



CWA 1141

ALLIANCE

WELCOME TO THE "ALLIANCE!"

You've all asked and now it's here...The CWA 1141 Newsletter, "Alliance!"

Let's give a big "THANK YOU" to Maureen Karius, a UUP/CWA member for our newsletter name, "Alliance!"

The definition of Alliance is: An association of two or more groups, individuals, or nations who agree to cooperate with one another to achieve a common goal.

Symbolic of the 3 employee units represented by Local 1141 and the common goal of the officers and stewards working together in solidarity.

Isn't that a perfect fit for us!!! Thanks again Maureen!!!



TIME TO DO THE TAXES...

Prepare and file your taxes online with the [Union Plus Online Tax Service](#) - for **less than half the cost** of similar services.

WHY USE THE UNION PLUS ONLINE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES?

April 15th just got a little less taxing. With the [Union Plus Online Tax Preparation Service](#), union members and their families can use an online income tax return preparation tool to prepare and file their taxes - at half the cost of similar services from H&R Block® and Quicken®.

READY TO GET YOUR INCOME TAX RETURN REFUND?

Using this service along with the built-in e-filing means you could get your tax return refund within a couple weeks - and unlike many other tax preparers, there are no high-cost "rapid refund" income tax preparation service fees.

ONLINE INCOME TAX PREPARATION AND ONLINE TAX RETURN FILING MADE EASY

With this simple and easy-to-use [Union Plus Online Tax Preparation Service](#), the online tax preparation tool automatically calculates your taxes and helps minimize errors. You can save information and start again later, so you don't have to complete your tax returns

all at one time. Year-to-year information is also saved so you can import information from a prior year's return.

ONLINE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES: YOUR COST

You can file your federal and state returns for \$14.95 each for a total cost of **\$29.90**.

If your adjusted gross income is between \$11,500 and \$52,000, you can file both your federal and state income tax returns online for \$14.95. Your **federal** tax return is **FREE** if your adjusted gross income (AGI) is between \$11,500 and \$52,000.

You are not charged until you either file your income tax return online or print your tax return.



"If we pay them starvation wages— why do they need a lunch break?"

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- President: Marianne Perry
- Executive VP: Thomas Slavin
- Headquarters VP: Jennifer Deso
- Upstate VP: Nancy Lott
- Downstate VP: Tina Greene
- NYSNA VP: Michael Collins
- UUP VP: Anne Marine
- Secretary: Pranvera Sylva

Treasurer: Clare Miner

MEET ANNE MARINE, CWA LOCAL 1141 UUP VP

I am proud to serve as CWA Local 1141 (UUP) Vice- President. I consider advocating for workers' rights a lifetime commitment requiring a constant vigil.

My father's union membership (Auto Workers and Steelworkers unions) meant the difference between our family's survival, and not making it at all. Both unions secured for him pension benefits not seen by most workers today. He also served for many years as President of the Musicians Union, Local 129. Naturally, I had

little appreciation for his efforts until becoming a member of the workforce myself.

My history includes lobbying for legislation protecting workers' privacy, and serving as primary internal organizer in two campaigns with S.E.I.U. and CWA to obtain collective bargaining rights for employees at Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield. I regret that these workers are still not represented.

I worked with Solidarity to save New York State tax-processing jobs in Albany from Governor

Pataki's plan to relocate these positions to his home district. This effort was successful.

I hold a Certificate in Labor Studies from the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations of Cornell University.

I will need your support in the year ahead. Thank you so much for the privilege.

Yours in Solidarity,
Anne Marine

CWA DAY, 2007

The most important day for CWA 1141 is set for
August 24, 2007

The location (*in the Albany area*) and details will follow in our next newsletter! But please, mark your calendar and **SAVE THE DATE!**

Remember, this is a day that CWA fought long and hard for -
Being a part of this day shows that we are ONE!



PRESIDENT'S PEN



Welcome to the Alliance! After too long a hiatus, Local 1141's newsletter is back with a vengeance! With a great team of journalists and lots of input from all of you, my hope is that this publication becomes a continuing source of pride, facts and fun.

Solidarity is defined as "unity based on shared interests, objectives or standards." More than 250 members strong, Local 1141 is now, more than ever, unified in purpose and power.

"Solidarity forever" means more, however, than song lyrics on a page. Be proud of yourselves and stand together, but remember that solidarity is not a transient state. As staunch union activist and labor organizer Mother Jones said in 1902: "My friends it is solidarity of labor we want. We do not want to find fault with each other, but to solidify our forces and say to each other: 'We must be together; our masters are joined together and we must do the same thing.'"

RETIREE CORNER

After working for 32 years in the same department at the same job, I was beckoned to "the land of retirement." Although it was the same job for all those years, it evolved immensely as did NYSUT. I worked with VOTE/COPE, the political action arm of the union. Contributions to political candidates and parties were made from the voluntary contributions made by members of NYSUT. I was so naive when I started at NYSUT.

