

CELEBRATING UNION STRENGTH & SOLIDARITY

The Communicator PEF



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The President's Message By WAYNE SPENCE



PEF turns out statewide to celebrate Labor Day

[From New York City to Buffalo, PEF members took to the streets to celebrate Labor Day this year.](#) Regions 1, 3, 4 and 7 each participated in parades on Labor Day itself, Sept. 4, followed by the Capital District Area Labor Federation's annual parade in Albany on Sept. 8 and the New York City parade on Sept. 9. We have lots of photos from the parades in this issue and will share a video from the New York City parade on PEF social media soon. I also received a call from Governor Hochul on Labor Day, expressing her thanks to all PEF members for the work you do to deliver public services to the people of New York.

[The governor signed a handful of bills into law this month that PEF lobbied for](#) and which we hope will help ease the recruitment and retention problems all state agencies are facing. Continuing to grow the State workforce remains a PEF priority as we assemble the Federal and State Legislative Agendas, to be approved by delegates at the annual Convention next month in Syracuse.

Syracuse, of course, is the site of the annual New York State Fair, where dozens of PEF leaders, members, and retirees, staffed the union's booth and greeted thousands of New Yorkers who stopped by the PEF booth. In this issue, we focus on [PEF members at the myriad agencies who have booths of their own at the Fair](#), educating visitors about the critical work they do for New Yorkers. Thank you to everyone who made this year's Fair such a success.

Here in Albany, we are preparing for the quarterly meeting of the PEF Executive Board next week. Civil Service Commissioner Timothy Hogues will address the board, as will State Senator Robert Jackson, who chairs the Civil Service and Pensions Committee. We are also planning a lunchtime rally at the State Capitol for Sept. 21 to bring attention to a problem I know many PEF members experience firsthand — toxic work environments. The ranks of middle management in New York State are filled with bad managers who are not creating the culture of respect that Gov. Hochul promised when she took office.

A couple other stories of note in this issue: If you live in the capital region or even if you visit now and again, be sure to check out the [Kate Mullany House in Troy, N.Y.](#) Mullany was a labor leader in the late 19th century who played a critical role organizing laundry workers. PEF is proud to have played a small part in helping the labor history there come alive.

And finally, my congratulations to the winners of this year's [Joseph Scacalossi PEF Scholarships](#). These young women and men make their union families proud, and we can't wait to see how they contribute to the world in the years ahead.

In Unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Spence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wayne Spence
PEF President





PEF on the march at Labor Day parades statewide

PEF leaders and members turned out in droves for six parades during the first part of September, celebrating Labor Day from Midtown Manhattan to Buffalo.

PEF Region 1 enjoyed clear skies for the annual Labor Day Parade in South Buffalo on September 4. DMV Commissioner Mark Schroeder marched alongside PEF members. He shared encouraging words and best wishes to the 1000 PEF members who work for the DMV.

PEF Region 3 showed off their union solidarity and pride during a Labor Day Parade as well. About 80 members marched through the streets of Rochester on a sweltering hot day, joined by State Senator Samra Brouk and Assemblymember Jen Lunsford. Following the parade, members got together for lunch..

In Syracuse, PEF Region 4 took part in the annual last-day-of-the-State-Fair tradition as unions marched around the fairgrounds. Dozens of members and their families took part, including PEF retirees. State Senator John Mannion and Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli stopped by to say hi to everyone participating.

In the North Country, PEF Region 7 had their biggest turnout yet for their annual Labor Day Parade in Massena. Members from all over the region, including some retirees, came out to enjoy the beautiful day, the parade, and a chance to win raffles for Yeti Coolers and a \$500 prize from the Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Central Trades and Labor Council.

On September 8 in Albany, rain didn't stop a large group of PEF members and staff from marching through the capital city for the 2023 Michael L. Burns Labor Day Parade. PEF members geared up in PEF DOES IT and Fund Our Future shirts to go with their ponchos and umbrellas.

Even with clouds overhead and a pretty heavy downpour, PEF members celebrated the unity of the labor movement alongside other local unions. PEF Divisions 169, 190 and 231 were all present for the march following a large PEF vehicle through the streets.

Onlookers chanted "PEF, PEF, PEF!" as the group made their way from the State Capitol building to the Corning Preserve down on the Hudson River waterfront. Waiting there for the parade participants were a cookout, live music, a climbing wall, as well as carnival entertainments, including a juggling clown, for families to enjoy.

The annual New York City Labor Day Parade took place on Sept. 9, and PEF made a big splash with its float and convoy of union vehicles. The arch on the float read "Fix Tier 6: State Employees Deserve a Fair Pension" while the bottom was emblazoned with the words "Invest in the Public Workforce." A DJ played a selection of songs with an empowerment theme, highlighted by the classic "Respect" by Aretha Franklin.

Respect was also the theme of many of the signs 150 union members and leaders carried as they marched more than 20 blocks up Fifth Avenue. "End Bullying, Embrace Respect |Change Starts at the Top!" read one, while another said, "Change the Culture, Change Lives | Reject Toxic Leadership!"

There were positive signs as well, celebrating PEF's recently ratified 2023-2026 contract for the PS&T Unit. "PEF Power: A Contract that Honors Our Work" and "Fair Wages, Strong Benefits | PEF Delivers for NYS!" read two of those signs.

In addition, members from the NYS Department of Transportation carried signs conveying their demand that workers on the night shift receive a fair pay differential. PEF President Wayne Spence made sure those workers had a few minutes to talk to NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli about the issue as well.

Other politicians and union leaders paid their respects to PEF either during the parade route or while the union was staging for the parade on 44th Street. U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, AFT President Randi Weingarten, NYS Attorney General Leticia James, and various State senators and members of the Assembly stopped by to thank PEF for the public services our members provide.





Hochul signs major labor bills into law

By KATE STICKLES

PEF, working with other labor unions and advocacy groups, pushed for the passage and enactment of several bills which benefit PEF members and their families, including bills that:

1. Combine provisional and probationary periods for permanent appointments;
2. Expand notice requirements for Civil Service Exams;
3. Increase and Index Workers' Compensation Minimum Benefit;
4. Protect Workers from Retaliation for Refusing Captive Audience Meetings and;
5. Increase penalties for wage theft.

The first bill requires that any time an employee spends in a provisional title would count toward any required probationary period they would be subject to upon being put in a permanent position.

"This legislation will help the worker shortage by making it easier for provisional employees to become permanent employees of the state," said PEF President Wayne Spence. "Having the probationary period reduced by any time already spent as a provisional employee will ease the concern of employees about possibly being terminated and increase the likelihood that provisional employees will continue on with state service."

