JULY/AUGUST 2025 BEHNE THE WALLS PEF members at DOCCS and OMH CBOs strategize about path forward at correctional facilities

Table of Contents

| The President's Message | 3 |
|--|----|
| PEF members at DOCCS and OMH CBOs strategize about path forward at correctional facilities | 4 |
| PEF advocacy on key priorities paves the way for new legislation | 6 |
| Compensation study underway by Civil Service; PEF closely monitoring the process | 7 |
| PEF scientist secures \$9M grant to study human immune response to Lyme disease bacteria with eye toward treatment | 8 |
| PEF intern shares passion for the labor movement, gains experience in field services work | 10 |
| Blast from the Past: PEF members facing layoffs fight back and reclaim jobs | 11 |
| n their own words: Members share experiences on SEIU's Justice Journey | 12 |
| President Spence joins Governor to celebrate \$1.1 billion investment in SUNY Downstate | 14 |
| Executive Board tables no-confidence vote; discusses federal cuts, union finances, and membership counts | 16 |
| Board tables no-confidence vote against OMH Commissioner; engages in Q&A | 18 |
| Do you want to be a union leader? Executive Board special election coming in July | 20 |
| Region 1 elects new coordinator; 2 seated on Eboard, 1 race ends in tie | 21 |
| Meet the New Regional Coordinator for Region 1 | 22 |
| PEF in the News | 23 |
| Capital Region turns out for PEF Wellness Fair and Book Giveaway | 24 |
| Ten students earn PEF Joseph Scacalossi Scholarship awards | 26 |
| t's scholarship season! | 29 |
| Retirees in Action: Unions took the fight against the 'Big Ugly Betrayal Bill' to elected representatives | 30 |
| Members need your leave donations | 32 |
| Letter to the Editor: Thank you to SUNY Upstate | 33 |
| Photo Highlights | 34 |
| 47th Annual Convention Delegate Information | 37 |

THE COMMUNICATOR

Volume 43 No.6 July/August 2025 (0745-6514)

The Official Publication of the New York State Public Employees Federation, AFL-CIO 1168-70 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110-1006

The Communicator is published monthly, except for January and August, for members of the New York State Public Employees Federation.

The Communicator Staff Rob Merrill Managing Editor Curtis Canham Graphic Artist Kate Stickles Reporter/Editor Najee Walker Reporter/Writer Lauryn Schrom Junior Graphic Artist Kristina Willbrant Comm Coordinator Kaitlin Sheehan Digital Communications Specialist

Officers of PEF

Wayne Spence President Joe Donahue Secretary-Treasurer Randi DiAntonio Vice President Bruce Giddings Vice President Darlene Williams Vice President

Regional Coordinators Vincent Cicatello, Region 1 Shelby Wisneski, Region 2 Leisa Abraham, Region 3 Monica Moore, Region 4 Scott Staub, Region 5 Christopher Dunham, Region 6 Barbara Stransky, Region 7 Danielle Bridger, Region 8 Gabriela Franklyn, Region 9 Tamara Martin, Region 10 Bernadette O'Connor, Region 11 Corinne Testa, Region 12

<u>Trustees</u>

Muriel Hardy-Lee, Kelly Nadeau, Mohan Radhakrishna

PEF Regional Field Offices

- Region 1 Buffalo 1-800-462-1462 Region 2 Elmira/Hornell 1-800-724-5001
- Region 3 Rochester 1-800-724-5003
- Region 4 Syracuse 1-800-724-5004 Region 5 Binghamton 1-800-724-4998 Region 6 Utica 1-800-724-5005 Region 7 Potsdam 1-888-498-8532 Region 8 Albany 1-800-342-4306

- Region 9 Poughkeepsie 1-800-548-4870
- Region 10 Manhattan/Bronx 1-800-522-8700
- Region 11 Brooklyn/Queens/Staten Island
- 1-866-897-9775

Region 12 Long Island 1-800-832-5284

Advertising in this publication does not represent an endorsement by PEF or its members.

Members wishing to change their email/mailing address may call 800-342-4306, x221, or email jwright@pef.org.

PEF is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO and Services Employees International Union.



Metro NY Labor Communications Council

The President's Message by wayne spence



PEF turns up the heat on a variety of fronts this summer

As the summer heats up (and up and up!), PEF is also keeping the heat on several of our priorities, including holding DOCCS and OMH's feet to the fire on workplace safety in correctional facilities, helping push major investments in SUNY Downstate across the finish line, and keeping an eye on the promised compensation study.

With the conclusion of the Legislative session in mid-June, I am happy to report that three bills backed by PEF became law in 2025, including amending Worker's Compensation Law to include "mental injury" and work-related stress in its coverage; a bill expanding mandatory disclosure of video footage related to the death of incarcerated individuals and installation of more cameras in facilities; and further expansion of the LoADING Act, extending artificial intelligence regulations to SUNY, CUNY, local schools and municipal governments.

I was honored to speak at the Governor's press conference at SUNY Downstate Medical Center last month <u>announcing the \$1.1 billion investment</u> in the hospital after nearly 18 months of advocacy by unions, the clergy, and community stakeholders. We said it loud and clear: Brooklyn Needs Downstate! Our healthcare heroes and the communities they serve deserve this much-needed modernization.

In lieu of the yearly DOCCS/PEF labor-management conference in Lake Placid, PEF recently brought together members and leaders from DOCCS and OMH's corrections-based operations for a deep dive into how to tackle the issues plaguing facilities across the state, which stole center stage during the wildcat corrections' officer strike earlier this year. We hope to make headway in the coming months and build on the dialogue from that meeting.

With recent announcements of reallocations piquing the interest of our members, we checked in with PEF's Civil Service Enforcement/Research Department for an <u>update on the state's long-awaited compensation study</u>. There are some indications that recommendations from the study could be ready as early as October, and while the state is not obligated to implement any of them, we will be keeping a close eye on the process as it unfolds.

This summer double issue also brings you a <u>feature story on Dr. Nicholas Mantis</u>, a PEF research scientist who secured a \$9 million contract to study Lyme disease, with an eye toward creating both vaccines and potential treatments for the tickborne illness. Dr. Mantis and the Wadsworth Center welcomed us into the lab for a closer look at the work, and you can both read about it and catch a glimpse of the lab yourself in our featured video.

I hope you all have a great rest of your summer. We'll be back with a PEF Pulse in August and then return with a full issue after Labor Day, which is September 1 this year. Check with your Regional Coordinator about parade plans!

In Unity,

Wayne Spence PEF President



President Spence speaks to DOCCS members during Behind the Walls conference on June 20 in Albany

PEF members at DOCCS and OMH CBOs strategize about path forward at correctional facilities

By NAJEE WALKER

PEF members who work at DOCCS facilities have faced unsafe working conditions for many years, long before the 22-day wildcat strike by corrections officers in March. However, the strike shone a spotlight on the work being done by the civilian workforce and the safety concerns of both incarcerated individuals and the people who work inside the facilities.

In lieu of the annual Labor-Management Conference PEF and the State typically hold in May, PEF decided this year to invite council leaders who work in correctional facilities – either as DOCCS employees or for the Office of Mental Health Corrections Based Operations (CBOs) – to Albany for a two day-conference to discuss issues they face on the job.

Nearly 60 PEF members convened on June 20 and 21 at the Desmond Conference Center in the State Capital for a gathering the union called "Behind the Walls."

PEF President Wayne Spence kicked things off by recognizing how the strike highlighted issues at DOCCS and gave PEF and other

unions a chance to talk about the unintended consequences of the HALT Act, which limits the amount of time incarcerated individuals can spend in solitary confinement.

"We were invited by DOCCS to form a committee following the wildcat strike to try and figure out how to navigate these consequences," said Spence. "We could not do this alone, we had to be joined by CSEA members, and NYSCOPBA, and everyone who is considered a stakeholder."

President Spence served, along with four PEF leaders, on the committee, which will soon make recommendations to the State about how to modify HALT so that the behavior of incarcerated individuals can be corrected while staff in facilities stay safe.

President Spence also said that State legislators attempted to pass legislation that would allow New York to discipline DOCCS employees without going through the process established by collective bargaining agreements negotiated with unions. As justification, they cite the alarming deaths of incarcerated individuals, and paint everyone who works 'behind the walls' with a broad brush.

"We must get the legislature and the public to see things differently," said President Spence. "We have been working with One Voice United, a national organization dedicated to elevating the voices and experiences of corrections officers and other front-line professionals in national conversations about corrections and criminal justice."



 ${\tt DOCCS\,Commissioner\,Daniel\,F.\,Martuscello\,III\,takes\,questions\,from\,members\,during\,Behind\,the\,Walls\,conference.}$

DOCCS Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III then gave an update on what his agency has done since the strike.

"I've visited 40 prisons since March 1. What I've seen and witnessed is all of you folks coming together and helping us," said Martuscello. "You are the reason we got through those 22 days. I cannot speak highly enough of the work you've done behind the walls."

The commissioner said that he has been working on making sure DOCCS is transparent about the work that they're doing to improve workplaces on social media. He also provided a progress update on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) governing safey guidelines in facilities that was put in place following the strike.

Since the MOA was adopted, the commissioner used his authority to suspend programming for 90 days. Some facilities are beginning to open select programs. He continues to evaluate if facilities can begin to re-open classrooms and other forms of programming for incarcerated individuals safely.

"We do have a handful of facilities who have resumed complete, full programming," said Martuscello. "The majority of facilities are doing program packets in cells and trying to get some recreation that are still connected to cells."

The commissioner also touched on the HALT Committee's work and said that he believes that PEF did a great job in making sure members' voices were brought to the table.

Lastly, the commissioner focused on recruitment and budgeting for DOCCS. After the dust settled following the strike, DOCCS began settling grievances with some of the NYSCOPBA members who took part the strike. While some of those members cannot be brought back into state service by law, Martuscello said that almost 500 corrections officers were brought back as a result of the negotiations.

In addition, Martuscello said that with 6,800 vacancies, 5,000 of which are corrections officers, DOCCS is heavily focused on recruitment.

The New York State budget allocated \$4.48 billion for the agency, which the commissioner said will help fund fixed camera projects, personal alarms, body cameras and other updates to facilities and programs.

Following the remarks, PEF members broke into smaller groups to discuss how they can best advocate for safety in the workplace and create action plans.

Members cited staffing issues, a lack of training, poor communication with supervisors, exposure to harmful substances, lack of access to proper Personal Protective Equipment and not having the ability to do robust programming as significant on-the-job hardships.

PEF Health and Safety Director Geraldine Stella said that PEF members know best what the issues are in their facilities. Through the workshops, PEF members learned how to best articulate those concerns and work with other members and supervisors.

"When it comes to talking about these issues, you know it best, and you know how to reframe these issues to talk with your members," said Stella. "And when you need us to, and when we know these things are happening, we can help."

All members with health and safety concerns are encouraged to speak to their steward, as well as notify PEF at healthandsafety@pef.org or by calling (518) 785-1900, ext. 254.





PEF advocacy on key priorities paves the way for new legislation

By NAJEE WALKER

The voices of PEF members were heard during the New York State Legislative Session that concluded in mid-June. From artificial intelligence (Al) to Workers' Compensation, several PEF-supported bills were signed by Governor Kathy Hochul, and several more await her signature before the end of the calendar year.

