

May 29, 2011:

Layoffs for some, pay boosts for others

Re "Political ties pay off," May 22 article:

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino insists that his appointees did not get "a raise" two months after they were hired; their salary was simply brought up to the level it was by their predecessors. **The bottom line is they are making more money than when they were hired.**

Fifty-plus CSEA taxpaying Westchester County employees are still out of work, and the \$300,000-plus increases in salaries in just five short months this year could pay the salaries for some of those taxpaying working families if they were rehired after being laid off by Astorino.

After 500-plus employees retired or were laid off in 2010, the remaining employees took on more responsibility without any increase in pay. The work still needs to get done and the CSEA members continue to do the work with no help or increase in salary. The mantra for the Westchester administration to the workers over the last two years has been, "Do more with less and don't look for any compensation; you get paid too much already!"

At the end of June, Westchester will no longer be in the mental health clinic business, leaving many Westchester County residents without the assistance they may need. This is to save money. What that really means is the money is not saved, the lower-salaried employees lose their jobs while the "rich keep getting richer." The county executive appears on TV and states that there will be layoffs again this year. Really?

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