



**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
FEBRUARY 3, 2011

Karen Pecora – President

Kwabena Manu – 1st Vice President / Union Representative
Junio I. Alvarado – 2nd Vice President / Union Representative
Teresa Rella – 3rd Vice President
Elio Giuliani – 4th Vice President

Michael Wolf – Treasurer
Kimberly Gotzen – Secretary

- **Officers in Attendance:** All officers were in attendance, as well as Local 860 President 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**

Agenda Items

- **Guest Speaker: Jim Gavin and Ed Mainland – Chase/Union Plus Mortgage Specialists**

Chase is the official mortgage company for CSEA and most unions, and has some very good programs that can help CSEA Members and their parents and children with purchasing a home or refinancing their home. Chase offers the Union Plus Mortgage Program, working with local realtors that will offer reduced closing costs, and offers a 1% cash-back program for Chase customers who have their mortgage payment automatically deducted out of their Chase checking account, up to \$500.00 per year. Chase also offers the Union Plus Mortgage Assistance Program, a free program offered as a benefit to CSEA Members, which includes 'time of hardship' benefits and covers work related disability and involuntary unemployment, and can freeze your mortgage payments for up to 6 months. Please contact **Jim Gavin** at **(914) 737-2861** or james.a.gavin@chase.com for more information.

- **Appointment of 4th Vice President:**

It is our pleasure to announce that former Unit 9200 Treasurer, **Elio Giuliani**, has accepted the appointment as Unit 9200 4th Vice President as of **February 1, 2011**. Elio has continued to be our webmaster for www.csea9200.com as well as a Shop Steward and Activist for Unit 9200 since the end of the previous term in 2009, and we welcome him back as an Officer.

- **March of Dimes Walk – May 1, 2011:**

The Annual March of Dimes Walk will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2011. Unit 9200 has participated in this event for many years, and will hold fundraising events at various County Sites in the coming months for this and other upcoming local events for charitable organizations. Please call the Unit Office if you would like to volunteer.

- **Unit 9200 / Local 860 Scholarships:**

Unit 9200 will again be awarding sixteen (16) \$1,000.00 scholarships, and the deadline is **Friday, April 1, 2011**. Local 860 will also be awarding twelve (12) \$1,000.00 scholarships plus the four-year renewable \$1,000.00 Grace Ann Aloisi scholarship, and the deadline is **Friday, April 15, 2011**. These scholarships are for children of current or retired Members of Unit 9200 who are graduating seniors this year. Applications are also available on our website.

➤ **Handout: Steward Workshop**

With the retirement of many Shop Stewards, we encourage activists who have not taken this workshop before to take it and become Shop Stewards for your Departments, and we also encourage current Stewards who have not taken the training in the past 3 years, or would like a refresher, to take it as well.

A two-part, six-hour free workshop on Shop Steward Training, to educate members on the skills that are needed to carry out the responsibilities of the Steward, including communicating, organizing and leading employees in the workplace, will be held at the Local 860 Office on **Tuesday, March 8, 2011 and Wednesday, March 9, 2011** from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM** (includes light dinner at 5:30 PM.). Please call the Unit Office to register.

Please keep in mind that the next Open Monthly Member Meeting will also be held on **Tuesday, March 8, 2011**, but if you need to take the training again if you have not done so within the last 3 years, or you would like to take it for the first time, please opt for the training over the meeting. There will also be another Steward Workshop exclusively for Unit 9200 Members this summer.

➤ **Handout: Local Government Discipline: Representing Members in Interrogations:**

A two-part, six-hour free workshop on Representing Members in Interrogations, to educate members on understanding Civil Service Law Section 75 and rights of Union Representatives and employees in disciplinary interrogations, will be held at the Local 860 Office on **Tuesday, March 29, 2011 and Wednesday, March 30, 2010** from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM** (includes light dinner at 5:30 PM). Participants must complete this workshop and be designated by the Unit President to represent members in disciplinary matters. Call the Region 3 Office at **(845) 831-1000** to register.

➤ **Political Action:**

Region 3 Legislative and Political Activist Training, to educate Members to be more involved in local politics that affect Union Members, and give them the tools to lobby their elected representatives and discuss New York's budget situation with their family, friends and neighbors, will be held on **Saturday, February 12, 2011** at the Ramada Inn in Fishkill, NY from **10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** (lunch will be provided). Members will be reimbursed for round-trip mileage from your home to the training. Please call the Region 3 Office at **(845) 831-1000** to register.

CSEA Region 3 has endorsed Democrat **Mary Jane Shimsky** for the vacant Board of Legislators seat in Greenburgh District 12. Members can call the Board of Legislators to find out their voting district.