"PEF members worked hard contacting their legislators, writing letters and staying up-to-date on the union's agenda," said PEF President Wayne Spence. "There's plenty of more work to be done, but we are proud of what we've accomplished so far thanks to the advocacy of members."

So far, three bills backed by PEF became law in 2025. These were signed by the Governor in December 2024.

Workers' Compensation for Mental Health: This law amends and expands the Workers' Compensation Law to include "mental injury" and work-related stress in its coverage of all State workers.

Ten additional bills supported by PEF passed both houses during the legislative session and await signature by the governor. One addresses harmful workplace practices, another further expands Al regulation, and another includes more information about salary and benefits to news hires when they receive their appointment letters.

The DOCCS Transparency and Oversight Reform bill would expand the mandatory disclosure of video footage related to the death of an incarcerated individual, conduct a study on the deaths inside correctional facilities, install and maintain more cameras throughout DOCCS facilities, and create a special district attorney to deal with deaths inside facilities. PEF supports it because the union believes transparency and accountability will lead to greater safety for

everyone. PEF has also been an active participant in the working group established by Governor Hochul to make recommendations on enhancing overall safety and security in the state's correctional facilities. PEF, along with the other groups represented on the task force, have developed a package of fair and reasonable recommendations for consideration by the State Legislature to enhance safety and security for everyone in DOCCS facilities. The enactment of these recommendations will remain a top priority for PEF in the 2026-27 Legislative Session.

Further expansion of The LoADING Act is championed by PEF to extend AI regulations to SUNY, CUNY, local school districts and municipal governments. It would require total human oversight over any AI systems implemented at any of these agencies.

PEF was also involved in stopping several harmful bills from passing through to the Governor.

The EmPIRE Act would have privatized Department of Labor enforcement, and another bill would have contracted out services currently performed by PEF members at the Department of Financial Services. A third would have granted the DOCCS commissioner the authority to discipline employees — up to and including dismissal. PEF successfully argued that this proposal would unnecessarily and unilaterally violate the current due process rights of PEF members.

PEF members who want to get more involved in the union's political action or have questions are encouraged to reach out to PEF Legislative Director Patrick Lyons at patrick.lyons@pef.org



Compensation study underway by Civil Service; PEF closely monitoring the process

By KATE STICKLES

The state's outdated compensation plan and its lack of competitiveness with the private sector continue to lead to severe recruitment and retention issues in New York. PEF members see the impact every day with chronic understaffing, increased burnout, and a steady stream of the workforce leaving public service.

In response, PEF repeatedly called for an overhaul of the Civil Service compensation structure, and in March 2025, New York contracted with Deloitte to initiate a total compensation analysis.

Gov. Kathy Hochul's FY 2024 budget included \$2.2 million to analyze and improve the equity of the current pay structure. The analysis will assess 976 titles, which the state Department of Civil Service (DCS) believes are representative of the nearly 3,000 titles in the entire Civil Service workforce.

Deloitte was tasked with reviewing base salaries, various salary add-ons and leave, health and retirement benefits; comparing salary surveys, industries, employer size, duties, required education and work experience, working conditions and geography with the private sector; in addition to looking at tangible and intangible benefits, such as telework, paid family leave, and advancement opportunities; and analyzing turnover rates.

A survey was sent to about 40,000 randomly selected State employees last month, with a due date of June 27. Deloitte expects to complete its study sometime in October, but the state is not bound to accept or implement the recommendations.

"The goal of the survey was to collect opinions from civil servants about the state's total compensation package, e.g., base pay, health insurance, retirement, and more," said PEF Director of Civil Service Enforcement/Research Veronica Foley. "People were asked to rank their benefits from most important to least important. It will be interesting to see the results of the study and ultimately what Deloitte proposes to fix what we believe to be the problem, which is low salaries when compared to the private sector."

PEF is closely monitoring the process, including reviewing the Request for Proposals that was sent out, and submitting a Freedom of Information Law request for the final contract between the state and Deloitte to assure the RFP and the contract are in line with the goals of the study.

The study promises to recommend modifications to the current Civil Service structure, which could reduce the state's reliance on salary differentials to meet market pressures and ensure pay equity for positions with similar job duties.

"We are optimistic that this study will validate what we have been saying all along – the state's compensation package is not competitive with the private sector and that is exacerbating recruitment and retention issues," said President Wayne Spence. "When we talk to our members, salaries are often what concerns people most."

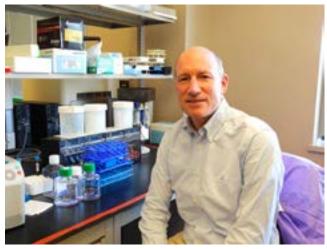
President Spence said union activism got the ball rolling on the study and the results could be useful in planning out how best to organize and meet the needs of PEF members.

DCS has temporarily paused review of previously submitted reallocation and salary differential requests while the study is ongoing, but PEF's position is that if you are interested in pursuing either, continue to organize and research the basis for a request. "We know that the state is not obligated to implement any of the recommendations that Deloitte makes in its final deliverables, and we should be prepared to continue our activism," said Foley.

The union is not able to negotiate salary grades, but PEF created a toolkit to assist members, available here: <u>How to Advocate for Increased Pay Using Civil Service Law</u>. Interested members can also watch a recent webinar that was held about the toolkit, here.

PEF scientist secures \$9M grant to study human immune response to Lyme disease bacteria with eye toward treatment

By KATE STICKLES



Dr. Nicholas Mantis in the Mantis Laboratory at the Wadsworth Center in Albany.

While studying infectious disease as an undergraduate at the University of New Hampshire, Dr. Nicholas Mantis found his calling.

"I learned through a combination of coursework and lab experience that infectious diseases are an interplay between the pathogen and the host," Dr. Mantis said. "And that the outcome of a disease is largely dictated by your immune response. I just became fascinated with that whole interaction."

Dr. Mantis, a research scientist and PEF member in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Wadsworth Center since 2004, was recently awarded a five-year, \$9 million contract by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to study human antibody responses to the Lyme disease pathogen, Borrelia burgdorferi.

"The bacterium is initially deposited in your skin at the site of a bite, and then it spreads through the skin and then through the bloodstream, then to organs, including the brain," he said. "During the course of that, you're mounting an active immune response. The question is: why do some individuals clear the infection very quickly and other people will have prolonged symptoms, and some will have persistent symptoms even after antibiotic treatment?"

Answering those questions could have a significant impact, especially in localities plagued by an abundance of ticks.

"We really think it's the decisions, if you will, made by the immune response during those early events that dictate the outcome," Dr. Mantis said. "That's our main focus. Our goal would be some kind of preventative that could be in the form of a vaccine or possibly even finding treatments for individuals who suffer from persistent symptoms associated with Lyme."

While Dr. Mantis spends much of his time in his office working on manuscripts, grant applications and administrative tasks, lab technicians and research scientists in his group focus closely on the ticks themselves, which they obtain from a national biorepository and import into the lab for study.

"We can take ticks and infect them with the bacteria in the lab and then put them in an infection model," he said. "We can either use artificial feeding chambers or we have a system that mimics human skin and they'll feed on that."

The lab also does mouse studies, pre-treating mice with different antibodies, putting the ticks on the mice, and then seeing if the mice get infected. Those projects can be a month long and require daily monitoring. Some of the samples in the lab are human, collected in collaboration with Albany Medical Center. Research staff can profile those samples and look at the differences between the patients who are healthy and those who exhibit Lyme symptoms. Samples range from children to adults and of varying ages and demographics.



A lab technician explains how scientists use artificial feeding chambers to research disease transmission.

The research done in the Mantis Laboratory could also improve outcomes for other tickborne illnesses carried by the black-legged tick, including babesiosis, anaplasmosis, and ehrlichiosis, to name a few.

"I think the mechanisms of transmission are similar, and the immune pathways are shared," Dr. Mantis said. "So, understanding one, the borrelia infection, will probably lead to understanding of the other pathogens, how they are transmitted and how immunity arises."

Securing the contract

When the National Institutes of Health released a solicitation for research relating to understanding human antibody responses in general, to allergies, food allergies, autoimmunity, and infectious diseases, Dr. Mantis and colleagues put together their proposal to study Lyme and submitted it through a competitive process.

"Our proposal was obviously focused on Lyme disease, but it's actually a multidisciplinary program," he said. "It's based here at the Wadsworth Center, but we have collaborators at New York Structural Biology Center in Manhattan, the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Mass., the University of Washington in Seattle, and a company in San Diego. It was a very competitive award."

Dr. Mantis said the five-year contract, in this political climate of federal cuts, is vital to the success of the research.

"Virtually everybody's career in the lab and in the Center is supported through federal research grants," he said. "I want to stress that maintaining that sustained effort and support from the federal government is critical to Lyme disease research and research into virtually every disease."

Interested in research?

For aspiring scientists, Dr. Mantis said the lab welcomes high school students during the summer, who they pair with a University of Albany program.

"The program actually gives you credit and a structure in which to start your research career in high school," he said. "I would also stress to students that science these days is multidisciplinary, so anybody who's interested in computers or bioinformatics or immunology or infectious disease, there is a place for you."

Dealing with ticks at home

Department of Health staff, along with public health partners, are in the process of collecting ticks to assemble data for this spring but emphasize that it only takes one tick bite to result in infection — so whether tick populations are high or relatively low, prevention recommendations remain the same and New Yorkers should take precautions to prevent tick bites.

Deer ticks live in shady, moist areas and will cling to tall grass, brush and shrubs, usually no more than 18 to 24 inches off the ground. They also live in lawns and gardens, especially at the edges of woods and around stone walls. They can't jump or fly and won't drop onto pets or people. Once a tick gets on the skin, it generally climbs upward until it reaches a protected area.

Ways you can protect yourself

- Wear light-colored clothing with a tight weave to spot ticks easily.
- Wear enclosed shoes, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Tuck pant legs into socks or boots and shirt into pants.
- Check clothes and any exposed skin frequently for ticks while outdoors.
- Consider using insect repellent.
- Stay on cleared, well-traveled trails. Walk in the center of trails. Avoid dense woods and bushy areas.
- Avoid sitting directly on the ground or on stone walls.
- Keep long hair tied back, especially when gardening.
- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after going indoors (preferably within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that may be on you.
- Do a final, full-body tick check at the end of the day (also check children and pets) and remove ticks promptly.

According to NYSDOH, the three most common ticks in New York are the deer (black-legged) tick, the American dog tick and the lone star tick. Only deer ticks carry Lyme bacteria. Young deer ticks, called nymphs, are brown and the size of poppy seeds. Adult female deer ticks are red and black, and males are black. Adult deer ticks are about the size of a sesame seed.

PEF intern shares passion for the labor movement, gains experience in field services work

By AARON GORMAN

In 2020, when I was a sophomore in high school, the country was going through a uniquely challenging time. Covid caused the largest recession since 2009, and millions of American workers lost their jobs. Millions more were labeled "essential," meaning they had to sacrifice their health and safety, often without any increase in pay.

Meanwhile, as people were dying and the poverty rate was growing, American billionaires gained more than one trillion dollars in wealth. As has been the case every year since President Ronald Reagan fired striking PATCO workers in an attempt to drive a stake through the heart of the American labor movement, the rich got richer at the expense of working people. It doesn't have to be this way.