The expanded notice requirements for Civil Service exams requires the state and municipal civil service commissions to distribute notices of competitive exams to Boards of Cooperative Education (BOCES), local social service districts, high schools, colleges, and job training programs.

In a press release announcing the signing of these two bills, Gov. Kathy Hochul said: "This legislation will help to strengthen the pipeline to civil service, allowing even more New Yorkers to heed the call to join our public workforce."

The third bill will increase the Workers' Compensation minimum benefit in steps from \$150 per week and eventually index it to one-fifth of the statewide average weekly wage. This will result in phased



minimum benefit increases of \$275 per week for workers hurt on or after Jan. 1, 2024; \$325 per week for workers hurt on or after Jan. 1, 2025; and one-fifth of the statewide average weekly wage for workers hurt on or after July 1, 2026.

To protect workers, the fourth bill prevents discrimination against workers who refuse to participate in captive audience meetings by employers that require workers to attend and listen to views on political, religious, or other personal issues, including labor organizing.

Finally, increased penalties for wage theft helps protect workers from exploitation. This bill amends the Penal Law to update the definition of larceny to include wage theft, allowing for the aggregation of multiple instances of wage theft into a single larceny count. It also clarifies that wage theft includes the non-payment of minimum wage rate and overtime, as well as underpayment of wages promised if greater than the minimum wage.

"We are thankful to Gov. Hochul for signing these bills and recognizing the importance of recruiting and retaining talent, and of protecting the talent that we already have in the public sector," Spence said.





Are you interested in a career with PEF?

The New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF) is a diverse and powerful labor union committed to creating a better working life for its members. PEF staff work in various departments in collaboration with PEF's elected union leadership to serve 50,000 members employed in professional, scientific, and technical titles across the State. Some of PEF's departments include: Communications, Contract Administration, Field Services, Finance, Health & Safety, Legal, Legislative and Organizing. If you believe in workers' rights, justice and equality, then a career in the labor movement may be right for you. To see what opportunities are available at PEF, please visit our [Careers Page](#).



PEF Executive Director Todd Kerner addresses union leaders and staff at the PEF memorial outside headquarters on Sept. 11, 2023.

PEF remembers fallen brothers and sisters on 9/11

By KATE STICKLES

New Yorkers got up the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, and went about their usual routine. Some went to work at the World Trade Center, some turned up at the firehouse or the police station, some headed off toward offices around the Twin Towers.

[VIEW VIDEO OF THE CEREMONY HERE](#)

Of them, 2,977 didn't come home – including 34 PEF members, most from the Department of Tax and Finance.

The terrorist attack that collapsed the north and south towers of the World Trade Center at 10:28 a.m. and 9:59 a.m., respectively, took place on a sunny, clear day, in contrast to Sept. 11, 2023, when PEF staff and members gathered at the memorial at PEF Headquarters.

A moment of silence at HQ

"As we know, Sept. 11 is a significant day in our history," said PEF Executive Director Todd Kerner. "Twenty-two years ago, one of the most tragic events occurred, not just in New York City, but in Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania."

Kerner worked as a Tax Department employee and knew many of the people at that New York City office.

"They came in that day to do their work, to do their job," he said. "They never would have expected to see what happened. I was there that day. I was down in the street. The devastation was horrendous. It was plainly clear thousands had died."

"That day showed us the worst in humanity, by those terrorists and those actions, but it also showed us some of the best of humanity. Everybody helped everybody. There is greatness in humanity and there is sickness in humanity."

PEF Health and Safety Director Geraldine Stella remembers coming into PEF Headquarters that morning to find people in tears and learning what had transpired during her commute. Immediately, staff began calling around to check on coworkers in the PEF office near the World Trade Center and mobilized to help whoever and wherever they could.

"It was a horrible day in a lot of ways, but it was a day that was made for union action," Stella said. "This union leaped into action. We took care of our brothers and our sisters. We took care of the families of the people who were lost."



"We worked through our pain, we worked through our anger, and we worked, through our tears to try to help everyone, not just our union members, but everybody down there," she said. "And that is the beautiful thing that PEF did during that time. PEF and USW came together. They had a World Trade Center fund for these families. They donated time, they donated money, they raised funds for these families."

PEF Vice President Sharon DeSilva and Region 8 Coordinator Danielle Bridger read the names of the PEF members who died that day and staff observed a moment of silence.

Day of remembrance in NYC

In New York City, PEF President Wayne Spence and Executive Board member Conrad Davis spoke at the Department of Taxation and Finance remembrance ceremony, joined by Taxation and Finance Executive Deputy Commissioner Michael Shollar; Acting Commissioner Amanda Hiller; and CSEA President Felicia McCullough.

"Many times, when people talk about who lost their lives on 9/11, they usually talk about police officers and firefighters," Spence said. "People are shocked when they learn that there were other state workers. They are more shocked when they find out that 40 of them came from one state agency."

Spence said in the aftermath of the attacks, there was a comradery that is missing today.

"I have never seen more American flags displayed than in the months after that horrible day," he said. "They were everywhere.

Today we honor and remember those we lost. We stand with their friends, their family, and their coworkers, who had to pick up the pieces after losing someone."

The value of unions was apparent in the days that followed 9/11.

"The state and everybody were in flux," Spence said. "Insurance companies didn't know what to do because there was nobody to claim. It was unions, like CSEA, PEF, and our internationals, that said something has to happen because folks need to pay bills and their lives have to go on in some way.

"We came and pushed the governor and elected leaders in both the state, and in Washington, D.C., to figure something out temporarily," he said. "While they figured it out, unions came up with funding to get to those families."

Davis, who represents PEF members in the Department of Taxation and Finance, said the Twin Towers were a symbol of American freedom and those who work in New York City held onto values of hard work, dignity in labor, and hope in the future.

"9/11 means something different to everyone," he said. "Some of you here experienced it like nobody else will. Some of you heard it from those who experienced it. We are here today to dignify the memories of those men and women that deserve to be kept alive. We lost the towers as they were symbols of America, and we were determined that we would not lose the hope or the values they represented. We have gone through a period of healing, a period of mourning, and a period of contemplation as to what 9/11 meant. Now, we are at a point where we should be looking to the future."



PEF President Wayne Spence speaks at the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Department of Taxation and Finance in New York City on Sept. 11, 2023.



