of our lives.

William L. McGowan
CSEA President

Since AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland issued the invitation to Solidarity Day in July, thousands of union leaders throughout the country have been working to make the day-long demonstration in Washington, D.C., a successful reality.

Two-pedal F.D.C. protest

Bike-a-thon will benefit PEOPLE program; members urged to pledge contributions to union cause

PEOPLE PLEDGE
Here is my pledge to PEOPLE for the Solidarity Day Bike-a-Thon.

NAME

ADDRESS

REGION

AMOUNT: 1 cent a mile ($0)
one cent a mile ($0.10)
two cents a mile ($0.20)
five cents a mile ($0.50)
other


CSEA members can make Bike-a-Thon pledges by filling out the adjacent form. People who do not live in the Western Region may write to: CSEA Legislative Office, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 2020, Albany, New York 12208.

Two people will leave from the Thruway Mall, Waiden Avenue and the junction of Routes 15 and 252. Park near the automotive department.

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Bob Kimball's fast action rescues deputies, leads to recapturing of criminals

By Dawn LePore

HOWARD — If it were not for a quick-thinking CSEA member, two escaped criminals might still be at large.

Headlines last June told the story of two escaped prisoners, one of which was killed in a capture attempt, but little mention was made of the man who made their quick recapture possible.

Bob Kimball, a member of Steuben County CSEA Local 851, was on his way to work one morning when he heard cries for help from near the roadside. Stopping his pick-up truck on the shoulder of the unpaved country road where he lives, he followed the voices to discover two Erie County Sheriff Deputies handcuffed together around a tree.

The deputies quickly explained that while they were transporting two prisoners downstate, they were overtaken and that the escapees had taken their red and white cruiser only minutes before. Kimball's fortunate discovery let New York State Troopers begin an immediate and intensive search for Richard Santorri and Alan Lighten.

Later that day, Santorri was fatally wounded in an exchange of gunfire with troopers, after which Lighten surrendered.

"I was getting already to leave to work when I heard a shot," said Kimball. "I looked across the field by my house but I didn't see any hunters, so I forgot about it.

"I got in my truck a few minutes later and drove down the road about a half mile when I heard shouting. I slowed down and discovered the deputies down an embankment about thirty feet from the road."

The deputies told Kimball they were all right but that the prisoners had taken their hats, shirts, badges and service revolvers.

"I went back home and called the State Troopers, giving the location of the deputies and then I went back with some water and a hacksaw," he said.

Kimball, a county employee for the past four-and-a-half years, is employed as a children's services worker in neighboring Hornell.

Jim Lindsay, President of Local 851, said that the action taken by Kimball prevented the prisoners from making good their escape, noting that they were recaptured only about 40 miles away from Hornell.

Because Bob Kimball lives in the only house on isolated Burleson Road, Lindsay observed that, "If they had taken the deputies just a little bit farther it could have been days before anyone found them."

Not surprising, money will be a big concern in negotiations

ORANGEBURG — What do state employees want to see most in their next contract? If the maintenance employees at the Rockland Psychiatric Center are typical, and they probably are, money is the number one concern.

Negotiations between CSEA and the State are expected for more than 100,000 CSEA-represented state workers in three major bargaining units. The present contracts expire March 31, 1982.

The union has been polling members in the three units to determine their major concerns, and a number of staff members have been conducting local meetings as well.

CSEA Collective Bargaining Specialist Nels Carlson conducted just such a meeting recently with the Rockland Psychiatric Center employees, assisted by Rockland Psychiatric Center Local 421 President Eva Katz, Executive Vice President Robert Coleman, and CSEA Field Representative Thomas Brann.

After that session, Carlson said the main concern expressed was a substantial improvement in salaries. He said many employees told him of having to work at second jobs because of a combination of low salaries and rising inflation.
NEW YORK CITY — Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) Local 429 president John Jackson has accused the SIDC administration and the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities of attempting to cover up their own negligence in the death of a client by bringing CSEA members up on charges.

Island Developmental Center cover up their own negligence in Disabilities of attempting “to administration and the Office of Mental

Unhealthy habits corrected at worksite

ALBANY — “Eight out of ten leading causes of death and disability can be linked to personal health habits which can efficiently and effectively be corrected at the worksite.” Barbara Burkholder stated at the beginning of a series of brown bag seminars entitled, “Wellness In The Workplace.”

