

Volume 1, Issue 2

May, 2007



CWA 1141

ALLIANCE

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

Treasurer
Clare Miner



CWA DAY - 2007

We're cruising on the Hudson River!
Hopefully, you will **"jump on board"** for this one!

WHEN:

Friday, August 24, 2007

WHERE:

Captain JP Cruise Line
Cruising along the Hudson River

BOAT DEPARTS:

10:30 a.m.

Schedule of Events:

10:30 a.m.
Continental Breakfast upon arrival

1:00 p.m.
Enjoy music by DJ; Dancing;
Games, Raffles and Prizes!

11:00 a.m.
Meeting Begins

3:30 p.m.
Return to Port

12:30 p.m.
Lunch

It's going to be a day filled with a lot of information, and even more fun!
You don't want to miss this CWA Day!!!

Look for the mailing soon!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



BREAKFAST IN BED FOR MOM... Nothing says 'Happy Mothers Day' better than Cold Cereal and Hot Coffee served with love.

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Planning a Summer Vacation?

Before planning your summer vacation go to <http://www.cwa.union.org> and check out the savings at Union Plus Travel. Available to you: discounted flights, hotels and car rentals; cruise discounts; theme park discounts; movie discounts and much more! When planning a vacation, every little bit of savings is a huge help! Check it out!

Congratulations to Judy Rucinski!

Judy Rucinski from NYSUT Travel and Conference Services was recently nominated for the Women of Excellence Award, sponsored by the Regional Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to being a huge asset to NYSUT, she is also the President of the Northeastern NY Chapter of MPI (Meeting Planners International). Check out her bio at their website: <http://www.mpineny.org/leadership.php>.



PRESIDENT'S PEN

All of us – together! That's what it's going to take to pass H.R 800, S.1041 – the Employee Free Choice Act.

Introduced by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Reps. George Miller (D-Calif.) and Peter King (R-NY) and supported by a bipartisan congressional coalition, it seeks to restore the freedom of American workers to choose a union.

In part by imposing stronger penalties for employer violations while workers are attempting to form a union or during negotiations for their first contract, the act brings democracy back to the workplace and supports the 60 million American workers who say they would join a union if they could. (Peter D. Hart Research Associates, December 2006)

Log on to www.aflcio.org/joinaunion/ for more key facts about this crucial legislation, and **tell your members of Congress to support the Employee Free Choice Act!**

CWA MAKES DONATION TO ALBANY FIREFIGHTERS UNION

CWA made a \$100.00 donation to this great cause. Please read the heartfelt thank you we received from them:

Brothers and Sisters,

City of Albany Firefighter Theodore J. Abriel died in the line of duty on Monday, February 19th, 2007 while operating on the 6th floor of an apartment building high rise fire. Teddy leaves behind a wife, Linda, and four children, Chris, Matthew, Teddy & Erin. On behalf of the Albany Firefighters' Union and the Abriel family, I would like to thank you for the support and generosity you have shown during our time of need. Ted's untimely death was very hard on all of us, as he was not only a great firefighter, but a great friend. It is at times like these that we are reminded of the true meaning of brotherhood.

*Together
We Can!*

Fraternally,
Sam Fresina, President
Albany Firefighters Union Executive
Vice President, New York State
Firefighters Union

In The Spotlight...



(Above) Paula Penge (IT) and Christina Gasner (Program Services) working hard doing Committee Assignments.



(Above) Clare Miner (Accounting) being very informative at the RA Information Desk.



(Above) Marianne Perry (Program Services) and Pete Ludden (LRS, Syracuse RO) confer on CWA and PSA Presidential issues.



(Above) Jennifer Deso (Research & Ed. Services) and Christina Gasner (Program Services) take a quick break from Committee Assignments to smile for the camera!



CWA at the NYSUT RA!



(Above) Amie Marois (our newest CWA member) and Judy Rucinski (Travel and Conference Services) are staying close to the walkie as Amie learns the ropes!



(Above) Paula Boughtwood (Travel and Conference Services) sits and waits for yet another shuttle to arrive.



(Above) Odell Price, Paul Morelli, Kathy Michalek and Rob Beedleson (Print Shop) greets the members with smiling faces while handing out the RA Kits.



(Above) Joyce Smith (Retiree Services) manning the Retiree Booth.

The Water Cooler!



Did You Hear?

- **Marianne Perry (Program Services)** If you see her, congratulate her for snagging a souvenir guitar pick at a recent Meatloaf concert!
- **Dianne Ravella (NYSNA)** is excited to share that her oldest step-daughter, Geena, had her acting career debut on Guiding Light on March 13! Geena was an extra and made an appearance in two scenes. In the first scene she was walking down the street with a man on their way to a Café. In the second scene she was getting seated at a table. Dianne states "the only pit fall was that her back was to the camera on both shots!!!" At least it's a start!
- **Heather Brehm (NYSNA)** and her husband Paul are expecting their little bundle of joy to arrive on September 17. Heather is doing great and is excited to learn the sex of the baby within the next month. The baby will

be an exciting addition to their brand new house!

- **Megan Eiser (NYSNA)** and her husband Gavin are expecting their baby on September 12. Megan reports that "because we have a stubborn baby (just like it's parents) we don't know if it's a boy or girl yet." Boy or girl the parents will be very happy!
- **Alison Munday (NYSNA)** has become known around NYSNA as the "soap mistress." She has taken her "long-time love of cooking, gardening and mixing potions of flowers and herbs into a more organized (and time-consuming project), namely Grubby Wench Soap." Ali is continuously playing with different ideas so feel free to send questions/suggestions to her email: grubbywench@hotmail.com.
- **Julie Rivecca (Utica RO)** If you see her, congratulate her for taking first place in her Tuesday Night Couples Bowling League!

