Officer reports to the delegates of the 2007 Annual Delegates Meeting enclosed

We march!

Labor parades held across the state – see Page 3
Photo of the Month

Carol Rogers, a park naturalist for the Niagara Region Interpretive Programs Office at Fort Niagara State Park in Niagara Falls, shows off some of her (stuffed) furry friends to fairgoers at the recent New York State Fair in Syracuse. (More pictures from the fair, Page 3.)

Save the date for CSEA Day with Syracuse football!

Come see exciting NCAA Division I football on CSEA Day Saturday, Nov. 24 vs. Cincinnati.

There will be a CSEA member ticket discount for CSEA Day only. More details will be coming soon on the CSEA Central Region page at: http://www.csealocal1000.org/r5/region5.php and in the November Work Force.

CSEA offers state medical cost fix

TROY — CSEA has made a dramatic attempt to move contract negotiations along.

Given Gov. Eliot Spitzer’s insistence on spending less money on employee health insurance, the union presented a creative proposal that would save the state hundreds of millions of dollars each year, without shifting costs to our members or diminishing benefits, in the form of increases in premiums, co-payments and other costs.

“Governor Spitzer has been eloquent in public advocating for health insurance coverage of families, and criticizing employers for failing to provide affordable coverage. Agreeing to CSEA’s proposal would meet one of his most important goals. Whether he has the will to fend off pressure from the insurance industry will most likely shape how the state responds to our proposal,” CSEA President Danny Donohue said.

State negotiators have promised to review CSEA’s ideas and respond. CSEA and the state have also exchanged a number of proposals in several other areas, such as attendance and leave, compensatory time, sick leave and vacation proposals.

Visit www.csealocal1000.org for updates.

Melvin takes AFL-CIO post

ALBANY — CSEA President Danny Donohue praised the selection of Terry Melvin as secretary-treasurer of the 2.5 million member New York State AFL-CIO.

“Terry Melvin has been a driving force in CSEA for more than 20 years, as a local

Local government leave time won for breast/prostate cancer screening

CSEA members working in local government now have expanded leave time to get screening for breast and prostate cancer.

The new law, pushed for by CSEA, allows four hours of annual, excused leave for all municipal and school district employees to receive breast and prostate cancer screening. This includes employees of cities, towns and villages. The leave cannot be charged against an employee’s accrued sick, vacation or other leave to which they may be entitled.

This builds on similar laws that granted this same health care screening for state and county employees.
CSEA marches for labor

CSEA members across the state marked Labor Day 2007 with parades, picnics and other special events.

Labor Day parades were held in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Massena. CSEA members in Binghamton and Ithaca participated in community picnics. In Manhattan, a ceremony was held to honor working people and Sept. 11, 2001, responders.

"It’s more critical now than ever that labor make its voice heard and make people aware of the sacrifices union members have made over the last hundred years so that workers today are treated with fairness and respect on the job," CSEA President Danny Donohue said.

Also, CSEA concluded its 17th annual booth at the 12-day New York State Fair in Syracuse. Throughout the fair’s run, more than 70 CSEA volunteers said hello to 3,026 members who signed the union’s guest log and booth volunteers registered 232 people to vote.

CSEA booth volunteers also gave out 15,000 shopping bags, and thousands of pens and school excuse note pads.

— Photos by Stephen Madarasz, Mark Kotzin, Lynn Miller and Albert T. McCracken Jr.

CSEA members, officers, activists and their guests take part in the Labor Day parade held at the New York State Fair in Syracuse.

Representatives from CSEA’s VOICE (Voice of Organized Independent Childcare Educators) membership march in Syracuse.

CSEA President Danny Donohue leads marchers in the Rochester parade.

CSEA members, some from the Erie County Local, march in the Buffalo Labor Day Parade.

HRI Local President Deb Hanna, State Employees Local representative Marie Rogers, and LRS John Labriel join a Labor Day Rally at the World Trade Center.

U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton signs autographs for CSEA members and activists at the CSEA booth during the New York State Fair. The union has endorsed Clinton in her bid for president.
Labor, management working together to benefit worker safety

Worker safety has always been one of CSEA's highest priorities and management deserves recognition and credit when it works with us to achieve the goal of safer workplaces.

CSEA recently joined with the state Department of Correctional Services in an initiative to issue new personal protection devices to nearly 10,000 civilian workers in the state’s correctional system.

Corrections workers currently have similar personal protection devices, but the new equipment should be even more effective. (See story, Page 6).

Better technology is good, and improved worksite security is excellent. CSEA pushed and finally won a statewide worksite security law for public employees last year.

Fighting that good fight was important, but nothing beats continued vigilance.

No worksite can ever be completely safe and secure. We must always work to identify and address risks in advance and regularly reassess them.

We must use the best available procedures and technology but we must never let down our guard.
Mogavero honored with Webster Memorial Mission Achievement Award

SYRACUSE — As CSEA retiree activist Sam Mogavero talks about the honor of being presented with CSEA’s 2007 Donald Webster Memorial Mission Achievement Award, he has to pause to wipe away tears.

Don Webster was a great friend of his, he said.

Mogavero, 89, retired in 1980 after more than 23 years as a building custodian for the Lake Shore Central School District in Erie County. Now, he continues his union activism as vice president of the Buffalo-Niagara Frontier Retirees Local.

At the union’s annual Retiree Delegates Meeting in Syracuse, CSEA CSEA President Danny Donohue, left, and Retiree Division Chair Charles Peritore, right, congratulate Sam Mogavero on being honored with the Donald Webster Memorial Mission Achievement Award.

President Danny Donohue presented Mogavero with the award. “Sam is what the association is all about,” Donohue said.

“There would never be a CSEA without people like Sam.”

Mogavero said he’ll never forget serving as chair of CSEA’s Local Government Division during the presidency of Ted Wenz in the 1970s. He also fondly reminisced about serving on the committee to restructure CSEA’s Constitution and Bylaws.

Mogavero said he is surprised and overwhelmed to be chosen as the recipient of the award and even more honored due to his friendship with Webster. “Don was a great man, a tremendous man, and we established a great friendship. It definitely makes it (the award) more meaningful to me. It was a great gift to receive, and I’ll cherish it the rest of my life.”

— Mark M. Kotzin

Thinking about retiring soon? Join the CSEA Retirees to keep fighting for your rights and benefits! To learn more, visit CSEA’s website at www.csealocal1000.org click on “retiree benefits” under the “Your CSEA benefits” menu on the left-hand side.

Spitzer vetoes CSEA-backed “U-grade” bill; vows to address issue

Gov. Eliot Spitzer vetoed the CSEA-supported “Upgrade” bill (S.3054A), which would have prevented the State University of New York from reclassifying civil service titles to unclassified positions.

While CSEA is disappointed with the governor’s veto, Spitzer said he would work with the union on addressing the issue. CSEA SUNY local presidents have been for years facing the “u-grade” issue, in which SUNY takes classified civil service positions and either upgrades them to unclassified titles or fails to fill vacant positions. Instead, SUNY officials create unclassified positions that are similar to the classified jobs, robbing CSEA members of potential promotional opportunities.

“CSEA members should get involved with PEOPLE because it gives us a voice. It helps us to be strong and it helps us make sure working men and women are protected. We need to make sure our message gets out and that politicians listen to us. Through PEOPLE, we can make that happen.”

— Sue Balsano, Western New York Developmental Disabilities Services Office Local, on her support of the PEOPLE program, which protects and improves our jobs, benefits and pensions in Washington, Albany and in your community. Your support and participation in PEOPLE strengthens CSEA’s clout in the workplace, in the legislature, in your community and in the labor movement.
New security alarms protect state prison employees

“Nearly 10,000 civilian employees who work at medium- and maximum-security correctional facilities across New York state will be receiving new personal alarms that can pinpoint their exact location in the event of an emergency. “This will save lives by improving the safety and security of civilian employees who work with inmates,” CSEA President Danny Donohue said. “Work site security is one of CSEA’s highest priorities and we are pleased that we were able to achieve this important advance through labor-management cooperation,” Donohue said.

Joint Agreement
State Department of Correctional Services Commissioner Brian Fischer signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CSEA and the Public Employees Federation to launch the program, which is set to begin at Elmira, Auburn and Gowanda correctional facilities and scheduled to result in personal alarm upgrades at 56 facilities over the next three years. When an employee calls for help in an emergency, a signal is sent to a central console, which shows graphically the location of the caller and direction of travel, allowing staff to be dispatched to the precise trouble spot.

Push for years
DOCS/CSEA Statewide Labor-Management Chair Patricia Casler, who signed the agreement for CSEA, said her committee had been pushing for the alarms for years. Casler, president of the CSEA Auburn Correctional Facility Local, said the new alarm system is personally important to her.

One year ago, a CSEA member at Auburn was attacked by an inmate who, Casler said, had every intention of killing the woman. Luckily, another CSEA member happened to be in the area and was able to save the woman’s life by pulling the inmate off of her.

Casler said the current alarm system would not have helped because the worker was en route to her work station and the alarm system does not track employees from place to place.

Tracking system
“Right now, if you’re assigned to an area, that’s where the alarm goes off. If you’re en route to the area or leaving the area it’s still going to go off where you officially work,” Casler said. “Without the tracking system, they’re pretty ineffective.” The new alarms will be provided to teachers, nurses, secretaries, mechanics, maintenance workers and others in administration and support, health and program services. Employees who have contact with inmates will be required to wear the alarms.

— Ed Moltitor
Herkimer workers mobilize for fair contract

HERKIMER — After more than a year and a half of working under an expired contract, 425 CSEA members employed by Herkimer County are fighting for a contract with a wage increase at least equal to what county managers got for 2006.

The workers recently rejected the county’s offer of a “stipend” for 2006 that wouldn’t have been added to their base pay, because they knew managers had gotten percentage raises added to their base salaries. For the first time in the history of Herkimer County contracts, the members rejected the deal they considered “unfair.” They met with CSEA leaders and staff and were told that the only way they could get a better, more fair, contract offer was by “mobilizing,” taking action together and becoming visible in the community to build pressure on county leaders.

Recently, CSEA members demonstrated outside the union’s first meeting with management and a state-appointed mediator. Workers are also posting signs on their lawns and cars, and handing out brochures around town to let the public know they’re not going to back down.

CSEA also developed a brochure workers are distributing to the public, asking community members to call county leaders and demand a better contract. The workers say they’re going to stick together until county officials offer a fair contract.

“Our members deserve a contract that treats them with respect and treats them on a level playing field with what other county workers are getting,” said Herkimer County Unit President Joan Grose.

— Mark M. Kotzin

Mount Vernon Library workers: anti-union behavior not on the reading list

MOUNT VERNON — CSEA members working for the Mount Vernon Public Library are fighting for the return of fairness and respect on the job, following months of anti-union behavior from management.

Unit President Gary Newman said the library’s interim director has instituted policies that either violate the union’s contract or contribute to a hostile working environment.

“She has cut herself off from the library staff,” Newman said of the interim director, Opal Brown Lindsay. “It’s literally an act of insubordination to initiate a conversation with her without first making an appointment. Workers are afraid to tell her what she needs to know in order to do her job.”

Newman said the anti-union animus has affected his ability to do his job as head of the library’s Research Department, because Lindsay refuses to discuss department matters with him.

“With previous directors, we always managed to maintain a professional level and separate my positions as department head and union president,” Newman said. Unit leadership filed a grievance following a June memo from Lindsay restricting the length of time compensation time may be held before it is used. The edict violates several areas of the contract, including past practice. Her memo included a note that she could grant extensions on the new 30-day comp time limit, at her discretion.

Perhaps the boldest move on Lindsay’s part, Newman said, was her attempt to call her own CSEA executive board meeting, summoning Newman and his fellow officers to her office with the threat that a particular library employee could face termination if the union leadership did not appear. An improper practice charge, alleging anti-union animus, was filed in response.

While Lindsay’s tactics are apparently aimed to lower morale, Newman said, workers’ anger has served to bolster solidarity. A union meeting called to discuss recent issues received overwhelming attendance.

— Jessica Ladlee

CSEA member Diana Gannon, a home health aide for the Herkimer County Public Health Department, demonstrates outside the Herkimer County Office Building.

“Our members deserve a contract that treats them with respect.”

—David Norris, Senior Claims Examiner, state Insurance Liquidation Bureau, on his support of the PEOPLE program, which protects and improves our jobs, benefits and pensions in Washington, Albany and in your community. Your support and participation in PEOPLE strengthens CSEA’s clout in the workplace, in the legislature, in your community and in the labor movement.

—Mark M. Kotzin
CSEA is concerned about potential safety and health risks facing the four-member maintenance crew assigned to the gristmill renovation project at Connetquot River State Park Preserve.

The state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation’s Long Island Region recently initiated an effort to restore a 150-year-old gristmill located on the banks of the Connetquot River. But the project has placed the CSEA members assigned to work on it in a potentially hazardous situation.

Concerns about safety

The tenous circumstances were created when the structure was lifted to ease replacing its foundation. The gristmill is supported solely by four I-beams grounded in a marshy area cordonned off from the river by sandbags. River water invariably seeps into the area overnight and work can proceed only after it is pumped out each morning by crew supervisor Steve Mikel. The project is also hampered by space limitations, which make for cramped quarters and prevent the use of modern equipment that could make the job easier for the workers.

Instead, the work requires the exclusive use of shovels, saws, crowbars, gas-powered water pumps and brute force, which has slowed the pace considerably.

