

A message from CSEA Long Island Region President Jarvis Brown



May was CSEA Member Appreciation Month. Allow me to thank Long Island Region members for their hard work, consistency and dedication to

their positions. This year's Member Appreciation Month theme was 'You Get The Job Done' and it's for a reason - you always do. New York state, local government and the private sector are lucky to have you in the workforce.

In our first few months of being in office, the CSEA Long Island Region Board and I have already accomplished several of our goals, including bridging the gap between the Long Island Region office, local and unit officers and the general membership.

A testament to that would be the success of the region's first bowling nights, which were held in honor of CSEA Member Appreciation Month. Hundreds of members responded to the raffle for a free night of bowling, food and socializing with their fellow members. Attendees commented on how much fun they were having and their hopes that CSEA holds similar functions in the future.

I would also like to thank everyone who made this year's Region One Golf Classic a sold-out event. All proceeds from the day go to the Long Island Region's first College Scholarship Fund.

On a more somber note, the CSEA Long Island Region participated in Workers' Memorial Day observances at the New York State Offices in Hauppauge. The annual recognition day is when we honor workers that died, were disabled or were injured on the job, and renew our dedication to fighting for a safe working environment for all.

The Region One Veterans Committee held their annual Memorial Day ceremony at Calverton National Cemetery. Committee members and guests met to honor members of the U.S. Armed Forces

who died while serving.

After the ceremony, attendees posted flags at the gravesites of other CSEA-affiliated individuals.

Our region's next big event is International Day on June 8. International Day is our region's annual celebration of the various cultural backgrounds of Region One members. We are seeing a record number of RSVPs for the affair. The region board and I are pleased to see that so many members are eager to attend.

Your Long Island Region Board and I are continuing our efforts to expand the lines of communication between unit and local offices through our encouragement to share resources. That could mean anything from working in tandem to secure members to attend rallies to asking your unit and local presidents to sit alongside the membership when speaking with administration. There is always someone available to you that can provide assistance. Remember, our region is filled with tens of thousands of CSEA activists; you are never alone.

Understanding the responsibility that each local and unit officer has in the union movement, I, as the region president, will be responsible for ensuring officers have completed CSEA's mandated training. Emails and phone calls to Long Island Region officers have begun and will continue as we work toward ensuring region officers are in full compliance with CSEA's written standards.

CSEA's constitution requires all officers to be trained in Discipline and Interrogation, every election cycle. One training has already been held. You will see more from that workshop in this newsletter.

I want to thank the officers that have responded to the training request and have either completed their training or will be attending the next region training on June 15. I commend them for being part of the new movement to develop our sense of community in Long Island Region One. It is our responsibility as

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officers to seek out the training that CSEA's constitution obliges us to receive. Let's keep moving forward in that strength.

We will be focusing more on our members out east. The region board is making good on its promise to be more present in that area by planning a meet and greet in Riverhead. The event is an opportunity for members to meet their

Mourn for the dead, fight for the living

CSEA members recently attended the Long Island Federation of Labor's Annual Workers Memorial Day service at the New York State Office Building in Hauppauge.

Thankfully, our union's Long Island Region didn't have any casualties this year, but region representatives attended the event to remember non-CSEA workers who passed away while doing their jobs during the past year.

The program included a memorial service candle lighting ceremony, in which candles were lit to represent lives lost to workplace injury or illness in 2023. There were also guest speakers and a memorial flower bed planting.

Workers Memorial Day was created to recognize workers that died or suffered due to exposure to hazards at work. CSEA is at the forefront of fighting to secure safe working conditions for its members.

— Wendi Bowie



From left to right, CSEA Town of Oyster Bay Local Executive Vice President Tom Robinson, CSEA Long Island Region Occupational Safety and Health Specialist Jeff Hyman and CSEA Long Island Region President Jarvis Brown attend the ceremony.



Left, CSEA Long Island Region President Jarvis Brown plants a flower in front of the Workers' Memorial in Hauppauge.

Training to represent members

COMMACK — CSEA officers are the first line of defense when addressing members' immediate concerns. This incredible responsibility is why it is critical that CSEA officers be properly trained to perform their duties.

The Discipline and Interrogation Workshop [D.I.] is one of the most important workshops that officers must attend. Without this very important training, officers will be ill-equipped to defend a member who is being unfairly targeted.

