

Leadership Update

from President Mary E. Sullivan

Thursday, August 1, 2024

Dear CSEA Family,

Freedom Foundation Loses Access to Members' Information

The Freedom Foundation sent a Freedom of Information ("FOI") Request to Jefferson County seeking information for each Jefferson County employee who is currently employed in a position covered by a collective bargaining agreement with CSEA/AFSCME Local 1000. With respect to each employee, the Freedom Foundation sought the employee's first name, middle name, last name, gender, public office address, job title, hire date, agency or department, work email address or naming convention and domain, work telephone number, and bargaining unit.

The County refused to provide the requested information as an unwarranted invasion of privacy and that the Freedom Foundation wanted the information to solicit the employees. The Freedom Foundation sued Jefferson County and the New York Supreme Court found in favor of the Freedom Foundation finding that it was entitled to the information under Freedom of Information Law in New York.

The County appealed, arguing that the Freedom Foundation wants the information for solicitation purposes only which is improper under FOI. The Freedom Foundation argued that it wanted to educate public employees about the 2018 US Supreme Court *Janus* decision. The New York Appellate Division, 4th Department agreed with Jefferson County, reversed the lower court and dismissed the Freedom Foundation's lawsuit.

This is a victory for our members' privacy and protecting them against unwanted solicitations from the Freedom Foundation.

Storm King workers secure their first contracts

Please join me in congratulating CSEA members in the two bargaining units at Storm King Arts Center, both of which have just ratified their first union contracts! Workers there formed their union with CSEA last year and are part of a wave of cultural workers nationwide who've decided that it's better to be union. These initial contracts form an

important foundation that workers will build upon in years to come.

We have two bargaining units at SKAC due to National Labor Relations Board regulations that require Visitor Services staff to be in a separate unit, but the workers at SKAC stand united as CSEA Local 720. [Click here to read additional contract details.](#) With their new contracts in place CSEA members at Storm King Arts Center are definitely seeing the union difference!

Registration for our 114th Annual Delegates Meeting is now open

This year's ADM will be from October 7 – 11 at the Sheraton Times Square in New York City. Please check with your Local President to see if you are attending and then make your plans to join us! **The deadline to register for hotels and workshops is August 26.** More information as well as hotel and workshop registration can be found at <https://cseany.org/ADM>.

Labor Day Events

The first Monday in September is Labor Day, a very special holiday for everyone in the Labor movement and there will be events to celebrate it throughout the state. I would encourage you and your members to attend events and show off your CSEA pride! Here's a list of events we're aware of. If your Local or Unit is planning or participating in an event, please let your region know!

New York City Labor Day Parade – members from Regions 1, 2 and 3 will gather to march in the annual parade on Saturday, September 7 at 10:00 am. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/CSEA-NYCLaborDay-2024>.

Capital District Labor Day Family Celebration - The Capital District Area Labor Federation will host this on Monday, September 2 from 12:00 – 4:00 pm at the American Legion Mohawk Post 1450, 275 Grooms Road, Clifton Park, NY. More information is forthcoming.

Syracuse Labor Day Parade – The New York State Fair culminates in a labor day parade on Monday, September 2 at 10:30 am at the fairgrounds. After stopping by to visit CSEA's booth, participate in the parade!

Rochester Labor Day Parade – The parade will kick off at 11:00 am on Monday, September 2.

CSEA at the Yankees and NASCAR

CSEA members can save money on tickets for union weekend with the Yankees and support Special Olympics at the same time! The Yankees are offering great seats at even better prices to members for games on Friday August 30 to Sunday, September 1 using this link: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/group/csea-local-1000-st-louis-cardinals-vs-new-york-yankees-aea1d91>. Each ticket purchased will result in the Yankees making a \$5 donation to the Special Olympics at no extra cost!

In the Western part of the state, CSEA has partnered with NASCAR to offer discounted tickets to Watkins Glen's Go Bowling at the Glen Race Weekend, September 13-15. Visit <https://www.theglen.com/events/nascar-cup-series-race/> and use code **WGICSEA** to access the discount.