**Workers at risk**

Mikel and the other crew members, Richard Fuhrman, Larry Sins and Joe Castiglione, work each day with the large structure looming above them. The crew must also frequently attend to a loud water pump on a nearby bridge with a railing on only one side. Work could not proceed without the constant operation of this pump since the area beneath the structure would quickly flood.

So, the four men risk slipping into the river each time they walk out onto the bridge or wade into the water to tend the pump. The varying depths and rapid current of the Connetquot River further increase the potential for catastrophe.

CSEA is also concerned about the potentially lengthy amount of time the workers will be exposed to the project. Replacing the foundation is only the first step in the renovation process. After that, concrete peers must be constructed to support the foundation walls. The structure itself will be refurbished and reattached to the new foundation.

**Union will monitor**

“We intend to monitor the situation closely,” said Paul D’Aleo, president of the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Local. “While the renovation of the gristmill is a laudable goal, the health and safety of our CSEA members is the primary concern.”

CSEA Occupational Safety and Health Specialist Jeff Hyman is also monitoring the situation and is working to ensure all safety and health regulations pertinent to this type of work are observed.

“We need to be proactive in a matter such as this to avoid unnecessary injury or tragedy,” he said. “People do not come to work to get hurt or killed on the job. It’s my responsibility to inform people of their rights regarding occupational safety and health so that they can effectively relate any concerns they may have to their employers.”

— Richard Impagliazzo
Planning for 2008 health care expenses?

Consider the Health Care Spending Account

The Health Care Spending Account (HCSAccount) is a negotiated employee benefit that helps state employees pay for health-related expenses with tax-free dollars. This benefit includes many medical, hospital, laboratory, prescription drug, dental, vision, and hearing expenses that are not reimbursed by your insurance or other benefit plans.

Before participating in the HCSAccount program, you should carefully consider what your eligible expenses might be. Reviewing your expenses from previous years can help.

Once you have estimated the amount of your expenses, you may then determine how much to contribute to your HCSAccount. Under federal law, any money that you put into your HCSAccount must be used for expenses incurred during the plan year in which it was contributed. For 2008, the maximum annual contribution allowed by the program is $4,000, and the minimum annual contribution is $100. The Health Care Spending Account open enrollment period for the 2008 plan year begins Sept. 24, 2007, and continues through Nov. 16, 2007. The program’s plan year will operate from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2008.

To learn more ...

If you would like to know more about the Health Care Spending Account program or would like an enrollment kit sent to you, contact the program’s administrator, Fringe Benefits Management Co., at (800) 358-7202 or enroll online at www.fliesxpend.state.ny.us.

Visit the CSEA Employee Benefit Fund website

Have you visited the Employee Benefit Fund’s website lately? There are a lot of things you can accomplish from our website that can save you time and phone calls.

Take a moment to navigate through our website, and see some of the great features we have to offer.

Our website is an informational tool used to guide our members about their benefits with the CSEA EBF. There are many things that you can learn about us through our website, and you may only be a few clicks away from answering your questions. Please visit us at www.cseaebf.com.

Here are some of the many features EBF offers on its website:

EBF forms: The following are some of the forms that can be downloaded through our website:
- Student Proof
- Prescription/Physician co-payment reimbursement form (Unified Court System Employees)
- Vision Care Reimbursement
- Remove dependent

Provider search: You can search for dental and vision providers on our panel. Changes are made to the website as soon as new providers come on or off our panel.

Plan summaries: You can download plan booklets pertaining to your benefits. State, Unified Court System, Olympic Regional Development Authority and state Liquidation Bureau employees should click on “Plan Brochures” under the Library menu and then choose the brochure you need.

Local government employees should click on “Plan Brochures,” and then select from Dental, Misc., or Vision options under Document Library.

Retiree Dental Program: Retirees have a section on the website that explains the dental program available. This program is for retirees who were previously covered by an EBF dental plan with continued dental coverage from the date of retirement.

Application for coverage must be made no later than 90 days from the date of retirement, end of COBRA or termination of another dental plan. For local government retirees, a Memorandum of Agreement must be signed by your employer before benefits are available. Please check with EBF to see if you are eligible to participate.

Contact us: Under the “Benefits Specialists” heading, you will find the e-mail addresses of each marketing representative, as well as the marketing director and marketing coordinator. Always feel free to e-mail any questions or concerns you may have regarding your benefits with EBF.

Links:
- There are two links on the front page of our website: CSEA (the union’s website at www.csealocal1009.org), and Davis Vision.
- On the Davis Vision link, you can access your eligibility date with CSEA EBF for vision benefits. You can also call us to check your eligibility at (800) 323-2732, ext. 880.

HPPA:
- When you call EBF to inquire about a dependent spouse or domestic partner, please be aware that due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, we cannot provide information unless we have a signed HPPA Authorization Form. You can download the form from our website by clicking HPPA Statement, and then click HPPA Authorization Form at the bottom of the statement.

Our website is an informational tool used to guide our members about their benefits with the CSEA EBF. There are many things that you can learn about us through our website, and you may only be a few clicks away from answering your questions.
2007 Officers Reports to the delegates of the 97th Annual Delegates Meeting

DANNY DONOHUE
CSEA STATEWIDE PRESIDENT

“There has been a lot of change, major events and dynamic activities throughout our first century as you would expect for your New York’s leading union. Certainly the events and activities of the past year demand significant attention as we write our history. More than ever before we must Fight to Win.”

CSEA Organizing Victories

As previously mentioned, the Governor’s Executive Order to unionize nursing was an enormous CSEA victory. More than 7,000Currently, facilities providers have become a part of CSEA under the VOICE CSEA (Voice of Organized Independent Childcare Educators) banner. VOICE/VOICE is now preparing a strategy to best address the needs of these providers. Another 15,000 license-exempt child care providers are also coming together with CSEA under the CPT – NY (Child Care Providers Together – NY) banner.

In both these cases, these providers have long suffered a wide range of unfair and often arbitrary requirements and working circumstances because they lacked the clear consistent advocacy and solidarity that many other workers too often take for granted.

Both these groups have recognized the value of being part of New York’s leading union and the advocacy strength that it provides. We are proud to stand with them; and CSEA, in turn, will be stronger for their membership and voice.

Advancing Our Quality Care Campaign

CSEA has also continued to advance an agenda of improvement for developmental disabilities services across New York. There continues to be a strong need for addressing our quality care standards and consistency of oversight of all programs and facilities providing care. CSEA is talking to workers at not-for-profit facilities across the state; it is clear that the lack of consistent oversight, accountability and fair wage and benefit disparities are a threat to the entire MR/DD system.

CSEA’s decades of advocacy and commitment to building a better system of care along with our labor relations expertise are enormously valuable assets in the developmental disabilities field. Workers at the not-for-profit agencies, (QSC, Quality Services for the Autism Community) and Lifestyles, have learned this firsthand through their CSEA membership, contracts and positive labor relations. Management’s continued efforts are now focusing on the people served and better working conditions. Fighting to Win on Worksite Security

Earlier this year, the first in the nation Worksite Security Act took effect in New York. It was a great achievement for CSEA, which had spent years working to make it a reality.

The law requires public employers to regularly assess the risks in their work sites and address them. CSEA sought stronger enforcement against those who repeatedly violate the law. CSEA leaders are now ensuring that the law is being enforced.

Commission on the Future of Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century (Bergen Commission)

The recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century, often referred to as the Bergen Commission, created a statewide forum when they were made public last December. Their recommendations for changes for merging or downsizing a number of CSEA represented public health care facilities were shortsighted and ill conceived. The recommendations were presented to state lawmakers as an all or nothing proposition with millions of dollars in federal funds hanging in the balance if lawmakers rejected the recommendations. We fought back and have made important progress in improving several of these situations. There is still work to be done, and we will still have a lawsuit underway to try to protect CSEA members. We will continue the fight as long as it takes to win.

Fighting for Strong Contracts

Beyond the continuing negotiations on a new state contract, CSEA members in Westernchester County have been waging a courageous battle for a new contract against a stubborn administration. They have demonstrated a textbook approach to mobilizing the membership and have had spirited and highly visible demonstrations and public events. Their fight can only lead to victory.

CSEA members in Niagara County proudly and overwhelmingly ratified a new contract after an extended contract fight that dragged on for far too long. They stood together and it produced results.

CSEA President’s report continued on page 14.

MARY E. SULLIVAN
CSEA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

“Like it or not, politics and politicians have a major impact on the livelihood and well being of all working people and our families.

Politics is a tool union members can use to bring about legislation that benefits us and all working people. CSEA is involved with endorsing and supporting candidates for election because those are the people who vote on the legislation that we need. When CSEA endorses a candidate, it is not necessarily the person we are supporting; it is their position on the issues that matter to our members. We do not have to like politicians; we do but have to be in tune with their position on our issues, support those who are with us and challenge those who are not.

In order to achieve our goal of positive legislation, we cannot simply rely on politicians alone. We also have to be involved in the process.

In CSEA, politics means action. We all need to do our part if we want to ensure that the right candidates are elected so that our legislative goals can be achieved.

Volunteer to serve on your Unit or Local Political Action Committee, attend county, town, village and school board legislative meetings.

Help register new voters, work on phone banks, hand out leaflets on behalf of our endorsed candidates. Talk about the issues that face all of us with your coworkers and get them involved too.

Contact your county legiator, your

CSEA Executive Vice President continues on page 14.

Officer’s reports continued on page 12.
BARBARA REEVES
STATEWIDE SECRETARY

“The question I want to put to you, my union brothers and sisters, is do we still believe in a “better tomorrow.”

Money Talks, the rest of us walk” was a comment I heard recently on one of the TV morning shows. It really got me thinking.

The remark was made during a story about the special access people with money — or connections — get to avoid waiting in lines at airports. On the very same day, I heard an announcement in the Capital District that Albany International, a corporation with century-old roots, was giving 225 employees pink slips. The company says it can no longer be competitive and needs to ship the jobs overseas. It really got me thinking even more: what’s happening to the promise-of-America?

I am by nature an optimist and believe in our way of life. I think if you work hard you reap the rewards you earn. I am reminded of a comment Alexis De Tocqueville made in his landmark study of Democracy in America: He said way back in 1835 that for Americans “what appears to them today to be good, may be superseded by something better tomorrow.”

The question I want to put to you, my union brothers and sisters, is do we still believe in a “better tomorrow.”

We are the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth, yet too many children go to bed hungry. I believe the time is right to talk about the issue of child poverty in our state and country.

continued on page 15

JOSEPH MCMULLEN
STATEWIDE TREASURER

“Just when you think you have heard every question, a dozen new questions come up.”

Hello to all of you, my union brothers and sisters of CSEA! What a difference a year can make in a person’s life.

Last year at the Annual Delegates Meeting I was Chair of the State Executive Committee and Chair of the SUNY Labor/Management Committee. Now, here I am as Statewide Treasurer of CSEA. I still feel like me, but the duties have certainly changed. I have met more members in the past few months than I would have ever thought possible. We have a GREAT group of members out there. My new travel song is “On The Road Again.”

I have talked to many of you about particular questions in your Units or Locals. Just when you think you have heard every question, a dozen new questions come up. It is a continual learning adventure and I love it. Keep those emails and questions coming.

As your new Statewide Treasurer, my goal is to make sure our union is fiscally responsible and that we spend our money wisely. I have been working hard at learning all of the details and responsibilities of my new position to make sure that I meet that goal. If it were not for my Assistant Connie Bonacquisti and her invaluable ability to know what I need — many times even before I ask — I am not sure where I would be.

continued on page 15

NICK LaMORTE
LONG ISLAND REGION PRESIDENT

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

So much has happened in the Long Island Region since we last met, and it is difficult to know where to begin as I address you today. I suppose it would be best to detail these events in a reasonably accurate chronological order, so here goes.

We were gratified to learn that Bill Walsh, Suffolk Local 852 President, was named Chair of the Statewide Legislative and Political Action Committee. As I said at the time, Bill’s selection was no surprise to those politically active in CSEA. He is a natural for the job, a non-partisan who favors only those political candidates who are pro-labor.

His wit and political sense match his keen common sense on every issue.

I must mention the Women’s Committee’s participation in the American Cancer Society’s Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk last fall at Jones Beach. Nearly 400 CSEA members participated.

continued on page 20

GEORGE BONCORAGLIO
METROPOLITAN REGION PRESIDENT

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Let me begin by saying that there is an air of excitement and of possibilities in the CSEA Metropolitan Region unlike anything I have experienced in a long time.

Perhaps it has something to do with the beautiful new region office. Our region

continued on page 16
Greetings from the Southern Region! I am happy to be here with all of you in Lake Placid and it is my pleasure to fill you in on the happenings in the Southern Region. We have seen plenty of activity over the past year, yet I am confident 2008 will be even more productive as we continue to focus on quality services for our existing members while organizing those workers in the Hudson Valley in need of a union.

Contract fights remain a challenge in the Southern Region. In Westchester County, our County Unit members are united in their fight for a fair contract. They have staged numerous contract rallies, received extensive media coverage and have kept the pressure on County Executive Andy Spano and his associates, getting the message out that a County in such healthy financial shape as Westchester has no excuse stalling on a fair contract. Tough negotiations are also in progress in the Counties of Orange, Ulster, Rockland and Putnam.

Speaking of Putnam County, our members in the County Unit successfully lobbied their State Legislators for a sales tax change expected to bring much needed money into the County coffers. County contract negotiations have been at a

continued on page 17

Greetings from Region 5. We hope that your year has been a successful and healthy one. From what I have seen in my first five months as President, our Region has had a very busy and challenging year. My report will be a look at where we have been, where we are now and where we want to be.