- **Nancy Lott (Vestal RO)** Her daughter Jessica is graduating from SUNY Oneonta in Elementary Education in May, 2007 and getting married - June 23, 2007!! Looks like a busy summer for Nancy!
- **Judi Collins (Watertown RO)** Best wishes for a quick recovery while recuperating from a broken foot.
- **Kathy Robinson (Utica RO)** is happy to report her son Jim returned safely home from serving our country in Iraq. Jim is a member of the US Army Ranger Special Forces. Kathy would like to thank all the NYSUT staff for their support and kindness, especially the Utica RO staff, which adopted Jim and sent many, many "care packages."
- **Mary Denise Schneider (Rochester RO)** welcomed her 2nd grandchild on April 14, 2007--Mia Denise Modzel. Mary Denise's daughter and husband are doing great!

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?



What would you do if your co-worker's cell phone rings constantly during the work day and includes the most annoying ring tone ever!

- A. Accidentally step on offending phone.
- B. Ask to borrow cell phone, and forget to return said phone.
- C. Call cell phone number while supervisor is nearby.
- D. Announce over PA system, "So and so, please answer your cell phone."
- E. Privately point out that cell phone should be turned off during work hours.

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.

Feedback Corner!

Pranvera Sylva (Field Services) I just received the newsletter to mail out to CWA members....what a wonderful, great, fantastic, beautiful, etc....job you guys did.

Karen Rhatigan (Legislation) The newsletter came out great! We all love it in Legislation!!!! Looking forward to the next edition!

Christine Phillips (Member Benefits) Great job girls....the "Alliance" was awesome....I'm sure you all will be getting a ton of feedback.

Teresa Swartz (Legislation) I got our copies today, they look great!!! I'm hearing good things around the office too.

Bonnie Balok (Elmira RO) Congratulations! - Received the 1st issue hot off the press - today Monday, 4/9/07. What a beautiful way to start Monday. - Good news and a fantastic job. Thank you and again congratulations! This is quite a month for CWA - got lots of "Firsts" going on. . . 1st job descriptions (after 30 plus years) - 1st CWA 1141 newsletter (after many years in retirement)

Nancy Lott (Vestal RO) Wow!! You guys did an excellent job - love the layout and all the information - especially the tax info. I didn't know about Union Plus Online Tax Service - great job!

Lisa Perrin (Jamestown RO) Kathy (or should I address you as Reese?) I just received my CWA Newsletter and I thought it was great. As a new member of CWA 1141 (and a union in general) I thought this was very well presented, brings members closer with personal information, was entertaining and informative all in one. Great job to you and the committee!!! THANKS!!

Kendra Waddington (Jamestown RO) I thought the whole newsletter was great! It was also extremely informative and funny! Excellent job to you all. Especially thought the "In the Spotlight" was clever, amusing, and informative, liked the retiree corner and hearing from Judy, and The Water Cooler. The coup de grace, however (the killing blow that sent me into "pee-your pants" laughter), was the "Meet The Newsletter

Thank you for all your positive feedback. Here are some of your comments. We're glad you enjoyed our first issue.

Team" at the end. I was looking at Teresa's picture thinking, "gee, what a gorgeous picture of her" when I looked at the other pictures and realized I had been fooled and started to read the small print beneath!!!!!! I know how much work is involved and commend you all on your efforts on behalf of CWA 1141!

Courtney Morrisey (Elmsford RO) - I received the Alliance yesterday. I just wanted to let you know that it's wonderful! You guys did a great job. It looks amazing and the content is perfect for our local, especially for members in the regional offices. Since we don't often have much contact with members from other offices or members from headquarters, I think it's difficult for us to feel much in the way of unity with our local, so this is a great way for all of us to get to know our fellow members and to feel more included. Thanks for all your hard work!

Maureen Karius, Field Services Asst. (UUP) Thank you so much for choosing one of my name suggestions for our newsletter. I am very honored. I am familiar with and appreciate the work that goes into a project like this. You all did a great job. Congratulations!

Clare Miner (Accounting) Well my congratulations to you and staff of the CWA 1141 Alliance. I just loved the first issue. I learned so much about the members and you had me laughing to tears.

Marianne Perry (Program Services) Just wanted you to know HOW much positive feedback I'm getting on the newsletter! Almost everyone I've run into since it came out has commented on it!

Patti Shelli (Albany RO) Received my copy this morning. I'm extremely pleased that CWA has a newsletter once again! What a great job the newsletter team has done!! As always, you've done an outstanding job and I'm very appreciate of all the hard work and time you and your team have given in order to produce this wonderful newsletter.

Steve Miller, CWA Representative - Just received and read Volume 1 Issue 1 of the Alliance. Wow am I impressed! Great job! Again Super Job on the newsletter.

Some women are special for the things they do.

Still others...for all the joy that they give.

There are those who stand out for the kindness they show,

And for making our lives a pleasure to live...

But then there are women, a wonderful few, who have all these talents...

...And that would be you!

Happy
Mother's Day!
Sunday,
May 13, 2007



NEWSLETTER TEAM...

Kathy Robinson (Utica RO)
Editor

Traci Szalkowski (Rochester RO)
Design/Layout

Teresa Swartz (HQ - Legislation)
Research

Julie Rivecca (Utica RO)
Research

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

Please submit your thoughts, suggestions and ideas to Kathy Robinson.

E-mail her at krobinso@nysutmail.org