The Covid recession, and the spike in inequality that it brought, piqued my interest in the labor movement. I had long understood the importance of unions - my dad was a AFSCME steward when he was younger and made sure that my sister and I supported unions – but Covid transformed my vague support into a passion. By the time school opened back up – my junior year – I had spent hours studying the highs and lows of American labor, from the Haymarket Riot to the passage of the NLRA to the expansion of bargaining rights to public sector workers to the Janus decision that threatened those hard-won rights. In my research, a clear pattern emerged: stronger unions led to greater prosperity for the American people.

While applying for college, I learned about Cornell's school for Industrial Labor Relations (ILR). It was perfect. At ILR, I have taken classes focused on labor history, labor law, and collective bargaining. In addition, ILR hosted a career fair where I learned about the PEF internship I am working this summer with the Field Services Department in New York City.



I have had the opportunity to meet with members who are fighting hard to ensure that they are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve. I attended labor-management meetings, witnessed interrogations, and celebrated a major investment into SUNY Downstate Medical Center that was achieved by the relentless advocacy of a coalition

that included PEF. At that press conference in Brooklyn, I got the opportunity to meet AFT President Randi Weingarten, arguably the most powerful voice in this country's organized labor movement.

Most importantly, I've learned the important technical details of writing grievances and understanding contracts. I've learned strategies for defending members when their rights are violated. All of these skills will help me help workers in the future, whether I am working at PEF or any other union.

Fundamentally, the mission of a union is to improve the lives of working people. A strong union – like PEF – does this by not only fighting for a good contract, but also by making sure that contract is enforced every day. Even as an intern I have been a part of that fight, and it fills me with immense joy and pride to be working on behalf of PEF members.

I urge anyone reading this, whether you are a PEF member, a non-member considering joining, or you're not affiliated with PEF in any way, get involved with the labor movement. If you're a student like me, apply for a PEF internship. If you're already employed by New York State and a member of a PEF bargaining unit, run for steward or get involved with your division council. If you don't have time for elective service, attend every membership meeting you can and take collective action when PEF urges you to do so. Whatever you can do to be an active PEF member, do it!

If I have learned one thing from working at PEF and from studying labor history, it is that unionism makes a better world possible. We must all do our part to create that better world.

Editor's note: Aaron is a rising junior at Cornell's ILR school. We thank him for all his hard work this summer and wish him the best as he continues his education. If you or someone you know is interested in an internship with PEF, please contact HR@pef.org. We have a variety of departments willing to take on interns and inspire the next generation of union leaders! In addition, you can find our current job openings, here.



Blast from the Past: PEF members facing layoffs fight back and reclaim jobs

By NAJEE WALKER

In 1996, under Governor George Pataki, PEF members were faced with the threat of layoffs in the wake of federal budget cuts. It happened at the same time the legislature was focused on \$150 million in tax cuts for corporations. The plan by Pataki, first proposed in December 1995, would have cut 7,400 jobs.

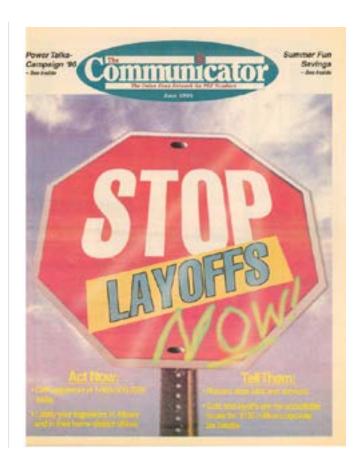
Former PEF President James Sheedy urged members to call state legislators, especially former New York State Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who were then working on a budget deal with the governor.

"At the same time that the legislative leaders are turning their backs on PEF members, they have agreed to \$150 million more in tax cuts for giant, profitable corporations and real estate interests," wrote PEF in a 1996 call to action to members.

The Communicator, June 1996: Members rally, reclaim jobs and services

PEF activists were not deterred by the government's attempt at "downsizing" and continued to fight back, putting pressure on legislators to stop job and service cuts. The union was able to persuade a state Supreme Court judge to block layoffs at Buffalo Psychiatric Center. PEF also ran ads on the radio and in newspapers opposing cuts at the Department of Environmental Conservation, and then later for all state agencies facing job losses.

Ultimately, though some layoffs were still pushed through by the governor, PEF was able to mobilize members of the union to put an end to most agency cuts and halt a proposal by Governor Pataki to move 600 jobs from New York City to Binghamton.



In their own words: Members share experiences on SEIU's Justice Journey

This summer, SEIU invited members of its locals to participate in a Justice Journey, a mobilization effort that brought union members, community leaders, and people of faith on a trip that ultimately led to Louisiana, to demonstrate continued rejection of the Trump Administration's attacks on immigrants.

"The Justice Journey is rooted in the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement," SEIU stated on its website. "We are traveling through cities that were central to that fight, in direct response to the rising attacks on immigrant workers – violent ICE raids, military force in our streets, and arrests for simply speaking out and exercising our right to free speech. As we witnessed in Los Angeles, when SEIU USWW President David Huerta was assaulted, injured and detained while advocating for immigrant workers."

Paid for entirely by SEIU, several PEF members used their own accruals to board the bus tour from June 26 through July 2.

Scarlett Ahmed, Career Center Supervisor at the Department of Labor in New York City

Scarlett serves as a PEF Executive Board Member for DOL members in New York City and Long Island and is a member of the PEF contract team. A student of labor history, she is moved by those moments when workers put aside their differences and fought not just for better wages but for a more just world.

"Two shining examples include SEIU 1199's support of the civil rights movement and the Longshoremen's shutdown of West Coast ports in protest of the Iraq War," Scarlett said. "An ugly moment was when The Knights of Labor promulgated anti-immigrant hate, especially towards Chinese immigrants, even as it advocated for the rights of other marginalized people.

"As the PEF team learned on the SEIU Justice Journey, much of U.S. history is one of oppression and resistance to oppression, with constant overlap among the struggles of Black people, indigenous people, women, immigrants, the LGBTQ community, and the disabled community," she said. "The one movement that has the capacity to unite all these disparate working people in the struggle for justice is the labor movement, and, in my view, it is the labor movement's moral duty to do so. That is why, in the tradition of the Freedom Riders, I was happy and proud to join the SEIU Justice Journey, to fight against unjust federal cuts that threaten our jobs and communities, and against the terror of mass detention that is ripping families apart and turning our country from a beacon of hope to a crucible of cruelty."



Left to right: PEF members Jacqueline Jones, Sam Boese, Scarlett Ahmed, and Siobhan Loughman pose for a photo outside the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Sam Boese, Professional Engineer, Adirondack Park Agency

For Sam, the steward/treasurer of Adirondack Park Agency Division 354, finding the words to describe the Justice Journey has been hard because it was many things to him.

"It was several days of travel through the American South, ending in New Orleans alongside hundreds of other SEIU members," Sam said. "We were part of multiple demonstrations and protests, we visited the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, and attended workshops and breakout sessions with our SEIU brothers and sisters. The bravery of civil rights leaders and activists was on display at the Civil Rights museums, considering the fight to end segregation was often met with deadly violence. In fact, the Freedom Riders, the inspiration for SEIU's Justice Journey, were met by mobs of angry segregationists and had their bus burned.

"Much of the Justice Journey's focus was on immigration policy," said Sam. "SEIU's membership has a sizable number of immigrant workers, many of whom shared heart-wrenching stories of being separated from their families during the immigration process. With many immigrant communities unjustly under attack in the current political climate, it was useful to take lessons from the civil rights movement, and remember that change does not happen overnight, it is a long process that takes decades of hard work and coalition building. SEIU is a powerful part of a national movement to oppose unjust detentions, cruel cuts to Medicaid, and further the labor movement, which is why I am proud to have been part of the Justice Journey."

Jacqueline Jones, Disability Analyst, OTDA, New York City

Jacqueline jumped at the chance to take part in the Justice Journey and is looking forward to more opportunities like it.

"I feel privileged and extremely grateful that SEIU extended the invitation to PEF members to participate in the Justice Journey," she said. "The Justice Journey was more than an activism experience for me, this bus tour afforded me the opportunity to witness firsthand the current trials, deplorable challenges and unjust enforcement practices our fellow immigrant population are currently enduring under the Trump Administration.

"We were able to protest outside detention centers, rally at designated points of reference, partake in justice summit workshops, and visit historical sites that reflected on the rich African American history of the Civil Rights movement," Jacqueline said. "It was a sobering, enlightening, enriching, empowering, communal and unique opportunity to use our individual and collective voices. We are the voices of the oppressed. As a Christian woman of faith, the Holy Bible exhorts us in Isaiah 1:17a to: 'Do what is right, seek justice, defend the oppressed.'

"The Justice Journey provided an indelible and impactful opportunity to exercise our First Amendment right and object to the unlawful and inhumane enforcement practices towards immigrants. Injustice to one is injustice to all," she said. "We are stronger when we unite, and this coalition of unions demonstrated the power and effectiveness of our collective voices. A resounding message was echoed throughout this journey: Solidarity in struggle is built in everyday life. We are Union Strong for freedom and justice."

Siobhán Loughman, Research Scientist, NYS Department of Health

As the first American in her family, there was no question in Siobhán's mind that she wanted to participate in SEIU's Justice Journey.

"I have always strongly identified with immigrants," she said.

Her parents immigrated first to London from Ireland and then again to the United States with her older siblings.

"They made that second trip to America because they felt we would be better off in the United States as there was still significant discrimination against the Irish in the UK in the 1950's. And the United States, after all, was a nation of immigrants, and we would find our place among the other immigrants," she said. "I have taken a keen interest in immigrant history and the laws that were passed to restrict immigration. I felt it was important in any discussion about immigration policy reform to always honor our history of immigration and continue to create opportunities for future generations to make this place home."

Siobhán said instead of reforming an inadequate system, the United States has embarked on mass deportation.

"This administration's cruel campaign to arrest, detain, and deport immigrants has horrified me, and I felt compelled to act, to protest, to say unequivocally, this is not acceptable," she said.

Siobhán reflected on the stops on the tour, from New York City to New Orleans, allowing participants to immerse themselves in the history.

"As this was my first trip with the union, it was exciting and educational to meet with union officials and organizers, as well as rank-and-file union members, and stand in solidarity for freedom, family, and justice for our fellow immigrant workers. During this trip, I realized that, although we must never forget the power of individual action, we also have great strength when we unite as a union and make our voices heard, especially for those who are too terrified to speak, lest they get seized by ICE."



President Spence speaks at the June 17 press conference announcing the State's \$1.1 billion investment in SUNY Downstate. bottom: Clockwise from upper left: Gov. Kathy Hochul, State Sen. Zellnor Myrie, members of the Brooklyn lergy with the Governor

President Spence joins Governor to celebrate \$1.1 billion investment in SUNY Downstate

By KATE STICKLES and NAJEE WALKER

Recognizing the importance of quality health care in the Brooklyn community, and after nearly 18 months of advocacy by unions, clergy, and stakeholders, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced at a press conference June 17 that New York state will invest more than \$1 billion in SUNY Downstate Hospital.

"Every New Yorker deserves access to innovative, high-quality care," Hochul said. "This historic \$1 billion investment into SUNY Downstate's hospital will contribute to modernization and infrastructure efforts that will lead to a brighter future for this community."