When we gathered in New York City last year, the Region was attempting to raise funds to help hundreds of our members in the Southern Tier whose homes were damaged by severe flooding. Their possessions had been ruined or washed away, their homes flooded or filled with dirt, many completely destroyed. Thanks to your generosity and that of our International Union, we were able to provide these members with several hundred dollars each. Better yet, we were able to show them that their CSEA family members care.

continued on page 18

Reflecting back on the past year in the Capital Region a few words come to mind: change, growth, action and unity.

We have had our share of victories and a few disappointments, but most importantly the Region is energized and united as we move toward 2008, a year that will surely be action-packed.

With the election of a new governor and new administration this year, there is change on the agenda in New York State. What this means for our state employees is not

continued on page 17

Brothers and Sisters: Another year has flown by. Here we are again at CSEA’s Annual Delegates Meeting in Lake Placid, a meeting with an appropriate theme: FIGHT TO WIN!

“Fight to Win” certainly describes our commitment as CSEA Union Representatives. Our lives continually revolve around these important words.

continued on page 19

KATHY GARRISON CAPITAL REGION PRESIDENT

altogether clear as we try to build momentum in the current contract negotiations. Many eyes are on the discussions, and one thing that is certain is our negotiating team is doing everything in their power to fight for a fair and decent contract.

On the local government side, there were some long overdue contract fights that came to conclusion this past year, most notably Rensselaer County 911. These hardworking members were without a contract for over three years and then kicked things into high gear with a stepped-up contract campaign that caught the attention of the county legislature and brought things to an end with a great contract.

A member from this same unit

continued on page 17

FLO TRIPI WESTERN REGION PRESIDENT

We fight for recognition in the workplace. We fight for fair contracts. We fight for safety for our members on the job. We fight management whenever or wherever we must. We fight elected officials who blame us for every fiscal problem within the state, county or local municipality. We fight every day to make our members’ lives better, and in doing that we improve the lives of working families who are not yet organized. Yes, we fight to ensure that wrongs are righted and we are treated fairly. When we fight together, we win.

continued on page 19
**CSEA President continued from page 11**

CSEA members in the new private sector Lifespire – a New York City-based agency providing developmental disabilities services — also learned the importance of being part of CSEA and staying united. They reached agreement on their first-ever CSEA contract and are now enjoying the benefits that it provides.

**CSEA Leads the Way on Clinton Presidential Endorsement**

CSEA was proud to lead the way as one of the first major unions in the country to endorse Hillary Clinton in her historic campaign for President of the United States.

The CSEA endorsement came after extensive polling and other outreach to CSEA’s rank and file leadership ranks seeking input about the presidential candidates of both parties. Hillary Clinton has the overwhelming support of the vast majority of CSEA members, and we are proud to join with her. We will work hard to help elect her and it will be a better day for the American people.

**CSEA Supports New State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli**

CSEA was proud to support the New York State Legislature’s selection of Tom DiNapoli as the new State Comptroller. Lawmakers made the right choice for all of the right reasons. There is no position of responsibility in New York State government more important to CSEA than State Comptroller. As the sole trustee of the public employee retirement system, the Comptroller must be an individual who will make the right decisions to protect those funds and maintain the integrity of the fund in the short and long term.

CSEA has enormous confidence in Tom DiNapoli’s integrity and abilities. He is an individual of excellent qualification and character. CSEA has worked with him on many state and local issues over a long and distinguished career. CSEA was pleased to host Comptroller DiNapoli at our recent spring workshop in Rochester.

**Addressing the Health Care Cost Crisis**

Without doubt, the rising cost of health care is one of the most significant challenges Americans face today. Most CSEA members have decent health insurance coverage; but as prices rise, we see few assemblyperson or congressperson and let them know when you support a bill that benefits working people or when you oppose proposed legislation that may be harmful to us. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

One of the easiest ways you can do your part is by participating in PEOPLE…

Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality. Contributing to the helped support a daylong BALCONY conference on health care reform in Albany last spring, and plans are being developed to host similar forums across New York in the next few months. It is very important to get everyone talking about this issue if we are going to be able to make any change.

**CSEA’s Technology Advancement**

CSEA has made enormous strides with technology in the past year to improve our operations and to better serve our members. An exciting overhaul of our website has generated enormous increased traffic while making access to information easier than ever. Included in the overhaul was the launch of a new e-learning center to provide resources and guidance in preparing to take promotional exams. It is available to you 24-7 with all the help you might need at a nominal charge.

CSEA has also recently equipped most of its region offices with video-conferencing equipment that will open a whole new opportunity for statewide meetings, training programs and other benefits.

**Fight to Win**

CSEA is well prepared for the challenges that the new year will bring. We have a proud history and a strong future. We must build on the foundation of all that has come before; but we must not hesitate to change, grow and take new approaches to get the job done for our members. We are New York’s leading union and when we fight, we win!”

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**CSEA Executive Vice President continued from page 11**

**“I would like to point out that there are two P’s in PEOPLE. Neither one stands for politician.”**

While some CSEA members may be reluctant to contribute to PEOPLE because they do not like to give money to politicians, I would like to point out that there are two P’s in PEOPLE. Neither one stands for politician.

PEOPLE program strengthens our legislative clout from the schoolhouse to the White House and everywhere in between.

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Page 14 THE WORK FORCE October 2007
hungry. More than 47 million Americans are uninsured, which is an all-time high. Health care reform is a captive of our political system, which thrives on money. Nearly half of all full-time private sector workers get no paid sick leave. For many of them, the cost of an illness could be the loss of their job. Yet an overwhelming majority of Americans favor paid sick days for full-time workers. One poll showed that 95 percent of workers find it “unacceptable” for employers to deny sick days to workers.

According to a study by Northeastern University, the top five Wall Street firms awarded an estimated $36 billion to $44 billion worth of bonuses at the end of 2006, with the bulk of the money going to the 1,000 or so highest-paid managers. Ordinary men and women are working harder, labor productivity rose an impressive 18 percent between 2000 and 2006, and top corporate executives are reaping the benefits. The revenue divide is growing.

Money flows to the top priorities, and those priorities have little to do with some of the fundamental issues we face — disparities between rich and poor, between whites and people of color, between the right to organize and unbridled capitalism. What’s happening to those of us who play by the rules and work hard? The Bush economy is squeezing us in all directions. Well, it is time to fight back. Government policy to make the rich richer must be reversed.

And a key component of that policy is union busting. Fighting back means supporting the Employee Free Choice Act. The Employee Free Choice Act, supported by a bipartisan coalition in Congress, would enable working people to bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions by restoring workers’ freedom to choose for themselves whether to join a union. It would:

- Establish stronger penalties for violation of employee rights when workers seek to form a union and during first-contract negotiations.
- Provide mediation and arbitration for first-contract disputes.
- Allow employees to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation.

“The Employee Free Choice Act, supported by a bipartisan coalition in Congress, would enable working people to bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions by restoring workers’ freedom to choose for themselves whether to join a union.”

I am working closely with Dave Stack, CSEA’s Director of Internal Operations, and Cathy Bruno, the Director of CSEA’s Finance Department, on coming up-to-speed with my duties as Treasurer and appreciate their expertise on CSEA’s fiscal operations. We are in the process of conducting new Treasurers’ training sessions throughout the state. I appreciate everyone’s patience as I work with the new Treasurers first. I am working with Peggy Lui, Zakrzewski from Education and Training, as well as Dave Knutti from Internal Operations. Both of them have so much knowledge, and it is such a pleasure to work with them.

With suggestions from the Finance and Internal Operations Departments, especially Mary Coulson, we are in the process of reworking the Treasurer Training Handbook and Budget forms. During her tenure, Maureen Greiner, born July 26. His older sister, Adrianna, is really helping her mom and dad take care of her little brother. See me later for pictures.

In closing, I would like to say again how much I am enjoying my new position and looking forward to working with all of you. Have a great Convention.

In my short period in office, I have been focusing on CSEA’s finances and orienting myself to the duties of Statewide Treasurer. I look forward to taking on projects around the union soon. In the meantime, I also want to remind you to “Buy Union.”

“I look forward to taking on projects around the union soon. In the meantime, I also want to remind you to “Buy Union.”

Fighting back means registering to vote.

Fighting back means supporting Hillary Clinton for President. Here’s what she had to say when receiving the CSEA endorsement: “When I’m president, America’s working families will again have an advocate in the White House.”
meeting more members, listening to concerns, and asking how we can provide a better service.

In addition to the offices for our staff, we also have ample space for meetings in our large and small conference rooms and we are looking forward to continuing our committee meetings and planning some new events and programs in the weeks and months ahead.

I am sure that our members will make full use of our resources and begin planning such terrific events like the recent Women’s and Education Committee’s trip to Washington, DC to join women and men from all over the United States in honor of cervical cancer survivors and to urge all women to take action in their own lives to prevent this cancer.

Committee Chairs Joe Aravena and Jackie Stanford did an incredible job and our members all proudly displayed the generosity and spirit of our region.

Members of our Safety and Health Committee were given a prestigious award from the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) for their continuing efforts to improve the overall safety and health conditions at their Lower Manhattan worksite.

Concerned that the air was still not safe to breathe at 90 Church Street, a building next to Ground Zero that was hit by the landing gear from one of the two airliners hijacked that struck the World Trade Center on September 11, NYCOSH members from the Department of Health, the Public Service Commission and HRJ joined scores of workers from other unions to form the 90 Church St. Labor Coalition.

Congratulations once again to the following members and staff:

HRI President Deb Hanna, Public Service Commission President Renee Jackson, Department of Health Representative Marie Rogers, Region 2 Safety and Health Committee Co-chair Frank Costantino, former CSEA OHS Specialist Komilla John, CSEA Industrial Hygienist Mark Stipano, and HRJ activist Mark Hammer.

Kudos also to Bronx Psychiatric Loca President Abraham Benjamin and activists at the facility who led State Assemblyman and Chair of the Mental Health Committee Peter Rivera and State Office of Mental Health Director Lloyd Sederer, M.D. on a groundbreaking tour through several wards at the Bronx Psychiatric Center in order to expose unsafe working conditions members have complained about for years.

Bronx Psychiatric Center has among the highest accident and injury reports in the state OMH system. Most are direct assaults on staff. They are now working to address many of the issues highlighted during the tour.

On a creative note, we have a member at South Beach, Steve L. James, who helped invent a product that will soon revolutionize the apparel industry (at least in OMH, OMBDD and DOCS facilities). After years of helplessly watching consumers use whatever means at their disposal to hold their pants up, often unsuccessfully, Steve teamed up with some co-workers and developed the Mini-Belt, a product that will allow for a kinder, safer way for consumers to keep their pants and dignity in place. We wish Steven and his co-workers continued success.

By the time you read this statement, we may have a new Local with some 400 members. In late July, we negotiated yet another card check neutrality agreement with the Guild for Exceptional Children, Inc. (GEC) a non-profit provider of direct and indirect services for developmentally delayed or disabled persons in Brooklyn.

Our organizing department and staff have been doing a phenomenal job at targeting and mounting successful campaigns throughout the city and state and I want to congratulate them for their efforts on behalf of working men and women seeking dignity and respect at the workplace.

Once again, many of our friends in political office played a key role in negotiating this agreement including City Council Member Vincent Gentile, Assembly Member D. Janene Hyer-Spencer and State Senator Martin Golden.

They say that all politics is local and the support from these local elected officials illustrates that phrase and should truly compel our members to get involved in the election process whether it is voting for visiting members at their union, voting for a civil court judge in their borough and, of course, voting for the next President of the United States (IT’S ABOUT TIME!).

A few weeks ago we promised to support and work to elect a presidential candidate that will stand with, and not against, working families in this country. A presidential candidate who will strive to get our brave men and women out of Iraq and out of harms way. A candidate who will prioritize and focus attention on those issues and policies that have made America strong and a nation to be respected and admired around the world.

That candidate is our current U.S. Senator, Hillary Clinton. She has been a longtime friend to CSEA and we will do everything we can, not only in New York but also in battleground states across the country, to ensure that we make her the first woman to occupy the White House.

Our domestic agenda has been ignored, maligned and mismanaged far too long. We cannot wait another decade to address the problems associated with global warming, healthcare, poverty, education, housing and, of course, jobs.

With Hillary Clinton as President, I can see the beginning of a new day in this country. A day that will allow us to forget the darkness we faced these last seven years. A day that will make us grateful for the opportunity to exercise a simple civic duty that far too many still take for granted: the voting process.

Brothers and sisters, if we do not participate in the voting process, as public servants whose livelihoods are directly affected by those in office, what kind of example are we setting for ourselves? How can we complain about the system not working.

Finally, I want to thank all the officers, activists and rank and file members of our region for all the wonderful, selfless and dedicated work they do throughout the year whether it is at our Regional Education and Women’s Committee Workshop or coordinating and attending our fabulous Information Days. The work you do inside your union and inside your communities shows the world that unionism is alive and well and ready to tackle a new day, every day.
standstill allegedly due to the
County's fiscal woes. Once
again, CSEA members have shown they are team players
who will get the job done. I am
optimistic that their efforts on
the sales tax front will help them
toward a new contract.

Many fair and equitable
contracts have been settled by
negotiating teams in the Region
with the assistance of their fine
staff Labor Relations Specialists.
They include, just to name a
handful: the Town of Putnam
Valley, the Town of Shawangunk,
and the Town of Edgemont
School District. In addition,
Dutchess County approved its
most recent contract right
around the time of last year's
Convention.