PEF members educate NYS Fair patrons about state services

By KATE STICKLES

On opening day of the New York State Fair August 23, PEF members were ready and waiting at state agency booths with giveaways and, more importantly, information for fairgoers.

From the [Office for People With Developmental Disabilities](#), to [Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation](#), to the [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) and many more, members shared with the public what their agencies had to offer.

At an OPWDD booth in one building, a table was covered in colorful sticky notes and a PEF member instructed fairgoers to look at large photos of people with disabilities and pick one word to describe what they felt when looking at those photos.

Answers ranged from "Happy" to "Friend" to "Strong" and were a visual way to portray part of the agency's mission.

At a [Department of Transportation](#) booth, a large crosswalk sign, complete with a functioning "walk" button, sat in the middle of a fair building – a blinking beacon to the booth where PEF members shared information about upcoming walking path projects and fielded questions about the Interstate 690 and Interstate 787 improvement projects.

Manning a desk in the DEC Aquarium building, PEF members urged the public to subscribe to DEC's "The Conservationist" publication and be entered into a giveaway to win a lifetime hunting or fishing license.

As PEF staff introduced themselves to members at various booths and welcomed them at the PEF booth in the Center of Progress building, some members expressed gratitude for the recently ratified [PS&T contract](#) and had questions about when to expect [retros and ratification bonuses](#), while others were interested in joining union leadership ranks.

Wherever they were stationed at the fairgrounds, PEF members were front and center among vendors and the numerous agency booths highlighted how integral state services are to the people of New York.

"Our members are the backbone of state services and their involvement in the New York State Fair only solidifies that in the eyes of New Yorkers," said President Wayne Spence. "These services are vital to so many people and sharing information about accessing them is crucial."

Investing in the fair's future

At the Expo Center, Gov. Kathy Hochul held a press conference on opening day to celebrate the fair and announce new initiatives in the coming years.

"The Great New York State Fair is an incredible opportunity to celebrate our farmers, products, culture, and diversity," Hochul said. "New York's farmers and agricultural industry are essential to our identity, and I encourage New Yorkers and visitors alike to make the trip to this wonderful tradition and celebrate the Empire State's bountiful treasures."

In line with the Taste NY program, Hochul said the state is working to increase local food at the fair.

She is directing state agencies to increase the percentage of food sourced from New York farmers and producers to 30% of their total purchases within five years.

Hochul also signed legislation to bring together students at the fair to develop innovative agricultural technologies as well as legislation to support smaller and newer fairs across the state while promoting youth involvement in agriculture and domestic arts.



"Agriculture is the backbone of our state, and our state's fairs are the perfect way of showcasing that – that's why we're taking major steps to support both our farmers and our fairs," she said. "By increasing the amount of food State agencies must buy from local growers and producers, we are further investing in farm production and food processing in New York. We will continue taking bold action to support our next generation of farmers and the future of our agricultural industry for decades to come."

Read more!

PEF members are involved in the logistics of the New York State Fair each year, including booking talent like this year's Ludacris, Quiet Riot, and Salt 'n Pepa, among others.

It's a full-time job and they are already beginning plans for the 2024 fair! You can read about their work [here](#).



PEF supports governor's call for federal assistance during migrant crisis

By NAJEE WALKER

In the past year, more than 100,000 migrants have been relocated from the southwestern border of the U.S. to New York State. Efforts to take care of these asylum seekers are ongoing by both the State and New York City, where a large number of the migrants are located.

To make sure the State can help the asylum seekers and New Yorkers going forward, Governor Kathy Hochul penned a letter to President Joe Biden on Aug. 24 requesting federal funds and resources to help with the crisis.

"The City and State have provided significant funding, staffing and case management for these arrivals to date," Hochul wrote. "I write to you today to express a most urgent need for the federal government to take executive action and direct significant financial assistance to address this challenge."

In her letter, Governor Hochul outlined four steps she believes would benefit New York the most.

First, work authorizations, which would provide asylum seekers the ability to work legally in the United States. Second, federal financial assistance, which would include money for Healthcare, Transportation, Housing and Education. New York has already committed \$1.5 billion to these efforts. Third, the opening of properties owned by the federal government for use as temporary shelters. And lastly, reimbursement from the federal government for deploying National Guard members from the state.

PEF President Wayne Spence put out a statement in support of Hochul's letter to the President, and Hochul's call for aid.

"As an immigrant myself, I can't begin to imagine what these folks have been through and are now experiencing," Spence said. "I support Governor Hochul's request to the federal government to do more."

Spence pointed out that the crisis is also impacting PEF Members. In August, a temporary housing opened at the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center in Queens, N.Y. About 1,000 migrants are supposed to be housed there at the Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Center.

"Although better than sleeping in the streets, a tent city on the grounds of a psychiatric center cannot be the solution, even temporarily," Spence said. "This crisis is directly impacting the safety of PEF members who work at the psychiatric facility."

Spence highlighted the governor's call for legal work authorization as the most important part of the federal government's role in New York.

"Governor Hochul is correct: There are jobs and opportunity in New York for people who can legally work, and with federal support we can make this a reality for asylum seekers."

Hochul's letter has been posted on the [governor's website](#). President Spence's entire statement can be found below and on the [union's Facebook page](#).

"For over a year now, I have watched busload after busload of migrants arrive in New York. I have watched New York City struggle with limited resources and New York State struggle to provide some semblance of humanity and dignity to these fellow human beings. As an immigrant myself, I can't begin to imagine what these folks have been through and are now experiencing. I support Governor Hochul's request to the federal government to do more. Although better than sleeping in the streets, a tent city on the grounds of a psychiatric center cannot be the solution, even temporarily. This crisis is directly impacting the safety of PEF members who work at the psychiatric facility. Without legal status, these migrant workers could be subject to abuse or mistreatment from their employers – that's why Governor Hochul's call for legal work authorization is so critical. Her strong support of the people of New York has been unwavering throughout this crisis, and we will always stand with her to support New York workers. But it is time for the federal government to step up and take responsibility. Governor Hochul is correct: There are jobs and opportunity in New York for people who can legally work, and with federal support we can make this a reality for asylum seekers."



PEF President Wayne Spence





NYSHIP eligibility waiting period cut in half on October 1

By KATE STICKLES

Effective October 1, 2023, the waiting period for enrollment in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) for newly hired and newly eligible employees drops to 28 days from the current 56.