The noon hour seminar sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program of the Civil Service Employees Association’s Department of Law Local was the first opportunity Burkholder had to explain the Wellness Program, sponsored by the College of Continuing Studies, State University of New York at Albany, to CSEA Law Department members.

The program covers alcohol abuse, smoking, drug abuse, poor nutrition, obesity, lack of exercise and stress and can produce a profile for program participants to aid them in planning their future health care activities. “We want to reduce the high statistics of death and disability presently found in this geographic area of New York.”

Burkholder said noting that the program is limited to Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties. “We are a unique health risk reduction program for medium size employers in both the public and private sectors in this area,” the program coordinator explained. “We address the problems of escalating health care costs and deal with individual behavior which contributes to that cost.”

The coordinator told the interested audience that several multi-million dollar private sector corporations had already been so impressed with the results of their own in-house health risk reduction programs that a few of them were now selling their control programs to smaller companies at a considerable profit.

“However, we are not looking for a profit,” the coordinator stressed. “Any service provided by the seventeen member agencies in our consortium is based on the established cost to the interested group.” The speaker informed the interested audience that the costs could be shared among the participants, split between the employer and the employees or paid for by management.

“This speaker illustrated the service concept. “Let’s say some employees wanted a coffee break exercise program. Management could provide the space, the fee could be split by the participants. The instructor would have a contract with many groups as could be efficiently taught during the coffee break periods. Four groups could be scheduled during the four hour long period that covers the 8:00 to 12:00 minute shifts. “If each class had twenty participants, that’s a significant profit.”

Burkholder said that the majority of workers she had encountered were interested in the program.

The speaker concluded that the new program was just the tip of the iceberg and that more seminars would be held on the topic in the near future.
Bea Cornell’s deductive reasoning, hard work uncovers $900,000 aid windfall for Newburgh

By Stanley P. Hornak

NEWBURGH — Sherlock Holmes has a partner in this mid-Hudson Valley city of 22,000 people. Her name is Bea Cornell and using “deductive reasoning” in the most “elementary” way, she has found a $900,000 windfall in overdue federal and state aid.

Her co-workers would not be the least surprised by this energetic woman who has been a public employee since 1967 and the CSEA unit’s corresponding secretary for the past five years.

As a senior stenographer in “city engineering,” she was familiar with the paperwork involved in constructing a $9 million Water Pollution Control Plant here in the early 1970s. The funding formula was complex — a mix of federal, state and local dollars. When the last payment was made in 1977, there was still a balance of $1,046,836 in outside funds that could be tapped. However, Bea Cornell explained, “a misunderstanding developed between the city and state about financial records keeping procedures.

“In the first place, the construction accounts were apparently never kept in accordance with the requirements of the state and federal government. The city government at the time directed Newburgh to set up a separate set of books, so their examiners could compare our performance with that of other cities receiving similar grants. In order to get final reimbursement, our accounts had to show what we spent.

“It should be pointed out that 1977, when the partial reimbursements were received, was a long time after 1971, when Newburgh spent the money in the first place. To make matters worse, we then discovered — at some time in the past — the payment vouchers, cancelled checks and other records were lost.”

Acting on her own initiative, she began a task worthy of Sherlock Holmes, starting with what he would have described as, “a grip of the essential facts of the case.”

Mrs. Cornell recalls, “when everyone was going home at 4:30, I stayed on until 7:00 or 7:30 . . . I was sometimes here 7:00 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Step by step, she reconstructed the financial package, utilizing all kinds of different sources to make up for lost records: city managers’ files, Community Development Agency minutes, engineering department records. The mystery was solved, and on July 24 City Manager Gary Bloomquist signed the application for final reimbursement.

Bea Cornell sums up her story simply, “Accounts had to be reconstructed and I did it.” Bloomquist acknowledges she, “did an unbelievable job” and freely admits that “without her it couldn’t have been done.”

The city is expecting the money shortly, and plans to put it into a special account for future needs. It also gets an extra bonus because, while it’s only paying seven percent interest on the debt, it will be collecting at least double that on the $900,000.

Bea Cornell is an example of how one public employee can make a difference. “My motor is running a lot faster than my wheels are turning.” Her attitude extends to everything she does. Field Rep. Diane Campion comments, “People always feel a lot better about Newburgh after they’ve done business with her.” And, after working with her on the unit’s negotiating team, Collective Bargaining Specialist Manny Vitale says, “She’s worth a million dollars.” There’s a lot of people in the City of Newburgh who would agree to that.

