



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

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

Karen Pecora – President

Judith Brome – 1st Vice President / Union Representative

[Vacant] – 4th Vice President

Kwabena Manu – 2nd Vice President / Union Representative

Michael Wolf – Treasurer

Junio I. Alvarado – 3rd Vice President / Union Representative

Kimberly Gotzen – Secretary

- Officers in Attendance: All officers were in attendance, as well as Region 3 President Billy Riccaldo and Local 860 President John Staino
- Meeting was held at the White Plains High School, 550 North Street, 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

➤ Guest Speaker: Kathy McCormack, Director of Labor Affairs (and Vincent LeVien, Special Assistant to the Executive Director), from the Office of the State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli:

Ms. McCormack has worked in the labor movement for 26 years, including as a Member of CSEA, and was appointed by Comptroller DiNapoli when he took office 3 years ago, because he saw a need to have a liaison to work with the Unions. She works as a team with your CSEA leadership to make sure that our interests are protected.

We are in a very difficult chapter in our lives, and the Comptroller is constantly under attack about your pensions every day. Tom DiNapoli practices what he preaches. New York State has been named by Governing Magazine as having one of the best funded pension plans in the United States. Isn't it sad that it takes something like the death of your CSEA co-worker, for you to know that his family will receive a retirement system benefit?

The movement right now is to say let's do what the private sector does and change over to 401k programs. It is your election, and the person (Harry Wilson) that is running against Comptroller DiNapoli is a hedge fund manager and wants to change your pension to a 401k plan, which is so far from the values that we have for Unions, so it's more important than ever to get out and vote, including getting our family and friends, as well as our children who have turned 18 this year, involved in the process.

The amortization 'borrowing plan' issue you may have heard about in the press, is in no way that – it is a plan that allows public employers to average out their retirement system payments, similar to your utility bills, which allows better budget planning for municipalities – there are NO loans against the pension system.

President Pecora added that our concern is protecting our pensions, and they could be in jeopardy if we don't all get out and vote for Tom DiNapoli.

Local 860 President John Staino also informed the members that they will be holding phone banks for Legislator Tom Abinanti who is running for State Assembly at the Local 860 Office on **September 8th, 9th, and 13th** from **6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** and encouraged Members to volunteer. They will also be holding phone banks for Comptroller DiNapoli in October. Please contact the Local 860 Office at **(914) 428-6452**. Dinner will be provided.

Agenda Items

➤ Shop Steward Certifications:

The following members completed the Shop Steward Training in July, and were certified by President Pecora and awarded their CSEA Shop Steward Pins:

Kathy Amoedo – District Attorney
Jeffery Bonds – Health
Thomas Broderick – Public Works
John Christman – Public Works
Lukas Herbert – Planning

Theodore McRae – Social Services
Yvette Morgan-Hurley – Probation
Jermaine Nicks – Parks
Teri Rella – Public Works
Richard Stiller – Transportation

Chris Stisi – Public Works
Susan Tecce – Labs & Research
Michael Wolf – Parks

➤ Handout: Former Local 860 President Jack McPhillips Retirement Party

Jack McPhillips, former Unit 9200 President for 8 years, and former Local 860 President for 4 years, retired in July, and a Retirement Party in his honor will be held on **Saturday, September 11, 2010** at the Renaissance Hotel in White Plains. The cost is \$75.00 per person. Although the mail deadline has passed, members may still be able to attend. Please contact the Local 860 Office at **(914) 428-6452**.

➤ Handout: Former 3rd Vice President Jim Kelly Retirement Party

Jim Kelly, our former 3rd Vice President, retired from the County in August, and a Retirement Party in his honor will be held on **Friday, October 1, 2010** at Lake Isle Country Club in Eastchester. The cost is \$50.00 per person. Please contact President Pecora in the Unit Office if you would like to attend.

➤ Handout: Expense Vouchers

CSEA Members will be reimbursed for mileage to and from Open Monthly Member Meetings, and must use the Expense Voucher forms. Please submit vouchers with at least 3 months or up to 6 months of meetings on one form.

➤ Handout: "Do You Know CSEA Unit 9200 Westchester County Employees?" Information Card

Information on the jobs of a selection of Unit 9200 members, which are being distributed to the public at events to let them know what CSEA does for them every day. Members can get copies of these cards from the Unit Office to distribute to their family, friends, neighbors and local businesses.

➤ Handout: Voter Registration Cards

CSEA is having a statewide contest by and will reward the Region that is able to register the most people to vote. It is so important for us to be involved in politics and get out and vote, this year especially. Be sure to wear your CSEA apparel to let the public know that CSEA Members vote and support the candidates that support us. If you're not sure that you're registered to vote, fill out a Voter Registration Card.

