

**106<sup>th</sup> CSEA ADM Remarks**  
**Florence “Flo” Tripi**  
**President, CSEA Western Region 6**

**CSEA: We Never Quit**

October 2016-- The American Labor Movement is one of our nation’s most vital stakeholders—having been on the front lines of improving our economy and fighting for safe, good-paying dignified jobs for more than a century. While visiting our nation’s capital during our 106<sup>th</sup> ADM, we ask all our delegates, members and allies to rededicate our efforts to improving the lives of all working families. We also ask for our community partners and allies to help us bring economic justice to the workplace and to improve social justice outcomes in New York State and all across this great nation. It’s also very important for our communities to know that CSEA public service and private sector workers will never quit on the promise of creating a better life for our neighbors, ourselves and our families.

We are stronger when we invest in our most precious resource—the people and families who take an active role in making their communities better by delivering on the promise of a job well done. Our economy and way of life is not all about money and profit—it’s about people. It’s about shared prosperity and improving the standard of living for everybody. We know we are stronger as a community when labor laws are enforced and when we support each other in times of crisis. Our right to organize, to collectively bargain, to be safe on the job— and to retire with dignity and security after years of hard work is fundamental to the growth and well-being of our nation.

Unionized workers contribute to virtually every sector of our economy. Work is what we do to better ourselves, our families—our cities, towns, our nation. Work is the initials we scratch in the wet cement of America’s progress. Work is what built this country—and it’s what will build it again. And as work changes we change with it. Work doesn’t separate us—it’s what binds us together as a community—all of us. Work is what connects us—and we are stronger together.

The way working people speak with one voice is through our collective bargaining efforts and our union. It’s through CSEA that workplace democracy exists. In some of our most dangerous institutions, corrections and public safety workers get a seat at the table with management to help prevent unsafe work conditions. It’s through our political action efforts we can provide a necessary voice for all working people when legislators create public policy. It’s through CSEA that emergency medical workers can improve the life-saving services we provide for our loved ones and for our communities. But let’s not kid ourselves— there are many rich and powerful people trying to pass legislation and sway court decisions to diminish the power of working people— while spending billions of dollars doing it. No matter how vicious and ugly the attacks are against us, we’ll always stand up for our communities and our families. We will never quit fighting for our right to have a voice on the job and in our communities.

We will never quit fighting to create a living wage for all people who want to work; to finally join all other industrialized nations in guaranteeing Paid Family Leave for working families and at last secure equal pay for women. Let us also recommit our dedication to creating safe clean workplaces—where workers and employers can be more productive and where employees know they will be going home unscathed after a hard day's work.

Never quit—this is our CSEA history and it will always be a fundamental characteristic of who we are and what we do. This will always be our message. The next time you are introduced to someone and they ask you what you do for a living, tell them you deliver vital services to your community and you will never quit on them. I'm sure you will make a good impression.

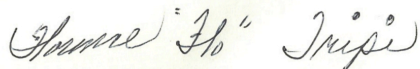
### **Major threats to our existence will continue**

If the US Supreme Court ever sides with wealthy special interests in upcoming court cases designed to diminish our right to financial resources and to have a strong voice on the job, America and our economy as we know it will be forever compromised. This is just one of a hand full of reasons why we must never quit and why we must exercise our political muscle as one—to make sure we elect lawmakers that protect our right to collectively bargain and for working people to have the ability to join and form a union.

Regardless of the outcome of these court cases in the pipeline, we'll never quit fighting for our rights and to have our voices heard. There are many more battles to come, but I can tell you this now— if we stick together we can accomplish anything. We're building member power through our CSEA Never Quit Campaign and we urge all CSEA families to get involved.

At our 106<sup>th</sup> ADM, we proudly stand with each other arm in arm to do the business of the union, to celebrate all things labor and to protect the rights and values that helped build this great nation. CSEA will never quit. We will never quit fighting for our place at the table and having our voice heard at work-- because when unions are strong-- workers are strong. And when workers are strong-- America is strong.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Florence 'Flo' Tripi". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Florence "Flo" Tripi  
President, CSEA Western Region 6