When the plan to close SUNY Downstate was first introduced in early 2024, PEF joined a coalition led by United University Professions (UUP), members of the Brooklyn clergy, and community stakeholders to hold a massive rally outside the hospital to kick off a public awareness campaign with a simple message — "Brooklyn Needs Downstate."

At least a dozen marches, rallies and community meetings followed, prompting the formation of the Downstate Community Advisory Board, charged by Hochul to reimagine how Downstate can best serve the community and come up with a plan to revitalize the hospital. At the time, the governor allocated \$750 million for the board's recommendations. However, staff and students at Downstate, PEF members, members of other unions, and the wider Brooklyn community said that was not enough and fought for a \$1 billion investment.

"This would not have been possible without the workforce," President Wayne Spence said at the press conference. "But not just any workforce – a unionized workforce. To the dedicated professionals of PEF and UUP who work here at Downstate, thank you for raising awareness of the life-saving care you provide every day. Your expertise and courage were essential to this outcome.

"I'm incredibly proud of the coalition we built," he said. "One that came together swiftly and purposefully on Martin Luther King Day a year ago when the SUNY chancellor announced that there had to be some type of transformational plan. From that day forward, we never wavered. We never gave up on Downstate's future and today we celebrate that future."

The Governor acknowledged exactly what union and clergy leaders have been shouting from the rooftops – that Brooklyn Needs Downstate.

"For 165 years, this hospital has been a vital safety net facility taking care of God's children every single day," she said. "It's a basic human right to have quality healthcare by professionals in a facility that is worthy of the people. And we've had that for a long time, but then things got a little tough. You know, if you don't make investments things deteriorate. This is still a great facility, it is an amazing place, but I think we can do better. I think we can do better by the people of Central Brooklyn."

Many of the recommendations from the board reflect the demands of the coalition, such as rolling back the plan announced earlier this year to eliminate inpatient services. Not only does the proposal retain inpatient and outpatient services, it also will convert all double occupancy rooms to private rooms with showers, as well as add additional rooms, resulting in 225 beds at the hospital.

The proposal from the advisory board also will expand the emergency department at the hospital, establish dedicated inpatient specialty units for cardiology, oncology and orthopedics and build a new hospital annex with a brand-new ambulatory surgery center.

Bishop Orlando Findlayter, who is the Senior Pastor at New Hope Christian Fellowship in Brooklyn, led a coalition of clergy that joined with PEF to mobilize the community and save SUNY Downstate.

"This was a lot of hard work. It was difficult. Many trips to Albany, to Washington, D.C., rallies, marches, press conferences and prayer. I think we need to take a moment to pause and celebrate this," said Bishop Findlayter. "But, after we celebrate, we need to meet with the State Comptroller, find out what the Request for Proposal (RFP) requirements are and prepare the community for what is to come."







Gov. Kathy Hochul, State Sen. Zellnor Myrie, members of the Brooklyn Clergy with the Governor.







PEF Political Director Leah Gonzalez, SUNY Downstate Council Leader Joan Rosegreen, and Region 11 Coordinator Bernadette O'Connor.



Executive Board members representing OMH facilities pose for a photo with OMH Commissioner Ann Sullivan (top row, fourth from left).

Executive Board tables noconfidence vote; discusses federal cuts, union finances, and membership counts

By KATE STICKLES

The PEF Executive Board held its quarterly meeting June 12 and 13 in Albany, where members heard from Office of Mental Health Commissioner Ann Sullivan and subsequently tabled the noconfidence vote on her leadership; discussed the possible impacts of federal funding cuts on New York; and received updates on membership numbers and the union's finances.

Commissioner Q&A

In the days after the board announced at its March meeting a possible vote of no confidence, Commissioner Sullivan reached out to the union to meet – and has continued to meet with union representatives every week since then. Following a question-and-answer session with Sullivan and top staffers, the Executive Board voted to table any no-confidence action.

Related Story: OMH Commissioner Sullivan addresses Executive Board

Comptroller spokesperson

Also in attendance at the June meeting of the board was Assistant Deputy Commissioner Matt Golden from the Office of the New York State Comptroller. He came armed with information and statistics that paint a bleak picture when it comes to federal budget cuts. (Federal Funding and New York, OSC)

This year's \$254 billion state budget includes monies to address affordability, fund education, and invest in Medicaid, he said, but this doesn't include federal budget cuts and the rainy day "reserve" funds, which assuming all deposits are made in the future, will total more than \$11.5 billion by the State's Fiscal Year 2027-28.



 ${\sf OSC}\, Assistant\, Deputy\, Commissioner\, Matt\, Golden\, addresses\, the\, board.$

"It's an uncertain future for New York State," Golden said. New York's budget consists of 35 to 40% federal aid, with a large portion going to support health care, social services, and education, as well as 9,000 positions in the state workforce – 7% of the total, excluding SUNY and CUNY. "We should all know these proposals will impact us in some way, across all unions and industries."

Golden said the potential impact of cuts on the people of New York could be devastating. With 44% of New Yorkers on Medicaid or the Essential Plan, especially vital in rural and urban health care, proposed changes to work requirements and how immigrant populations are supported could force 500,000 New Yorkers to lose Medicaid in the Essential Plan and leave 1.5 million newly uninsured. Potential cuts could slash Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for some 300,000 people at a time when 1 in 8 New York families already face food insecurity. Education and research funding also face cuts – including billions culled from K-12 public programs.

"These proposals will affect all New Yorkers across industries and regions," Golden said. "Market volatility impacts pensions. Less federal aid will result in job losses for some state employees and tough decisions may need to be made. Unity across all the unions is essential. Union leaders need to amplify this message to keep members engaged and call reps to protect funding against union busting. When we stand together, no one can diminish the power of the labor movement."

Union finances

Secretary-Treasurer Joe Donahue reports PEF is in good financial shape heading into the second half of the year.

"We continue to be in a strong financial position," he told the board. "Our cash balances as of March 31, 2025, were almost \$28 million in net cash and investments, with our investment balance income increasing approximately \$13,000. For the 12 months ending March 31, our dues income was \$1,140,000 over budget as PEF moved past 51,000 members in the budget to now almost 54,300."

There were some expense lines over budget, including employee benefits, due to a large actuarial post-retirement liability adjustment from higher than anticipated claims and increased staffing, and higher expenditures on staff travel due to more in-person meetings requiring staff attendance. The increase in dues helped offset those costs, and some funding was moved from the advertising and promotion budget, resulting in a net zero change to the overall budget.

"PEF ended the period with net income over \$1.1 million, which allows the union to continue to grow in strength and continue to protect our services from outside threats," Donahue said.

Organizing update

PEF's membership continues to trend upward.

"Our total membership in 2024 was 53,976, with a density of 92%," said Director of Organizing Scott Harms. "Based on these numbers, we formulated our 2025 goals of 5,500 new membership cards and 95% density. Halfway through the year, our membership is up to 55,221 (as of June 9, 2025), an increase of 1,245 members since last year."

There has been concern over the efforts of organizations like the Freedom Foundation to get members to drop their union by targeting them with deceptive marketing campaigns, but Harms said PEF has worked to mitigate those.

"We have done a tremendous job in preventing these efforts," he said. "We average about eight drops monthly. PEF has a robust policy in place. We also target Divisions with the most drops and offer them help."

Organizing also created a <u>new membership application</u> that combines PEF enrollment with voluntary COPE contributions, facilitating easier enrollment in both the union and the union's federal lobbying arm.

Other business

The president swore in two new board members – Carrie Hoopes from Allegany County and Joe Moynihan from the Department of Veterans Services - and swore in new Region 1 Coordinator Vincent Cicatello. They also voted to accept the Annexation/Secession petition of employees in Region 2, who sought to succeed from Division 359 and form Division 325, NYS Department of Veterans Services

The PEF Executive Board's next meeting will be Sept. 18-19, 2025, in Albany.



 $New\,Region\,1\,Coordinator\,Vincent\,Cicatello, right, is\,sworn\,in\,by\,PEF\,President\,Spence.$

Board tables no-confidence vote against OMH Commissioner; engages in Q&A

By KATE STICKLES

The Executive Board tabled its proposed no-confidence vote in Office of Mental Health Commissioner Ann Sullivan at the June meeting in Albany after the commissioner and top members of her staff came before the board to discuss assaults, workplace violence, and bullying at numerous OMH facilities and what her agency plans to do to curb them.

"They heard us very loudly and immediately after that we met with Commissioner Sullivan and we have met with her team every Monday since," President Wayne Spence told the board on June 12. "We believe the need to take up the resolution will not be necessary at this time."

Vice President Darlene Williams, a long-time public servant at OMH, said it was a meaningful moment for the Executive Board that Commissioner Sullivan was in attendance that day.

"She didn't have to do that, she could have let things remain the way that they were," Wiliams said. "We had been raising concerns for a very long time. It's easy to ignore that or just respond defensively. She stepped in with leadership and grace. She met us head on not with anger or excuses, but with humility and heartfelt apology."

Williams said she has heard many promises over the years, but the meetings that came in the wake of the proposed no-confidence vote were the most meaningful of her career.

"We weren't divided as labor and management, but united as professionals who care deeply about people," she said. "I felt like the system was working the way it was supposed to, with respect, collaboration, and shared accountability."

Commissioner Sullivan said she walked away from the meetings with the same sentiments.

"Somewhere along the way, OMH lost our way," she said. "Now we are on a different path. Your team are strong advocates. They are going to keep our feet to the fire and make sure we do everything we say we are going to do."



Ann Sullivan, Commissioner for the New York State Office of Mental Health

She outlined several projects her agency is already working on to mitigate the issues in facilities, including communication protocols that are uniform across the agency and include OMH, PEF executives, and facility leadership; holding Health and Safety Committees accountable and requiring they calendar meetings through the end of 2025; implementing health and safety trainings on committee operations, PESH, illness and injury data, and walkthroughs; and working to partner and engage with law enforcement.

In advance of the meeting, Executive Board members submitted questions for the commissioner.

Region 1 Coordinator Vincent Cicatello, who works at Buffalo Psychiatric Center, asked what measures are being taken to control contraband entering facilities, such as weapons and drugs.

"We have a changing population of individuals coming into residences and facilities," Commissioner Sullivan acknowledged. "We have to rethink what we have been doing. We are open to suggestions. One that has been brought forward is respectful searches. But we have to define contraband and look at balancing opportunities to increase safety while being respectful of the needs of clients."

In response to a question about addressing violence related to substance abuse, the commissioner said OMH is considering more expertly trained staff and providing that training. She also said clients need more to do and there are plans to increase work readiness programs.

The issue of body scanners came up and met with some pushback from Commissioner Sullivan, who said OMH wants to maintain a sense of home in its residences. Members pointed out that the public is often subject to scanners, at hospitals, concerts, in courthouses, and more.

On the issue of management bullying, the commissioner said: "Bullying is never acceptable." She said OMH will stand behind any member who comes forward and protect them from retaliation; and the agency is "creating a culture of respect" by requiring training to address supervisory skills.

Several questions came in about open campuses and the lack of safety officers. OMH is looking into how to design and staff units to address safety, including implementing special intensive teams who would work with units on preventing violence.

The conversation also turned to corrections-based operations. Executive Board members said constituents have told them they feel like they are visitors and not afforded the same level of training as their colleagues within the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS).

