



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

Minutes of Shop Steward / Monthly Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009

Jack McPhillips, President

Karen Pecora, 1st Vice President

Noel De La Cruz, 2nd Vice President

Edward J. Magilton, 3rd Vice President

Jim Kelly, 4th Vice President

Elio Giuliani, Treasurer

Kimberly Gotzen, Secretary

Kwabena Manu, Union Representative

Michael Wolf, Sergeant-at-Arms

- **Officers in Attendance: All officers were in attendance except President McPhillips (family emergency) and Jim Kelly. Meeting conducted by 1st Vice President Pecora.**
- **Meeting was held at the CSEA Local 860 Office, 595 West Hartsdale Avenue, White Plains.**
- **Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by 1st Vice President Pecora.**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Moment of silence for past members and family members**

Agenda Topics for Discussion

- **Guest Speaker: Cody Peluso – Region 3 Political Action Committee**

CSEA wants the members to be aware that funds are coming into the State and the County in Federal assistance from the Stimulus Package. The AFSCME Legislative Fact Sheet handout outlines the funding New York State will receive. Westchester County will receive 120 – 150 million for Medicaid, which is significant, but New York State will cut other existing funding which will offset the Federal assistance.

Westchester County is in very good financial shape compared to other counties, there is no talk of layoffs or givebacks from our contract, and it is fortunate that we got our contract before the State budget troubles, as evidenced by the requests for givebacks or raises in other counties such as Nassau, which is being asked to give back 7% of their salary.

Funding for highways and bridges, transit and clean water grants should bring money into the County, and would be beneficial to projects in DPW and DEF for upgrades to infrastructure. School districts will also receive substantial education funding, but may not use these funds to avoid layoffs.

Union Advocates in the New York State Legislature are fighting for us, but they need our help as well. As a CSEA member and a Westchester resident, you can call **(877) 255-9417** to contact the Governor's Office and your State Legislators to express your dissatisfaction with the budget cuts. Members can also get involved at the **'Rally for New York'** on **Thursday, March 5, 2009** at **5:00 PM** in front of 148 Martine Avenue in White Plains. Attend with other members of the **Westchester-Putnam Central Labor Body (AFL-CIO)** to tell the State that this proposed state budget is an attack on middle class working New Yorkers and that New Yorkers deserve better.

➤ **Guest Speakers: Lisa Addarich, Stacy Lombardi and Christian Babcock from JP Morgan Chase Bank**

Chase is affiliated with the Union Plus program, and offers exclusive savings and benefits when applying for a mortgage in any state for Union members and their families, including savings on closing costs. With this program, if you are out of work due to layoff, you can defer your mortgage payment for up to 6 months with no interest. Chase customers will also receive a 1/8 to 1/4 percent discount off mortgage (or refinance) rates. Rates are currently in the high 4's and low 5's. The representatives also met with members on an individual basis who had questions about these programs.

➤ **1st Vice President Pecora** introduced each member of the Executive Board present to the members.

➤ **Handout: Defensive Driving Courses**

A six-hour classroom course at the Local 860 Office, held on one Saturday or two weeknights. The fee is **\$19.00**. Seats are available for upcoming classes to be held **Tuesday, March 24, 2009** and **Wednesday, March 25, 2009** from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM** (includes light dinner at 5:30 PM). Classes are also scheduled for April, May and June. Call **(800) 942-6874** to register.

➤ **Handout: Civil Service Test Prep Course**

Test Prep Course on Saturday, March 7, 2009 is now sold out. The next available class will be advertised.

➤ **Posting of Flyers and Information by Shop Stewards**

The role of Shop Stewards and Union Activists is very important to the Union, because "you are our communication with our members". If you receive flyers, postings and announcements from the Union, please post on all available CSEA Bulletin Boards at your work site, and also try to communicate with your co-workers and let them know what is going on with the Union. Any member interested in becoming a certified Shop Steward should contact the Union office and we will schedule another training workshop.

➤ **Bulletin Boards at Work Sites**

Our contract specifically provides for bulletin boards in each worksite for the exclusive use of CSEA. If you do not have a CSEA bulletin board on your floor, please contact the Union office.

➤ **CSEA Election Information: Only MEMBERS Can Vote!**

Your paycheck must specify **CSEA Union Dues** to be a member in good standing and eligible to vote. **Agency Shop Fee Payers** can fill out an **Application For CSEA Membership** card to obtain their membership rights and benefits, which is available on our website or by calling the Union office. There are approximately 300 County workers who are Agency Shop Fee Payers to Unit 9200, but do not have the rights and benefits of membership.