➤ Public Hearings for 2011 Westchester County Budget:

President Pecora, 1st VP Brome, 2nd VP Manu and 3rd VP Alvarado have been making site visits around the County, and talking to the members about the budget fight that will be coming up in November, and encouraging all members to attend one or more of the Public Budget Hearings which will be held in November and December. Members should RSVP to the Unit 9200 Office, and T-shirts will be distributed to members that attend the meetings. We would like Members to speak on behalf of CSEA and tell the public the services that they provide for them every day, and we will assist you with talking points. The Board of Legislators has told us that they will not approve a budget with massive layoffs, but even one more layoff of a CSEA Member is massive to us.

Hearing dates: **Wednesday, November 17, 2010 – Riverfront Library Yonkers**
Tuesday, November 23, 2010 – Pleasantville High School
Thursday, December 9, 2010 – Board of Legislators Chambers

➤ **Site Visits:**

Please contact President Pecora in the Unit Office to find out if a Site Visit has been scheduled for your worksite, or let us know the best day and time to schedule a visit, and we will obtain permission from management to visit during lunchtime or before or after shifts, to discuss your concerns.

➤ **Sick Bank Balance:**

The approximate balance of days currently in the Sick Bank is **5983** with the new donations in February 2010. The Sick Bank balance will be available on our website www.CSEA9200.com every month.

➤ **Civil Service Law Workshop:**

Another Civil Service Law Workshop will be held on **Tuesday, September 14, 2010** at the White Plains High School from **6:00 PM to 7:00 PM** (light dinner at 5:30 PM), with a question and answer session from **7:00 PM to 7:30 PM**, and will concentrate on bumping and retention rights more so than previous workshops.

➤ **4th Vice President:**

With Jim Kelly's retirement, 4th Vice President Alvarado assumed the office of 3rd Vice President, and we have a vacancy in the office of 4th Vice President. We will be making an appointment in this position, and if you wish to submit a resume or nominate someone who is a CSEA activist and would be a good representative for Unit 9200 Members, please contact President Pecora in the Unit Office. Every candidate will be considered.

Open Forum

Questions from Members answered by President Pecora:

➤ **When will the County Budget be released?**

The County Budget is due on November 15, 2010, however the County Executive may release it earlier. President Pecora was told that a total of 20% savings was requested from each Department this year, 10% at the beginning of the year, and an additional 10% during the budget process which was completed in August. We think that the second 10% may consist mostly of layoffs, and that each Department would have compiled a list of titles targeted for layoffs. We are working on getting a copy of this list, which the County is required to provide to us. Upon receipt of this list, we will file a report with the County outlining the impact that any projected layoffs will have on County services, as well as demand the County Executive's plan to continue to provide vital services in the event that the layoffs he is recommending were made.

➤ **Don't the Retirements and Separations this year count toward the savings that are being requested by the County Executive?**

No, although approximately 450 employees separated or retired from the County so far this year, the County Executive is not considering these vacant lines as savings.

➤ **Can the County Executive outsource jobs to outside vendors?**

One way the County Executive thinks that he can get the work done is to hire outside vendors, but CSEA has exclusivity for these jobs, and we will fight any new outside vendors. Also, to date there were approximately 75 new hires in the County this year, as well as retirees who are returning as consultants, and they can't lay off CSEA Members when they keep hiring new employees. A grievance will be filed by CSEA for each retiree/consultant and outside vendor that is hired.

➤ **Now that the State Budget has passed, will the County be receiving any additional funds?**

We are trying to obtain this information either from the State or from the County, to make sure that any additional State funding is be applied against the projected deficit.

➤ Do retirees coming back as consultants still have County parking permits?

There were 600 employees on County parking permit waiting list, and employees that retired should have returned their permits and employees should be selected off the list to get the permits. We will request an updated list from the County. Please call the Unit Office if you know of any retirees that are still using County parking permits.

Officer's Reports

No Officer's Reports.

Next Meeting Date

- Next Open Monthly Member Meeting: Date: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2010
Location: ****WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA****
Time: 5:30 PM Light Dinner / 6:00 PM Meeting

Adjournment

- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Patricia Morton, Retiree** from **DSS**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **John Junker** from **Labs & Research**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Debbie Jenkins, Retiree** from **DSS**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Igor Tarnotolsky** from **Labs & Research**.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Gotzen

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

Handouts / Attachments

- AGENDA – OPEN MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING
- Local 860 – Jack McPhillips Retirement Party
- Unit 9200 – Jim Kelly Retirement Party
- “Do You Know CSEA Unit 9200 Westchester County Employees?” Informational Handout Cards
- Voter Registration Card
- CSEA Expense Voucher

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, by Fax at (914) 995-5629, by E-mail at csea9200@westchestergov.com, or visit our Website at www.CSEA9200.com.