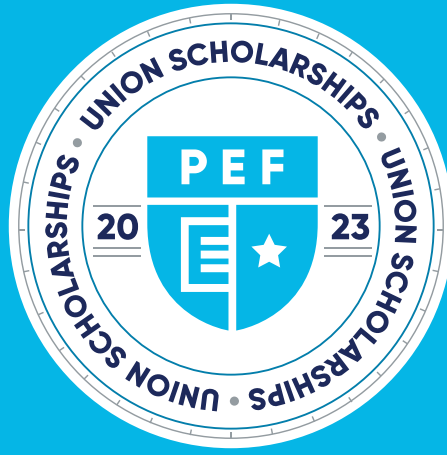
PEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the state to shorten the waiting period for the Empire Plan, the NYSHIP HMOs, the NYSHIP Vision Care Program and the NYSHIP Dental Program.

"Health insurance benefits help us keep our families healthy and allow us to seek help when we need it most," said President Wayne Spence. "By shortening the waiting period, we are ensuring families get the coverage they need, as soon as possible. Insurance is a valuable recruitment tool, and this change will go a long way toward

bringing in new staff, something that is sorely needed across all our understaffed state agencies."

Employees hired prior to October 1, 2023, will still need to serve the 56-day initial waiting period.

To enroll in coverage, eligible employees must submit a completed and signed [Health Insurance Transaction Form \(PS-404\)](#) along with the required proofs of eligibility to their agency Health Benefits Administrator (HBA).



Ten promising scholars win PEF Joseph Scacalossi Scholarships

By NAJEE WALKER

College tuition has been on the rise for decades and PEF is committed to helping members and their families lower the cost as much as possible.

Since 1988, PEF Joseph Scacalossi Scholarships have helped hundreds of children, stepchildren or wards of active, retired or deceased PEF members pay for their education. Scacalossi was a PEF member who worked at the Department of Labor in Manhattan. Ten students win \$1,000 annually for the duration of their college years.

2023's recipients are Rachel Bibler, Luke Brandow, Danielle Cirrito, Madeline Gibbons, Hailey Hahn, Abigail Lantry, Jacob Madden, Cadence Masino, Emma Rivers and Noa Wacholder.

Rachel Bibler



Rachel graduated from Clarence High School in the Class of 2023. She was a member of the top 10% of her graduating class, and received the NYS Seal of Biliteracy in Latin, and the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness. Rachel was awarded the Latin Club Fidus Achates Award as well as a SUNY Geneseo - Community Scholarship.

Rachel was a member of the Girls Varsity Swim Team, member of Latin Club, National Honor Society and Future Teachers of America. Additionally, Rachel worked for the Clarence Learn to Swim program as a swim instructor and lifeguard.

Rachel will be attending SUNY Geneseo and majoring in Geological Sciences. She enjoys reading, crocheting, running and swimming in her free time.

Luke Brandow



Luke Brandow is a second-year student at St. John Fisher University in Rochester. He is working towards a double major in Accounting and Financing. This past year he was awarded the Frank Stotz Accounting scholarship from the Accounting Department, as well as the Victor E. Salerno Sr. Scholarship and the Presidential Scholarship.

Luke actively participates in campus life as a Student Ambassador, Orientation Leader, member of the Student Activity Board and a member of the Finance Committee for the annual Teddi Fundraising Dance to benefit Camp Good Days and Special Times. Luke also loves to play sports and is involved in multiple intramural sports at Fisher, including soccer.

His commitment to service began in his early teen years, when he volunteered at the Melodies Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders with Rosie's Love; acted as a Peer Leader for the VBS program at Trinity Presbyterian Church; and traveled on mission trips to Woodberry Farm in Pennsylvania, where he did maintenance and construction work to help support a nonprofit camp for children from Baltimore. He also volunteered with the summer lunch program through Schenectady Inner City Ministries.

Luke lettered in baseball in high school, and spent 11 years playing travel baseball, winning multiple tournaments during that time. He also was a member of the National Honor Society and the German Club. He was honored with the K Sturdy Scholarship and the SG Babe Ruth Scholarship upon graduation.



Luke loves to hang out with friends and family and recently took up the game of golf. He spent the summer of 2023 volunteering with the Great Beginnings program at St. John Fisher University and helping a friend refurbish his boat.

Madeline Gibbons



Madeline graduated from Sayville High School in June 2023. She was awarded the NYS Seal of Biliteracy and the NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence. She was also an AP Scholar with Honors.

Madeline was involved with the World Language Honor Society, the National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society and Students Working for Enhanced Environmental Protection.

In high school, Madeline played Varsity Tennis and Varsity Golf. She was also a Girl Scout and earned her Gold Award this past Spring. Madeline also held a job working as a clerk at a local business.

Madeline was an active member of the local junior civic organization. She volunteered at multiple community events and held a position on the board. Madeline is also an enthusiastic blood donor.

Madeline is attending Syracuse University this fall. She is currently enrolled in both the College of Arts and Sciences and the Whitman School of Management, majoring in Mathematics. In her free time, Madeline enjoys reading, boating, camping and cheering for her beloved New York Rangers.

Hailey Hann



Hailey Hann is a graduate of West Genesee High School. She was part of the National Honor Society and completed the seal of biliteracy and the seal of Civic Readiness.

During high school, Hailey was on the varsity swim team throughout her entire high school career. She was also part of the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute and played the viola as part of the high school symphony.

Outside of school, Hailey is an active part of her church. She attends her church youth group and volunteers as often as possible.

Hailey will be attending Ohio State University this fall and is majoring in biology on a pre-health track.

In her free time, Hailey enjoys reading, spending time with nature, drawing and painting and spending time with family and friends.

Abigail Lantry



Abigail Lantry was valedictorian of the 2022 graduating class at Sandy Creek Central School and just began her sophomore year in the Honors College at University at Buffalo. She is majoring in Neuroscience and is the recipient of the Pride of NY Scholarship and NY Scholarship for Academic Excellence.

During high school, she was Treasurer for the Class of 2022, a member of the National Honor Society and Environmental Science Club; Team Captain for Soccer and Basketball; recipient of the NYS PHSA Section III Scholar Athlete Award; and was First Trumpet in Concert Band and Marching Band.

She was awarded the NYS Seal of Biliteracy in English and Spanish. While working for AmeriCorps, Abigail volunteered at the United Friends of Homeless Animals shelter.

In college, she works at the University at Buffalo Behavioral Neuropharmacology and Neuroimaging Lab. In her free time, she enjoys crocheting, going on walks with her friends, and spending time with family. In the future, Abigail plans to pursue a PhD in Neuroscience and study neurodegenerative disease.

