



CWA 1141

ALLIANCE

CWA COMING TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY



“We must close union offices, confiscate their money and put their leaders in prison. We must reduce workers salaries and take away their right to strike.”
Adolf Hitler (1933)

- President Michael Ostrander
- Executive VP Thomas Slavin
- Headquarters VP Jennifer Deso
- Upstate VP Bonnie Balok
- Downstate VP Theresa Rampello
- NYSNA Acting VP Mark Delay
- UUP VP Kenya Coleman
- Secretary Teresa Swartz
- Treasurer Clare Miner

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PRESIDENT'S PEN



Brothers & Sisters,

As I'm sure you are all aware, labor is taking quite a hit as of late in the news throughout the country. You hear the arguments, how state employees make too much and how their Cadillac pensions and health care benefits are killing us all and seems to be the big reason why the country is going bankrupt. Someone please explain to me how 12% of the workforce who is unionized in this country can be causing so much damage. Sure, when the times were lush, unions bargained some great benefit packages, but remember, it takes both sides to ratify a contract. Regardless, the unions are under the knife with the deepest wounds currently being in the state of Wisconsin with the state employees. I see unions as the caged lion moving slowly back into it's corner of the cage and when it feels like it can't back any further into that corner, it will defend itself. To see a small amount of that 12% of labor come together in a movement of solidarity is truly inspiring. Take a look at the photos on page one of this newsletter, or at some of the posted footage on YouTube from the recent rallies in Wisconsin and you'll know what I mean. To see all 12% standing together, coast to coast, is earth shaking mountain moving type of stuff. Let me see anyone get 12% of a populace together to accomplish something in unity. That kind of power only comes from natural disasters like what Japan is currently experiencing and unions. When will it all end. Gas is going back through the roof because the speculators take every possible opportunity to raise the cost, from Libya to mouse migration in the Urals, even though the current supplies are good. Even though we get most of our oil from Canada and S. America. Because this is the case, everything costs more, from food to clothes and everything in between. Our nation is slowly killing the middle working class. We need to stand up and defend it or soon, there won't be much of a middle class yet. All over the country and all over our state, unionists and groups are banding together and conducting rallies. Most recently regarding the NY State budget at the capital in Albany. If you are asked to attend, please make every effort to be there. Just being there and standing shoulder to shoulder with your friends, co-workers and fellow unionists makes even more of a point. After long periods of "things being good" we

have to remember that one of the reasons things were so good is because sometime ago, people stood together and fought for what they believed in so that they and their families and friends would prosper going forward. We have come full circle and so to has the need to once again to show our strength and support for what is right. That is what makes the United States of America the greatest country on the face of this earth. Just that every country now and than needs a nudge in the right direction. Unions will give it that nudge.

Last but certainly not least, I wanted to share with you some sad news as of recent. After many years of battling cancer, Michael Corn passed away. Mike was a NYSUT Board Member, former union president, a representative of NYSUT on the Teachers Retirement System, union activist and spent every day of his professional life working and advocating for people. I

had the pleasure of being introduced to Mike back in the 90's by former NYSUT Vice-President Walter Dunn and for many years we worked together to make sure that many members and their families received



Mike Corn with his beloved granddaughter Zoe.

benefits that they were entitled to but maybe not aware of. For those of you reading this who knew Mike Corn, you probably have heard a story or two of some of the various things he had done for people to ensure that they and their families were taken care of at key points in their lives. That is truly an understatement as this is what the man did pretty much everyday. As sick as he was, there was never a point I can recall where he wasn't the most upbeat and inspirational even in the simplest of conversations. If there was ever a person that I would truly aspire to be like it would be Mike. His care and concern for everyone he met and touched goes beyond words. My condolences go out to his family and I am sorry for the loss of a truly great man. Rest in peace Mike.

In Solidarity,
Michael Ostrander



PHOTOS, PHOTOS, PHOTOS..



UUP introduces **Rachel Bryant**, the new UUP Western Regional Steward. Rachel is the UUP Chapter Assistant at SUNY Alfred. She is

the Steward for the UUP Chapter Assistants at Brockport, Buffalo Health Science Center, State University College at Buffalo, SUNY Buffalo, Fredonia and Geneseo.

Rachel is proud to serve her Union and wear her RED CWA sweater!



Polling Center employees Matt Philpot, Margaret Phillips, Harriet Durivage and Warren Turner having a good time at CWA Day 2010.