Did You Know 32 percent of the funding for the New York State Budget comes from the Federal Government. Without this money from the Federal Government, New Yorkers would lose critical aid to education, social services, Medicaid and public safety services just to name a few. These federal funds are essential in securing CSEA member jobs all throughout the state!

Regional News:

Long Island raises money for veterans The Long Island Veteran's Committee recently held their annual car wash fundraiser. More CSEA members and volunteers volunteered to work the event than ever before! Their efforts brought in over \$2,000 for local veterans in need, shattering previous fundraising efforts.

Member Benefits Spotlight: save on a new PC in time for school!

The new school year is right around the corner! CSEA members can save an additional 5% at Dell.com with a best price guarantee on all consumer PC's! Get ready for the school year by visiting www.dell.com/mpp/cseainc to save today!

A reminder to all officers in accordance with the CSEA Local and Unit Constitutions, Article V, Section 6: "All officers shall attend officers' training sessions, grievance training sessions as well as disciplinary training sessions as provided by the Association."

The following trainings are currently scheduled:

Required Union Representation IN-PERSON Trainings:

State Government Grievance Representation - Region 4 (Albany)**

Tuesday, August 6, and Wednesday, August 7, 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Call: (518-257-1363) to register

Local Government / Private Sector Grievance Representation - Region 6 (Allegany)**

Wednesday, August 7, and Thursday, August 8, 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Call: (716-691-6555) to register.

Local Government Discipline and Interrogation – Region 5 (Binghamton)**

Tuesday, August 13, and Wednesday, August 14, 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Call: (607) 772-1750 to register.

Local Government Discipline and Interrogation – Region 1 (Cammack)**

Wednesday, August 14, and Thursday, August 15, 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Call: (631) 462-0030 to register.

Local Government Discipline and Interrogation – Region 5 (Canton)

Saturday, August 17, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Call: (315) 433-0050 to register.

Local Government Discipline and Interrogation- Region 5 (Fulton)**

Wednesday, August 21, and Thursday, August 22, 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Call: (315) 433-0050 to register.

State Government Discipline and Interrogation – Region 3 (Orangeburg)

Saturday, August 24, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Call: (845) 831-1000 to register.

Local Government / Private Sector Grievance Representation- Region 5 (Binghamton)**

Tuesday, August 27, and Wednesday, August 28, 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Call: (607) 772-1750 to register.

*****This is a 2-part training, participants must complete both sessions to receive credit for completion.***

Required Union Representation VIRTUAL Trainings:

Grievance Rep - Recertification

Monday, August 5, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

<https://memberlink.cseany.org/Event.axd?e=1447>

State Government Discipline & Interrogation Recertification

Tuesday, August 6, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

<https://memberlink.cseany.org/Event.axd?e=1448>

Grievance Rep - Recertification

Wednesday, August 14, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

<https://memberlink.cseany.org/Event.axd?e=1455>

Local Government Discipline & Interrogation Recertification

Thursday, August 15th, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

<https://memberlink.cseany.org/Event.axd?e=1456>

Advanced Grievance: Introduction to Contract Interpretation

Monday, August 26th, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

<https://memberlink.cseany.org/Event.axd?e=1459>

Advanced Steward: Building An Activist Network

Tuesday, August 27, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

<https://memberlink.cseany.org/Event.axd?e=1460>

For a full list and description of workshops offered by the Education & Training Department go to: <https://cseany.org/training-workshops>

Required Officer Trainings:

*****There are no scheduled officer trainings at this time.***

What do you want to read about?

I'm asking for your feedback on any topics you'd like to see covered in future editions of this weekly leadership update. If you have ideas, please take the time to fill out our quick online survey at: <https://forms.office.com/r/seCVpFhVaG>.

I appreciate your response.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M' and a trailing flourish.

Mary E. Sullivan
President