

Greetings CSEA Family!

<Thursday January 11th, 2024>**Celebrating the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

On Monday, January 15 we honor Dr. King's 95th birthday and all that he did to advance the rights of minorities in America. We also must not forget that Dr. King gave his life while preparing to march on behalf of striking AFSCME sanitation workers. I encourage you all to take some time to find and participate in observances in honor of Dr. King near you.

Western New York MLK Legacy Luncheon to honor fellow union member

Ebony Rose of CSEA Local 815/section president for Erie County Medical Center will be honored by the Western New York (WNY) Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO at its 3rd Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Legacy Luncheon on Friday, Jan 12. The program will include recognition of awardees and their work in the labor movement and our local communities, and a celebration of labor and community's work to live the legacy of MLK in WNY. For more information – please visit: <https://wnyalf.org/events/mlk-legacy-luncheon>

MLK Day community food and clothing drive in Central New York

CSEA Members will join the Central New York Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO to assist with the efforts to sort and organize donations of food and gently used clothing on MLK Day – Monday, January 15th from 8 a.m. to Noon at Nottingham High School. For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=801453892010129&set=a.474250581397130>

Several MLK events will be held in Saratoga Springs

MLK Saratoga has a series of events taking place around Saratoga Springs for Dr. King Celebration Weekend. All events are free and open to the public. View the events here: <https://www.mlksaratoga.org/2024-dr-king-celebration-weekend>

CSEA members ratify contract with the New York State Canal Corp.

CSEA members employed by New York State Canal Corp. overwhelmingly ratified a new contract with seventy-one percent voter turnout and 95 percent voting YES to the 5-year deal. Increases in compensation for raises and salary schedule, many added benefits and no increases in health care contribution are among many highlights making this contract so well received.

District 3 Central Barge Canal Local President Chris Craine, District 2 Barge Canal East Local President Ron Euler (District 2) and District 2 Barge Canal West Local President John Weisser conducted the ballot count at CSEA Headquarters in Albany today. Nearly 400 CSEA represented Canal Corp. employees maintain and operate New York's 524-mile canal system that links the Hudson River with Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, the Niagara River and Lake Erie; it passes through 25 counties and is near more than 200 of our state's communities.

Ballots for CSEA elections will be mailed out

On Tuesday, January 16, the American Arbitration Association will mail out ballots for our CSEA elections to the homes of all eligible union members. Please remind members to watch for theirs. Ballots must be completed and returned to the American Arbitration Association's post office box by 8:00 am on Thursday, February 15. If ballots aren't received in the mail by Tuesday, January 23, contact the American Arbitration Association at 1-800-529-5218 or at <https://electionsaaa.org/ballotrequest/CSEA>.

Recap of Governor Hochul's 2024 State of the State

The Governor's 2024 State of the State address touched on a number of issues ranging from strengthening the public sector workforce, increasing the state's housing stock, public safety, investing in green energy, investing in mental health and supporting the states' healthcare delivery system. The governor specifically outlined another 100 new state operated mental health beds which will include 25 new forensic inpatient beds and 15 children's beds. In addition, in continuing efforts to recruit state workers, civil service will look at all state jobs that require a college education to determine if equivalent experience can be substituted for a college degree.

At the same time, a federal waiver has been granted to NYS to secure \$7 billion to transform our healthcare system and invest in workforce recruitment and retention. The governor also proposed a zero co-pay for insulin for all plans governed by the state.

Details on many proposals will be included in the Governor's proposed budget which will be forthcoming next week.

Update on School Workplace Violence Plan Compliance

We have learned that on January 9 the Commissioners of the NYS Education Department and the NYS Department of Labor communicated to school superintendents that school districts have until May 3 to comply with the updated workplace violence prevention law. We previously understood this requirement to take effect on January 4 and this is a significant departure from our understanding. We are looking into this and will continue to keep you informed as there are any new developments.

AFSCME highlights Region 1's Greta Glenn and her "heart of wisdom"

CSEA Long Island Region Pilgrim Psychiatric Center Local member Greta Glenn has been recognized as one of AFSCME's latest Never Quit Service Award winner. This service award is given in recognition of a member's outstanding service to our communities and our union. Read Greta's profile here: <http://tinyurl.com/ye85kd6p>

More communications from AFSCME this month:

AFSCME plans to send 4 full list emails in January and one email to a small subset of the full list that will give subscribers an opportunity to participate in a survey about union content. The full list emails are described below.

MLK Day

President Saunders' conversation with Martin Luther King III is featured on an interactive landing page. This email will link to the landing page where people can click through audio clips and to experience the conversation.

Never Quit Spotlight

This email highlighting a Never Quit Service Award winner illustrates AFSCME members' dedication to their jobs and their communities through a comic strip illustration. The email will ask subscribers to get to know the winner in real life by watching the full video or reading the blog.

AFSCME Now Round Up

This email will highlight the "most clicked" blog stories from January.

You Can Be U

This email will highlight the popular You Can Be U member content and will link to one of the videos on the AFSCME Facebook page. We will ask subscribers to leave a comment telling us about what they do with their free time.

Member Benefits Spotlight: Transfer your credit card balances and save!

During the holidays, many of us ate too much and spent too much – and it was great! Now we're paying the price, literally. If you have a high-rate credit card with a balance, chances are you can pay less in interest and lower your payments with a CSEA Visa. There's no balance transfer fee and lots of nice benefits. Learn more and apply at: www.capcomfcu.org/CSEA/CSEAVisa

Required Union Representation **IN-PERSON Trainings:**

State Government Grievance Representation – Fallsburg (Region 3)**

Tuesday, January 16, and Wednesday, January 17, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Call (845) 831-1000 to register.

State Government Discipline and Interrogation – Albany (Region 4)**

Wednesday, January 17, and Thursday, January 18, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Call (518) 782-4400 to register.

Local Government Discipline and Interrogation – Beacon (Region 3)

Saturday, February 3, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Call (845) 831-1000 to register.

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

Tuesday, February 13, and Wednesday, February 14, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Call (607) 338-1130 to register.

State Government Discipline and Interrogation – Oneonta (Region 5)**

Tuesday, February 20, and Wednesday, February 21, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Call (315) 433-0050 to register.

Local Government Grievance Representation – Commack (Region 1)**

Tuesday, March 19, and Wednesday, March 20, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Call (631) 462-0030 to register.

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

Required Union Representation **VIRTUAL Trainings:**

Discipline & Interrogations Recertification

Monday, January 22, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. <https://memberlink.cseany.org/Event.axd?e=1212>

Grievance Representation Recertification

Monday, January 29, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. <https://memberlink.cseany.org/Event.axd?e=1216>

Required Officer Trainings:

Contact your region to register.

Region 1 – (631) 462-0030 Region 4 – (518) 782-4400

Region 2 – (212) 406-2156 Region 5 – (800) 559-7975

Region 3 – (845) 831-1000 Region 6 – (716) 691-6555

VIRTUAL President/VP Training for Regions 1-6:**

Wednesday, January 17, and Thursday, January 18, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm for new and experienced officers in all sectors.

Deadline to register is Thursday, January 11. Call your Region to register.

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

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,



Mary E. Sullivan
President