➤ **Handout: AFSCME Lobby Day**

AFSCME Lobby Day will be held on **Tuesday, March 1, 2011** at the State Capitol in Albany. Busses will leave from **Local 860 in White Plains at 7:30 AM SHARP**, and also from Region 3 in Beacon at 9:00 AM. Light breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Members can meet with their State Representatives and State Senators, and talk to them about the issues that impact CSEA and AFSCME Members and all Union Members in New York State right now. Please call the Region 3 Office at **(845) 831-1000** to register.

➤ **Handout: Pension Information**

Article entitled "**Public employee pensions: let's get the facts straight**" by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. This is a great resource to explain the real facts about the New York State Pension System, which Members can use to inform their family, friends and neighbors, to combat the negative and erroneous information in the press recently.

➤ **Snow Days:**

We filed a Grievance after the **December 26-27, 2010** snowstorm, due to the fact that it was at the Department Commissioners' discretion whether employees were allowed to report late or not report at all without being charged time. There were also events of severe inclement weather on **January 12, January 27, and February 2, 2011**. How many taxpayers in Westchester did not have to report to work on these days when the State, Cities and Towns declared states of emergency? This is a health and safety issue for our Members, and all Members need to be treated equally. President Pecora will be meeting with the County Attorney's office tomorrow and this will be one of the issues discussed. In the event that we are successful with our Grievances, we can attempt to recoup Annual or Personal Leave that Members used during these occurrences of severe inclement weather, however, as explained at our last meeting, Members who used Sick Leave on these days would not be eligible to recoup that time, as Sick Leave can only be used for the purposes of an illness or family illness.

Open Forum

Questions from Members answered by President Pecora:

➤ **Are we required to divulge to our supervisor the nature of our illness when we call in sick?**

No. HIPAA laws prevent this to protect your privacy. Our contract states that Departments may require substantiation of illness. Members who call in sick but do not visit a doctor, for less than 3 consecutive days, can write their own note to their supervisor to substantiate that they were ill and could not report to work. In the event that your department will not accept this substantiation, we can file a Grievance.

➤ **What is the status of our Members that were laid off at the end of December 2010?**

A total of 107 Members were laid off as of December 31, 2010 – 37 of which were from Section 8/Planning. The pending lawsuit regarding the Section 8/Planning Members has been continued (postponed) for two weeks at the request of the County Law Department; however, the Legislators are on our side on this. Out of the other 70 Members in other Departments, approximately 10 have been offered equivalent or lower positions, most on a temporary basis. We will be reaching out again to the Members that are still out of work to update their information and determine if there is any way that CSEA can help them.

President Pecora reminded the Members in attendance to sign in on the sheets provided, and that only Members that sign in are eligible to be reimbursed mileage for attending Open Monthly Member Meetings.

Officer's Reports

No Officer's Reports.

Next Meeting Date

- **Next Open Monthly Member Meeting:** **Date:** **TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011**
Location: **WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL – South House Cafeteria**
Time: **5:30 PM Light Dinner / 6:00 PM Meeting**

Adjournment

- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Linda Snyder** from **Probation**
➤ Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Dunia Paz** from **Probation**
➤ Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Sweatshirt was won by: **Nat Costanzo** from **Finance**
➤ **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
- Unit 9200 – 2011 Monthly Open Membership Meetings
- Unit 9200 – CSEA Union Members Have a Website for Information: www.CSEA9200.com
 - Unit 9200 – Personnel Files and Your Rights
- Local 860 – Steward Workshop [March 8 & 9, 2011]
 - Local 860 – Civil Service Test Preparation Workshop [February 5, 2011]
- Local 860 – Local Government Discipline: Representing Members in Interrogations Workshop [March 29 & 30, 2011]
 - Your Rights Under The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993
- Local 860 – Defensive Driving Course / New York Safety Program (NYSP) [February through June 2011]
 - Fine, Olin & Anderman – Workers’ Compensation Representation
- Region 3 – Legislative and Political Activist Training [February 12, 2011]
- Region 3 – AFSCME Lobby Day [March 1, 2011]
 - ‘Workers’ pensions pounded’ New York Post Article on New York City Mayor demanding union reforms
- Buddy, Are You A CSEA Union Member?
 - Application for CSEA Membership
- “Public employee pensions: let’s get the facts straight” by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli
 - Stewards and Workplace Rage – CSEA Steward Update Newsletter
- Raymond Opticians
 - New County Optical
- Gold Star Directory – Save On Big Ticket Items!!!
 - Buyer’s Edge, Inc. – The Smart Way to Save Money on Major Purchases

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:(914)995-2151), by Fax at [\(914\) 995-5629](tel:(914)995-5629), by E-mail at csea9200@westchestergov.com, or visit our Website at www.CSEA9200.com.