"Nurses who were exposed to an unknown chemical agent were unaware that their contacts needed to be removed immediately," Cicatello said as an example. "They didn't know the decontamination process. This has been a long-term struggle."

Commissioner Sullivan said OMH needs to have a good working relationship with DOCCS but offered no other information.

Weekly meetings with OMH to address labor-management and health and safety issues will continue.

"We can't stop incidents, but we can certainly move to mitigate and make sure the frequency is reduced," President Spence said. "With every incident we learn how we could have done better."



Do you want to be a union leader? Executive Board special election coming in July

The PEF Executive Board meets quarterly and is the highest-ranking deliberative body of the union other than the annual Convention. A full Executive Board ensures that all members of the union are represented and have a seat at the table for discussions and voting on the business of the union.

There are currently seven vacancies, so members in those constituencies are urged to participate in the special election with the start of petitioning on July 7, 2025.

"The PEF Executive Board reviews the union's finances, receives briefings on membership trends, department activities, campaigns and initiatives, and so much more," said President Wayne Spence. "I encourage anyone who is eligible and interested to run for election."

The vacancies are listed below:

Seat 1: Agriculture & Markets

Seat 9: OSC, 110 State Street Floors 8-11 Albany

Seat 15: Civil Service

Seat 127: Homeland Security

Seat 161: State Police, Criminal Justice Services

Seat 177: Statewide Information Technology Services

Seat 220: Workers' Compensation

Seat 245: Department of Labor – all titles in Region 8

Seat 260: Buffalo Psychiatric Center, Region 1 only: OMH Main Office Central New York Psychiatric Center Petitions are due by 5 p.m. on July 28, 2025, and must be scanned and emailed to <u>SpecialElections@pef.org</u> or mailed to PEF, ATTN: Special Elections Committee, P.O. Box 12414, Albany, NY 12212-2414.

For any contested election, ballots will be mailed Aug. 18, 2025, by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and must be returned to the address listed on the return envelope no later than 5 p.m. Sept. 9, 2025. Ballots will be counted on Sept. 10, 2025.

For more information, election rules, and petitions, visit www.pef.org/elections. For hard copies of petitions, contact the PEF Divisions Department at 800-342-4306, ext. 337 to have a supply mailed to you. Petitions will not be available for pickup at PEF Headquarters or any PEF Regional Office.

If you have any questions, email the PEF Special Elections Committee at SpecialElections@pef.org.

Region 1 elects new coordinator; 2 seated on Eboard, 1 race ends in tie

By KATE STICKLES

Two vacant seats on the PEF Executive Board have been filled, one seat resulted in a tie, and Region 1 has a new coordinator following the union's May 2025 Special Elections.

Vincent Cicatello was elected the new **Region 1 Coordinator**. His Executive Board seat will now be open for petitioning during the <u>July Special Elections</u>.

Angelina Rodriquez will fill **Seat 65**, representing certain members in the State Education Department at ACCES-VR; and Jill Poeller will fill **Seat 445**, representing certain members in Regions 1 through 6 at the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

The race for **Seat 90**, representing certain members at the Higher Education Services Corporation, resulted in a tie. New ballots will be mailed June 23; are due back July 15; and will be counted July 16, 2025.

For more information, or if you are interested in petitioning for an elected position, visit www.pef.org/elections.



Recommit Today!

New + Existing PEF Members

SIGN NOW!

Meet the New Regional Coordinator for Region 1

By NAJEE WALKER

Following the retirement of longtime Region 1 Coordinator Michele Iorfida, PEF members in Western New York Region have elected a successor.

Vincent Cicatello is a Registered Nurse at Buffalo Psychiatric Center. He is also a PEF member of nearly 20 years, the Division 180 council leader, an executive board member, a convention delegate, co-chair of the Statewide Nurses Committee, a member of the Statewide Contract team, the PEF OMH Labor Management Committee's

Assistant Chair, and now: Region 1 Coordinator.

Cicatello said he had a few opportunities to run for the top Region 1 post in the past, but was never quite ready to make the jump. Now, with the support of co-workers, friends, and family, he is ready to serve.

"I have a lot more experience now after being involved with PEF since 2006," said Cicatello. "I'm ready and I am excited."

Cicatello comes from a union family. Members of his family have worked in factories and on infrastructure construction across New York State.

"My grandma and her brother were both workers for General Motors," said Cicatello. "My great grandfather worked on bridges across the state and was an operating engineer for Local 17. My mother worked for the Communications Workers of America at St. Joe's Hospital and my brother is a member of ASCFME."

He also has the unique honor of working with his daughter at Buffalo Psychiatric Center. She is a a member of CSEA.

Ciciatello said he believes in the good unions can do not only for himself, but for everyone in the country who calls themselves working class.

"Unions uplift the working class. Unions fight for better working conditions, better wages and better protections," said Cicatello. "Private sector employers often use union initiatives to set their standards for jobs."

Cicatello also said that he understands that there are big issues facing unions now more than ever. For PEF, Cicatello believes that fixing Tier 6 will attract more professionals to public service.

"Until Tier 6 is fixed we will always have challenges. We have to make Tiers 5 and 6 comparable to Tier 4," he said. "I know of newer

employees coming into state service who do not have it as well as some folks in Tier 4. We need to encourage those new employees and young members to get involved. Right now, Tier 4 people are fighting for Tier 6. It's good that they trust us to keep up the fight, but we need young leaders to get out there."

Cicatello mentioned some of his other goals as a regional coordinator.



Cicatello also hopes to grow PEF's presence at the Labor Day Parade in Buffalo. He said that once upon a time, the region boasted about 100 PEF members walking in the parade every year. Now, that number is down to about 15 members.

"This is the ultimate way to celebrate labor," said Cicatello.

Members in Region 1 are concerned with health and safety, according to Cicatello. They feel that they cannot go to supervisors when issues arise due to fear of bullying or retaliation. However, he feels that PEF, especially in the Western New York region, has been good about showing up and making sure members know they have the union's support.

"President Spence and (PEF Director) Geraldine Stella in Health and Safety have been really instrumental in making sure the members in Buffalo are well supported by the union," said Cicatello. "In Buffalo, we had the horrendous stabbing incident at Buffalo Psychiatric in April 2024. With PEF's help, the Erie County District Attorney has been working with us to make sure things are better at the facility."

Cicatello is ready for the challenges to come and aims to build a Region 1 that members in the area will be proud of and that reflects the momentum he knows is already there.

"I am ready to go, I am not going to let anyone down," Cicatello said. "I want people to contact me, I want them to know I am, and that I am ready to serve in this position."

Members wishing to speak to Cicatello should call the Region 1 office at (716) 853-3100 or email him directly at Vincent. Cicatello@pef.org.







Nurse says he was nearly killed by patient on Staten Island: 'I don't remember the day that changed my life'

Staten Island Live interviewed PEF nurse administrator Peter Shiffman, who was attacked by a patient at South Beach Psychiatric Center on Sept. 17, 2024, and will never fully recover. Peter's case, and others around the State, were the reason PEF launched its anti-Workplace Violence campaign. The Shiffman family has set up a GoFundMe page to help offset the cost of Peter's care.



Governor's SUNY Downstate announcement

<u>amNY quoted President Wayne Spence</u> in its article on the \$1.1 billion investment in SUNY Downstate Hospital, recognizing the efforts of labor leaders, the clergy, community members, and legislators to keep this vital public health institution in Brooklyn.

"Downstate has endured decades of disinvestment and neglect. That ends today," Spence said at the press conference inside the hospital with Governor Hochul. "We started with the slogan 'Brooklyn needs Downstate.' Now... Brooklyn HAS Downstate!"



Bringing PEF's anti-Workplace Bullying & Violence message nationwide

VP Randi DiAntonio joined fellow public employee leaders for a panel discussion on mobilizing and building power at the <u>AFT Public Employees Professional Issues Conference</u> May 29 to 31 in Denver, Colorado.

DiAntonio shared how the union stepped up to support members at Buffalo Psychiatric Center after three workers there were stabbed on the job in April 2024. The attacks launched a statewide public awareness campaign, with PEF leaders and staff informing members of their rights and what to do in the event of workplace violence.



Capital Region turns out for PEF Wellness Fair and Book Giveaway

By KATE STICKLES

Everyone from toddlers to law enforcement to teachers to elected leaders filled the Washington Avenue Armory on June 14 for the third annual PEF Community Wellness Fair and 'Reading Opens the World' Book Giveaway, where they browsed a selection of free books and visited with vendors offering resources and information.

"Seeing the delight of the kids and the enthusiasm of the community makes this annual event well worth the time and effort," said PEF President Wayne Spence. "Along with our international, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and their Reading Opens the World program, we were able to secure 20,000 free books, from Marvel to Disney to easy readers to books for teens. Our PEF Membership Benefits Program coordinated dozens of vendors who came armed with crucial information for attendees, and we brought in state fire personnel to educate youth on fire safety. We've seen this event grow each year."

AFT's Reading Opens the World initiative gives teachers the tools to help students learn to read; provides parents and caregivers fun and research-based tips to support literacy; forges connections between families, communities, and schools; and gives children and young people free books to read, love, and keep.

President Spence welcomed area legislators for brief opening remarks, including Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, who commended PEF members and their colleagues for their dedication.

"You are members of an incredible workforce," she said. "We see you and we respect you and we admire what you do. You help our communities; you lift us up. Thank you for creating easy access for our families, to books, to asking questions about health care, to learning about incredible resources that are available here in New York State."

Albany County Executive Dan McCoy, Assemblywoman Gabriella Romero and State Senator Patricia Fahy offered remarks as well, emphasizing the importance of public services and union advocacy for the needs of New Yorkers, and how crucial literacy is to success.

"I think it's important that we continue to host these events," said Senator Fahy, "that we continue to show that despite the cuts, despite Washington and the Trump Administration not understanding the importance of libraries, the importance of cultural institutions, the importance of government employees at the federal and state level, we will continue to do what we need to do here in New York State."



Ten students earn PEF Joseph Scacalossi Scholarship awards

By NAJEE WALKER

PEF started the Joseph Scacalossi Scholarship in 1988 to help children, stepchildren and wards of active, retired or deceased PEF members finance their education. Scacalossi was a PEF member who worked at the Department of Labor in Manhattan and fought hard for members' rights.

This year, PEF received 194 applications and the following 10 students were selected by the PEF Scholarship Committee, which is chaired by Catherine Adams, a senior parole officer in Region 11, and consists of Rudy Arias, a program specialist at OMH in Region 8, Mario Chiarello, an IT specialist with OITS in Region 8, and Karen Tully, a senior attorney with the Department of State in Region 8.

Giada Amendolara is a graduating senior from Fontbonne Hall Academy in Brooklyn. As a student, Giada earned several awards for outstanding scholarly achievements, including making the Principal's List, and becoming a member of the Rho Kappa Honor Society. She was also president of her Scholar Society and treasurer of the National Honor Society.

Giada was focused on civics during high school, serving in student government as a class representative, secretary and treasurer. She was also captain of the Varsity Swim and Cross Country Teams. She played on the Varsity Lacrosse team as well and was club president of Students for Soldiers.

Giada was also involved for many years at several local churches, including as a volunteer swim coach for parishioners.

She will be attending St. John's University in Queens.