Jacob Madden



Jake Madden graduated from Albany High School where he was recognized for his achievements in academics, athletics, and community service.

Jake helped start an outdoor club at his high school, interned and volunteered for urban farm projects, and spent the spring semester of his junior year at The Mountain School, a school on a sustainable farm in Vermont.

Jake enjoys playing lacrosse, but soccer is his favorite sport and he played for many years with Albany Soccer Club. To give back to one of his favorite sports, he worked as a referee and a coach in the city youth soccer program.

Jake is attending Middlebury College in Vermont and plans to study environmental science and conservation biology. Jake loves exploring the woods on foot and on skis. He recently completed his quest to climb all 46 of the Adirondack High Peaks and looks forward to many more adventures.

Cadence Masino



Cadence Masino is a sophomore at Binghamton University studying biology on the Pre-Veterinary Track. Cadance graduated from Miller Place High School in 2022 and received the Raymond P. Santora scholarship for academic excellence and service within her community.

During high school, Cadence participated in varsity tennis and badminton and was a member of the National Honor Society. Cadance was also the treasurer for Miller Place's Foreign Language Honor Society chapter, and the president of the Future Business Leaders of America.

During her high school career, Cadence volunteered at Stony Brook Medicine and Save the Animals Rescue. She was also a member of her school's Service Club and assisted in events such as beach cleanups and Safe Halloween.

In her free time, Cadence enjoys reading, listening to music, and spending time with her friends.

Emma Rivers



Emma graduated in the top 6% of her class at Bethlehem Central High School. Along with the 2023 Joseph Scacalossi Scholarship, Emma was awarded the Pride of NY Scholarship, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) Women's Empowerment Scholarship, and a NYS STEM Scholarship.

Emma has been on her high school track team for all four years of high school specializing in the 100-meter dash and high jump. She was also a competitive gymnast with a local club team since elementary school. Emma was also a part of Amnesty International in high school. Emma has volunteered for Therapy Dogs International with her dog Ryder and volunteered monthly at the Regional Foodbank of Northeastern New York.

She is attending the University at Buffalo, where she was accepted into the Honors College and will study Mechanical Engineering.

In her spare time, Emma loves to spend time with her family, reading, and traveling.

Noa Wacholder



Noa Wacholder graduated from Shaker High School on June 24, 2023, as an Honor graduate in the top 5% of her class. In addition to the 2023 Joseph Scacalossi scholarship, she received a scholarship for academic excellence from the New York State Education Department and a merit scholarship from her university.

Noa was very active during her high school years. She participated in the school musical, international club, Key Club, Project LITerature, and others. She was co-chairperson of an empowerment group called "Girls Take Charge."

Noa was very involved outside of high school as well. She was vice president of her youth group, studied music and dance, and worked as a lifeguard and swim teacher in her junior and senior years.

Noa is studying mathematics and chemistry at Columbia University in New York.

In her free time, Noa enjoys swimming, working with children, reading, music, dance, musical theater, and martial arts.

Editor's Note: 2023 PEF Scacalossi Scholarship recipients Danielle Cirrito could not be reached in time for publication.





A room on the third floor of the Kate Mullany house in Troy, decorated as it would have been in the 19th century.

Kate Mullany House puts a roof over important Labor History

By **NAJEE WALKER**

In the 1860s, just around the end of the Civil War, Troy, N.Y., was a big producer of a new fashion trend in the nation: detachable shirt colors. About 3,700 women, mostly Irish immigrants, worked in the Troy collar industry, including a woman named Kate Mullany.

Mullany was born in 1845. She and her family emigrated from Ireland to America in 1850, eventually landing in New York. While living in Troy, Kate was a teenager working in one of the 14 commercial laundries in the area.

Women in these laundries regularly toiled 12 to 14 hours a day in hazardous conditions. Mullany, likely inspired by those active in the Iron Molders Union, helped organize the Collar Laundry Union in 1864 and led 300 women on an almost weeklong strike. The strike helped the union secure a 25% pay increase as it became the first continuously organized women's union in the country.

Mullany would go on to organize several strikes and win pay increases for both her union and others within the industry. But despite her work for the union and for the larger labor movement, Mullany's name and deeds faded over time.

It wasn't until more than a century later that Mullany's name and work resurfaced when her old apartment building in Troy was purchased by the executive director of the American Labor Study Center, Paul Cole.

Cole acquired the home in 1988 and worked hard to restore it in an effort to keep Kate Mullany's legacy alive. Over the years, he has raised more than half a million dollars to bring the place up to code. Cole, who has worked for several unions, including NYSUT and AFT, lobbied politicians like Hillary Clinton and former New York State Senator Joseph L. Bruno, to raise the money and help build the site into what it is today.

In 1998, Hillary Clinton, then first lady, dedicated the Kate Mullany House as a National Historic Landmark. Later, in 2004 Congress designated it a National Historic Site.

PEF has also contributed to the Mullany House's restoration. In order to help raise awareness about the work Mullany did for the Labor movement, PEF published a booklet titled "Kate Mullany: A True Labor Pioneer." Additionally in 2020, PEF President Wayne Spence received the Kate Mullany Medal, in recognition of PEF's efforts to help restore the site and the union's support of the American Labor Studies Center.

The Kate Mullany House officially opened on June 10, 2023. The first floor serves now as a gallery of art and information detailing Mullany's life. The second floor is the office of the American Labor Studies Center, and the third floor is decorated as Mullany would have had it decorated during her lifetime.

For those interested in visiting, the house is located at 350 8th St. in Troy. It does not have regular visiting hours, but members are welcome to coordinate tours by calling the American Labor Studies Center at (518) 331-4474.



Executive Director of the American Labor Studies Center Paul Cole.

Union Spotlight: Chris Ford

How long have you been a PEF member?

I started with DOH in August 1992 (31 years). I submitted my application for membership upon starting.

Briefly summarize what you do for the people of New York.

I lead the Mobile Development and Support team for NYS in the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS). This group maintains many of the mobile apps for New York State, manages the app stores for the state, and advises on emerging technologies.

What position(s) do you hold in PEF?

I am a steward. I serve the members in the roles of Council Leader, Executive Board member, and convention delegate. I was appointed to the 2023-2025 Contract Negotiating Team by President Spence. I serve as a member of the Division 357 Labor-Management, Health & Safety, and other committees. As needed, I participate in regional and statewide committees and activities. Recently, this included advising on PEF convention resolutions, IT-related pending NYS legislation, and ITS classification requests submitted to Civil Service.

Why did you choose to run for a leadership position?

