



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

Minutes of Shop Steward / Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 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 2nd Vice President De La Cruz (vacation).**
- **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 President McPhillips.**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Moment of silence for past members and family members**

Agenda Topics for Discussion

➤ **Guest Speakers: Raymond Kolkmann from Raymond Opticians**

Raymond Opticians is a family owned and operated business serving the Hudson Valley for 50 years with 17 locations, which provides benefits to a number of employee groups in Westchester.

CSEA employees and their families will receive with their POMCO VOUCHER: A comprehensive eye exam; and a large selection of the latest eyeglass frame styles (up to \$145 retail value or \$100 frame credit to upgrade to designer frames), with single vision, bifocal or trifocal lenses, and U.V., scratch coating and tinting (discounts up to 20% on other lens available options), **or** contact lenses (non-stigmatic and non-color only) at their best package price with a credit of \$82.00, plus any rebate available from the manufacturer will be credited against your co-payment. Also, a Free Spare Pair of single vision eyeglasses or sunglasses as a Thank You to CSEA members (with eyeglasses or contact lenses), which can be used for a dependent with payment for an eye exam. All locations except Tarrytown provide eye exams. Appointments for eye exams are recommended, or you can bring a prescription from your eye doctor.

Call POMCO at **(800) 234-4393** to obtain a Vision Voucher, and bring it in with the Raymond Opticians flyer, if possible. Mr. Kolkmann is available at the Yonkers location every day between 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

➤ **Guest Speakers: Cody Peluso - Region 3 Political Action Committee**

Unable to attend, however handouts available regarding the current budget crisis in New York State and how CSEA is fighting for workers. For example, Nassau County workers may have to accept a 7% pay cut or face severe layoffs, due to a contract agreement including provisions for layoffs and re-opening contracts negotiated with binding arbitration, which is not something to which our contract is bound. State aid to local governments and education will be cut, which will affect property taxes. Westchester Medical Center may have between 40 and 70 layoffs based on the final budget and closure of Taylor Care Center. The 2009 budget has been completed, which will not directly affect Westchester County jobs, but cuts will affect us as taxpayers. We have not had any indication from the County that layoffs will be necessary, and CSEA President Danny Donohue has stated that no contract will be re-opened without exploring every available alternative option.

➤ **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**. Upcoming classes will be held **Tuesday, February 24, 2009** and **Wednesday, February 25, 2009** from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM** (includes light dinner at 5:30 PM) or **Saturday, February 28, 2009** from **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** (includes light breakfast at 8:30 AM and light lunch). Call **(800) 942-6874** to register.

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

A six-hour members-only hands-on workshop will be held at the Local 860 office on **Saturday, March 7, 2009** from **9:00 AM to 3:30 PM** (registration at 8:30 AM, includes light breakfast and light lunch). **\$15.00** fee will be due in advance. Members must pre-register and **pre-pay by March 2, 2009**. Call the CSEA Work Institute office at **(866) 478-5548** to register.

➤ **Handout: Shop Steward Workshop**

A special daytime six-hour free workshop at the Local 860 office for employees who work night shifts, will be held on **Wednesday, April 1, 2009** from **9:00 AM to 3:30 PM** (includes light breakfast and light lunch). Call the Region 3 office at **(845) 831-1000** to register.

➤ **Handout: Working People's History Workshop**

A three-hour free workshop to educate members on 'Why are you in a Union?', 'Why do Unions exist?' and 'What is the value of being a Union Member?' will be held at the Local 860 office on **Tuesday, April 28, 2009** from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM** (includes light dinner at 5:30 PM). Call the Region 3 office at **(845) 831-1000** to register.

➤ **Handout: New York Sports Club Discount**

A newly negotiated benefit for Unit 9200, memberships are available to CSEA members for an exclusive price of **\$52.00 per month for a 1-year Passport Plan** (a nearly 50% savings), good at 10 locations in Westchester, as well as all 165 locations in the New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. area. Discounts also available for family members. Call **(800) 611-9833** for information on how to join.

➤ **Retro**

Retro payment was included in today's paychecks. Members should congratulate themselves for their patience throughout the contract negotiations process.

➤ **Sick Bank**

We have some agreement on the Sick Bank issues with the County, but there are still some issues outstanding, which need to be worked out with the County before the program can go back into effect.