Suzanne Baxter, Syracuse RO, and her daughters Bethany (on the left) and Amber (on the right) joining an impromptu coalition of NYSUT members, community activists, parents, students, and other labor leaders rallied, 300 strong, out in front of the abandoned Syracuse China Factory.

The Water Cooler!



Did You Hear?

- UUP welcomes a new CWA Member, **Kristine Newman**. Kristine is the Chapter Assistant at SUNY Fredonia. Congratulations Kristine.
- **Jane Hrynio, UUP**, was hired at UUP on 2/1/71, so she is in her 40th year! UUP was affiliated with #1141 in 1974 so Jane has 35 years with CWA. Way to go Jane.
- The Polling Center would like to welcome two former employees back for a return engagement: **Josephine Kama** and **Marcia Hildebrandt**.
- **Alexandra Stuto, daughter of Shannon Stuto** at NYSUT Headquarters, has been selected to sing and represent Maple Hill Middle School at the All County Musical Festival on March 26, 2011. All County consists of students who express musical talent from different school districts within the area. Good Luck Alex!
- Congratulations to **Brittany Hindes, Polling Center**, daughter of CWA's Secretary **Teresa Swartz**, on being accepted to Schenectady County

Community College Culinary Arts Program.

- **Bonnie Balok, Elmira RO**, and her husband Mick recently celebrated 45 years of marriage. WOW!
- **Anne Marine, CWA Sister from UUP** will be retiring on April 1st. Congratulations Anne and Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy Retirement.
- **Kathy Robinson, Utica RO**, is expecting her first grandchild in the summer, Kathy's daughter Sandy and son-in-law Eric surprised Kathy and her husband Jim with the good news over the holidays. Congratulations Kathy! Or should we say Grandma!
- **Lisa (Member Benefits) and Matt May** welcomed Ethan Myles May who was born on August 22, 2010 at 8 pounds 9 ounces and 21 inches long.) Congratulations May Family.



- **Georgette Bacon, Potsdam RO**, entered three pieces of gourd art in a juried show at the Adirondack Artists Guild show in Saranac Lake. Two were chosen to be in the show and one of them, "Gourdalele" won third place. There were 101 works selected for the annual Juried Show by our Juror, Stephen Horne. 83 artists entered 193 pieces of artwork. Horne, in his thirty-five year art career, has been an exhibit designer, graphic designer and illustrator, courtroom illustrator, newspaper cartoonist and figurative painter.
- Congratulations to **Traci Szalkowski, Rochester RO** who won two Jet Blue round-trip airline tickets from the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Event. Traci raised \$2,500.00 for the 2010 event, which made her a Pacesetter.



Editor's Note:

In Volume 4/Issue 4 of the Alliance, Kristen Plowman's husband was referred to as Dan, her husband's name is actually **DEAN**. Mea culpa Kristen!

Please submit any "tidbits" you would like included in our next issue to krobinso@nysutmail.org

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If you have moved within the last year or so and have **not** notified CWA Secretary Teresa Swartz with your new address/phone number, please e-mail Teresa at tswartz@nysutmail.org.

The CWA 1141 Local Secretary, Teresa Swartz, will administer the Locals Sunshine Fund as follows:

- Wedding/birth or adoption of a child (members only).
- Flowers/Fruit major illness, surgery, or hospitalization of member.
- Charitable Contribution/Flowers/Fruit death of members immediate family (spouse, parent, child).
- Retirement of a member.

Remember to notify your steward of any of these occasions.

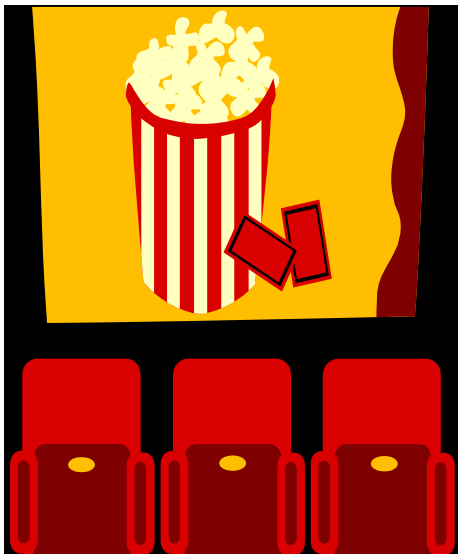


A Wish from my cubicle to yours...



Happy Admin Pro Day to you!

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*Thank You
NYSUT for our
Administrative
Professionals Day
gift of a Night Out
at the Movies!
We appreciate it!*

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We want to hear from you!
THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Please submit your thoughts, suggestions and ideas to Kathy Robinson at krobinso@nysutmail.org