My coworkers advocated for me to be active in union leadership for several years. I had leadership roles in several groups already and did not see myself having the time to be effective. After a while they made a strong case that pushed me over the edge and with their support, I ran for my first office as an Executive Board member for my Division.

Please comment on the value of public employees.

There is data that you do not want a profit-driven corporation to manage for reasons of privacy or long-term stability. There are services that must persist for the health, safety, and protection of the people of the State of New York. Public employees provide these services as a calling and know that they have purpose and value, even when there is no profit to be made. The private sector is extremely good at providing specialized services, but only when it is supported by a profitable model and without a guaranteed requirement to put the people first. This is the essential difference between the public and private sectors. If the Constitution and our freedoms are to be maintained while showing compassion for those in our charge and meeting essential needs, then public service is essential. NYS public employees provide everything from technology and cybersecurity support and guidance to medical services to community safety and beyond. I am amazed and proud every day at the dedication and ingenuity of the public workforce.





PEF MBP offering Modified Open Enrollment for Life Insurance

By **NAJEE WALKER**

PEF Membership Benefits Program (PEF MBP) is offering a chance for members to enroll or increase their insurance coverage for Short-Term Disability, Long-Term Disability and Group Term Life during a Modified Open Enrollment period.

The Modified Open Enrollment is a limited time September 1st through October 31st where active members will have the chance to make these changes or add any of the insurances needed. The insurances offered are in partnership with Sun Life. Members will be able to take advantage of this period with no medical questions asked.

Members enrolling in Short-Term Disability may elect coverage up to \$400 weekly. Members who are already enrolled can increase coverage up to \$700 based upon the current coverage you are enrolled in. For Long-Term Disability, newly enrolled members will be able to elect up to 50% of their current monthly income up to \$7,500 a month. Members who are already enrolled will be able to increase their coverage up to 60% of their monthly income.

For Group Term Life insurance, new enrollees may start their coverage at \$20,000 or 1 times their basic annual earnings. Members already enrolled may increase coverage up by one level up to 5 times their basic annual earnings, up to \$600,000. Additionally, coverage for spouses/ domestic partners and children is also available during this timeframe.

New York State Civil Service employees are not eligible for the New York State Disability Benefits Law Coverage, often meaning that employees must look for outside coverage for their disability.

For more information about Sun Life, MBP's Insurances or the Modified Open Enrollment visit [the MBP Website](#) or call: (800) 767-1840 or (518) 785-1900, ext. 243, opt. 2



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PEF members enjoy Union Night at Citi Field


About three dozen PEF leaders, members and staff were invited to the New York Mets game on September 2 by President Wayne Spence to celebrate Union Night at Citi Field.

PEF hosted a tailgate before the game, with Spence, Secretary-Treasurer Joe Donahue, Vice President Darlene Williams and Director of Organizing Dan Carpenter firing up the grills. Before the game, about 20 PEF members chose to participate with members from other state and city unions in the Warning Track Salute, walking

out on the field to be recognized by the PA announcer and wave to the crowd. NYS AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

PEF placed an ad in the Mets Gameday Program this year, which was available for purchase by fans at all 81 home games. The ad recognized the essential work all members of the union do every day to keep New York running.





America's pastime has a lot in common with the 50,000 New York State professionals who are members of the Public Employees Federation:

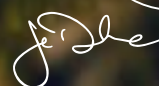
- We go to bat every day for New Yorkers who rely on the public services we provide – from healthcare to community safety to roads and bridges.
- We are the designated hitters for members of our union when they are disrespected or treated unfairly by management.
- Teamwork is the key to our success as we negotiate fair contracts and ensure workers' health and safety on the job.
- And we do it all with one goal in mind: to deliver the most efficient, highest-quality public services for New Yorkers.

We are PEF Proud and Union Strong!

Wayne Spence
President



Joe Donahue
Secretary-Treasurer





EMERGING LEADERS INSTITUTE

Emerging Leaders Institute trains new generation of union leaders

By **NAJEE WALKER**

The PEF Emerging Leaders Institute kicked off with a curriculum to train new leaders within the union. The program's goal is to build upon the skills of current and new leaders while also fostering unity between age groups and generations.

The Emerging Leaders Institute held its pilot program at union headquarters in Latham, N.Y., from July 28 to July 30. Over those three days, 14 members spent time with trainers from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) learning and discussing strategies around building strength within the union.

The first day of training focused on values. The group discussed behavior within the union, how best to lead, and how to be mindful of diversity and anti-racism. The first day also challenged the leaders to consider themselves and how they think people perceive them. It was a way to show that leadership and change in the union begins within.

"It was great to get to know some of the thoughts of the other members," said Mickey Dobbin, a council leader at the State Education Department. He works as a Research Collections Technician at the New York State Museum.

"I enjoyed learning about organizing and mapping. I agree it only takes one person to make a difference in someone else's world," said Erin Kelly, a Labor Services Representative at the Department of Labor in Rochester.

"Sharing our perspectives during the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism work really stood out for me," said Jacob Daly-Engel, who works as an Education Trainee at the Department of Education. "It was illuminating to see that the aspects of ourselves that we feel are important are rarely those aspects that are most important to others."

On the second day, members were introduced to more organizing-focused content, largely centered around campaigning, communication, and collective bargaining. They were given a chance to break into groups and develop mock campaigns as practice.

Brian Silva works for the Department of Labor in Albany. He said that the training on the second day impacted him the most.

"In my position as an investigator for the Department of Labor, I often must read through the CBA's (Collective Bargaining Agreements) that are done by the unions," said Silva. "I honestly feel that this training can be geared towards the understanding of what the union goes through for our contract. It would give it a more 'real life' feel to it."

On the final day, the group practiced their public speaking skills and looked inward to discuss how best to take care of themselves when leading others. The training acknowledged that while this work is important, it is just as important to make sure that leaders are well enough and equipped to lead.



Participants said that while they were apprehensive about the training at first, they were glad to have gone through the three-day course.

"It was intense," said Dobbin. "It was also a very invigorating crash course. It felt like something I needed."

Participants in the program are now working on an "in-service project" to be implemented in some way in their local communities, agencies or within the union.

"I really want to take part in assisting PEF Organizing with making sure that new employees are fully informed about their union and what they do and how to fully become engaged with the local office," said Sandy Darby-Roberts, who works as a Labor Services Representative at the Department of Labor in New York City. "I want to be able to bridge the gap and help them make connections with PEF."