On the political front, our
members' activism led to the
election of many pro-labor
candidates this past fall. CSEA
was instrumental in the re-
election of State Sen. Vincent
Leibell (R-Patterson), in addition
to participating in the campaigns
of new Congressman John Hall
(D-Dover Plains) and
Assemblyman Mike Spano (D-
Yonkers). Active members and
CSEA retirees logged many hours
in phone banks, doing literature
drops and campaigning on
Election Day. We are excited, as
well, to participate in the
upcoming presidential elections.
It is time for us to get someone
in the White House who will be
deserving of workers' rights! We
must undo the damage that has
occurred over the past eight
years!

One of the disturbing trends
during the Bush administration
has been an increase throughout
the country in outsourcing and
privatization. We are mindful of
this threat to replace quality
public sector workers with
profit-driven contractors, so we
have been proactive in the Port
Jervis City Schools, where our
members in the district's
Transportation Department
appear to be under a constant
threat of privatization. We
were made many convincing
arguments to public officials
there about the merits of
keeping school transportation
public.

On a more personal note, our
members have gone above and
beyond this year supporting
brothers and sisters in need.
They opened their wallets
several times in support of CSEA
members, first for a member in
Putnam County burdened with
expenses while taking her son
for leukemia treatment. I am
happy to report he is now in
remission. We wanted to do
whatever we could to lighten her
load. Later in the year, we
reached out in support of a
brother from the New York State
Bridge Authority Local, who lost
his daughter tragically when his
home was overtaken by fire. I
am touched by the generosity of
those who reached out to help.

Sadly, I must report that we
had two deaths on the job this
year. In Orange County, Dean
Norris, a flagger from the Orange
County Department of Public
Works, died after he was struck
by the car of an elderly driver.
He left behind a young son. In
Westchester County, William
White, a member of the County's
DPW, died on the job after
suffering a massive heart attack.
Our condolences go out to both
families.

In closing, I would like to note
the many changes we have had
in the Region this past year.
Gary Conley, who served as
Executive Vice President, retired
from his job with the White
Plains School District. We
appreciate Gary's years of service
with CSEA and wish him well in retirement. Dottie Lattin,
our longtime Dutchess Education
Local President, is also enjoying a
well-deserved retirement.

Thank you, Dottie, for your service to your Local and as
Chair of the Southern Region
Scholarship Committee.

On a statewide level, I must
congratulate both Jim Moore and
Maureen Malone on their
retirements. Welcome to new
Central Region President Ginger
Shelley and Statewide Treasurer
Joe McMullen, who have stepped
up to fill those vacancies.

I would like to also welcome
Sean Egan, whom you all know
from our Field and Member
Services Department, who has
stepped in as Acting Region
Director. His knowledge of the
Southern Region, dating back to
his days as Ulster County Unit
President, makes him an asset.

I wish you all an excellent year
to come. Please stay safe on the
job!

was recently recognized for his
efforts when one morning on the
way to work he passed a house
fire. Without hesitation, he stopped,
raced into the home and rescued
the older male resident to safety.

This past May, the Red Cross of
North Easterners New York, at
their annual Salute to Hometown
Heroes event, honored members
from the Montgomery County
DPW. These hardworking
members were singled out for
their Herculean efforts in the
wake of the devastating floods
and subsequent damage that
swept through that area in June
of 2006. This past June, I once
again had the pleasure of
attending the annual North
Country Salute to Labor where
Clinton County Local President
Joe Musso was honored for his
years of selfless devotion to
CSEA members and his profound
dedication to the labor
movement.

I bring these examples up as a
way of pointing out how many
individual acts of bravery,
heroism or just plain selflessness
are carried out everyday by
CSEA members around the
Capital Region and state.

The Capital Region also has an
extremely active Community
Outreach Committee. Our
members are involved in
countless not-for-profit activities
that help raise funds for
research, provide meals to less
fortunate people, and help
provide home maintenance for
elderly people so that they are
able to stay in their homes as
long as possible. The chair of
this committee has been so
dedicated to these many causes
since its inception in 2000 that I
cannot possibly thank him
equal. For those of you who
know Vi Boyko, you know that
her positive attitude and her
dedication are an inspiration to
us all. At this time Vi is battling
some health issues. I ask that
you keep her in your prayers
through this difficult time.

This year saw the culmination
of a desire I have had for some
time for a region-wide newsletter.
Our newly appointed
Communications Committee got
up and running fast with two
issues this past year so far.

I feel very strongly that the
newsletter is playing a role in
union building for region
members who now have a
CAPITAL REGION PRESIDENT

continued from page 17

greater sense of connectedness to their union brothers and sisters; be it a bus driver in Peru or a nurses aide in Greene County.

Five Capital Region members were among the graduates of the latest Leadership, Education and Development Program (LEAD). These activists are now better prepared to play a key role in addressing the issues that impact our members at work everyday, but also to address the issues confronting labor.

I am continually encouraged by the new faces that I see at region events. These activists are the future generation of labor leaders. We need to do everything we can to nurture and encourage rank and file members to step up, participate in trainings and take advantage of the many opportunities for networking that exist in CSEA so that they can eventually take over the reins in their respective units and locals.

Capital Region members can also claim victory for their role in some key legislative victories that will positively impact workers such as the four-hour leave for breast/prostate cancer screening for municipal and school employees. State and county employees are already entitled to this leave.

A few others that bear mentioning: a law that prohibits privatization of state prisons and local county jails and a law on state employee injury reporting that over time will help track and reduce injuries.

The last few years, I have written about the repeated attempts of a rogue “union” to steal our bargaining units. They were back to their old tricks, again this past year. We defeated them in one election last fall, and by the time you read this, the results of another in Washington County will have been decided.

In Columbia County this past spring, several employees seeking to join CSEA contacted the Region. In the early 1990’s these employees were represented by CSEA but were convinced to choose another employee organization to represent them. They are currently represented by UPSEU.

After 15 years, these employees have reported that rather than a few meetings for contract negotiations, local meetings are not held. UPSEU has not held any function where the employees have an opportunity to get to know each other or to discuss issues that impact the workplace. In May, CSEA’s Organizing Department and the Capital Region Director began holding meetings and asking these employees to sign cards.

The response was overwhelming, and CSEA was able to file for a representation election much sooner than expected. The amount of time activists, staff and the workers in Columbia County have invested in this campaign is truly remarkable. At the time I write this, it is still unclear what the results of this election will be, but it truly is rewarding to work on this offensive campaign against this union-busting organization.

The 4th Annual Capital Region Spring Conference was held this past March. Attendance records were set and conference attendees enjoyed a range of workshops from education, to health and safety, to wellness.

As I write this, we are preparing for our annual meeting in late August. Special thanks to all committee members for their hard work and the valuable role they play throughout the year with these important educational events.

Whatever challenges this region faces in the next year we will face together with a growing sense of connectedness and unity.

COLUMBUS COUNTY

As 2006 drew to a close, Delaware County transferred ownership of our county nursing home to a private owner. Although we were able to bargain to give our employees rights to vacate positions in the county, it was a sad way to end the year. Nevertheless, we are currently working to organize these workers into a new Private Sector Local, and begin negotiating a new contract on their behalf.

We welcomed in the New Year but did not welcome the Berger Commission’s recommendations to privatize and merge Onondaga County’s Van Duyn Home & Hospital and to merge SUNY Upstate Medical University with Crouse Hospital. We recently heralded the news that there is an agreement between SUNY Upstate and Crouse Hospitals that will be sanctioned by the state and satisfy the Berger Commission’s demands, while still keeping Upstate public and part of the SUNY system. We will continue to focus our attention on saving Van Duyn. CSEA remains committed to keeping Van Duyn county-owned and operated for our members and the community they serve.

With 200 separate contracts, someplace, somewhere, there is always a contract being negotiated in Region 5.

To recognize the victory in our contract campaign at Clarkson University. Their long campaign involved members, activists and staff along with strong community involvement.

As a result of their President’s hard work, Ed Collins was honored with the 2007 Mission Achievement Award for the Private Sector. Congratulations to Ed and all of his hardworking members.

Our Region Committees have had a very busy year. Our Veteran’s Committee collected phone cards to send to our troops and is presently collecting a variety of items to send care packages to our troops from the 22nd Military Police Unit of the N.Y. National Guard.

Our Women’s Committee created a personal medical journal to help keep track of pertinent medical information. A trip to the doctor’s office is now made easier with this information right at hand.

Our Program and Education Committees planned two region conferences and provided attendees with a variety of programs, including Workplace Violence and Union Leadership Responsibilities.

Our Safety & Health Committee held a moving ceremony on Worker’s Memorial Day to pay tribute to Region 5 members lost over the years.

We also welcome back our reinstated Schools Committee. They will be planning a training conference for our members who work in educational support settings.

This committee will be a resource to our thousands of school district employees and deal with their specialized issues and concerns.

The Region is currently planning our first annual golf tournament for 2008. Money raised from this tournament will be used to help our members who have experienced financial hardship due to a tragedy.

There are usually a lot of jokes when someone reaches the age of 50, but when a Local turns 50 there are no jokes, just congratulations. So to Black River Valley State Employees Local 615, Troop C – NYS Police (Sidney) and St. Lawrence County Local 845, we say congratulations on becoming a Golden Local.

As always, OUR day, Labor Day.
This past year, Western Region 6 CSEA leaders have stood shoulder-to-shoulder fighting the good fight. We won contract battles, and we halted attempts at outsourcing our work. We elected School Board members who are sympathetic to our issues. We continue to organize new members into our CSEA family. This year, we in Western Region 6 welcomed several new units, including the Campbell Savona School District, the Town of Portland, Town of Geneva, the Cattaraugus County Part Time workers, the Town of Lakewood Police Department and the Town of Irondequoit Librarians. We have also welcomed court officers into our Judiciary Local. Organizing has been front and center in Region 6 both among local government and school workers and with the statewide VOICE and ARC Campaigns. We all know that Organizing is our future. We must continue this fight every day if Labor is to win.

As usual, Region 6 is in a flurry of activity. I can only thank our Region Committees for their hard work and dedication. I want you to know about some of the activities that I believe have had meaningful impact upon our members.

Our Western Region Veterans Committee recently held a chicken barbecue for residents of the New York State Veterans home at Batavia. The committee planned this dinner – complete with entertainment – as a way to honor these wonderful men and women who have given so much. Their families and their community have abandoned some of these residents, but through this special event our Veterans Committee made sure these residents are not forgotten.

Our Western Region Women’s Committee held its biennial conference last spring to address bullying both in the work place and in the community. The in-depth discussion and sessions on this topic were the first of their kind in CSEA. Members of their Women’s Committee helped design the module for the program and that program is now being utilized by CSEA’s Education and Training Department.

Our annual Jim Jayes Memorial Golf Tournament was incredibly successful. More than 165 golfers spent the afternoon having fun under the warm July sun while at the same time helping our region replenish our Robert L. Lattimer Sunshine Fund. This fund helps our members who are experiencing financial hardship due to a tragedy in their lives.

All of these events show the attitude of care and concern that is prominent in our Western Region. For each of the events I have described above, many more have also taken place. I take great pride in sharing with you our accomplishments, but it is also important to give credit to those creative and caring Western Region 6 Members who give so freely and unselfishly of themselves. Again, I would like to thank our committee members for sharing their time and talent within our region and the state. You help make the Western Region a fantastic place to be.

In addition to the region and the state, we also “Fight to Win” on a larger scale. Our work in the House of Labor continues. CSEA members and officers hold many leadership positions within the Area Labor Federations and the Central Labor Councils throughout the Western Region’s 14 counties. These members work hard to promote Labor’s message and move the House forward.

Terry Melvin, former CSEA member and local officer from Region 6 and Executive Assistant to CSEA Statewide President Danon Donohue, recently left CSEA to become the Secretary Treasurer of the State AFL-CIO. We will miss seeing Terry on a regular basis – we losing a good friend – but we wish him luck in his new position. We know he will continue to fight on behalf of CSEA and the Labor Movement. He will always remain a part of the Western Region family.

Congratulations also go to former Statewide Treasurer Maureen Malone, who retired and has found a life after CSEA. Brothers and Sisters, fight we must. We live in a world where it has become normal for management to try to lower the high work standards that we, and those before us, have fought so hard to attain. We live in a day and age when some feel that we should apologize for the salary and benefits that we are paid. We are entitled to these benefits because of the hard work and dedication we have given. We should never apologize for earning these benefits.

Central Region 6 Day, was celebrated across the Region. In Syracuse our members marched in the parade held at the New York State Fairgrounds; our North Country members proudly wore their CSEA T-shirts in the Solidarity Parade held in Massena; in the Ithaca area our members attended the 24th Annual Labor Day Picnic in recognition of the sacrifices and contributions working people make to their communities every single day; and our Southern Tier members celebrated a day and picnic at the Ross Park Zoo in Binghamton.

As I have traveled across the Region these past five months to information days, membership meetings and other activities, I have listened as our members and activists have addressed several of the issues that we will be dealing with at this Delegate’s Meeting. How many times do we hear, “How do I encourage my members to attend membership meetings?” “How do I encourage younger members to get involved?” “How do I do it all; there are not enough hours in the day.” The workshops chosen for this Delegates’ Meeting will educate all of us in trying to answer these hard questions.