Since retirement, I've gone to the Midwest and seen where my parents were raised, gone on my first cruise, and took my first trip to Europe (Croatia and Slovenia - beautiful countryside and loaded with history - especially the city of Dubrovnik). Then, last year I motored to NC, SC, and FL to see older bro and sis-in-law in NC, younger bro race at SC and Daytona on his "classic" motorcycle and then to Arcadia, FL to visit with

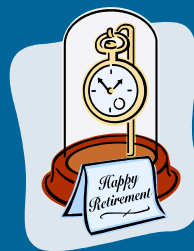
childhood friend. Had a terrific time.

No trips planned for this year, at least at this point in time. I am planning to move to E. Greenbush next month. The preparation for the move has been overwhelming but also exciting since I'm buying all new furniture. My interior decorator, Beryl Rizzo, has been a valued adviser but more than that, a great friend.

I have joined the local "Y" and have enjoyed the activities there and made new friends.

Once I get settled, I may "hit the road" again. So don't be surprised if I come knockin' at your door.

By Judy Dolan, CWA 1141 Member and Retiree of NYSUT'S Legislative Department, 4/1/04



In The Spotlight...

Meet the Ladies of the **Rochester Regional Office!!!** We start our day at 9:00 a.m. with various “good mornings and hello’s” to one another! Throughout our extremely “hard-working” days – we have a lot of fun together and we firmly believe we are a well-oiled machine! Between the five of us, we feel strongly that our knowledge in various areas is complete. The presence of “Dove” chocolate and coffee is a must to get through our day – but together, they make for the perfect ingredient for a “Happier and Healthier” work place!

Please read on and get to know the girls of the Rochester Regional Office. To make it a little more fun (as this is how we run here) – we drew names and wrote bios about each other.

Ginnie Fagnan – Not Virginia. If you need office supplies or CPR, Ginnie is our “go to” person. Stop by her desk to see the office wall of grandchildren and check out her daughters’ twins, goats and pot-belly pig. If you’re really nice to her, you can have a goat named after you. Don’t forget to ask about her husband Mike’s new baby – Missy (the miniature dachshund). *By: Mary Denise*

Lauren Hill – Our Veteran CWA Staffer is the “go to” girl for proofing any and all publications – She’s the best! She’s a great Mom to Brianna and Collin and an awesome wife to Rob. When not taking residence at the NYSUT Rochester RO or popping bubble wrap, she spends her spare time with her family, power-shopping and following the Goo Goo Dolls – literally following them – lol!!! Her unique personality, sense of humor and knowledge of song lyrics are a perfect mix for a great working environment with Lauren. Next time you see Lauren – ask her about “Jerry!” *By: Traci*

Mary Denise Schneider – She’s faster than a speeding bullet with “eagle” ears and knows all things. Mary Denise is Tom Gillett’s right-hand. She is the keeper of the “book” for all meetings in the conference rooms - Do not touch the book! Mary Denise, along with all the “crew” have made my transition to NYSUT a smooth one, for which I am very appreciative. Mary Denise is married to Paul who is a master of car restorations. She and Paul have two sons, Jason and Dan. Her daughter, Mara and husband, Brad have a son,

Dylan and is expected to deliver a baby girl in April. *By: Jeanette*

Traci Szalkowski – I have had the pleasure of working with Traci for almost 9 years here at the Rochester RO. She is known as our “Graphic Designer” and has quite the eye for the design of all our publications, brochures, etc... Traci is the “go-to” for ALL computer jams as well. She is a very proud Mom of her son Tyler (almost 4) who keeps her quite busy as does her husband Pete. She is an avid photographer and loves taking pictures of her favorite subject, Tyler, along with her family. Traci’s her name, but silly is her game on Friday afternoons! It’s not uncommon to share

a lot of laughs with Traci, especially after we’ve consumed “small” amounts of chocolate throughout the week. *By: Lauren*

Jeanette Yeager – The newest member of the “crew” (as of September 1st) keeps the Rochester office afloat just like a pro. She just returned from a vacation with her daughter, Michelle and grandson, Connor. She was anxious to get back though to see her pride and joy, Sampson (her mini-dachshund). Her son, Warren, and soon-to-be daughter-in-law Melissa are busy planning a wedding this summer. *By: Ginnie*



(Above) Tom’s Angels! Here in the Rochester RO...We **AIM** to please!!! Back row (left to right) Jeanette, Traci and Ginnie; front row (left to right) Mary Denise and Lauren.

The Water Cooler!



Did You Hear?