**OFFICER
ALERT**

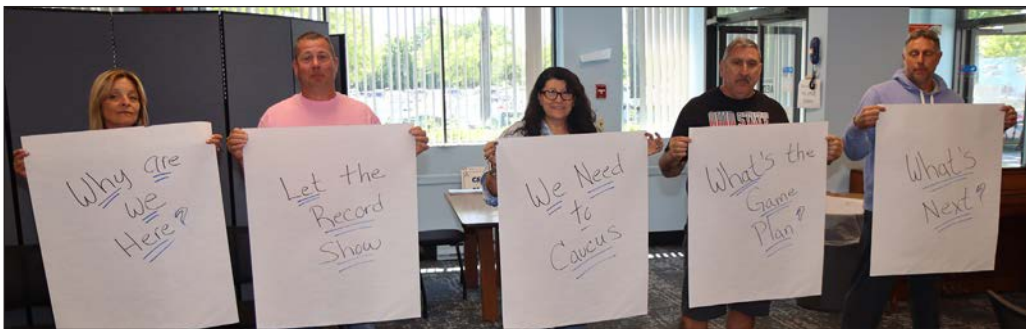
There are a large number CSEA officers in the Long Island Region who have not taken CSEA's D.I. Workshop in this election cycle. It is a constitutional requirement that CSEA officers be trained to properly represent members in the interrogation and disciplinary process. Not being trained could lead to judiciary charges.

CSEA is liable for officers serving in a capacity in which they are untrained. Additionally, CSEA officers are personally

liable.

To correct this matter and prevent Region One officers from facing corrective measures, the CSEA Long Island Region Executive Board and I are working with CSEA's Education and Training Department to hold D.I. Workshops at the region office. One workshop has already been held, the next will be held in August.

Officers that are contacted by the CSEA Long Island Region need to carve out the time to attend this training in order to effectively represent members.



CSEA officers recently gathered at the CSEA Long Island Region office for officer training. Both new and seasoned officers are learning more about their rights as a union representative, tricks management will attempt to use during interrogations and a host of other necessary skills they can apply at their respective worksites.



Members strengthen skills at safety conference

WEST BABYLON — CSEA New York State Department of Transportation [D.O.T.] Local 508 members, joined other union members at the state's annual D.O.T. Safety Meeting. At the two-day event, members learned safety techniques and procedures that will help them safely and accurately complete their work.



Members review a board that explains how to properly set up a construction zone.



Sergio Bonilla exchanges his old hard hat for a newer one.



There was a special section at the conference for CSEA members to practice operating heavy equipment.



CSEA member Alfred "AJ" Stiefel, right, learns about new equipment the state is purchasing for D.O.T.



D.O.T. worker Nick Morzillo practices how to safely distinguish a small rubbish fire.

Babylon aides and monitors organize

BABYLON — After years of toiling under a de-facto organization, 80 Babylon School District aides and monitors have joined the district's clerical staff, nurses and custodial units as the newest members of the CSEA family.

The workers' efforts began in January when aides and monitors reached out to CSEA Babylon Clerical Unit President Debbie Melito about dissolving the group's relationship with the association they were with and organizing with CSEA. Melito put the workers in contact with the CSEA Organizing Department, whose staff walked them through the process of becoming members.

The Organizing Committee's nine members represent a cross-section of aides and monitors in the district, as there is someone on the committee who represents each of the three schools where aides and monitors work.

Other CSEA members from the district's established units were supportive of the group's efforts, noting that, "joining CSEA was the best decision that we ever made."

In March, members voted by secret



The Babylon School District Aides and Monitors Unit Organizing Committee at the unit's recent victory party. Bottom row from left, Christine Rosenberg, Maria Gangone and Lisa Harvey. Back row from left, Patricia Cresciullo, Rosa Anna Vittorio, Claire Joseph, Theresa Altieri, Karen Altieri and Diane Szuchy.

ballot to dissolve the de-facto organization. The next week, the Organizing Committee collected signed CSEA membership cards from an overwhelming majority of the aides and monitors.

Less than a month later the members achieved voluntary recognition, making CSEA the exclusive representatives for the workers.

Gaining respect

Before the new, more inclusive district Board of Education recently took office, workers went 12 years without renegotiating their contract because of the former district administration's continuous refusal to meet with them. The few negotiations the aides and monitors had with the former school board ended with the group being offered an insultingly small raise. The district also

refused to offer vacation time or sick days.