➤ **Payroll Tax Information**

Federal withholding tax rates for regular pay wages have been reduced slightly, and effective on the March 5, 2009 payday, employees will see an increase in take-home pay.

Open Forum

Questions from members answered by 1st Vice President Pecora:

➤ **Is there any news on the Four-Day Workweek schedule petition?**

No new information at this time. The Union is still working on this issue with the County.

➤ **Will we be receiving printed copies of the contract?**

Yes, but it may be a few months. There are still some outstanding issues which must be settled before the contract can be printed, but it will be available much sooner than it was with the last contract.

➤ **Sick Bank**

The Executive Board and the Sick Bank Committee have been meeting about the Sick Bank, and we hope to finalize the contract language with the County and have the Sick Bank up and running within a few weeks. Announcements will be made on the timeframe and new rules and procedures.

➤ **Will we receive any information regarding how the County will be spending the federal stimulus funds?**

The Union is not directly involved with this issue, however, Westchester County residents have the right to inquire as to how these funds are being allocated, and can contact their Legislator.

Officer's Reports

➤ **1st Vice President Pecora**

The **March of Dimes** Bake Sale and Fundraiser event will be held on **Friday, March 7, 2009** at M.O.B.I. The Union thanks two members who donated items to be raffled off at the fundraiser, and donations are still being accepted at the Union office. The **March of Dimes Walk** will be held on **Sunday, April 26, 2009** from Saxon Woods Pool, and CSEA members are encouraged to sign up and attend.

Family Day at Playland is scheduled for **Saturday, June 6, 2009**, with a rain date of Saturday, June 27, 2009. Wristbands purchased through CSEA will be good for Lunch (served between 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM ONLY) and unlimited rides for adults and children over 36" tall (the park is open from 12:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M.). Children under 36" tall will receive free wristbands, which will include 13 kiddie rides. There will also be a limited number of free wristbands available for admission to the park only. More details will follow with the cost of the tickets and the dates of availability for ticket sales at the Unit 9200 office at 112 East Post Road, 4th Floor. There is a limit of 5 purchased wristbands per member, and tickets must be purchased in advance. Wristbands will NOT be sold on the day of the event

➤ **Sergeant-at-Arms Wolf**, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, stated there will be 10 **Scholarships** in the amount of \$1,000 awarded to children of CSEA Unit 9200 members who are graduating seniors this year. Applications are available now, and the filing deadline is **April 15, 2009**.

Old Business

No old business discussed.

New Business

➤ **The next monthly meeting is scheduled for: TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009 (5:30 P.M. Light Dinner / 6:00 P.M. Meeting)**

Adjournment

➤ Raffle for CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by **Edna Gibian** from the **Department of Health**.

➤ **Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Gotzen

Kimberly Gotzen
Secretary / Chair, Communications and Public Relations Committee / Shop Steward – DSS
Unit 9200

Handouts / Attachments

- **AGENDA - OPEN MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
- **Chase Home Finance / Union Plus – Looking for a Mortgage?**
- **AFSCME – Legislative Fact Sheet**
- **Westchester-Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO – Rally for New York, Thursday, March 5, 2009**
- **CSEA – New Yorkers Who Live On MAIN STREET Deserve Better**
- **CSEA – Capitol Notes: CSEA Slams Governor Paterson’s Budget**
- **CSEA – 2009-10 Executive Budget Alert: LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**
- **CSEA – 2009-10 Executive Budget Alert: REVENUE**
- **CSEA – 2009-10 Executive Budget Alert: EDUCATION**
- **Local 860 – Defensive Driving Courses**
- **Local 860 – Daytime Shop Steward Workshop**
- **Local 860 – Working People’s History Workshop**
- **Local 860 – Children of Local 860 Scholarships**
- **Local 860 – Grace Ann Aloisi Scholarship**
- **Westchester County – Payroll Tax Information**
- **The Work Force - ‘CIVIL SERVICE LAW Section 75: *The Disciplinary Process*’**
- **Newsday Article: “Suozzi: ‘Things are as bad as they can be’” (Nassau County)**
- **The Journal News Article: “Avoid drastic cuts by making wealthy pay fair share” (New York tax hikes)**
- **Steward Update - ‘Challenge Those Suspensions’**
- **Steward Update - ‘The Disgruntled Steward’**
- **Steward Update - ‘Evidence That Counts’**
- **AFSCME Advantage / Union Plus - Everyday Savings**
- **The Buyer’s Edge**