Serinda Becker is a graduating senior from Colonie Central High School in the Capital Region. Serinda received several scholarly awards while in high school, including induction into both the National Honor Society and High Honor Roll for maintaining a high-grade point average.

When she was not studying, Serinda was swimming. She was cocaptain of the Varsity Swim team and a team member of the Star Fish Swim Club and participated in the Relay for Life. She was also involved in acting and theatre as part of the Line and Cue Club, and worked at the Local Haunter Maze. She won a regional award for being a part of one of the best local High School Musicals.

Serinda will be attending Ithaca College.

Cassandra Gallagher graduated from Our Lad of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie. She is a recipient of several academic awards, including becoming a member of the National Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society, the Honor's List and the Dean's List for achieving a 95% grade point average with no grade below 90.

She received several athletic achievements and notices, including the Varsity 845 "Player to Watch", recognizing a standout athlete. She was captain of the Varsity Soccer team and president of the Rotaract club.

Cassandra also worked as a volunteer firefighter, participating in support services, fundraising, and community outreach events.

Cassandra will be attending Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

Rachel Hann is a graduating senior from West Genesee High School outside Syracuse. As a student, Rachel spent much of her time achieving high honors with an over 95 grade point average for all four years of her high school career. She also received awards for Civic Engagement as part of the Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute.

Aside from performing civic duties and earning good grades, Rachel spent time during her academic career as part of both the Varsity Swim team and the Camillus Swim Club. She also played viola as part of the Orchestra and Symphony Club.

Rachel's extracurricular activities included working on humanitarian projects that delivered services to the Philippines and Malaysia. She also worked at the Bishop's Storehouse, a local food pantry.

Rachel will be attending Brigham Young University in Utah.

Emma Kavanagh graduated from Tupper Lake High School in the North Country. She is a high achieving honor student who graduated valedictorian and received the National Merit Scholarship Program Recognition Award and St. Lawrence Environmental Scholars honor for leadership and academic merit.

Emma was heavily involved in civic engagement locally and nationally. She was the Student Government treasurer and secretary for three years. She also was a volunteer for the Red Cross, participated in street cleanups via the Green Team—where she served as vice president—and worked as part of the ClimaTeens Fellowship.

She has a passion for education and engaging with her community and worked at The Wild Center, a natural history museum centered around climate and animals, to help educate quests at the museum.

Emma will be attending St. Lawrence University in Canton.

Molly Marcus is a graduate of Nanuet Senior High School in Rockland County. She is a high achieving student and served as vice president of the National Honor Society. She also received awards from the New York State School Music Association and All-County Band, scoring 100 on her music exams.

Molly was president of the Interact Club and a member of the Varsity Softball team. She spent much of her high school career working to make connections and assist others as part of the American Red Cross, Touching Bases, and Project Joy with People to People. Additionally, she was heavily involved in her Temple Choir as a soloist.

Molly will be attending the University of Connecticut.

Daniella Oberting is a graduate of the Academy of the Holy Names in Albany. She received several awards from her school, including the Merit Scholarship and the Superior Recognition Award from the National Council of English Teachers.

Daniella was very involved at her school and served as a class representative, publicity officer, secretary and president of the Student Council throughout her career. She was also an officer with the Ambassador's Club and president of the Youth Ministry.

She volunteered with mass preparation, mass cantering and the "To Life!" program at her church. Daniella loves children and was trained in childcare and worked as a camp counselor.

Daniella will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Lea Rowett graduated from Sachem North High School on Long Island. She graduated 16th in her class and maintained a 98 overall grade point average. She was recognized by All County Academics for being one of the top 20 academics in Suffolk County Lacrosse. She was also awarded the Arrow Award for athletes with good academic achievement and character.

In addition to captaining Varsity Lacrosse, Lea was a part of the Varsity Volleyball team and was captain for one year.

Aside from academics and athletics, Lea focused on giving back to her community by volunteering with the One Love Dog Rescue and Mental Health Series. Additionally, she helped run donations for the Ronald McDonald House and organized toy drives for local organizations.

Lea will be attending Binghamton University.

Andrew Strollo is a graduate of LeRoy High School in Genesee County. He is currently a student at the University of Rochester.

During his high school career, he achieved high honors and was inducted into the National Honor Society where he became treasurer. He also received the citizenship award for exhibiting high character.

As a high school student, sports were very important to Andrew, as he participated in youth football and baseball. As a student at the University of Rochester, he plays on the UR football team.

He has volunteered at Community Kitchens, organized food and clothing drives, as well as participated in the Genesee County Fair.

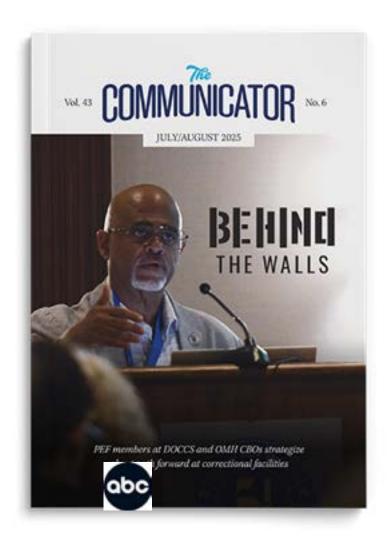
Angela Tawfik is a graduate of Guilderland High School in the Capital Region. She is currently attending Siena College.

As a High School student, Angela received the AP Scholar award for achieving high scores on three or more AP exams. She also received the Johns Hopkins Book Award for showing strength of character for the betterment of society. And lastly, she was inducted into the National Honor Society.

Angela demonstrated dedication to her education by joining and becoming the vice president and later president of the New York State Math League Club. She was also vice president of the Science Olympiad.

She volunteered with Albany Medical Center, Sunnyview Rehabilitation Center and the Capital City Rescue Mission, serving meals to homeless individuals or participating in recreational games with patients.





Sign up TODAY for the Communicator

Keeping PEF members current on PEF news, emailed to your monthly. Make sure we have your personal email address. PEF will never email at your work address. https://www.pef.org/emailme/



It's scholarship season!

Various PEF Regions and Divisions offer college scholarships this time of year. You can find all the opportunities we are aware of on the <u>PEF website</u>, but here are two that came to our attention this month:

Syracuse Division 264 (Department of Labor) is offering two \$500 scholarships for students to cover costs associated with college requirements, such as books and incidentals. Only Syracuse members are eligible. Prior year winners' families are not eligible to participate. To be eligible, students must be a child of an active PEF member who is enrolled in or completed vocational training, or any level of college education during the calendar year 2025.

Applicants must complete the application here; training or education must be in calendar year 2025; proof of enrollment or completion of training or education must be included; and the application must be received by July 29, 2025.

Division 234 at the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) will award up to eight college scholarships of \$500 each, totaling \$4,000, to the children of Division members who are undergraduate, graduate, or vocational degree candidates during the fall 2025 semester.

To ensure applicants have an equal opportunity to benefit, qualified applicants will participate in a random drawing to receive an award. A dependent can only win this award once; past awardees are not eligible.

Applicants must be the child/ren, stepchild/ren, or legal dependents of an active PEF Division 234 (OTDA/OCFS) members as of Aug. 8, 2025.

Applicants must be enrolled full/part-time at a college, trade, or graduate school for the fall 2025 semester.

Applicants must submit fall 2025 enrollment verification consisting of one of the following: (a) Fall 2025 class schedule, (b) college acceptance letter, (c) tuition statement, or (d) other form of verification from the applicant's educational institution indicating enrollment for the fall 2025 semester.

Complete all sections of the 2025 Application for PEF Division 234 Scholarships here. You can also obtain copies from any Division Steward, Council Leader, Executive Board member, or the PEF-OTDA Electronic Bulletin Board. Return the application and all required documents, by email, to the Scholarship Committee at div234scholarships2025@gmail.com. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 8, 2025.

Applications will be reviewed by the committee. All documents submitted are kept confidential. Scholarship award winners will be selected during a random drawing at the committee meeting in August. Winners will be notified by phone and mail.

Editor's Note: If you know of a scholarship that can benefit PEF members or their dependents, please email us at Communicator@pef.org.



Unions took the fight against the 'Big Ugly Betrayal Bill' to elected representatives

By JIM CARR

Despite our legislative advocacy efforts, we didn't have the votes to defeat President Donald Trump's massive spending bill, which he dubbed the "One Big Beautiful Bill", and he signed it into law on July 4.

In my last Communicator column, I referenced the cuts and other harmful effects of this legislation on seniors and working people. I reached out to my GOP Congressional representative and my U.S. senators to request they make changes to the bill. There have been numerous protests nationally and locally in response to this betrayal.

Our affiliation with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the NYS Alliance of Retired Americans (NYSARA) helps keep us informed with facts from research they do regarding the current events. I sit on the board of NYSARA and the AFT Retirees Public Policy Committee. At a recent AFT in-person meeting we developed an action plan to be edited and delivered to our members. (You can take a look at that plan here: AFT Retirees PPC 25-26 Action Plan.pdf.)

This plan was intended to guide the AFT Retirees Public Policy Committee in executing their charge of growing retiree engagement across the nation and utilizing the leadership of local retiree activists to help locals and state affiliates meet needs of their members - both in service and retired!

Here is information excerpted from this week's Monday Alert from NYSARA, which includes one of the many letters I wrote to my Republican Congressman. It also includes some specific information about the Big Ugly Betrayal, which doesn't line up with what the Congressman is saying!

From the Congressman

Dear Mr. Carr,

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for Medicaid. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Medicaid is a critical lifeline for millions of seniors, children, individuals with disabilities, and low-income families who have fallen on hard times—not just in New York, but across the country. I firmly support maintaining Medicaid benefits for those who truly need it. Particularly in our rural and underserved communities throughout Western New York and the Southern Tier, Medicaid plays a vital role in keeping hospitals and nursing homes open, doctors in practice, and patients healthy.

While I strongly support the mission and necessity of Medicaid, we must

also acknowledge that the program is not immune to inefficiencies, waste, and fraud. To ensure the long-term viability of the program, it's our responsibility to ensure that every taxpayer dollar is being used wisely and reaching the people who genuinely need help. That's why I believe targeted reforms are essential to strengthen Medicaid for the long haul—by modernizing eligibility verification systems, increasing oversight, and rooting out fraud and abuse that cost the program billions annually. The core population Medicaid was designed to serve pregnant women, children, people with disabilities and low-income seniors—has expanded exponentially, which has also contributed to exploding costs and I also believe that we can institute common sense measures like work-requirements for able-bodied adults under the age of 65 who don't have dependents. Work requirements on public welfare benefits that were instituted in the 90's under the Clinton Administration had tremendous success getting people into the workforce and started on the ladder back to self-sufficiency.

In these polarizing times, there has been a lot of dishonest rhetoric and misinformation about House Republicans' budget and our reconciliation process. Our House Budget Resolution did not cut a single penny from Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security and both the President, the Speaker and I have said numerous times publicly that we will not cut benefits for those who truly need them. As a Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over healthcare policy, I am proud to have a seat at the table as these important policy decisions are being discussed. Please know that I remain committed to expanding affordable and accessible quality healthcare for all Americans.

Once again, thank you for contacting me about this important issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any additional questions, comments, or concerns. My door is always open, and I am honored to serve Western New York and the Southern Tier in Washington.

(Note: The Congressman has not scheduled or attended any town halls or public meetings about the federal budget.)