Union seeks reversal of PERB decision

WHITE PLAINS — The Civil Service Employees Assn., is appealing a decision which permits county corrections officers to form their own union.

The action seeks to reverse a May 8 ruling of the Westchester County Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). Initially, CSEA leaders indicated they would not challenge the decision, but have since decided that it was such a radical departure from past decisions that it could not go untested.

CSEA is arguing that the county PERB, “abused its discretion” and that, “there were no reasonable basis for its findings.” It seeks to have CSEA, “reinstated as the true collective bargaining representative” and describes the competing organization as, “not a bona fide employee organization.”

The appeal, initiated in county Supreme Court, is expected to be heard by the appellate division. Union attorneys also noted that a meaningful appeal could not be made until after a representational election was held.

Local 860 President Pat Mascioli called it, “a matter of law, pure and simple, which must be resolved through the judicial process.”

Stanley Watson recipient of counselor of the year award

BRONX — Stanley E. Watson. CSEA Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Representative in Region V, was recently presented the Richard Brinson Memorial Award by the New York Federation of Alcoholism Counselors Inc. at an annual conference held at the Bronx Psychiatric Center.

The Alcoholism Counselor of the Year Award is presented each year to an accredited alcoholism counselor who has exhibited dedication to the treatment of alcoholism and has worked to extend the cause of Alcoholism Counselors in New York State.

Watson is the New York Federation of Alcoholism Counselors Inc. representative for the Capital District Association of Alcoholism Counselors and is treasurer of NYFAC.

Watson has been a member of NYFAC since April, 1977, and received his New York State alcoholism credential in 1979. Most recently he worked for 12 years as an alcoholism caseworker with the Oneida County Department of Social Services. He is also working as a part-time administrator-instructor in the drinking driver program at the Oneida County Council on Alcoholism.

As the Region V EAP Representative, Watson is presently organizing a network of coordinators and committees to assist public employees who need help with a personal, family, medical, emotional, alcohol or drug related problem.

The Employee Assistance Program was established by CSEA under a special financial grant from the New York State Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse.

Stanley E. Watson

GETTING TOGETHER recently were newly elected officers of Dutchess County Local 814, from left, Second Vice President Fred Nere, President Ellis Adams, Secretary Helen Adams, First Vice President Scott Daniels and Treasurer Barbara Hogan.
ALBANY — A comprehensive two-day orientation program for CSEA’s more than 300 Local presidents was held recently, designed to acquaint the Local leaders with the multitude of resources available to them in providing service to their members.

Professional CSEA staff members conducted 16 separate educational workshop sessions. Sessions were held covering services available from the various union departments and sections, including personnel, collective bargaining, membership safety, Employee Assistance Program, political action, insurance, communications, education and training. Also, field services, Employee Benefit Fund, research, legal assistance, school district affairs, and treasurer’s office.

CSEA statewide President William L. McGowan addressed the Local presidents during the orientation program, which was conducted at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.

The very foundation of CSEA

The job of the local president is the very foundation upon which our union has been built. CSEA can strive for the most comprehensive resources at the statewide level to provide efficient and effective service for our members, but without the daily efforts of our hundreds of local presidents, all of our efforts would be in vain.

Your job is often a thankless one that involves many personal sacrifices. But it is a job of which you can be proud because you are making a meaningful contribution to the betterment of the standard of living of the public employees that we represent.

This orientation session is just the beginning of our efforts at the statewide level to help you serve our members better than we have been able to serve them in the past.

Fraternally,

William L. McGowan

Local presidents orientation

Multitude of services

CSEA'S ELLALOUSE WADSWORTH, (right photo), left, discusses a membership section question with Mary McCarthy, president of Syracuse Area Retirees Local 913. Listening at right is Sam Emmett, President of New York Metropolitan Retirees Local 910. In background is Marty Whetstone of Chautauqua County DOT Local 509.

The very foundation of CSEA

The job of the local president is the very foundation upon which our union has been built. CSEA can strive for the most comprehensive resources at the statewide level to provide efficient and effective service for our members, but without the daily efforts of our hundreds of local presidents, all of our efforts would be in vain.