"We're working with kids who are sneezing on us, pulling at us and can be violent," said Claire Joseph, a CSEA Babylon School District Aides and Monitors Organizing Committee member. "If we got sick, we couldn't take a day off."

"God forbid you catch the flu and are out for a week," said Theresa Altieri, also an Organizing Committee member and decades-long district employee. "You couldn't afford to stay home."

Aligning with Civil Service

Even with the overall excitement about becoming CSEA members, there are still a few part-time workers who are worried about paying dues. Altieri has a little advice for them.

"I always ask them, 'What have you got now?' and they always answer, 'nothing,'" said Altieri. "I answer with, 'We have civil service with us now; that's a lot better than nothing.'"

In addition, our union's new members have our CSEA family standing with them, including members of CSEA's other Babylon School District units.

"They were cheering us on the entire time we were organizing," said Joseph. "It felt good to have their encouragement."

With their recent organizing success, the aides and monitors encourage other workers to join CSEA.

"I think workers should go for it," said Joseph. "You have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

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region board and speak to us about issues they are facing at their worksite. We will also be reaching out to North Fork and South Fork unit officers to discuss the best ways to initiate contact with members in that area, meet and greet or otherwise. Please keep a look out for an email blast from CSEA that alerts members in the area of upcoming events.

The first Long Island Region One workshop to take place on Long Island will be held at the Huntington Hilton on November 2, 2024. The theme for the workshop is 'Communicate to Educate.' Save the date for the event. Your region

board and I are working with CSEA Education and Training Department to create an informative curriculum.

As you can see, there are a lot of positive things happening in our region. The CSEA Long Island Region Board and I are looking forward to what is to come and all of you being a part of it.

Sincerely,

Jarvis Brown
CSEA Long Island Region President

— Wendi Bowie



Attend a member meeting

COMMACK — CSEA member meetings are a crucial part of building CSEA's strength in the workplace.

At these meetings, members are able to have their thoughts and concerns addressed directly by union leadership,

while helping to determine the course of action your representatives will take on union matters. It is also the perfect place to get updates on union activities. Meetings also give you the chance to learn more about CSEA member-only

benefits, which are included with your union membership. These benefits are a great way to save money. Why not take advantage of them?

The next time your unit or local hold a member meeting, consider attending.



Golf Classic raises money for region scholarship fund

WOODBURY — The CSEA Long Island Region recently held its 14th Annual Region One Golf Classic.

More than 100 golfers ascended on the Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course to have some fun on the green for a good cause.

Proceeds from the event go to Region One's new college scholarship fund, which was conceived by CSEA Long Island Region President Jarvis Brown and the CSEA Long Island

Region Executive Board.

Among the many attendees of the event were CSEA Executive Vice President Ron Briggs, CSEA Statewide Treasurer Nicole Meeks and CSEA Secretary Richard Bebo.

"Thank you to everyone who joined us," said Brown. "Because of you, the financial weight of a few college freshman will be a little lighter."

— Wendi Bowie



CSEA Long Island Region shows appreciation to members

As part of CSEA Member Appreciation Month, the CSEA Long Island Region held bowling nights in Riverhead and Syosset.

Hundreds of members enjoyed an exciting evening of bowling, food and fellowship.

For some members, it marked the first time they were free to attend a CSEA event

close to home. Others were happy to meet members outside of their locals and units, as it helped them gain a greater understanding of CSEA's magnitude and the many jobs their fellow members hold in our region.

The bowling events are part of your CSEA Long Island Region Board's pledge to make events more accessible to members in the region.

Our region's next big event will be the CSEA Long Island Region International Day Festival on June 8. We will be celebrating the many ethnic traditions of members in our region. Hope to see you there.

— Wendi Bowie



"Holding a bowling night was a great idea. During this kind of event, members get to meet other members from around the region. I really hope we continue to have these kinds of events in the future; it makes me feel like we are really appreciated."

— LaSheena Harris, Riverhead School District Non-Instructional Unit



"I was so excited when I got the call that I had one the Member Appreciation Month Bowling Night Raffle. It was a great idea to bring members together as a union family, so we can have fun together. I was nice to meet members from outside of my local."



— John Roca, D.O.T. Local 508



**MEMBER
APPRECIATION
BOWLING NIGHT
RIVERHEAD**



CSEA Long Island Region shows appreciation to members (continued)

MEMBER APPRECIATION BOWLING NIGHT SYOSSET