Now, the Facts...

In 2025, the cuts to Medicaid could significantly impact healthcare coverage and spending. A key part of the legislation involves reducing the federal matching rate for the Medicaid expansion population, which could lead to millions losing coverage and states facing increased financial burdens.

Key details

- Federal Medicaid Cuts: The House-passed budget reconciliation bill included a reduction of \$863 billion in federal Medicaid spending over 10 years and in the Senate bill, well over \$1 trillion.
- Impact on Coverage: These cuts could result in millions losing Medicaid coverage, with estimates ranging from 5.5 million to 10.3 million people losing coverage, depending on the specific policy changes.
- State Impact: States could face increased financial pressure to offset the federal cuts, potentially leading to cuts in state-funded programs, tax increases, or reductions in Medicaid benefits and coverage.
- Medicaid Expansion: Medicaid expansion, which provides coverage to low-income adults, was a target for cuts. Reducing the federal matching rate for this population could unravel the expansion in some states.
- Impact on Hospitals: Cuts to Medicaid could lead to increased uncompensated care costs for hospitals, potentially impacting their financial stability.
- Medicare: The Congressional Budget Office estimates that under the budget reconciliation, because of the almost \$4 trillion increase in the deficit, the Pay as You Go Act of 2010 would kick in leading to a mandatory \$500 billion cut to Medicare.



Recommit Today!

New + Existing PEF Members

SIGN NOW!

Your fellow 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.

Jolene Bariteau is a rehabilitation specialist 2 at Capital District Psychiatric Center in Albany.

Barbara Bertucio is a curatorial visitor services specialist 1 at the Office of General Services in Albany.

Kevin Bromley is a registered nurse 1 with the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities in Norwood.

Elizabeth Newman Cable is a patient access supervisor at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo.

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.

Maritza Echevarria is an ICM at Bronx Psychiatric Center in the Bronx.

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.

Ilianna Fermin is a Social Worker at Bronx Psychiatric Center in the Bronx.

Sally Fontana is social work supervisor 1, LCSW at Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center in Utica.

Alex Frye is a registered nurse 1 at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse.

Wayne Green is a maintenance supervisor 3 at St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center in Ogdensburg.

Kathleen Hill is a registered nurse 1 at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse.

Ann Krenn is an Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator at Groveland Correctional Facility in Sonyea.

Gerard Mazurkiezicz is a fire protection specialist 1 at the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in Buffalo.

Lee Moore is an auditor 2 at the Department of Tax and Finance in Syracuse.

Rose Niang is an investigative specialist 1 at the Department of Education in Manhattan.

Danielle Newell-Emory is an investigative specialist 1 at the Office of Cannabis Management in Albany.

Nicole Skaros-Marcello is a Training Specialist 1 at OPWDD Western NY DDSO in West Seneca.

Cecilia O'Shea is a legal assistant 2 at the Department of Tax and Finance in Albany.

Rosemary Oduh is an information technology specialist 2 at the Office of Information Technology Services in Albany.

Harold Stone is an investigative specialist 1 in the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, Department of Health in Syracuse.

Sabrina Vaccarello is a registered nurse supervisor 1 at SUNY Stony Brook on Long Island.

Nicole Welch is an auditor trainee 1 at the Department of Tax and Finance in Syracuse.

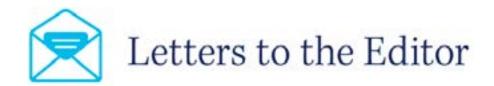
Jennifer Wells is a registered nurse 2 at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse.

Jen Wolcott-Dean is a vocational instructor 4 at Wyoming Correctional Facility in Attica.

Jennifer Zullo is a research scientist 2 at the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities 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 174 and 175 of the 2023-26 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 communicator@pef.org, or call 518-785-1900.



To the editor:

I would like to commend all the nurses and staff at Upstate SUNY Hospital in Syracuse. My husband had major back surgery at this hospital, and being an RN myself, I was very impressed with the care that he received. These are true professionals who work there, and I am proud to be a member of the nursing team. I want to extend our thanks not just to the nurses, but to all who work at that hospital. We did not come across anyone who was curt or brushed us away. Everyone was truly professional and very kind.

My husband developed an infection six weeks after surgery and had to be re-admitted. Once again, everyone was wonderful. We should all be very proud of the staff and the procedures they have at SUNY Upstate. There are too many people to name individually, but all the staff on the Orthopedics Ward were amazing.

Thank you to all for the wonderful care and the kindness shown – it will never be forgotten!

Christopher and Carolyn Cole Rome



July 12, 2025

Community Day in Regions 10/11 -- thanks to all the members who stopped by to shred documents or meet with participating vendors like Aranova (workers' comp attorneys), Water Gap Wellness, and Mid-Island Mortgage Group! This event was made possible by PEF Membership Benefits.

July 3, 2025

Kudos to PEF Division 194 member Devin Lander, the NYS historian, for ringing the bell at the NYSE as the USA kicks off the one-year countdown to its 250th birthday!



July 2, 2025

PEF members from Division 307 enjoyed breakfast at the Veterans' Home in Batavia. During the meeting they discussed upcoming contract negotiations, legislative updates, and benefits provided by our PEF contract, NYS, and PEF MBP. They were also joined by PEF VP Randi DiAntonio, Region Coordinator Leisa Abraham, and field and organizing staff.



June 8, 2025

PEF members from Division 205 and other members from the Department of Health, Department of Labor, and other agencies marched alongside their union siblings at the pride celebration in Albany.

June 21, 2025

PEF Region 4 members enjoyed the start of the Syracuse Mets game



June 20, 2025

Region 7 Coordinator Barbara Stransky had the honor of meeting with Tom Lacey, the founder of Adirondack Coast Basketball camp earlier this week. She presented him with R7's annual donation which will help fund a free basketball camp for local kids within Region 7.





July 9, 2025

Members of the Statewide Political Action Committee met in Albany July 9 to discuss state and federal legislative updates and upcoming agendas. PEF's political action, activism and lobbying helped get several key pieces of legislation across the finish line this session and members who are interested and want to get involved are encouraged to reach out to their Region's PAC chair. Following the meeting, members traveled to the New York State Capitol for a tour of the historic building, including the Senate and Assembly chambers. On the tour, they were met by two of PEF's strong supporters in the Legislature, Senator Patricia Fahy and Assemblyman John McDonald.



A projected 762 delegates are certified for the 47th annual PEF Convention from October 19 to 22, 2025, in Lake Placid, a marked increase in participation in the highest decision-making body within the union.

"This Convention is shaping up to be an exciting year with our delegate counts up and so many of our members ready to do the business of this union," said President Wayne Spence. "A strong showing at this annual meeting ensures that our members' voices are heard, either directly, or through their elected delegates."