➤ **Unit 9200 Elections**

CSEA Local and Unit elections will be taking place this year, and there are three handouts explaining the nomination and voting process for Unit 9200 elections, as well as the schedule and deadlines for each step. Petitions for the Nomination of Officers will be available beginning **February 17, 2009** and the first deadline is **March 13, 2009**. The Unit Election Committee is totally independent of the current Unit 9200 Executive Board. The Committee Members can be contacted for Nomination Petition forms as follows: **Joseph Castellano**, Chairman (County Clerk's Office) at **995-4218** and **Rita Madjanski**, Vice Chairman (Department of Public Works) at **995-5131**.

President McPhillips announced that he will not be seeking re-election for Unit 9200 President, however, he will still be running for re-election as Local 860 President to represent our Unit at the Local level, and will also be involved with CSEA Region 3. He said we're leaving the members in good hands with a new contract for another three years, he wishes anyone who decides to run good luck, and he is sure that whoever comes out the victor will be very capable leaders for the Unit.

Open Forum

Questions from members answered by President McPhillips and Unit 9200 Executive Board Members:

- **Is there any news on upgrades for DSS Senior Social Case Workers?**
- **Is there any news on the compressed week schedule petition?**

No new information at this time. These are issues which will be revisited once the new contract language is finalized with the County and the Sick Bank issue is resolved and back up and running.

- **Member Comment – White Plains D.O. metal detectors have been installed, but she is concerned that not every visitor to the building is required to go through the detector.**

Have there been any incidents yet? Not yet. 1st Vice President Pecora announced a meeting last week between the Union and County Police to discuss security issues, and this issue can also be addressed with the County Police. Incidents must be reported to the Unit office in order to be addressed.

- **Member Comment - Mt. Vernon D.O. also has security issues.**

1st Vice President Pecora stated that members need to inform the union of any issues at their work site, so that they can be addressed with the County.

- **Is there a lawsuit pending regarding penalties being assessed by the County for non-compliance with One Care Street surveys?**

We agreed to this stipulation as part of our new contract, and the union does not have any involvement with any member action resulting from being penalized due to non-compliance. Members were informed by the union about the deadlines in several different ways, and have a personal responsibility with regard to complying with County policies. Some appeals have been accepted, but most have been rejected, and the union unfortunately has no authority in this situation.

- **What if a member was penalized for spouse's non-compliance but spouse was deceased?**

1st Vice President Pecora stated member should contact the benefits department with documentation.

- **Why are members receiving multiple calls from other agencies on behalf of One Care Street?**

This issue is also being addressed with the county. If you receive a call, ask for the names of the company and person calling, and ask, "Is this my compliance call?" If so complete the call, if not then you are not required to complete additional calls once you are in compliance.

- **How many members non-compliant?**

County has released that they will realize approximately \$250,000.00 in penalties from members who were not in compliance with the survey and/or coaching calls.

Officer's Reports

- **President McPhillips** informed the members that MEDCO issues with generic drugs are being taken up with the County at this time to correct discrepancies members are finding with the specific drugs outlined in our contract and denials by MEDCO for drugs now being classified as "preferred generic".
- **1st Vice President Pecora** stated that Fundraising Committee, that plans events such as the Holiday Party and charity events, needs members. Release time is granted for meetings. Call the Unit Office for information. The **March of Dimes Walk** will be held on **Sunday, April 26, 2009**. A bake sale will be held this month to raise additional funds, and members are requested to donate goods for the sale, and to post information and encourage members to participate in the walk. Please post flyers that will be distributed.

****Please call the Unit Office to R.S.V.P. for Monthly Meetings so we will have enough food for everyone.****

Old Business

No old business discussed.

New Business

- **The next monthly meeting is scheduled for: TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009 (5:30 P.M. Light Dinner / 6:00 P.M. Meeting)**

Adjournment

- Raffle for CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by **Patricia Singleton** from the **Department of Health**. Jackets won by members at the last 3 meetings were also distributed.
- **Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 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**
- **Raymond Opticians Vision Plan for Westchester County CSEA Unit 9200 Employees**
- **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 – Civil Service Test Prep Course**
- **Local 860 – Daytime Shop Steward Workshop**
- **Local 860 – Working People’s History Workshop**
- **NOTICE TO CSEA MEMBERS – Unit 9200 Nomination Eligibility Requirements/Nomination of Officers/ Election Schedule**
- **Local 860 – Children of Local 860 Scholarships**
- **Local 860 – Grace Ann Aloisi Scholarship**
- **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’**
- **CSEA Participates in Fishkill Polar Plunge to raise funds for Special Olympics**
- **New York Sports Club Gym Passports**
- **AFSCME Advantage / Union Plus - Everyday Savings**
- **The Buyer’s Edge**