While Darby-Roberts is focused on making the union more accessible to new members, others are looking at making sure current members are taken care of.

"I have reached out to my division head, as well as some officers, to clarify the needs of the union and what needs to be addressed," said Alan Fish. Fish works as an Information Technology Specialist for the Law Department. "Galvanizing the younger members into leadership is the number one issue on their minds. I proposed a social media campaign different than our current one to drive online engagement and followers."

"I want to add my muscle to the retirement reform discussion," said Daly-Engel. "Tiers 5 and 6 need to go if we want to attract and retain the next generation of civil servants."

Those who are focused on problems in their agencies are eager to use the knowledge learned during the pilot program to help as soon as possible.

"I want to help get the word out on the need for more legal counsel in the Department of Labor. I want to show that the need is there, and it should be addressed before hiring more investigators," said Silva.

The pilot program was a big hit and PEF is committed to welcoming new classes to the Emerging Leaders Institute in the months and years ahead.

"We have five stewards in my department," Dobbin said. "I want to get at least one Steward to attend the Emerging Leaders Institute every year."

RECOMMIT TODAY!

NEW + EXISTING PEF MEMBERS

SIGN NOW!



PEF inks contract with School for the Deaf, School for the Blind

By KATE STICKLES

PEF represents unclassified staff at the New York State School for the Deaf and the New York State School for the Blind, requiring a separate [Memorandum of Understanding](#) and [Memorandum of Agreement](#) to establish contractual changes.

In line with the recently ratified PS&T agreement, the members at the two schools, including instructors, special education assistants (SEAs), school counselors, psychologists, audiologists, recreation therapists, and nurses, will receive 3% salary increases in 2023, 2024, and 2025; a \$3,000 signing bonus; and the first-of-its-kind Higher Education Differential of \$600 for 2024 and 2025.

Unclassified members will also receive performance awards as per the main agreement, effective with the 2023-2024 school year; the work year for SEAs goes from 219 to 217 days; and pay for extra-curricular positions goes from \$15 to \$30 per hour.

To address PEF's continuing concerns regarding compensation for employees in the SEA title, the state Director of Classification and Compensation will act in an advisory capacity to the State Education Department (SED) by conducting a study and making recommendations regarding proper compensation for employees in the SEA title.

The study will consider factors including, among others, comparability of SEA salaries and workday/work year with similar employees in nearby school districts and in the Classified Service, as well as SED's recruitment and retention experience. Civil Service will present its findings to SED, the Office of Employee Relations, and to PEF no later than 18 months following ratification of the PS&T agreement, which means before January 28, 2025.

"Our members in these amazing schools deserve these salary increases and improved benefits," said PEF President Wayne Spence. "Education opens doors, and these dedicated professionals work tirelessly to see that these students are successful."





Two Executive Board seats filled; more still vacant

Two new Executive Board members were seated following the July 2023 Special Election.

Matthew Karp will fill Seat 1, which represents certain members at Agriculture and Markets. Ivan Giannou will fill Seat 410, which represents certain members at the Office of Mental Health. The term of office is until July 31, 2024.

"We are determined to fill every seat on our Executive Board so as many members as possible have representation as the Board conducts the business of the union," President Wayne Spence said. "Members are encouraged to seek a position and help us protect our health, safety, and our rights on the job."

The next Special Election will be in October 2023. The following seats need to be filled:

- Seat 10, Department of Financial Services
- Seat 15, Civil Service
- Seat 90, Higher Education Services Corporation
- Seat 95, SUNY Upstate
- Seat 104, SUNY Stony Brook
- Seat 165, Housing and Community Renewal
- Seat 172, ITS
- Seat 173, ITS
- Seat 395, OPWDD
- Seat 430, OCFS
- Seat 545, Albany Housing Authority, Albany County Probation, Allegany County Employees

Visit www.pef.org/elections for information on petitioning, elections, and duties of elected leaders.

A message from PEF Retirees President Jim Carr

It is August and I am writing this article for the September issue of the *Communicator*. September brings us to the end of summer and a transition to fall. September is also when we celebrate Labor Day, a day when we should recognize and honor the achievements of organized labor and the benefits unions provide for their members and the hard-fought gains over the years.

I believe a historical perspective is in order because we need to appreciate the meaning of this important holiday. The question is asked when did Labor Day become a national holiday? In 1894, President Grover Cleveland declared Labor Day a national holiday: "A time for people of this nation to pay tribute to the American worker."

When America was founded, most people were either farmers, men of the sea, or involved in related fields. As people moved inland, they became aware of how enormous America really was and it was natural for people to choose other professions, even that of the discerning.

As the world developed, mining of the many natural resources of our country became a way of life, which helped build the country. As technology was refined, labor took on a new face. The more traditional modes of work remained, but the American thirst for innovation became prominent. Labor became organized -- unions found their niche in society -- and there was a greater emphasis on the dignity of the working person. Labor Day developed as a way to showcase the backbreaking labor that made America strong, independent, self-sufficient, and a provider for the world.

On this year's Labor Day, Americans have much to be grateful for. Even in these challenging times of political, social, and economic division, we enjoy economic freedom because we belong to a union. The prosperity we enjoy in this country is not something that is common in every country throughout the world. Many people have been left behind and a gap in family income continues to widen. The top 5% of the American population takes home a larger share in personal income than they did 40 years ago. At the same time, the share of income going to people in the middle 60% has declined by nearly 10%. This decline is even sharper for those in the bottom 20%. This trend is one reason for America to respect the strong, active, endemic, democratic labor movement.

Workers, particularly members of organized labor, have given much to America over the last century. It is through their efforts that the great American middle-class was born. Yet American unions never capitalized on the concept of "class" warfare that found such fertile ground in the rest of the industrialized world. Union leaders instead saw their organization as part of the American experience of democracy and urged their membership to seek social justice for all instead of a class struggle.



Many of the values embedded in the labor movement's search for social justice have a firm foundation in today's union values, which seek public policy that promotes strong families and family values, expands a stable middle-class, creates decent jobs, and reduces the level of poverty and need in our society. Organized labor promotes the dignity of work.

Early Labor Day parades were made up of the common folk who went to work, took pride in what they did, were paid a fair wage, and reminded the country of her pride in her citizens. Today, there is a tendency to forget about these basic qualities of our everyday lives. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything it is that workers are "essential." Doctors, nurses, teachers, police, firefighters, grocery store workers, and all the dedicated public servants who work for the good of the public are essential.