- **Kathy Robinson (Utica RO)** was recently seen in the mosh pit of a Fall Out Boy concert!
- Our very own President **Marianne Perry (Program Services)** was involved in an auto accident. She is currently back at work and feeling much better. Many thanks for all the well wishes she received.
- **Shannon Stuto’s (Research & Educational Services)** daughter Alexandra, member of Girl Scout Troop #571, Castleton, NY sold 200 boxes of Girl Scout cookies. The profit will help offset the cost for her trip to Camp Little Notch this summer!!! Way to go Alex.
- **Kalyn Deso daughter of Jennifer Deso (Research & Educational Services)** played basketball for Colonie Lady Raiders and won the Section II and Regional Championships. She is a Junior at Colonie High School, Colonie, NY.
- **Susan Smith (NYC Legal)** and her husband Bobby, welcomed twins on Friday, September 8, 2006, son Ronan Lawrence Smith weighing 5 lbs. 10 oz and 18" long, and daughter Shannon Elizabeth Smith weighing 4 lbs. 14 oz.
- **Swinka Richards (Accounting)** is the proud mother of a baby boy, Alex Jordan. Born on September 9, 2006 weighing 6 lbs. 5 oz. and 17.5."
- **Anne Marie Simon (Education and Learning Trust)**, and her husband Kevin, welcomed their first son, Benjamin H. Simon on November 4, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and 19 1/2" long.
- **Kendra Ormond Waddington (Jamestown RO)** has her first grandbaby--Taige Neal Kinney who was born August 21, 2006. Kendra’s quote, “She is the joy of our lives!”
- **Kristen Coblisch (United University Professions)** & Dean Plowman (Cohoes, NY Fire Department) got Engaged in Vermont Oct. 2006 during their annual leaf peeping trip. They purchased land to build a ranch house Dec. 2006 in Troy, NY (Town of Brunswick) on the top of the Frear Park Golf Course with beautiful views overlooking the capital district... expected completion date of construction sometime this summer... haven’t set a date yet for wedding... hopefully by Fall 2008.

This will be an ongoing column. Please submit any “tidbits” you would like included in our next issue to krobinso@nysutmail.org

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



At lunch you overhear employees, including management, discussing the inappropriate attire worn by a co-worker and fellow CWA member. What would you do?

- A. Immediately send a state-wide e-mail informing everyone you know about the conversation.
- B. Forget about it - pretend you never heard a word.
- C. Approach the group and defend your co-worker.
- D. Discreetly inform your co-worker that her attire was a topic of discussion with staff and management.
- E. Leave a copy of the dress code on the member's desk anonymously.

This section is to generate some discussion amongst your co-workers. If you'd like to participate, e-mail your response to krobinso@nysutmail.org and in our next issue we'll print the percentages to each response.

CWA NATIONAL OFFERS GREAT BENEFITS:

Visit www.cwa-union.org
and check it out!!!

CWA LOCAL 1141 SCHOLARSHIPS

COMING SOON!

LOOK FOR YOUR
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION COMING
IN JULY, 2007!

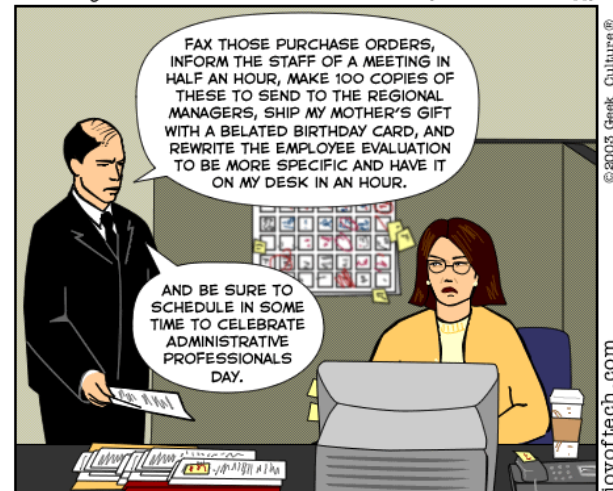
THE SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS WILL BE
DRAWN AT CWA DAY,
AUGUST 24TH
LET'S HOPE YOU ARE
ONE OF THE LUCKY
WINNERS!!!

Administrative Professionals Day! Wednesday, April 25, 2007!

People who think
multi-tasking is done by
computers alone...
Certainly needs to meet
an Administrative
Professional like you!

The Joy of Tech™

by Nitrozac & Snaggy



She'd also have to remember to send his wife a sympathy card.

MEET THE NEWSLETTER TEAM...



Kathy Robinson (Utica RO)
Editor
Yes, she does bare a striking
resemblance to Reese Witherspoon!



Teresa Swartz (HQ - Legislation)
Research
Yes, she does bare a striking
resemblance to Teri Hatcher!



Traci Szalkowski (Rochester RO)
Design/Layout
Yes, she does bare a striking
resemblance to Faith Hill!



Julie Rivecca (Utica RO)
Research
Yes, she does bare a striking
resemblance to Angelina Jolie!

We want to hear from you! This is your newsletter! Please submit your thoughts, suggestions and ideas to Kathy Robinson. She can be reached by calling 315-768-0131; e-mail her at krobinso@nysutmail.org; drive to her at 7 Ellinwood Court in Utica, NY, and there is always morse code and smoke signals too!

When she's not attending Movie Premieres, she's all ears!!!