

Feb 5, 2011

The rules apply to Astorino, too

Re "CSEA, unions harm New York," Jan. 19 letter: With all due respect to the above writer, her letter sidesteps an important act: Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino acted outside his authority when he illegally fired the 38 CSEA members working in the county Section 8 office. Any decision on these jobs is the responsibility of the Board of Legislators.

The rules apply to everyone, Rob Astorino included. CSEA's only recourse is to sue to correct this action.

We are already seeing the impact from the loss of these 38 workers. Landlords have not been receiving rent checks, phone calls about Section 8 issues are not being answered, and the general level of service has been greatly diminished. While the writer may think of these workers as overpaid clerical staff, they performed a variety of important administrative functions.

Additionally, I must disagree with her assertion that unions have waged an "economic assault" on this state. If anything has caused a negative impact on the state's finances, it's the recent corporate greed on Wall Street, not unions fighting to preserve a strong middle class.

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The writer is president of Unit 9200 CSEA Employees of Westchester County.