I close my report with this thought. Let us take the lessons we have learned from the past, apply them in the present; and amend or revise them to meet the needs of the future by listening, observing, and educating the union’s leadership and membership. That is my personal mission statement. Have a productive week and a safe trip home.
members completed the five-
kilometer walk on the
boardwalk raising more than
$25,800 for cancer research,
advocacy, education, and
patient services.
Let us see, what else is going
on? Well, Jeff Hyman joined
CSEA as our Occupational
Safety and Health Specialist,
serving not only our Region but
also Regions 2 and 3. That is
a large area to cover and quite a
responsibility, but Jeff is up
to the task. He has an extensive
background in safety and
health and is well qualified
to tackle the many challenges
facing CSEA members.
Congratulations also go out
to members of the Elmont
Library Unit of Nassau
Municipal Employees Local 882, who
competently negotiated a four-year contract
that increases salaries each year
and improves longevity
payments.
On another front, we
continued our efforts to assist
employees at AHRC Nassau; an
organization that cares for
developmentally disabled
persons, with their efforts to
unionize, which have been
vigorously resisted by AHRC
management.
To that end, we staged a
press conference in front of the
Nassau County Supreme Court
Building in Mineola to inform
the general public about the
disturbing conditions and
violations at Nassau AHRC that
jeopardize the developmentally disabled
individuals in their care and the staff who care
for them. This effort has not yet
reached a conclusion, but the
fight is ongoing; and I am
optimistic about a favorable
outcome.
As always, the Annual CSEA
Long Island Region Leadership
Conference brought together
the Region’s local presidents
and vice presidents for
leadership and political action
sessions. The Conference
sought to explore methods to
enhance voter turnout as it
applies to CSEA members,
which is the key to wielding
political influence as an
organization and as individuals.
When the Governor’s
Commission on Health Care
facilities recommended
widespread closures and other
downsizing at many of the
state’s hospitals and nursing
homes, we leapt into action.
SUNY Stony Brook Local 614, in
coordination with the Long
Island Region, mounted a Day
of Action to argue against the
recommendation. We urged
the state Assembly panel to defeat
this plan when they convened
to hear testimony on the
Commission’s recommendation,
while hundreds of CSEA
members simultaneously
flooded the streets outside
Stony Brook University Hospital
to characterize the report as a
recipe for health care disaster.
The matter is still pending in the
state Legislature but we will
continue to stay on top of the
situation and make our position
known as conditions warrant.
I am also happy to report
that several hundred CSEA
members employed by the
Town of Brookhaven
successfully fought to fend off
proposed cuts in their
supplemental benefits.
Members of three CSEA
Brookhaven units — blue collar,
white collar and highway —
made their presence felt at a
town hall board meeting.
The town’s plan to diminish
package seven benefits, which
are provided through the CSEA
Employee Benefit Fund and
include vision, dental,
prescription co-payment
reimbursement, maternity,
hearing aide and legal
assistance spurred the large
turnout.
Here are a few more success
stories — the CSEA Sayville
Library Unit of Local 852 won a
three-year contract that
provides for a 13 percent salary
increase. The contract calls for
a 4 percent boost the first year,
4 percent the second year and
5 percent in the final year.
Eyeglass coverage was also
raised and there were no
givebacks in the agreement.
CSEA employees working for
three separate Suffolk County
towns recently ratified new
contracts. Members in the
Town of Shelter Island, who
voted to join CSEA over the
strenuous objections of
management, won a four-year
contract that provides for
raises retroactive to 2005,
salary adjustments for some
titles, and increases in the next
two years.
In the Town of Smithtown,
CSEA members overwhelmingly
ratified an agreement that was
groundbreaking in a couple of
ways. It was completed in
record time, less than two
months after the old contract
expired, and CSEA negotiated
directly with the town
supervisor for the first time.
Key provisions of the contract
include wage increases over
the next four years, 22 titles will be
upgraded over the four-year
period, affecting more than 60
people, and there is no change
in the quality of health
insurance.
The 249 CSEA members in
East Hampton Town voted to
ratify a five-year agreement
with substantial wage increases
and retention of 100 percent
payment of medical insurance
premiums by the town.
CSEA members in the Mount
Sinal School District Non-
Instructional Unit also ratified a
new contract that allows for a 9
percent wage increase over
three years as well as
numerous enhancements such as
additional money through
step increases and an increase
in night differential for
custodians. Of course, we
should not forget the West Islip
Clerical Unit whose
negotiations climaxed with a
fair agreement that all sides
were pleased with.
This is not to say we do not
continue to face challenges. We
are embroiled in contentious
contract negotiations with the
Village of Babylon, the East
Williston School District and
the Mattituck-Cutchogue School
District. The Babylon
sanitation workers are the
lowest paid in Suffolk County
and have been without a
contract for three years. The
East Williston Custodial Unit is
also feeling the economic pinch
of living on Long Island. Gas
prices alone have tripled since
their contract expired in 2004.
Our people in Mattituck-
Cutchogue School District Unit
continue to push for a fair
contract since their last one
expired in June 2006. A key
sticking point is the district
officials’ resistance to change
from a self-insured plan to the
Empire plan. However, we have
effective plans in place in all
three communities and are
confident they will eventually
bring these impasses to a
conclusion.
At this point, I would like to
sound a positive note.
Members of the Copiague Full-
Time Custodial Unit recently
aided their community through
two generous gifts. First, a pair
of $600 scholarships was
presented to Sacajawana Illeit
and Verleis Expinal,
outstanding recent graduates of
Copiague High School. Second,
£300 was donated to the food pantry of the Miraculous Medal Roman Catholic Church in Wyandanch. Nearly all of the unit’s 34 members contributed to the gifts. This was the second year the scholarships were awarded. They are named in honor of Bruce Williams, an active union member who passed on shortly before the inaugural presentation last year.

Another inspiring story involves Catherine Custance, a Long Island Region activist who has devoted years of service to union and women’s causes. She was presented with the Irene Carr Leadership Award at the CSEA Women’s Conference. This award was well deserved because Catherine gives of her time and talent whenever and wherever she is needed. She is a fine representative of CSEA and a passionate advocate for workplace safety and justice.

Mary D’Antonio, President of SUNY Old Westbury Local 618, and a member of the CSEA Board of Directors, also deserves recognition for her hard work, which culminated in her receiving the Mission Achievement Award for State Division Service. However, Catherine and Mary were not the only ones recognized for their efforts. In January, I received — there I go talking about myself again — a public service award from the Suffolk County Martin Luther King Jr. Commission for a demonstration of dedication to work rights, and in April I accepted an award for my commitment to Long Island in this instance my support for the effort to raise £30,000 for the United Way.

More recently, about 75 people representing a mix of administrators and union members from public, academic and special libraries throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties filled the lower-level conference room at Lindenhurst Memorial Library to attend a panel discussion titled “Current Issues in Labor-Management Relations in Libraries,” which was cosponsored by the Lindenhurst Memorial Library and the Long Island Library Resource Council (LILRC). Panel members included Ernest R. Stolzer, a partner in the law firm of Bond, Schoenbeck & King, Jennifer Grady, Director of the American Library Association’s Allied Professional Association and myself. The panel fielded questions pertaining to current issues facing libraries and unions engaged in collective bargaining.

At one point, I was asked what I believed were the primary reasons collective bargaining sometimes fails to broker an agreement between management and labor. I told the audience that neither side should check their common sense at the door. Negotiations tend to break down when things get personal so both sides should make every effort to bargain in an honest, sincere and credible manner.

Members of Pilgrim Psychiatric Center Local 418 recently staged an informational rally in Commack. The rally, themed “Stop Employee Abuse,” drew attention to problems in the workplace, specifically onerous demands and units in Region One. Richard Impagliazzo recently joined the CSEA staff as Communications Associate in the Long Island Region. In this capacity, he will be responsible for facilitating communications to the general public and CSEA membership regarding the activities and accomplishments of CSEA and its various locals and units in Region One. Richard brings considerable experience in the fields of journalism, publishing, marketing, public relations and media relations to his new post. The year was not without its tragedies, however. Earl Stroughton, a phlebotomist at Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC) for almost 30 years and President of the CSEA unit there, died recently of a heart attack. He was 70 years old. Stroughton was considered the best phlebotomist at NUMC. A staunch union activist, Stroughton became Vice President of the CSEA unit in 1995, then Executive Vice President in 2001. In 2005, he was elected President of the unit; CSEA’s largest in Nassau County. His wife of 30 years, Sumera, daughters Cassandra and Cassie, sons Earl Jr. and Rodney, as well as nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive him. Stroughton will be greatly missed by family, friends and all in the CSEA family.

Henry Williams, a groundskeeper at the SUNY Farmingdale campus was tragically killed when a tractor he was operating plummeted from a 70-foot embankment. He was 63. While CSEA continues to mourn this horrorous loss, the incident is under investigation by the organization’s Occupational Safety and Health Department as well as the Suffolk County Police Department.

To sum it up, the last year has been an eventful time, a reminder that even though we accomplished so much, there is still more to do and many challenges to face. We can be confident as we face the coming year because we are not alone. Our union brothers and sisters support each of us. And that is a comforting thought, indeed.
NOTICE OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION
2008 AFSCME Convention Delegates

Delegate nominating meetings to be held Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007

CSEA REGION NOMINATING MEETINGS
AFSCME Convention
Delegates Election

SATURDAY, Oct. 6, 2007
ALL MEETINGS WILL START AT 11 A.M.

LONG ISLAND REGION 1 (41 delegates)
Region Office, 3 Garet Place, Commack
METROPOLITAN REGION 2 (14 delegates)
Region Office, 125 Maiden Lane, 5th Floor, New York City
SOUTHERN REGION 3 (40 delegates)
Region Office, 568 State Route 52, Beacon
CAPITAL REGION 4 (36 delegates)
Best Western, 200 Wolf Road, Colonie
CENTRAL REGION 5 (40 delegates)
Region Office, 6595 Kirkville Road, East Syracuse
WESTERN REGION 6 (40 delegates)
Region Office, 120 Pineview Drive, Amherst

Break in membership affects eligibility
for union office, voting privileges

A break in union membership status can have long-
term futures 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

Meetings will be held in all CSEA Regions on
Saturday, Oct. 6 to nominate candidates for the
position of Delegate to the 2008 AFSCME
in San Francisco, Calif. The date, time and
location of Region nominating meetings are
printed at left.

These Region nominating meetings kick off
the AFSCME Delegate election process, which
continues in accordance with the schedule of
election, printed at right, approved by CSEA’s
Board of Directors.

CSEA members in each CSEA Region will elect
Delegates from their Region. The number of
Delegates to which each Region is entitled is
based on Region membership strength, in
accordance with the AFSCME and CSEA
Constitutions.

Who is eligible?
Any member in good standing as of Oct. 6,
2007, will be entitled to be nominated as a
Delegate to the AFSCME Convention. Any
member in good standing as of Oct. 6, 2007, will
be eligible to nominate Delegates. Any qualified
CSEA member will be eligible to nominate as
many candidates for Delegates as he or she
desires, not to exceed the total number of
Delegates to be elected from that Region.
Nominees do not have to be at the nominating
meeting.

Nominations may be made by slates of two or
more individuals who will appear on the ballot
as running together under a particular slate
designation. The ballot will also allow slate
candidates to be elected individually, separate
from the slate.

Expenses for transportation, room and board
at the AFSCME Convention will be paid by CSEA.

AFSCME DELEGATES
ELECTION YEAR 2008

In addition to our own CSEA elections, the
year 2008 also has an AFSCME Delegates
election. The approved schedule for that
election is as follows:

Oct. 6 (Sat.) Region Nomination Meetings
Nov. 5, 2007 Deadline/declinations
Nov. 14, 2007 Local and Unit President
Nov. 26, 2007 labels available.
Dec. 17, 2007 Deadline for campaign
Voter lists submission

Jan. 22 (Tues.) Ballots mailed
Jan. 29 (Fri.) Replacement ballots
Feb. 13 (Wed.) available
End of Protest
Period 10 days following
May 2008 Statewide Election
Committee certification
March 2008 of results.

Balloting for the AFSCME Delegates election
will take place at the same time and as part of
the CSEA elections for Statewide officers, Region
officers and Board of Directors. Members are
urged to carefully read the election information
contained in The Work Force throughout the
year 2008 election cycle as well as the
instructions, which will accompany each ballot.

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contained in The Work Force throughout the
year 2008 election cycle as well as the
instructions, which will accompany each ballot.
Electronics for the following positions will take place from Jan. 22, 2008 – Feb. 13, 2008.

Statewide Officers:
President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

Regional Officers:
Region 1: President, Executive VP, 1st VP, 2nd VP, 3rd VP, 4th VP, Secretary, Treasurer
Region 2: President, Executive VP, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer
Region 3: President, Executive VP, 1st VP, 2nd VP, 3rd VP, Secretary, Treasurer
Region 4: President, Executive VP, 1st VP, 2nd VP, 3rd VP, Secretary, Treasurer
Region 5: President, Executive VP, 1st VP, 2nd VP, 3rd VP, Secretary, Treasurer
Region 6: President, Executive VP, 1st VP, 2nd VP, 3rd VP, Secretary, Treasurer

Statewide Board of Directors:
The Statewide Board of Directors consists of representatives of the State Executive Committee and the Local Government Executive Committee, The Private Sector Executive Committee Board of Directors seat is automatically the Chair of the Private Sector Executive Committee.

CSEA Election Schedule for Statewide Officers, Region Officers, Statewide Board of Directors

Aug. 13, 2007: Nominating petition request forms are now available from Local Presidents, CSEA Headquarters and Region offices. Petition request forms may be filled out and returned to CSEA Headquarters and/or Region offices.

Sept. 4, 2007: First day of the petitioning period.

Oct. 5, 2007: Deadline for nominating petitions to be received at CSEA Headquarters (5 p.m.)

Oct. 31, 2007: Deadline for candidates submissions (picture-employer and office being sought) to The Work Force.

