



**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
JANUARY 11, 2011

Karen Pecora – President

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

Michael Wolf – Treasurer
Kimberly Gotzen – Secretary

- **Officers in Attendance:** All officers were in attendance
- **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

➤ **Snow Day(s):**

We have already filed a Grievance with regard to the Snow Days on **Sunday, December 26, 2010** and **Monday, December 27, 2010**, and we are anticipating having to file another Grievance after the expected snowstorm tomorrow, **Wednesday, January 12, 2011**. We advise Members to not use Sick Leave in a situation like this, since it cannot be restored. If you do not come in to work on a day when there is a snowstorm, if possible, use Annual Time or Personal Time which, in the event we are successful in our Grievance, can be restored to you.

➤ **Layoffs – Our Next Move:**

A total of 107 Members were laid off as of December 31, 2010 (39 in Planning/Section 8 and 68 in other Departments). Since then, 4 Members were reinstated. CSEA is filing a lawsuit tomorrow with regard to the layoffs, and the Teamsters Union will also be filing a lawsuit and/or Grievance for one of their Members whose title was eliminated. We are also in the process of getting copies of preferred lists from Human Resources to make sure that bumping and the elimination of titles has been done correctly. If Members have any information regarding temporary workers being hired to do the jobs of the Members that were laid off in any Departments, please contact President Pecora in the Unit Office.

➤ **Unit 9200 / Local 860 Scholarships for 2011:**

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.

➤ **Civil Service Test Preparation Workshop:**

A Civil Service Test Preparation Workshop, to assist in preparing for state, local government and school district civil service exams, will be held on **Saturday, February 5, 2011** from **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** (arrive at 8:30 for check-in; you may bring your own food) at the Region 3 Office in Beacon for **CSEA Members ONLY**. The fee is **\$15.75**, due in advance, and members **must pre-register and pre-pay by January 28, 2011**. Call the CSEA Work Institute at **(866) 478-5548** to register. This workshop is also available online anytime at www.cseallearningcenter.org.

➤ **CSEA Dues Schedule:**

CSEA dues will NOT be increased for 2011, which is a savings for all CSEA Members.

➤ **Steward Workshop:**

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.

With the retirement of many Shop Stewards, we encourage activists who have not taken this training 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. There will also be another Steward Workshop exclusively for Unit 9200 Members in the next few months.

➤ **Unit 9200 Holiday Party DVD:**

There was a videographer at our Holiday Party in December, and 2-DVD sets of the 2010 Unit 9200 Holiday Party are available for purchase in the Unit Office for **\$10.00**.

➤ **PAC Committee:**

The Unit 9200 Political Action Committee (PAC) will be reconvening to prepare for the special election for the Legislator seat vacated by Tom Abinanti in the Greenburgh district, and we will be meeting at White Plains High School on **Thursday, January 13, 2011** at **6:00 PM** to finalize the Questionnaire for the candidates. We will then be interviewing both candidates the following week, in order to make our recommendation to Local 860 and Region 3 for a CSEA Endorsement for the candidate we feel is most friendly to our concerns.

➤ **Fundraising / Holiday Party Committee:**

The Fundraising / Holiday Party Committee concentrates on the planning of our Annual Unit 9200 Holiday Party at the end of the year, but they also participate in various fundraising activities throughout the year which benefit local charitable organizations. We need to have more Member participation in this committee, to enable us to be involved with more activities to get Unit 9200's name out to the public and highlight our community activism.

➤ **Open Monthly Member Meeting Schedule for 2011:**

The schedule of Open Monthly Member Meetings for 2011 is available on our website. We will be holding alternate meetings on Thursday evenings this year to test if this night may be more convenient for our Members.

Open Forum

Questions from Members answered by President Pecora:

➤ **If you are laid off and offered a position in a lower title, do you have to accept it?**

If you are laid off and on a Preferred List, you must accept any position that is offered to you, even if it is in a lower grade than the position you previously held, in order to maintain your status on the Preferred List. If you refuse any position, you will be removed from the Preferred List. However, if you accept a position in a lower grade, you will remain on the Preferred List for a position in the grade you previously held.

➤ **There are Members who were laid off and then rehired on a temporary basis, especially in DCMH. What does this mean?**

These jobs are technically for only a 6-month timeframe because the County Executive plans to transition patients to Not-For-Profit agencies and close the County Mental Health clinics after 6 months. The Board of Legislators has assured us that they will not take the word of the Commissioner that this is even possible, and they are saying they must be assured that the Not-For-Profit agencies have the capacity, including resources, staff and space to take over all of the active cases, and if it is not shown that they have this capability, they will authorize emergency funds to delay the closing of the County clinics through the end of the year.

➤ **If you are laid off and return to County employment, will you become a Tier V employee in the Retirement System?**

No – your Tier status in the Retirement System is based on your original Date of Hire in any public service position within the Retirement System, and this will not be affected if you have a lapse in service.

➤ **Why have some Members status been changed to Contingent Permanent?**

Any Member that accepts a position that was vacated by another Member who had Permanent Status in that title to accept another position on a Probationary basis will be classified as Contingent Permanent until such time that the Member who previously held the title attains Permanent Status in their new title. At that time, once the Member classified as Contingent Permanent has passed their Probationary term, they will be granted Permanent status.

➤ **Statement from Labs and Research Member.**

With the County Executive's layoffs, 6 out of the 8 positions in the Virology Unit of Labs and Research were cut, and the remaining two Members subsequently tendered their resignations. As a result, the County Executive has decided to close this Unit in Labs and Research, which furthers his agenda of reducing County Government, and this trend will continue unless our Members come together and vote for Legislators and the next County Executive that will be on our side.

Officer's Reports

No Officer's Reports.

Next Meeting Date

- **Next Open Monthly Member Meeting:** **Date:** **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 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: **Jose Sierra** from **Finance**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Darette Mills** from **Community Mental Health**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by: **Wayne Schneider** from **Health**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Holiday Party DVD was won by: **Edna Gibian** from **Health**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Holiday Party DVD was won by: **Robert Webb** from **Social Services**.
- Raffle for a CSEA Unit 9200 Calendar Book was won by: **Eleanor Walsh** from **Labs and Research**.
- **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
- Civil Service Test Preparation Workshop
- Steward Workshop
- Local 860 Scholarships

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**.