

CSEA Safe @ School Program

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Online CSEA Education

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SCHOLARSHIP SEASON WILL BE STARTING SOON! CSEANY.ORG/ SCHOLARSHIP



SOUTHERN REGION NEWS

Message from Region President Anthony Adamo

Sisters and Brothers:

Let me start by thanking all of you for your tremendous work these past months as we've grappled with COVID-19. You have all provided a variety of essential services that have kept New York running. Our state would have been in a much worse place had it not been for your efforts.

As we continue this fight against this virus, know that CSEA is with you. Despite the many challenges, some of which we still face, we have made progress. At the worksite level, we've resolved a myriad of issues for our members across the Southern Region. Our officers and staff have been tirelessly advocating on your behalf. The amount of advocacy in the area of workplace safety alone has been vast. If you aren't already engaged with CSEA, please connect with your officers and shop stewards. Let them know when issues arise so they can help address them. When you need additional help, reach out to our staff.

Budget shortfalls continue to loom, both on the state and local government levels. Rather than finger pointing about whose fault that is, we must continue to advocate for federal aid for New York. I have heard from many members that they don't feel New York deserves federal aid. Let me be clear: this need for a fair share of aid has nothing to do with what's happened on a state level. Federal aid

is needed and will be distributed nationwide. It's essential that New York receives its fair share, just like every other state. Did you know that in paying federal taxes, New Yorkers give more than they get back in aid, where other states (Kentucky, for example) receive way more than they give? This isn't a red or blue issue. New York is home to Wall Street and is a huge economic driver for our country. We deserve our fair share back.



Anthony Adamo
Region President

On a lighter note, we are finding ways to engage CSEA members in safe ways. We held an outdoor Southern Region Information Day on Oct. 24. I was thrilled to meet so many of you who hadn't previously been to a CSEA event. We hope to hold more events in the future. Please keep your eyes out for emails from CSEA, your CSEA Work Force newspaper, our website at cseany.org, and the CSEA Member Benefits Facebook page for info on the many member-only discounts, programs, and events available for you.

In closing, please reach out your region officers if you need us. I can be contacted at the Southern Region Office at (845) 831-1000.

Join our holiday outreach!

Even in the midst of our own struggles, CSEA members are always supporting other community members in need. This year is no exception.

Working with our locals and units, it is our goal to coordinate outreach in each of the seven counties of the Southern Region: Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam, Ulster, Sullivan, and Westchester.

The goal? To provide Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for families in need, as well as toys for children in need and gifts for nursing home residents. Imagine what an impact we could make if every local or unit picked one area to focus on, collecting and delivering donations to the local non-profit organization of your choice. We know that many groups already have projects underway, so we would like to compile photos from each project into a regionwide video to showcase how CSEA members across seven counties are making an impact!

If your local or unit is interested, please contact Southern Region President Anthony Adamo at anthony.adamo@cseainc.org. Working with region committees and local non-profits, we hope to show that CSEA members care by making the holidays happier for families in need. Working together, we can make this happen!



Scholarship News

Congratulations to the recipients of our 2020 Southern Region Scholarships! While current circumstances prevented us from presenting these scholarships in-person, we are proud of these students and wish them well in college!

Jessica Lopresti, CSEA Southern Region Scholarship. Parent Stephanie Lopresti is a bus attendant at Rockland County BOCES.

Joseph Purcell, Diane Hewitt Memorial Scholarship. Parent is Chris Purcell, senior office assistant with the Pleasantville School District Unit

Victoria Avon, Danny Donohue Scholarship. Parent is Steven Avon, a senior maintenance mechanic with the Westchester County Unit

Matthew Lombardoni, CSEA Southern Region COVID-19 Memorial Scholarship. Parent is Tina Lombardoni, an office assistant 1 (keyboarding) with the Rockland Psychiatric Center Local

Southern Region Executive Officers

Anthony Adamo, President

Carole Jeannot, Executive Vice President

Todd Schmidt, 1st Vice President

Liz Piraino, 2nd Vice President

Rosemarie Kukys, 3rd Vice President

Susan Fontana, Secretary

Tatiana De Luna-Evans, Treasurer

Seen around the Southern Region

In the midst of the pandemic, we've still been doing the business of our union! Here are photos from a few events across the Southern Region. Photo contributions may be emailed to jessica.ladlee@cseainc.org.



At our Southern Region Information Day on Oct. 24, Kathy Wills of Local 332 and Sue Fontana of Local 860 speak with Cathy Kraus from Fine, Olin & Anderman.



Local 412 officers Carole Jeannot, Vivienne Brunson, and Gerald Fabre thank members for their work during the pandemic.



Thanks to our Region 3 staff members who volunteered on a day off to assist with our Southern Region Information Day!



Officers from Local 421 and staff at Rockland Psych Center present a cake in honor of the work essential staff members have done throughout the pandemic.



The Town of Ramapo recently honored town workers for their work during the pandemic, honors that included this sign! Among those joining town leaders for the honors were Local 844 President Chris Vogel and Ramapo Unit President Adam Peltz.

Stay connected with our CSEA vendors!

As COVID-19 cases increase, our endorsed CSEA vendors are unfortunately unable (for the time being) to conduct worksite visits and attend information days. They are still working, however, and are eager to assist you however needed! If you need a consultation with one of our vendors, please don't hesitate to reach out. Whether it's insurance programs, workers' compensation, legal services, dental/vision coverage, discounts, or other programs, our CSEA vendor family is here to assist the membership!

Pearl Insurance

Disability, life, critical illness, accident insurances

Lydia Gregory (Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Orange)

(800) 476-9058 or lydia.gregory@pearlinsurance.com

Danielle Schoonmaker (Dutchess, Sullivan, Ulster)

(877) 880-7339 or danielle.schoonmaker@pearlinsurance.com

All other insurances (auto, homeowners, renters, boat, pet, etc.)

Call the Pearl Insurance headquarters at (800) 697-2732

CSEA Employee Benefit Fund

Dental and/or vision coverage included in many CSEA contracts

(800) EBF-CSEA or cseabf.org (live chat option available)

Jordan Rider (local government & private sector contracts) jrider@cseabf.org

Kylie Chard (state contract) kchard@cseabf.org

Fine, Olin & Anderman LLP

Endorsed legal firm handling workers' compensation, Social Security disability, veterans disability, personal injury, and administrator of the CSEA Legal Services Program.

www.foalaw.com

Cathy Kraus (downstate labor liaison for FOA)

(646) 253-4792 or ckraus@foalaw.com

CSEA Health Benefits Department

The CSEA Health Benefits Department can be reached at 518-785-4774 or 1-800-286-5242(JCHB) or by email at healthben@cseainc.org

NYS Deferred Compensation

Most deferred compensation plans in our region are administered through Nationwide and representatives are available for online appointments. Check with your employer if you're unsure who administers your deferred compensation plan.

Representatives are Joe Laiz (Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan) (844) 867-8197 or laizm@nationwide.com; and Tom Migliano (Putnam, Rockland, Westchester, Orange) (844) 867-8197 or migliat@nationwide.com

For more Member Benefits info (scholarships, free college, discounts & more) go to cseany.org