Nov. 5, 2007: Deadline for notice of candidates summaries and name confirmation.

Nov. 14, 2007: Ballot position drawing; Local and Unit President labels available.

Nov. 26, 2007: Deadline for campaign literature submission for printing.


Jan. 22, 2008: Ballots mailed

Jan. 29, 2008: Replacement ballots available

Feb. 13, 2008: Deadline for receipt of ballots (8 a.m.). Election results will be announced after the ballot count is complete and certified.

End of Protest Period: 10 days following Statewide Election Committee certification of results.


Individual or Slate Petitions
Persons seeking an office may petition individually or as part of a slate to appear on the ballot.

No person may be a candidate for the Statewide and Region office during the same election year. No person may be a candidate for more than one Region office.

In Statewide elections, the slate must contain a candidate for each of the Statewide offices listed herein.

In Region elections, the slate must contain a candidate for each of the Region offices listed herein for the particular Region.

For the Board of Directors elections, slate petitioning is available in those departments or political subdivisions which, in accordance with the CSEA Constitution and Bylaws, are entitled to have more than one board seat. In such instances, to constitute a slate, there must be a candidate for each of the seats to which the department or political subdivision is entitled in that election.

Voting Eligibility Date
Only CSEA members in good standing as of Dec. 1, 2007, will be eligible to vote in the election.

Rules on Running for CSEA
Statewide Executive, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
To be eligible to seek Statewide office, a candidate must be at least 18 years old; a CSEA member in good standing since Jan. 1, 2007; shall not have been a member of a competing labor association or union since Jan. 1, 2007; shall not currently be serving a disciplinary penalty imposed by CSEA’s Judicial Board; and shall not have been the subject of a bonding claim by the Association or disqualified from being covered by the Association's surety bond.

Any CSEA member who meets the above criteria may become a candidate and have his or her name placed on the ballot for a specific Statewide office by obtaining official nominating petition forms from the printed name, signature, and the last four (4) digits of the Social Security number of at least 500 CSEA members eligible to vote in the upcoming election.

Nominating petition signatures must be of CSEA dues-paying members who are not serving a Judicial Board suspension and who have no delinquent dues.

The terms will begin March 1, 2008, and shall end Feb. 29, 2012.

Rules on Running for Regional Office
To be eligible to seek Region office, a candidate must be at least 18 years old; a CSEA member in good standing of the Region since Jan. 1, 2007; shall not have been a member of a competing labor association or union since Jan. 1, 2007; shall not currently be serving a disciplinary penalty imposed by CSEA's Judicial Board; and shall not have been the subject of a bonding claim by the Association or disqualified from being covered by the Association's surety bond.

Any CSEA member who meets the above criteria may become a candidate and have his or her name placed on the ballot by obtaining on official nominating petition forms the printed name, signature and last four (4) digits of the Social Security number of at least 500 CSEA members eligible to vote in the upcoming election. All signatures must be from the Region where the person is seeking office.

Nominating petition signatures must be of CSEA dues-paying members who are not serving a Judicial Board suspension and who have no delinquent dues.

The terms will begin March 1, 2008, and shall end Feb. 29, 2012.

Any CSEA member who meets the above criteria may become a candidate for a board seat and have his or her name placed on the ballot by obtaining a Judicial Board suspension and who have no delinquent dues.

The terms will begin March 1, 2008, and shall end Feb. 29, 2012.

Note: Candidates must be a member of a competing labor association or union since Jan. 1, 2007.

Any CSEA member who meets the above criteria may become a candidate for a board seat and have his or her name placed on the ballot by obtaining on official nominating petition forms the printed name, signature and last four (4) digits of the Social Security number of at least 500 CSEA members eligible to vote in the upcoming election. All signatures must be from the Region where the person is seeking office.

Nominating petition signatures must be of CSEA dues-paying members who are not serving a Judicial Board suspension and who have no delinquent dues.

The terms will begin March 1, 2008, and shall end Feb. 29, 2012.

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Our Reputation:

New York’s Leading Union.

We’ve Earned It!

We’re CSEA – a positive force throughout New York State for nearly a century.

We’re 265,000 members strong. Dedicated. Keeping our skills sharp and our knowledge current. Doing the vital work that all New Yorkers depend on. And doing it right.

We fight for fair pay, decent benefits, fairness and respect. It’s not just the right thing to do – it’s a great investment.

Quality. Effectiveness.

And a better community for all.
As Weather Cools Down, Contract Talks Heat Up

...it is our members who come in direct contact with the patients in both facilities. In order for our members to take pride in the institution, management must take pride in them.

promotional list after taking the appropriate tests. This study was the result of you (our members) writing, calling and e-mailing my staff and me at the local. We have heard stories about members who have taken as many as four civil service tests without being considered for a promotion. In some instances, I am told that not a single person was promoted. The study is winding down and we will report back to you once we compile the numbers.

As for promotions for our membership, Nassau County is way behind the eight ball. It is a significant issue for all of us who work for the county. As a union representative, it is likely the most frustrating part of my job. The union cannot order the county to promote somebody. What we can do is file an out-of-title grievance, and even then the county is not compelled to promote the grievant even if they win. In most cases an arbitrator will order the county to cease and desist using the employee in an out-of-title capacity. In some cases, they have awarded a monetary award for some of the out-of-title work. There are a very few cases where the county simply would be required to cease and desist, because they would not be able to get the job done without that employee performing the out-of-title work. That is one way we have been successful in getting employees promotions. We are also awaiting the result of the title review study. Will this help us out of this tough situation? Only time will tell, but I have my doubts. Let’s hear it once again for our proud members at NUMC. Recent census polls show that beds at the hospital are beginning to fill up. As I have stated before, the union and management from the Nassau Health Care Corp. have been working together in order to make the corporation stronger and better. CEO Art Gianelli has been openly working with me to solve several key problems between labor and management. These...
SAVE THE DATE!
2007 Annual CSEA Local 830 Holiday Party
Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007
7 p.m. - midnight
Crest Hollow Country Club,
Woodbury
Details on Pricing and Tickets in Next Month’s Express

Upcoming Events
- **Monday, Sept. 24 & Wednesday, Sept. 26:** Lou Stober’s “First-Time Home Buyer Seminar”
  Noon - 1 p.m. & 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
  CSEA Local 830 office
  400 County Seat Dr., Mineola
  Pizza will be served
  Call Sue at (516) 571-2919 to RSVP by Sept. 21

- **Tuesday, Oct. 23:** CSEA Local 830 Information Fair
  11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
  CSEA Local 830 Office
  400 County Seat Dr., Mineola
  Lunch will be served

- **Wednesday, Oct. 24:** Nassau University Medical Center Information Fair
  11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
  Nassau University Medical Center Auditorium
  2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow
  Lunch will be served

ATTENTION CSEA MEMBERS!
Join the Long Island Region – Local 830 Walk Team!
Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
**WALK**
Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007
Jones Beach State Park – Field #5
Look for CSEA tent
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Rain or Shine

Please Return Sponsor Sheet with Pledge Money:
Oct. 16-Oct. 19, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Nassau University Medical Center
CSEA Office, Room 104
See Debbie or Lynne

OR
Tuesday, Oct. 16 & Thursday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility, CSEA Office
See Felicia

OR
Oct. 16-Oct. 19, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
CSEA Local 830 Office
400 County Seat Dr., Mineola
Free Commemorative T-shirts will be given on the above dates to sponsors whose pledges total $50 or more!
LIMITED SUPPLY – FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!
FOR SPONSOR SHEETS AND MORE INFORMATION CALL FELICIA AT 516-571-2919, EXT. 15

This Month in Labor History
**Oct. 1, 1940**
The Fair Labor Standards Act went into effect, banning child labor and setting the 40-hour workweek.

**Message** Cont’d From Page 1
problems go way back to the days of Rich Turan and Dan Kane, two former CEOs who did not have a good relationship with the union. The Gianielli team fully understands that in order to get NUMC and A. Holly Patterson back on the right track toward becoming the best in health care, they must have the proactive support of the employees. After all, it is our members who come in direct contact with the patients in both facilities. In order for our members to take pride in the institution, management must take pride in them. Personally, I feel as though we are witnessing the greatest change in the growth of our great hospital and elder care center. In the not so distant future, we will be recognizing both facilities as being the leaders in their respective fields. I say that because I can see the change in our members who work there. They believe in the hospital and they believe in themselves. That is where the change had to start. Keep up the great work.

Yours in solidarity,
Jerry Laricchiute
Nassau County Local President
NUMC September 2007 Employee of the Month

At a reception held at the Nassau University Medical Center, Rose Marie James, a patient care assistant, was honored as the September 2007 Employee of the Month. James has been an employee at NUMC since 1988 in the psychiatry and behavioral health department and is one of the most valued team members. She has a nurturing spirit that she extends not only to the patients, but to the staff as well, with an unwavering dedication.

From left are, Nyapati Rao, M.D., chair of psychiatry department; Ronnie Liguori, R.N., nurse manager; William Torio, R.N., assistant director of nursing; Arthur Gianelli, president/CEO, Nassau Health Care Corp.; Rose Marie James, patient care assistant; Geraldine Wilkins, R.N., nurse manager and Rob McLaughlin, CSEA Nassau University Medical Center Unit president.

CSEA830.ORG
Reaches a new high of 50,000 hits in August, with more than 500 members now signed up!
Find out how everyone is connecting with CSEA by logging onto WWW.CSEA830.ORG!
AND...GAINING!
Members only access takes just three easy steps.
Sign up today to be kept up to date on what your union’s doing for you!

BE PART OF PLANNING LOCAL 830’S PICNIC, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SPRING 2008
You would take part in regular meetings to help in planning a picnic, including location, pricing, food, activities and other details.
If you are interested please call 571-2919, and contact Steve Cohen (ext. 21) or Debbie O’Connell (ext. 18).

The 2008 Entertainment Books Are Here!
• Up to 50 Percent Off on Dining Out
• Up to 70 Percent Off on Travel
• Big Savings on Shopping, Services and Entertainment!

THERE IS A LIMITED SUPPLY so to purchase a book, stop by the Local 830 Office at 400 County Seat Drive in Mineola, or contact Steve Cohen at 571-2919, ext. 21.

ONLY $20
CSEA Takes Part in 5th Annual Nassau County Labor Picnic

EAST MEADOW — Sept 9 was a busy day at Eisenhower Park with the opening of the Nassau County Sept. 11 Memorial and the always exciting 5th Annual Nassau County Labor Picnic. It was a fun filled day with a full menu of hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecue chicken, watermelon, corn on the cob, salad, water and soda, as well as plenty of games, rides, prizes and entertainment. “CSEA is always proud to attend the picnic as it broads the camaraderie and togetherness of the Long Island labor movement,” said Local 850 President Jerry Laricchita.
Various government officials also attended, including Nassau County Legislator Wayne Wink, Assemblywoman Michelle Schmel, and Nassau County Democrats’ Chairman Jay Jacobs, who all stopped by the CSEA tent to say hello and offer support.

Above, Long Island Federation of Labor President John Duras talks on the left by Jerry Laricchita.
Below, the Stage at the Picnic.

A Special Thank You

If you have been reading the past few editions of the Nassau Express, you have undoubtedly read of the story of Alice Dillon, the daughter of Susan Dillon, a CSEA member from the Nassau County Parks Administration Building.
Alice has been in need of a kidney transplant since July 2006. By July 2007 a donor was found, and finally on Sept. 5, 2007, the surgical procedure took place.
As of Sept. 8, all tests following the surgery showed everything was working properly; she was finally on a regular diet (no longer a dainty diet) and drinking as many fluids as she wants. She was expected to arrive home no later than Sept. 10.
The Dillon family and CSEA would like to thank everyone who supported Susan, Alice and their friends and family during this difficult time.
A special thanks goes out to the donor whose selfless display of gratitude made this successful surgery possible.

CSEA Takes Part in 5th Annual Nassau County Labor Picnic

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Below, the Stage at the Picnic.

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Local 830 Attends Schumer Press Conference at Nassau University Medical Center

MINEOLA — U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer held a press conference at Nassau University Medical Center Sept. 4 regarding a new Medicare rule that threatens to affect local rehabilitation units.

The rule, which would be set to take effect next year, would require that 75 percent (up from 65 percent) of patients admitted to rehabilitation units in Long Island hospitals and across the nation must have at least one of 13 pre-determined medical conditions, such as stroke, spinal cord injury, or fracture of a femur. If this were to happen, one of every four rehabilitation centers would be affected.

“We need to stop this in its tracks,” Schumer said. “Most rehab centers won’t be able to fill quotas, and centers will struggle to stay financially afloat.”

He said this federal rule could “endanger lives” and “cost hospitals millions.” As for the effect on NUMC, officials say more than 50 patients would be turned away, and the hospital would lose $1 million each year the rule is implemented.

CSEA Local 830 President Jerry Laricchiuta hopes to stop it in its tracks as well.

“We are always saying how we are so proud of the fact that our members here at NUMC work so hard, and do so well in serving Nassau County residents,” he said. “Now, this measure that could hurt NUMC financially, and structurally could do a lot in hindering that. We have worked endlessly to secure financial health for the hospital, along with CEO Art Gianelli, so we will fight as hard as we can to make sure this rule does not go through.”

Schumer thanked Laricchiuta for his great work and representation of the CSEA work force.

“CSEA is a wonderful organization,” Schumer said. “I was told you have 3,000 members here (Nassau Health Care Corp.), which speaks volumes of the great work of CSEA and NUMC.”

Above, Sen. Schumer addresses the crowd. At right, Jerry Laricchiuta with U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer.

