

NEWS CSEA NEWS

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Haverstraw EMS workers WIN union election

Haverstraw, NY – Paid workers from Haverstraw Ambulance Corps **voted unanimously** to join the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) in an election held on Wednesday, December 4. The group has had overwhelming support from the community and cited the reasons for organizing as building power at work to improve standards of care.

“I was thrilled to see that our hometown heroes at the Haverstraw Ambulance Corps voted to join CSEA. These people are there for us when we need them most, and deserve to be respected at work with a livable wage, benefits and retirement options. They now have the seat at the table that they need to obtain all of these,” said **Patrick Carroll, Assemblyman for the 96 District**.

CSEA has a rapidly growing EMS union membership in New York State. EMS professionals are improving the profession through collective bargaining and political action, while pushing back against cuts and declining standards.

“Our number one priority is the quality care we give to the community. A strong voice on the job is very important to be able to advocate for that care. We united for safety, professionalism and community care. Having a union means a guaranteed contract with our employer, having an open dialogue and being able to make changes on the job like working conditions, benefits and pay. We are so excited to join CSEA,” said **Brittany Delahanty, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B)**.

“Safety is a major concern for all first responders. Our job is dangerous, as members we will now have access to the CSEA Occupational Safety and Health professionals in addition to the opportunity to collectively bargain for better training and equipment. Now, we can work with our employer on raising safety standards and also adhering to best practices. We are on the ground every day and know the issues best,” **Greg Scharfenberg, EMT-B**

“Maintaining professionalism is a top priority. We see our community members at what could be the worst day of their lives. We have standards and decorum to uphold. Improvements to our working conditions and tools dedicated to helping us deal with the trauma we see and experience also means better care for our community’s residents,” said **Peter Graziano, EMT-B**.

“On behalf of more than 30,000 members of the CSEA Southern Region, I am honored to welcome the Haverstraw EMS team into CSEA. These workers are the brave men and women on the front lines caring for the community at what could be the worst time of their lives. They deserve no less than...

to be treated with the utmost care, respect and dignity on and off the job. Joining together with a collective voice to improve the conditions of their employment is honorable. Forming their union is the first step toward getting the improvements they seek for themselves, their families, and the improvements in the public health of the greater Haverstraw community,” **Anthony Adamo, CSEA Southern Region President.**

Haverstraw EMS is also now united with 25,000 EMS workers in AFSCME (CSEA is its largest affiliate) and nearly 3,000 CSEA members in represented in emergency medical services positions.

The Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) is one of the largest and most influential unions in New York and the United States. CSEA has about 250,000 members and represents state, county, municipal, school district, child care, and private sector employees. Formed in 1910, CSEA has improved the lives of hardworking New Yorkers for more than 100 years, and is the largest affiliate of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). For more information, go to CSEANY.org.