Today much of that work is undervalued and under-appreciated. A simple history lesson shows why economist Paul Krugman called the years 1929 to 1947 the birth of the middle class. They were also, roughly speaking, the birth of the modern labor movement. The number of U.S. workers belonging to labor unions increased from 3.6 to 15.4 million during those years. The postwar prosperity years of 1947 to 1973 saw further growth in union membership.

The combination of anti-union policies and messaging, and an increasingly pro-business atmosphere, coupled with the Labor Department and activist judges in bankruptcy courts who can't wait to take apart bargaining agreements, has taken its toll. Today union membership is down to around 12% of the workforce.

As surely as growth in union participation led to a strong middle class, falling participation has weakened it. History shows that unorganized workers, left at the mercy of giant unregulated corporations, leads to an unstable economy of rich and poor. Unions balance power that leads us to where we need to be for a growing, middle-class economy. Government policies that favor unions and the middle class are necessary to keep our economy both fair and growing.

What's going to save the ordinary American, trapped between a government buried in corporate cash, and a market system that even its greatest supporters are starting to doubt?

In one word: power. Power is how to change things and make things happen. There are two forms and sources of power. The first is lots of organized money (corporate PACs). That is the kind of power the financial elites have used to bring the rest of us to our knees. The other source and form of power is lots of people: organized,

mobilized, united, and taking action. That's why we still need a strong union movement and that's why labor was organized in the first place.

Because Together We Are Stronger! Happy Labor Day 2023!

IN ORDER TO STAY INFORMED:

We would request you provide us with a current email address so we can keep you informed about issues that impact us all. You can send your current email address to PEF Retirees Assistant Rachel.Mango@pef.org.



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Letters to the Editor

Sending letters to the editor is a powerful way for members to get answers to their questions, express their opinions, and contribute to public discourse. They can raise awareness, spark dialogue, and influence public opinion on various issues.

We want to hear from you!

Send your letters to to thecommunicator@pef.org. Please include your name and location. Letters may be published in upcoming issues of *the Communicator*.



Leave donations:

Ailing members need your leave donations

The following PEF members have reported a need for leave donations due to the need for medical treatment or recuperation from illness or injury.

Donations are made from annual leave and donors must retain at least 10 days of annual leave after donating. To donate leave, obtain a leave-donation form from your personnel or human resources office and submit it to that office. You may donate leave to employees at both the agency where you work and to those working at other state agencies.

To help facilitate donations, we list an HR contact number for each person needing donations on the list below.

- LaShon Boyd is an habilitation specialist 1 at the Metro Developmental Disabilities Services Office in Manhattan.
- Gloria Broadbent is an instructor at the School for the Deaf in Rome.
- Rhonda Carroll-Eldridge is a dairy products specialist 1 at the Department of Agriculture and Markets in Steuben County.
- Brian Cellery is an information technology specialist 3 at the Office of Information Technology Services in Albany.
- Megan Dolan is a vulnerable persons protection specialist 2 at the Justice Center in Delmar.
- Kimberly Ernst-Harris is a supervising offender rehabilitation coordinator at the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision central office in Albany.
- Heather Farthing is a registered nurse 2 at Capital District Psychiatric Center in Albany.
- Sally Fontana is social work supervisor 1, LCSW at Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center in Utica.
- Cherie Griffin is a taxpayer services specialist 2 at the state Department of Taxation and Finance in Albany.
- Rishona Haynes is a registered nurse 1 at SUNY Stony Brook on Long Island.
- Drina Holden is a senior certification analyst at the state Department of Economic Development in Manhattan.
- Tammi Holtslander-Camp Sr. Is an occupational therapist at Greater Binghamton Health Center in Binghamton.
- Joann Loeber is a financial services examiner 4 at the state Department of Financial Services in New York City.
- Cassandra Mascaro is a gender violence prevention specialist 1 at the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence in Albany.
- Roxeen Mundy is an information technology specialist 2 at the state Office of Information Technology Services in Albany.
- Melissa Pine is an underwriter 1 at the state Insurance Fund in White Plains.
- John Reed is licensed master social worker 2 at Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center in Saugerties.
- Darlene (Gemma) Rose is an employment counselor for the state Labor Department in Amsterdam.
- Marcus Smith is a health program administrator at the Department of Health in Albany.
- Kevin Valazza is a teacher 4 at Wende Correctional Facility in Alden.
- Laquita White is a real estate specialist 1 at the state Transportation Department in Buffalo.
- Caitlin Wilkens is a research scientist 2 at the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision main office in Albany.

The rules for making and receiving leave donations (such as leave recipients may not have had any disciplinary actions or unsatisfactory performance evaluations within their last three years of state employment) are set forth on pages 189 and 190 of the 2019-23 PS&T Contract. If you, or a PEF member you know, need leave donations because of a medical issue, you may contact The Communicator to request publication of that need. Send requests to thecomunicator@pef.org, or call 518 396-8201. Be sure to provide your contact information.



August 31, 2023

VP Randi DiAntonio, Regional Coordinators Leisa Abraham and Shelby Wisneski, and PEF leaders Kaylee Comfort and Tonya Oliver meeting with Legislators Assembly Minority Leader Will Barclay and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano. The gathering took place at the Glen in Watkins Glen, NY.



August 30, 2023

Wednesdays are for ice cream! Region 2 members got a Ben & Jerry's treat today from PEF VP Randi DiAntonio and Regional Coordinator Shelby Wisneski at the NYS Fire Academy in Mountour Falls.



August 30, 2023

PEF Region 8, Organizing and MBP staff welcome NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, who stopped at the PEF booth today at the NYS Fair in Syracuse.



August 23, 2023

Team PEF at the retirement celebration of DOCCS Commissioner Anthony Annucci Tuesday night.



August 17, 2023

Region 1 retirees got together for a picnic today with David Krobe, SW Veterans chair and Chapter 1 President welcoming attendees. VP Randi DiAntonio and Region 1 Coordinator Michele Iorfida stopped by for a visit!



August 7, 2023

PEF Region 4 members and their families had an excellent time at the Syracuse Mets game with about 100 members and family members taking part in the exciting event.



August 13, 2023

PEF members past and present from OMH/Greater Binghamton Health Center joined Region 5 Coordinator David Dubofsky, field representative Dan Manning and PEF Division 208 Council Leader Angela Reh for Region 5's 17th annual clambake this weekend!



August 12, 2023

PEF members and families are enjoyed a beautiful day at Six Flags Darien Lake. It is a PEF Membership Benefits Program Friends and Family Fun Day with rides, water park and a lunch buffet!