Former Patient Thanks NUMC Physicians for Saving Her Life

Former Nassau University Medical Center patient Krista Lecinski, whose life was saved by the diligent and expert diagnosis of NUMC physicians who discovered that she had Wilson’s Disease and required a liver transplant, came back to visit and expressed her appreciation to them for saving her life. A luncheon was held in Lecinski’s honor to provide her with the opportunity to meet the many physicians who took care of her in the intensive care unit and who arranged for her to be transferred to obtain the liver transplant that saved her life.

From left, Gulvahid Shaikh, M.D., Kenny Chantasi, D.O.; Sandeep Mehrishi, M.D.; Paul Mustacchia, M.D.; patient Krista Lecinski; Naushaer Khan-Bitnii, M.D.; Thomas Manis, M.D. and Steve Waterstein, M.D., senior vice president for medical affairs and medical director.
Veterans Corner
By the CSEA Veterans Committee

Nassau County will become the first New York state county to partner with the state in contacting 4,500 Nassau veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, to alert them to all the benefits they are entitled to. This was announced on Sept. 5.

The county plans on doing this with multiple mailings. However, if veterans do not register for lifelong medical benefits within two years of being discharged, they could lose those benefits according to Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi.

The county website (www.nassaucountyny.gov) has a new page devoted to our newest veterans. The web page includes information about veterans’ scholarships, job training and referral, counseling and health care services, veterans’ loan programs and many other benefits that veterans are entitled to.

The POW/MIA Candlelight Vigil took place on Sept. 15 at Eisenhower Park’s Veterans Plaza and was a great success. Many veterans’ organizations attended and were recognized.

Quick Hits

CA Grievance #103-00 was resolved via a settlement of agreement with Nassau County and CSEA on July 12, 2006. Nassau County has been training human resources officers in each department now on how to implement the settlement of agreement. The county has been working on the settlement but the process has been difficult and time consuming. CSEA has been communicating and trying to help Nassau County to finalize this settlement. On July 31, 2007, CSEA did a legal assistance request for legal approval to allow our attorneys to go into court and declare a breach of contract lawsuit. Nassau County has been retraining human resources personnel and allowing overtime in order to implement this settlement.

The Nassau County Probation Department’s Administration and Criminal Division will be making the move from 101 County Seat Drive to 400 County Seat Drive. This change is expected to start taking place in late September with the implementation of new trailers adjacent to the building. This change is expected to start taking place with construction in late September with the implementation of new modules adjacent to the building. Probation department administration will be in the 400 County Seat Drive building itself with the probationers and officers inhabiting the modules.

The Nassau County Fire Marshals’ 25-year bill has been passed and signed by Gov. Eliot Spitzer. This now certifies that all Nassau County fire marshals are eligible to retire after 25 years of service, regardless of age.

Nassau County Legislator Dave Mejias introduced legislation Sept. 5 that would limit smoking to outside of 50 feet of county buildings. CSEA Local 830 officials attended the legislative hearings that day to propose that this legislation go back to committees to be amended, which eventually happened.

This Month From “Talkin’ Labor with Local 830”

Representatives from the State Senate, Assembly and Nassau County Legislature visited the Local 830 studios to be a guest on “Talkin’ Labor with Local 830;” this month. New State Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel joined host Jerry Larkinutha for an in-depth conversation about life in her new position, and her initiatives toward labor.

State Sen. Craig Johnson, who also took office this year, discussed his new role during his visit. Nassau County Legislators Joe Scannell and Rich Nicrolelo also appeared on the show this past month.

All of these shows are available in their entirety online at www.csea830.org.

Top photo, Michelle Schimel; above, Craig Johnson; right, Joe Scannell

ATTENTION!!!

Important Information on Diversity Training:

Diversity Training takes place all year long and MUST be taken SERIOUSLY.

The same work rules apply at Diversity Training as they do in the workplace

NOTE: Members have been disciplined for what their department determined as inappropriate behavior during the training course

“This is not meant to scare anyone, but rather to inform you of the importance of Diversity Training and of the repercussions of not adhering to the course’s rules.”
Apprenticeship Agreement a Win-Win

A recent proposal by Oyster Bay Town Councilman Anthony Macagnone to expand the scope of a requirement for private work contractors to have apprenticeship agreements was unanimously approved by the Town Council. However, it wasn't as easy as you might think considering that the proposal met with a degree of opposition in the days preceding the vote.

Recognizing the resistance, Councilman Macagnone proactively reached out to solicit the support of CSEA and I was happy to write a letter at his request to Town Supervisor John Venditto. But before we go any further, let me provide some background.

The Town of Oyster Bay was the first town in Nassau County to require contractors and sub-contractors doing business with the town to have apprenticeship agreements. I thought this requirement laudable, considering it provides an opportunity for men and women to learn a skilled occupation through on-the-job training and classroom instruction.

So it seemed logical to take this requirement to the next level and require building permit applicants for commercial buildings 100,000 square feet or larger to provide proof that any general contractor, contractor or sub-contractor for the project has apprenticeship agreements appropriate for the type and scope of work being performed.

This was win-win proposition. First, apprenticeship programs benefit both the apprentice and the employer. Why? Apprentices become skilled, motivated craft workers who possess the latest technological skills to fill the critical need for skilled workers created by retirements and the prevalence of a reduced work force.

Second, employers who sponsor apprenticeship programs report reduced turnover and improved morale because employees see that they value trained workers and are willing to make an investment in their education.

And, of course, the proposal would enhance public safety by ensuring that trained, skilled craftsmen and women will be working on construction projects, which would guarantee that building and safety codes are strictly and consistently applied.

As it turned out, the support of CSEA helped persuade Supervisor Venditto to endorse Councilman Macagnone’s proposal, which led to the unanimous approval of the Town Council. This is one more example of how we can influence the political process and further proof of why we should do so at every opportunity. It is important to share success stories such as this with other towns, villages and school districts we represent to encourage similar action.

CSEA is a major player in the Long Island labor movement. We have the voice and power to get things done for our working and retired members.

As the November elections approach I urge you to vote for the candidates endorsed by CSEA. It is important to support people like Supervisor Venditto and the Oyster Bay Town Council because they stand with labor and will not desert us in troubled times.

Yours in solidarity,

Nick LaMorte, president
Long Island Region

2nd Annual “Members Helping Members”

After a hugely successful first year, CSEA Local 830 is again looking to adopt members’ families this holiday season. CSEA will again be providing food, clothing, toys and other items to families in need.

IF YOU ARE A CSEA LOCAL 830 MEMBER GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME, OR KNOW OF A MEMBER WHO IS FACING DIFFICULTIES, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM AT RIGHT, PUT IT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE MARKED “MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS,” AND RETURN IT BY OCT. 26, 2007, TO YOUR UNIT PRESIDENT OR TO THE CSEA LOCAL 830 OFFICE AT 400 COUNTY SEAT DRIVE IN MINEOLA.

ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.

| NAME (of Member Needing Assistance) | |
| ADDRESS | |
| PHONE # (Daytime) | (Cell) |
| COUNTY DEPT | JOB TITLE |
| NAMES, AGES, SIZES OF FAMILY MEMBERS | |
| BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES | |
| ASSISTANCE REQUESTED/ITEMS NEEDED | |

SUBMITTED BY (if request is for a co-worker): (Daytime) (Cell)
Hundreds of members and their guests turned out for the picnics held by SUNY Stony Brook Local 614 and Town of Oyster Bay Local 881. Both had great weather and both used its employer’s grounds. Local 614 had its picnic on the Stony Brook campus on Aug. 4, while Local 881 used Marjorie Post Park in Massapequa on Sept. 8.

“We had 450 people show; friends, family and invited guests from other locals,” said Debbie Nappi-Gonzalez, Local 614’s executive vice president. “We did it local and kept it right on campus — the catering was through the dietary department here.”

There were games for kids and games for adults, raffles, dancing and a disc jockey, Rick Delgado, son of CSEA member Diane Delgado. She said members had a very good time at the picnic. “We had no complaints,”

Please see Picnics continued on Page 3
Picnics Cont’d from Page 1

except for the heat,” said Nappi-Gonzalez.

A similar number of Local 881 members, their families and guests showed up at the local’s picnic, which benefited from a sunny early September day.

It turned damp for new President Bobby Rauff (see story on Page 2), who got dunked every time a picnicker tossed a baseball that hit a lever that dumped him into a tubful of water. Several others also took their turn in the tank.

The proceeds and all other monies collected at the picnic are going toward the Bette James Memorial Scholarship Fund, which honors the memory of James, the local’s 2nd vice president who died in February.

There was also cotton candy and popcorn, dancing, games for the kids and plenty to eat.

Above left, tents kept the sun off Local 614 picnickers on a very hot day. Above right, Local 614 President Carlos Speight, left, welcomes Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte to the picnic. The Local 614 photos on these pages are among 400 taken by Executive Board members at the picnic.

Above, when a baseball hits the lever at lower right, the seat that Local 881 President Bobby Rauff is on gives way and dumps him into the water.

At right, Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, second from right, is on the food line at Local 881’s picnic.

Left, ‘CSEA workers save tax dollars,’ proclaims the T-shirt worn by Albert Cassara, Local 614’s chief shop steward at the hospital.

Above, Local 614’s Executive Board, with President Carlos Speight at left, and Social Committee members worked all day long to make their picnic a big success.

Left, tables for the Local 881 picnickers are in a shady grove of tall trees at Marjorie Post Park in Massapequa.

Above, Ramon Valdez, left, 4th vice president of SUNY Stony Brook Local 614, and AldoRay Cowell, 3rd vice president, sell raffle tickets to picnic attendees.
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Anthony Gazzola, second from left, John Redding, third from left, and Anthony Grieço, Jr., fourth from left, of the Brookhaven Highway Unit of Suffolk Local 852, were honored by the local for performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a toddler and saving his life. Local President Bill Walsh, second from right, presented plaques to the three at a recent Executive Board and general membership meeting.

“These three are heroes in every sense of the word,” he said. “Their actions saved the life of a child and we are all very proud of them.”

Also in the photo are Mike Giglio, left, the local’s sergeant-at-arms, and Jim McDowell, right, the local’s corresponding secretary, both members of the Brookhaven Highway Unit.

Message from Long Island Region President
Nick LaMorte

Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk Oct. 21

COMMACK — The Women’s Committee is moving ahead on plans for CSEA’s participation in the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at Jones Beach, which will take place this year on Sunday, Oct. 21.

CSEA contributors and vendors have raised more than $30,000 for the American Cancer Society-sponsored walk each of the past 11 years.

“Together, we can make this the best year yet,” said Bobbi Eiglau, committee chair.

Information about the walk and sponsor sheets are available by calling her at the Long Island Region office at (631) 462-0030.
Inside Reporter

Long Island Region Executive Board and Delegates Meeting

COMMACK — Forty Long Island Region and local officers met to discuss the Constitution and By-Laws changes that have been submitted for consideration to the 2007 Annual Delegates Meeting. The ADB was to be held in Lake Placid from Sept. 17-21, as this issue was going to press.

The leaders’ meeting, held at the region office on Sept. 1, was also a meeting of the region’s executive board. Each year, Region President Nick LaMorte invites all board members to participate in the region’s executive board’s Constitution and By-laws Committee meetings.

At the executive board meeting, LaMorte welcomed attendees to the new insurance claims by AFLAC and said that CSEA has much superior coverage available. An educational campaign to spread the word is in the planning stages. All locals and units call the region to schedule a meeting.

During the report of the Constitution and By-laws Committee, there was discussion of several proposals submitted to the ADB. Among them were related to units from their local changes to the CSEA’s Constitution and By-laws, two proposals that would make retired members eligible to vote for the four statewide union officers.

At the end of the discussion, LaMorte said he was pleased with the substance and tone of the debate. “We’ve had a healthy discussion,” he said.

LaMorte recommended four members for appointment to region committees — Pete Collins of Local 852 to the Political Action Committee; Louise Melious of Local 614 and Donna Dowler of Local 330 to the Audit Committee; and Robert Schneider of Local 320 to the Education and Training Committee. The nominations were approved by the Executive Board.

1. Nick LaMorte leads a discussion of proposed changes to CSEA’s Constitution and By-Laws at the meeting. Seated with him are region officers Lee Reynolds, secretary; Carol Guardiano, executive vice president; and Christine Urbaniacz, treasurer.

2. Charlotte Cornell, recording secretary of the CSEA Long Island Board of Directors, speaks. At left is Daryl Wilson, the local’s president.

3. Nine-year-old Erin Gallagher hands out flyers from the region’s Social Committee to Meg Shulka, left, and Pat Fisher of Suffolk Local 582. Erin is the daughter of Laura Gallagher, executive vice president of SUNY Old Westbury Local 618.

4. Harry Ador, president of Suffolk Education Local 870.

5. After the meeting ends, Kevin Ray, left, president of Suffolk Education Local 870, gets a laugh from left, Charlotte Cornell and Pete Marriot of UDW Local 430, SUNY Stony Brook Local 614 President Carlos Speight, and Goria Cannon of Local 430.


7. Manny Mangual, president of Pilgrim Psychiatric Center Local 418.

8. Listening to Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, back to the camera, are, from left, Kevin Ray, Stan Bergman, Meg Shulka, Pat Fisher, Mickey Jackson, Daryl Wilson, Charlotte Cornell and Carlos Speight.