Your job is often a thankless one that involves many personal sacrifices. But it is a job of which you can be proud because you are making a meaningful contribution to the betterment of the standard of living of the public employees that we represent.

This orientation session is just the beginning of our efforts at the statewide level to help you serve our members better than we have been able to serve them in the past.

Fraternally,

William L. McGowan

Calendar of EVENTS

September

16 — Creedmoor Local 406 membership meeting, 3:30 p.m., Auditorium, Howard Park.
16—Buffalo Local 003 General Membership Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Plaza Suite, 1 M&T Plaza.
16—Kingston Psychiatric Center Local 402 Nominating Committee meeting, 11 a.m., Metropolitan Region Office.
16—Bronx Psychiatric Center Local 401 Elections Committee meeting, 11 a.m., Metropolitan Region Office.

October

16—Region I Political Action Rally, 7:30 p.m., Hillcrest Manor, Goshen.
3—Region I delegates meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Musicaro's Restaurant, Melville.
6—EAP Health Fair, 2-7 p.m., Bldg. 29, Pilgrim Psychiatric Center.
BINGHAMTON — Thousands of prime-time television viewers in New York's Southern Tier Region were recently tuned to WBNG-TV's FORUM 81 program and heard Nels Carlson, CSEA Safety Coordinator, emphasize the union's position regarding employee safety for re-entering the Binghamton State Office Building, scene of a toxic chemical accident last February.

The special feature program — originally scheduled for one hour — ran an additional half hour and covered many aspects of the accident and steps taken by authorities handling the investigation and clean-up process.

In addition to Carlson, panel members included: Dr. David Axelrod, New York State Health Commissioner; Dr. Arnold Schecter, Broome County Health Commissioner; Dr. Lawrence Verbit, Professor of Chemistry at SUNY Binghamton; and John Hudacs, Executive Deputy Commissioner of New York State Office of General Services.

In the early minutes of the program, Dr. Axelrod responded to a question from Diane Smith, Program Moderator by assuring viewers that before the building is opened to employees and the public, the level of risk will be no greater than any other office building.

Deputy Commissioner Hudacs stated that money was not an issue. "Whatever it takes to make it safe is our prime concern," he said.

Nels Carlson restated the firm union position by saying, "We (CSEA) are going to rely on the judgment of the best scientific minds and services available. When they can give us solid assurance that the building is safe for occupancy we will confer with our members who worked in the building."

Carlson added that "So far cooperation between the union and state and county officials has been good, and we want to keep it that way, but we also have our obligation to those employees who might have been exposed to the toxic substances. We want to be absolutely sure they will be closely monitored now and in the future."

Dr. Axelrod indicated that further tests, including blood samples, are planned for employees who may have come in contact with the toxic substances. He said the state would assume the cost of those tests.

The last segment of the program was devoted to questions from home viewers in surrounding communities and answered by panel members.

MONTEZUMA — To be singled out for special recognition is not important to Walt Wagner.

When the rugged, 33-year-old barge canal employee dove into the canal near Pittsford last July, his only concern was to try to save the life of his fellow tug mate, Ed Krebbeks, who had fallen overboard while the NYSDOT Tug Syracuse was underway near Lock No. 32.

Several weeks later, while the tug was docked alongside a lock between Auburn and Seneca Falls, Wagner had an opportunity to recall his rescue attempt.

"When the accident happened, we were moving at about four knots. Ed Krebbeks was cleaning mud from a shovel when he lost his balance and fell into the canal. We quickly tossed him a life ring, but when he surfaced he was already quite a few feet from the ring," Wagner explained.

Wagner then described how he acted on instinct and dove into the water and swam toward the spot where he last saw Krebbeks.

"The backwash current from the open lock and the muddy water made it almost impossible to see under the surface. I tried to find him, but he never came up again," he said grimly.

The body of Mr. Krebbeks was recovered by the police and other authorities the next day.

As for Walter Wagner, he continues his daily routine as a marine oiler aboard the tug Tug Syracuse and the scores of jobs required to keep the barge canal system running smoothly.

Wagner modestly waved off any special attention to his heroic attempt to save a life.

"When you work with a crew, you rely on each other. I'm sure any one of the guys would have done the same thing. I just happened to be there," he said.

A few minutes later the tug pulled away from the lock. Walt Wagner had begun another work day on the canal.