



Unit 9200 – Employees of Westchester County
Civil Service Employees Association
112 East Post Road
White Plains, New York 10601

Minutes of Open Monthly Member Meeting

JUNE 1, 2010

Karen Pecora – President

Judith Brome – 1st Vice President / Union Representative

Kwabena Manu – 2nd Vice President / Union Representative

James Kelly – 3rd Vice President

Junio I. Alvarado – 4th Vice President / Union Representative

Michael Wolf – Treasurer

Kimberly Gotzen – Secretary

- **Officers in Attendance:** All officers were in attendance
- Meeting was held at the Westchester Community College, White Plains
- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Pecora
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Moment of silence for departed Members and family members and troops serving throughout the world

Agenda Items

President Pecora thanked Gina Pelliccio, Vice President, and the officers of Westchester Community College Unit 9202 for making the Faculty Dining Room available to us for our meeting.

President Pecora also stated that the Executive Board appreciates the support that we have received from the Unit 9200 members in participating in events, meetings and workshops in the last few months – the members are more involved and informed than they have been in a long time, and we would like you to relay our thanks to your co-workers as well.

- Handout: CSEA/AFSCME/PEOPLE Health Care Legislation

Members have been inquiring about the provision of the Health Care Reform Bill which allows dependent children up to 26 years to remain on their parent's plan. Since the bill was passed in March 2010, and the bill states that this provision will take effect six months after the bill is passed, this provision will begin on or around September 24, 2010. We will release more information when it becomes available to us.

- Retirement Incentives:

Today was the deadline to file with the retirement system. Our list of members who have informed us that they will participate in the incentive is approximately 110, and there may be many more that we don't know about yet. The Governor signed the state incentive today. We don't have a date yet when it will be offered to the Counties, and we do not know for sure whether the County will opt-in to the state incentive, but it is our guess that they will. We will have a CSEA Retirement Guide available in the Unit Office for anyone who would like more information.

- New Retirees / Celebrations:

Unit 9200 would like to recognize all CSEA Members as they retire with a certificate and gift, as well as Local 860. Stewards should advise employees to contact the Unit Office if they have made plans to retire, or Stewards can inform us as well. Also, if there are retirement celebrations being held, please let the Unit Office know, as the officers would like to attend to recognize the retirees.

➤ **Retirements / Layoffs:**

The more County Employees who participate in the retirement incentives, the more it will help us to avoid layoffs next year. However, in any event, **NO LAYOFFS WOULD OCCUR DURING THE 2010 BUDGET YEAR**, and many things have to happen before any employees could be laid off, according to Civil Service Rules.

➤ **Playland Family Day:**

Playland Family Day will take place on **Saturday, June 12, 2010**. The rain date is Saturday, June 19, 2010, however we do not anticipate inclement weather at this time. The last day for payment is **Monday, June 7, 2010**. Please, if at all possible, do not wait until the last day to purchase tickets. We may be making a site visit to the Yonkers location to sell tickets as well. We absolutely will not sell any tickets after this deadline.

➤ **Public Relations Committee:**

The Public Relations Committee is working on a campaign for us to get out into the community and let people know who we are and what we do. Approximately 23 members and officers marched in the **White Plains Memorial Day Parade**, and President Pecora thanked the members that marched with us. We were recognized as CSEA Employees of Westchester County, and this was a first step for us.

➤ **Scholarship Winners Announced / Awards Ceremony:**

Sixteen \$1,000.00 scholarships have been awarded by Unit 9200 to the children of members who are graduating high school seniors, out of 23 applications submitted to the Scholarship Committee. One of these awards was the President's Award, new this year and selected by President Pecora. An awards ceremony will be held at the Local 860 Office on **Tuesday, June 8, 2010**. The recipients are as follows:

Student	Major	College	Parent/Member	Department
Calvin Alunkal	Business Management	New York University	Jancy Alunkal	Social Services
Chelsea Connolly	Child Psychology	(accepted to 7 colleges)	Martin Connolly	Finance/Purchasing
Nicole Costanzo	Italian Language/Education	Iona College	Natale Costanzo	Finance
Stephanie Crotty	English Literature/Arts	(accepted to several colleges)	Irene Dziadzio	Social Services
Julien Darmon	Foreign Languages	University of Rochester	Naomi Klein	Transportation
Brian Doyle	Mechanical Engineering	Temple University	Michael Doyle	Finance/Purchasing
Olivia Gawrych	Pre-Medicine/Psychology	University of Maryland	Walter Gawrych	Environmental Facilities
Eric Giancola	Criminal Justice	WCC	Nick Giancola	Emergency Services
Angel Gray	Psychology	Clark University	Deborah Nelson-Gray	Social Services
Jerin Kurien	Engineering	Drexel University	Komaalathu Kurien	Social Services
Brianna Meikle	Secondary Education	Temple University	Chyril Meikle	Probation
Chitra Panicker	Nursing	Penn State University	Murali Panicker	Social Services
Anit Philip	Doctorate of Pharmacy	St. John's University	Philip Kayalvarathu	Finance
Danielle Tavalocci	Music/Education	(accepted to 4 colleges)	Paul Tavalocci	Social Services
Taylor Whittemore	Biology	Stony Brook University	Ellen Whittemore	Health
President's Award: Kofi Manu	Political Science	St. John's University	Kwabena Manu Tracy Alberto	CSEA – 2nd VP Social Services