9. Nick LaMorte, Long Island Region president.


11. Matt Hattorf and Dave Clark of Suffolk Local 852.

12. Monica Berlowitz, president of Nassau Education Local 865.

13. In discussion before the meeting starts are, from left, Suffolk Local 852 officers Matt Hattorf, Pat Fisher, Dave Clark and Meg Shulka.
Local 614 scholarships honor former president

STONY BROOK — SUNY Stony Brook Local 614 has presented $1,000 awards for college study to three young people, a member who plans to study for a degree here on the campus where she works, and two children of members.

At the same time, the local named the awards for Phil Santella, a former president who serves as the office manager for the union.

The award winners are Marie Ross, a member who works as a clinical assistant at the university’s medical center, Ryan Colichio, the son of Denis Colichio, and Jack Murphy, son of Brian Murphy.

Ryan Colichio plans to attend the State University of New York at Purchase and Jack Murphy will be going to SUNY Cortland.

The awards were presented during a recent luncheon at Bliss Restaurant in East Setauket by Local President Carlos Speight.

“We think the scholarships are like family helping each other,” said Speight. “Everyone has the same plight. College is expensive. We know every little bit helps.”

Santella served as local president from 1990 to 1994, when he retired from state service. He has worked part-time for the local since, managing the office, overseeing the paper flow, setting up Executive Board meetings and agenda and preparing for grievance hearings.

“He uses his knowledge as a past president to help members over the phone,” said Speight.

Santella worked in the Maintenance Department as a painter. He became involved in the union in 1979 as a shop steward and was elected vice president in 1987. He and Dorothy, his wife, have been married for 52 years. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

The Executive Board surprised him when it told him the scholarships would carry his name. “When I heard about it, I felt very proud, especially since honors like this are usually given post-mortem,” he said. “I said, ‘I hope you’re not firing me along.’”

Santella said he is pleased his name will be attached to the union’s aid for members and their children continuing their education. “It’s really nice to see young kids, really smart and bright kids, getting a little extra help,” he said.

At the scholarship presentation, left to right, are Local 614 President Carlos Speight, Diane Murphy, mother of winner Jack Murphy, Marie Ross and Ryan Colichio.

Two Farmingdale members win award

FARMINGDALE — Farmingdale State College Local 606 members Denise Botiglone and Robin Dunn are among State University of New York students who were recently presented with the Chancellors Award for Student Excellence at a ceremony at SUNY headquarters in Albany.

Both graduated with an associate’s degree in the spring term and are now enrolled for a bachelor’s degree.

Botiglone, a six-year employee, is a secretary in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology Department. Dunn, a secretary in the Management of Technology Department, has worked for the state for seven years.

Tom Dowdney, local president, said several other members also take courses at Farmingdale State after they finish their day’s work.

Dr. Hubert Keen, the college’s president, invited CSEA members who hold associate’s and bachelor’s degrees to march in the academic procession when he was inaugurated in May.

Members who marched are Anna Brewer, Cheryl Buch, Regina Caputo, Diane Ellis, Gary Fischer, Mary Ann Goldrick, Amy Kaplan, Jayne Massimino, Marie Mozzaretta, Linda Renie, Barbara Sarriinger, Peggy Sullivan, Nina Von Deesten, Kathy Voltz and Patty Wagner.

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“I believe Dr. Keen realizes and appreciates the contributions of our union’s workers and their effect on the successful operation of this institution,” said Dowdney.

The group consists of students who have participated in nine annual USA Track & Field Five Kilometer Cross Country Disability Championship Meet at Sunken Meadow State Park in Kings Park.

The Rolling Thunder Road Runners, a group for young people with physical or developmental disabilities, was organized 10 years ago by Steve Cuomo, president of the Village of Floral Park Unit of Nassau Municipal Local 882.

He began the group to help Steven, his son, who has cerebral palsy and is developmentally disabled. “I wanted him to be pushed and

mainstreamed, so he ran on his high school track team and he’s been running ever since,” said Cuomo.

The group has grown from 15 members to nearly 150. Rolling Thunder runners have competed in the New York City and Long Island marathons and dozens of other marathons and half-marathons.

Several of the runners are the children of CSEA members, and the Long Island Region is a major sponsor of the group. “CSEA is proud to be associated with a group that does so much for people with special challenges,” said Region President Nick LaMorte.

Those who would like to help at the barbecue or attend, participate in Rolling Thunder activities or contribute to the group can call Cuomo at (631) 399-5564 or the Long Island Region Office at (631) 462-0030.

For more information about the Rolling Thunder Road Runners, visit the club’s website at www.rtsnp.org.

Rolling Thunder Road Runners barbecue

Volunteers Wanted for event

COMMACK — CSEA members are being asked to help the Rolling Thunder Road Runners put on its barbecue, which will take place at the Long Island Region Office at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6.

At 9 a.m. the next morning, group members will compete in the third annual USA Track & Field Five Kilometer Cross Country Disability Championship Meet at Sunken Meadow State Park in Kings Park.

The Rolling Thunder Road Runners, a group for young people with physical or developmental disabilities, was organized 10 years ago by Steve Cuomo, president of the Village of Floral Park Unit of Nassau Municipal Local 882.

He began the group to help Steven, his son, who has cerebral palsy and is developmentally disabled. “I wanted him to be pushed and

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Local 881 member a bird watcher, photographer

OYSTER BAY — Dan Sweeney got his early love for the outdoors from his father when he was a boy in Hicksville. His family went camping upstate. He did a lot of fishing with his father in a boat.

But instead of becoming an enthusiastic fisherman or a hunter, Sweeney became a birder and carries a camera to photograph birds. An equipment operator in the Town of Oyster Bay’s Highway Department, the Local 881 member works from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. “I’m finished at 2 p.m., go home, take my photo gear and binoculars, and put them in my car and go,” he said.

Sweeney usually goes birding several times a week. When the birds are migrating, in the spring and fall, he goes every day, weather permitting. “It’s good to be outdoors. It’s healthy. I’ll walk five miles, be out there for eight hours. A nice, clean thing to do.”

He and Margarita, his wife, have brought up their children, Jessica, 21, and Daniel, 11, to love the outdoors. “On weekends, one will say, ‘Dad, can we go on a hike somewhere?’” Sweeney said.

His equipment includes a digital camera, a 500 millimeter lens, which enables the photographer to take photos from a distance, and his tripod. “I try to get as close as possible,” he said, “but you don’t want to get too close to the bird. I’ll click away. I’ll click 100 pictures of the bird.”

He’s printed 2,000 of his bird photos, which are all around the Sweeneys’ home in East Meadow, and mounted in albums. Another 5,000 are on disk.

He doesn’t always get the shots he wants. “Sometimes they’re too far away or move too quick and I don’t get a usable image,” he said. “The hard part of photographing birds is they don’t cooperate as you want them to.”

He is a big fan of sometimes just stopping, sitting down quietly and waiting. “If you sit back and take it in, that’s the good stuff,” he said. “You stop — birds come out, a raccoon pops out.”

He goes birding at Sunken Meadow, Wildwood State Park, Connectquot River, Heckscher, Caumsett, Jamaica Bay and his favorite spot, West End Beach at Jones Beach. “The number one place I go is Jones Beach,” he said.

It was there this past winter he had a rare experience for a birder. Smith’s Longspur, a bird that had been seen in New York state only once before, was spotted there, a long way from its usual winter home in the western U.S. “People came from Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Maryland to see that bird,” he said. “One of the best parts of birding is seeing birds you don’t ordinarily see.”

He estimated he has seen 200 different kinds of birds. Unlike many birders, he doesn’t keep a list of every kind of bird he’s ever seen. That’s not important to him.

What is important is to go out and enjoy nature, look at birds and take special pleasure in seeing a bird whose kind he hasn’t seen before. “There are so many species I haven’t seen,” he said.

Farmingdale Sept. 11 monument dedicated

Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, right, reads names of Long Islanders who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center. Seated behind him are Frank Petrone, supervisor of the Town of Huntington, and Robert De Silva.

FARMINGDALE — A somber and moving service honoring the 450 Long Islanders killed on Sept. 11, 2001, and commemorating the sixth anniversary of the attack, was held at Farmingdale State College Sept. 6.

The program also honored the loved ones of those killed and those who responded to the disaster, some of whom now face severe health problems.

The program was sponsored by the Long Island Sept. 11 Memorial Committee, which has prepared plans for a permanent memorial on the campus. Its goal is to keep all Long Islanders aware of the tragic events of that day.

A highlight of the program was the reading of the names of those who died in the attack.

The readers included the widow of one victim and “the best friend since childhood” of another, as well as judges, state legislators, assistant district attorneys and other public officials, a retired member of the New York Fire Department, supporters of the Memorial Committee and union leaders.

CSEA Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte read a group of names that included that of Steve Pollicino, son of Nick Pollicino, a longtime CSEA activist and president of Nassau Referees Local 919 at the time of the attack. Jane Pollicino, the widow of Steve Pollicino, was present at the ceremony.

Robert De Silva, a retired New York City firefighter and a co-founder of the Memorial Committee, serves as the committee’s president.
Local 881 names new president

OYSTER BAY — With the retirement of Augie Buckhardt from his job with the Town of Oyster Bay and as president of Local 881 in late August, Bobby Rauff, formerly the local’s executive vice president, stepped into the top office.

The local’s other officers are Alex Bard, executive vice president, Gene Faltica, 1st vice president; Dan Hess, 2nd vice president; Josephine Matcha, 3rd vice president; Jon Klein, treasurer and Barbara Huben, recording secretary.

“We’ve got a good team here,” said Rauff.

Employed by the town since 1976, Rauff became an assistant shop steward and served on the local’s Election Committee before winning election as 2nd vice president in 1998. 1st vice president in 2002 and executive vice president in 2006. At the Long Island Region, he chairs the Education & Training Committee, and serves on the Constitution & By-laws and Political Action committees and the Members Activists Team.

At the statewide level, Rauff is chair of the Convention Committee, a member of the Political Action, Resolutions and Education & Training committees and serves as a federal political action liaison to U.S. Rep. Peter King.

He was recently elected a vice president of the Long Island Federation of Labor, the AFL-CIO central labor body for Nassau and Suffolk counties.

“I had a big mouth going through the ranks,” Rauff said. “I guess it was all about making sure people had the right to talk, to have their say, to read the contract. My father was a drill instructor in the Marine Corps. He taught us we should always speak up for what we believed in.”

He and Voila, his wife, are the parents of a daughter, Harley Ann, 14, and a son, Robert, 13.

Buckhardt retired after more than 37 years in the town’s Sanitation Department. During his 10 years as president, he negotiated three excellent agreements with the town, including the first four-year contracts.

He and Rosalie, his wife of 35 years, are the parents of a daughter, Cynthia, a veterinary technician.

Asked how retirement would change her husband’s life, Rosalie said, “He will go upstate and enjoy his cabin as often as possible.”

She added that he would also not get up at 3 a.m.

Rauff said Buckhardt had created strong working relationships with Supervisor John Venditto and town officials that opened the avenue for the union to play a more important role in improving services to residents.

“He reshaped the union,” said Rauff. “He made the union the best it could be. We wish only the best for Augie in retirement.”

Local 870 names new president, treasurer

MEDFORD — Harry Alder is the new president of Suffolk Education Local 870 and Christine Urbanowicz is the new treasurer.

They were recently sworn in by Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte.

“Harry and Christine are the right people for the right job at the right time,” said LaMorte. “I have every confidence in their abilities. Local 870 is in good hands.”

The other officers of the local are Chris Marshall, 1st vice president; Aldo Zuccaro, 2nd vice president; Al Saar, who is retiring at the end of September, 3rd vice president, and Maria Navarro, secretary.

“As president of Local 870, I open my doors to all my union members and welcome your comments, suggestions and visits,” Alder said.

The head custodian at Coram Elementary School, Alder has been employed in the Longwood School District for 29 years. He served as a shop steward, grievance representative and unit officer before being elected to local office. He assumed the presidency in July.

He serves on the region’s Political Action, Education & Training and Health & Safety committees, and on several school district committees, including the Longwood District Shared Decision Making Team, Budget Advisory and Health & Safety committees.

His wife, Ann Marie, a former officer of the local, works for Eastern Suffolk BOCES. He is the father of two children and stepfather of two.

Local 865 Executive Board meeting

EAST MEADOW — The executive board of Nassau Educational Local 865 passed the budget for the coming year at their Sept. 10 meeting at the union’s office.

Monica Berkwitz is president of the local, which has 6,000 members employed in 68 school districts.

Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, a guest at the meeting, discussed items that were to be submitted to the Annual Delegates Meeting — rebates, changes to Judicial Board procedures and making retired members eligible to vote for CSEA statewide offices.

Richard Acredos of the Port Washington Unit invited all local members to a parade and barbecue the unit is holding on Oct. 6. More information is available from the local’s website, http://www.csaelocal865.org.

This month Urbanowicz was honored for completing 25 years of service with the Longwood School District, where she is a senior desk-typist. A graduate of CSEA’s LEAD (Leadership Education and Development) program, she serves as the Long Island Region’s treasurer and on its Women’s, Education & Training and Membership committees.

She and Stanley, her husband, a retired member of Laborers Local 1298, are the parents of two children, Matthew, a member of the United Auto Workers, and Veronica, a medical assistant.

The Suffolk Education Local is composed of 6,500 members in 72 school districts in the county.

Harry Alder, left, and Christine Urbanowicz being sworn in by Region President Nick LaMorte.

Top photo, Long Island Region President Nick LaMorte, rear row, fifth from right, joins members of Local 865 Executive Board at their meeting. President Monica Berkwitz is standing sixth from right. Bottom left, Nancy Dies of the North Merrick Unit looks over the proposed budget for Local 865. Bottom right, members pledge allegiance to the flag at the beginning of the meeting.

Long Island Reporter 8