➤ **Retirement Seminar:**

Unit 9200 will be holding a Retirement Seminar, at the County Center on **Monday, June 14, 2010** (location subject to change). If you have put in your retirement papers to take advantage of the County Separation Incentive and you have any questions, a representative from the New York State Retirement System will be giving a short presentation and will hold a question and answer session.

➤ **Region 3 Civil Service Law / Layoffs Conference:**

Region 3 will be holding a Civil Service Law / Layoffs Conference on **Saturday, June 12, 2010** at the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**, and it is open to all CSEA members. The cost is **\$25.00**, and Unit 9200 will reimburse by expense voucher up to 8 members who wish to attend. Please contact the Region 3 office to register at **(800) 342-4146**.

Open Forum

Questions from Members answered by President Pecora:

➤ **Do we have to worry about furloughs?**

No. It would be illegal for the County Executive to force us to open up our contract, which is what furloughs, rescinding raises, pay decreases, etc. would constitute. Our contract does not expire until December 31, 2011, and all the provisions will remain in effect, and/or no new provisions can be instituted until that time, or legal action will be taken by CSEA.

➤ **Teamsters and COBA contracts are being negotiated. Are they being asked to contribute toward their health benefits?**

President Pecora has been meeting regularly with the Presidents of the other unions in the County. Yes, the County will be asking the other unions to contribute toward their medical benefits, but we do not know whether they will agree to that provision. We don't believe that the Corrections Officers will agree to contributions.

➤ **Today was New Employee Orientation Day. How many new employees were hired by the County?**

We know that approximately 64 new employees have been hired by the County since the beginning of 2010, and approximately 200 were hired last year, and this is one of our major arguments against layoffs. Essential positions which become vacant and must be filled should be filled by promoting from within.

➤ **In the event that we will have to pay toward our health benefits with our next contract, how much would it be?**

This is a subject of negotiation, and we will not know any details until negotiations start next year. A new contract must be ratified by the membership before any new provisions will go into effect. Even if it takes two months or two years to negotiate and ratify a new contract, in the interim the current contract provisions will be upheld.

➤ **If you are laid off, do you lose your pension?**

If you have completed 5 years of service in the New York State Retirement System and are vested, you will not lose your pension.

➤ **If you get bumped, can you bump someone else?**

There are cases where you can bump to an equal or lower title, depending on your current or previous title and if the previous title exists in the department you are currently working in. You can attend the Region 3 Civil Service Workshop for answers to specific questions, and Unit 9200 will also schedule another workshop on this subject.

➤ **Member sent an e-mail to CEA indicating that it was her understanding that pension funds were not part of the operating funds of the County Budget, and offering the state retirement incentive in addition to the county separation incentive will benefit us by getting more people to leave County service. Mr. Astorino answered back that the County will most likely not opt into the State Retirement Incentive due to the costs involved.**

The decision ultimately lies with the Board of Legislators, even if the County Executive vetoes the legislation, since they will have a majority of votes in favor of the State Retirement Incentive. When the Public Hearing is held by the BOL regarding the State Retirement Incentive, we will inform the members and encourage them to attend and speak on behalf of CSEA to encourage acceptance of the State Incentive in order to avoid any members being laid off.

➤ **Will the retirees be recognized on the Unit 9200 website?**

Yes, we will have a list of all CSEA Unit 9200 Members retiring that we are made aware of, with their departments and number of years of service. We may not have the resources to include any further personal information, as there may be several hundred people retiring.

Officer's Reports

No Officer's Reports.

Next Meeting Date

- **Next Open Monthly Member Meeting:** Date: [TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2010](#)
Location: ****To Be Determined****
Time: 5:30 PM Light Dinner / 6:00 PM Meeting

Adjournment

- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Warren Forbes** from **Corrections**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Rich Murray** from **Public Works**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Mary Decea** from **District Attorney's Office**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Pete Snyder** from **Public Works**.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Gotzen

Kimberly Gotzen
Secretary / Chair, Communications Committee / Shop Steward & Grievance Representative, Unit 9200

Handouts / Attachments

- AGENDA – OPEN MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING
- CSEA/AFSCME/PEOPLE Health Care Legislation

Unit 9200 Office

- The Unit 9200 Office is located at [112 East Post Road, 4th Floor, Room 428, in White Plains](#). Contact us by Telephone at [\(914\) 995-2151](tel:9149952151), by Fax at [\(914\) 995-5629](tel:9149955629), by E-mail at csea9200@westchestergov.com, or visit our Website at www.CSEA9200.com.