47th Annual Convention Delegate Information

LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK | OCTOBER, 19-22, 2025

2025 Convention Delegate List

| NAME | REG. | DIV. | TITLE | NAME | REG. | DIV. | TITLE | NAME | REG. | DIV. | TITLE | NAME | REG. | DIV. | TITLE |
|------------------------|-------------|------|-------|------------------------|-------|------|-------|---|----------|------------|--------|----------------------------------|----------|------------|--------|
| RETIREE REP | | | | GABRIELA E FRANKLYN | 09 | 236 | J | SHINGSUN CHIU | 08 | 177 | В | ED ROME DEAF | | | |
| ROBERT H HARMS | 08 | | | ROBERT D HODSON | 04 | 236 | J | ROGER A GORDON | 80 | 177 | В | KATRINA BRATGE | 06 | 206 | С |
| AGRICUL MARKETS | | | | NAJIEB ISAAC | 10 | 236 | J | BRUNO HEITZMAN | 80 | 177 | В | EDUC MAIN OFFCE | | | |
| GREGORY DEIULIO | 08 | 275 | F | EBONY N JONES | 10 | 236 | J | ERIC L OPHARDT | 80 | 177 | В | VICTORIA E ANDERSON | 10 | 349 | С |
| VICTOR F DIGIACOMO JR | 01 | 275 | В | GINA LOPEZ | 03 | 236 | J | ABDUS SALAM | 10 | 214 | В | JANICE | | | |
| MATTHEW G KARP | 08 | 275 | F | MARIE M MANGINO | 05 | 236 | J | GUSTAVO SANTOS | 80 | 177 | 0 | R ANDERSON-SMALL | 11 | 376 | N |
| KAREN J TAYLOR | 08 | 275 | F | AIESHA QUICK | 11 | 236 | J | LISA A SNYDER | 80 | 177 | F | JAMES G BRANDOW | 80 | 194 | С |
| CHAD WALL | 02 | 275 | D | MARIA L RHODES | 03 | 236 | J | DOT REGION 10 | | | | ROBERT L DAVIES JR | 04 | 230 | N |
| ALLEGHENY CO | | | | WAYNE SPENCE | 12 | 236 | J | TAPON K BISWAS | 12 | 170 | В | MICKEY M DOBBIN | 80 | 194 | Q |
| CARRIE HOOPES | 02 | 514 | U | LATONIA TAYLOR | 10 | 236 | J | SHAVAR | | | | VIVIAN FALTO | 11 | 349 | С |
| AUDIT CONTROL | | | | VIKKY M URENA | 11 | 236 | J | GRANT-MCKINLEY | 12 | 170 | В | ASHLEIGH A FRALEY | 80 | 194 | С |
| DANIELLE K BRIDGER | 08 | 263 | Р | ANTHONY ZACCONE | 10 | 236 | J | JOHN E GREENE | 12 | 170 | В | CARLOS J GARCIA | 80 | 194 | С |
| ANDRE P BROWN | 80 | 263 | K | DOCCS COXSACKIE COR F | AC | | | ANTHONY A IAQUINTA | 12 | 170 | В | CRAIG R GRAVINA | 80 | 194 | Q |
| MATTHEW P COLANGELO | 09 | 263 | Р | MELISSA A NEWELL | 08 | 212 | С | WILLIAM G PIKE | 12 | 170 | В | GINA M HANDY | 08 | 194 | C |
| TROY DECKER | 05 | 263 | Р | DOCCS ELMIRA CNTR COR | FAC | | | BRADLEY M SABO | 12 | 170 | В | CAROLE I JARVIE | 03 | 372 | N |
| CATHERINE DELL'ANGELO | 08 | 263 | K | MICHAEL L CRIPPEN | 02 | 222 | С | CORINNE TESTA | 12 | 170 | В | ELIZABETH M KARALAK | 09 | 194 | С |
| TAIMA N GIVENS | 08 | 263 | Р | SHANA M KOCH | 02 | 222 | С | DOT REGION 11 | 11 | 014 | n | BRANDI C KHAN | 10 | 349 | М |
| KIMBERLY M GOERLICH | 03 | 263 | Р | TANYA OLIVER | 02 | 222 | С | NICHOLAS P BAUDOIN | 11 | 214 214 | B B | TOR J LONEY | 80 | 194 | С |
| ROBERT N HORN | 08 | 263 | Р | DOCCS FISHKILL COR FAC | | | | MAMADOU S DIALLO GEORGE E KAUFER | 11 11 | 214 | В | ELYSE A LOUGHLIN | 08 | 194 376 | C K |
| SHAIMI JACOB | 10 | 288 | K | LAURA M CLOIDT | 09 | 310 | С | AZMAL A KHAN | 11 | 214 | В | AUDREY MYERS AARON NOBLE | 12 08 | 194 | Q |
| OLGA KOBAR | 80 | 263 | K | GEORGE R GILLEO | 09 | 310 | С | WIENER NIVOSE | 11 | 214 | В | CAITLIN M OHLSON | 08 | 194 | Q P |
| RAYMOND M MOROZ | 80 | 263 | K | DOCCS FRANKLIN COR FA | C | | | MONICA C RAMA | 11 | 214 | В | STEPHEN R PIZZUTO | 01 | 215 | N |
| KELLY A NADEAU | 80 | 263 | Р | CARLY E GAGNON | 07 | 361 | С | ATCHARA R RATANABURI | | 214 | В | ANGELINA RODRIGUEZ | 11 | 376 | K |
| ALBERT PASSINEAU | 08 | 263 | K | SHARON A LAMB | 07 | 361 | С | KARTHIKEYAN | • • • | 2 | | SEDONA A RUNYON | 07 | 230 | N |
| JOSEPH PEARSON | 08 | 263 | K | CHRISTOPHER T LANZ | 07 | 361 | С | SHANMUGAM | 11 | 214 | В | STEPHANIE SAUNDERS | 08 | 194 | C |
| JAMES E RAPPAPORT | 08 | 263 | Р | DOCCS GOUVERNEUR COR | FAC | | | DOT REGION 3 | • • • | | - | AUBREY | 00 | .,, | Ū |
| NICOLE A TOMSEN | 01 | 263 | Р | KIMBERLY A STOWELL | 07 | 388 | С | DAVID C FREDENBURG | 04 | 256 | В | M SEPPA-HODGKINS | 08 | 194 | С |
| KEVIN WHITEHEAD | 80 | 263 | K | DOCCS GREEN HAVEN CO | R FAC | ; | | RICHARD D STEVENS | 04 | 256 | В | LISA M SERAFINI-ALONZI | | 194 | Č |
| DANIELLE M WILLIAMS | 08 | 263 | K | SABU CHERIAN | 09 | 184 | С | SCOTT A WENDT | 04 | 256 | В | SURYA N VEMPARALLA | 08 | 194 | S |
| DANIEL J WINKLER | 03 | 263 | Р | YANIEKA J YENO | 09 | 184 | С | DOT REGION 4 | | | | ELMIRA CHILD SV | | | |
| MAEVE K WOOD | 80 | 263 | Р | DOCCS GROVELAND COR | FAC | | | MICHAEL K GALLAGHER | 03 | 284 | В | KAYLEE E COMFORT | 02 | 223 | С |
| CORRL SRVCS M/O | | | | ANNE K JORDAN | 03 | 324 | Н | ROBERT D GORKA II | 03 | 284 | В | ENVIR CONS M/O | | | |
| JACLYN R GOEHL | 80 | 229 | 0 | DOCCS HALE CREEK ASA | С | | | BRADLEY J GRAVINO | 03 | 284 | В | KEITH A BROWNE | 09 | 169 | В |
| YOLANDA PITTMAN | 80 | 236 | J | DAVID P DOWNING | 06 | 390 | Н | EILEEN M LAWLER | 03 | 284 | В | TODD M CAFFOE | 03 | 169 | В |
| DEPT OF FINANCIAL SERV | /ICES | | | DOCCS LAKEVIEW COR FA | | | | LAURA K RICHERT | 03 | 284 | Р | AIMEE C CLINKHAMMER | 04 | 169 | В |
| GILBERT W DENTON | 10 | 415 | Р | AMY HADLEY | 01 | 378 | С | DOT REGION 5 | | | | STEPHEN P CONTI JR | 01 | 169 | В |
| HESHAM M EL MELIGY | 10 | 415 | Р | RANDY E TRICANO | 01 | 378 | С | HARIS ISMAIL | 01 | 219 | В | ERIN M DONHAUSER | 80 | 169 | В |
| SERGEY K GARANIN | 10 | 415 | С | DOCCS MARCY COR FAC | 0.0 | 075 | • | WENDY L JOHNSTON | 01 | 219 | В | FITZGERALD | | | |
| JEFFREY J LUDWIN | 80 | 268 | Р | LINDSAY M BONANZA | 06 | 375 | С | THOMAS W LOZINSKY JR | | 219 | В | G DRUMMOND | 80 | 169 | Q |
| FRANCIS J MCINTYRE | 10 | 415 | Р | DANIEL C WHEELER | 06 | 375 | Р | KERI L OSSONT | 01 | 219 | Р | JUSTIN A FALLS | 11 | 169 | Q |
| JIMMIE NEWSOME | 10 | 415 | Р | JONATHAN M BROWN | 06 | 338 | Н | SHARON J ROBINSON | 01 | 219 | В | JESSICA E FAUTEUX | 06 | 169 | G |
| ODESSA | | | | PATRICIA | 00 | 330 | " | PAUL M UEBELHOER | 01 | 219 | В | PAUL J FRACZEK | 80 | 169 | В |
| N WALDRON-FRANCIS | 10 | 415 | P | L PIERCE-DEGRAW | 06 | 338 | С | DOT REGION 6 | 00 | 175 | n | BRUCE C GIDDINGS | 80 | 169 | В |
| JEFFREY R WALLACE | 04 | 268 | Р | DOCCS MOHAWK COR FA | | 330 | U | KATHLEEN BAILEY | 02 02 | 175 175 | P B | JOSHUA L HEUVEL HORWITZ | 10 | 205 | В |
| MARCIA E WEBSTER | 10 | 415 | Р | STEVEN DRAKE | 06 | 379 | С | MARTY JACKSON | | | В | | 12 | 385 | |
| DOCCS AUBURN COR FAC | | | _ | CHRISTOPHER G DUNHAN | | 379 | A | CHRISTOPHER J JORDAN JOHN L WALMSLEY | 02 | 175 175 | В | JOHN R HORNBERGER ASEEM KUMAR | 03 08 | 169 169 | B B |
| DONNA E DITULLIO | 04 | 299 | С | BRIAN J MATT | 06 | 379 | Α | DOT REGION 7 | 02 | 175 | ь | MICHAEL KUZIA-CARMEL | | 169 | В |
| DOCCS BARE HILL COR FA | | | | KAREN TABOR | 06 | 379 | C | DERRICK J KEHOE | 04 | 247 | В | ERIK J LATREMORE | 04 | 169 | Q |
| DAVID J MOSIER | 07 | 377 | С | MARY R THOMPSON | 06 | 379 | Ā | CANDACE M KIBE | 04 | 247 | В | DOUGLAS MACNEAL | 08 | 169 | В |
| DOCCS BEDFRD HILL COR | | 0.50 | _ | DOCCS ORLEANS COR FA | С | | | DOT REGION 8 | 04 | 247 | | MICHELLE MEROLA | 05 | 169 | В |
| ANITHA CHERIAN | 09 | 353 | Р | SARAH J MERLAU | 03 | 347 | Α | BRIAN D DUBOIS | 09 | 172 | В | ASLAM MIRZA | 08 | 169 | В |
| DOCCS CAPE VINCEN COR | | 047 | | DOCCS RIVERVIEW COR F | AC | | | CARLY FITZ-HENLEY | 09 | 172 | P | RICHARD J MONACO | 11 | 169 | В |
| LORI A GREENIZEN | 04 | 367 | Н | GARY EDWARDS | 07 | 368 | N | DOT REGION 9 | 0,5 | .,_ | • | DONALD J NELSON | 04 | 169 | В |
| DOCCS CLINTON COR FAC | | | | DOCCS SING SING COR FA | AC | | | BRIAN A DECKER | 05 | 227 | В | KEVIN G RYAN | 12 | 385 | Q |
| MICHAEL C BENNETT | 07 | 239 | С | TAMBOURA LITTLE | 09 | 323 | Н | SUSAN PITELY | 05 | 227 | S | JESSIE B SANGSTER | 07 | 169 | B |
| LOUIS E PLANTE | 07 | 239 | Н | DOCCS TACONIC COR FA | | | | ECONOMIC DEVEL | | | - | GWENDOLYN TEMPLE | 08 | 169 | В |
| DOCCS COLLINS COR FAC | | 0.40 | ^ | ANDREW J SVRCEK | 09 | 271 | С | WILLIAM D FERGUSON | 07 | 262 | 0 | RYAN J TOMKO | 01 | 169 | В |
| SHAUN M WENTLAND | 01 | 340 | C | DOCCS UPSTATE COR FA | | | | LAURA E WHARTON | 08 | 262 | P | LIJO J VARGHESE | 12 | 385 | В |
| THOMAS W YEATES | 01 EDVIC | 340 | С | TRACY L NELSON | 07 | 400 | Н | ED HGR ED SRVCS | - • | | • | BRIAN D WEEKS | 09 | 169 | В |
| DOCCS COMMUNITY SUP | | | | DOCCS WYOMING COR FA | | 051 | | ZACHARY MASON | 08 | 355 | Р | SCOTT M WELLS | 05 | 169 | Q |
| CATHERINE ADAMS | 11 | 236 | J | KRISTY L BOWEN | 01 | 356 | Н | KRISTINA TEREBURKE | 08 | 355 | S | KALEB N WINTERS | 80 | 169 | В |
| CHAVELA R BRATTON | 11 | 236 | J | DOT MAIN OFFICE | 00 | 177 | n | | - | | - | CATHERINE G WINTERS | 80 | 169 | В |
| FAITH COCHRAN | 09 | 236 | J | RUFUS S BANKS | 80 | 177 | В | | | | | JAMES R WOODS | 80 | 169 | В |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Convention Delegate List

| NAME | REG. | DIV. | TITLE | NAME | REG. | DIV. | TITLE | NAME | REG. | DIV. | TITLE | NAME | REG. | DIV. | TITLE |
|--|----------|------------|--------|--|----------|------------|--------|---|----------|------------|--------|--|----------|------------|--------|
| EX ADIRON PARK KYLE HERTEL | 07 | 354 | В | JOAN P ROSEGREEN CYNTHIA WALKER | 11 11 | 198 198 | A A | LETICIA RIVERA CHRISTINE A SMITH | 10 10 | 213 213 | D D | WALTER L GEHRING MICHELLE L GOSCINSKY | 09 09 | 235 235 | A E |
| EX ALCO BEV CON JUAN C HERRERA | 10 | 171 | С | HSC SYR HOSP PR RACHEL | | | | IKPONMWOSA UHUNMWANGHO | 10 | 213 | A | CHRISTINA HAGGARTY VLADIMIR RYABENKOV | 09 09 | 235 235 | A A |
| EX DIV HUMAN RT | 10 | 171 | o | M AMODIO-KOPP | 04 | 320 | Α | MH BUFLO PSY CT | . • | | • • | CARMELINE J TORCHON | 09 | 235 | A |
| HENRI ADAMS | 10 | 329 | S | MICHAEL H CZERNIAK | 04 | 320 | Α | PRIMITIVO AFRICA | 01 | 180 | D | BEATRICE YONLY | 09 | 235 | Е |
| LUIS A DEGANTE | 10 | 329 | G | AARON T FAGELMAN | 04 | 320 | Α | VINCENT A CICATELLO | 01 | 180 | Α | MH S BEACH CNTR | | 050 | - |
| BELLEW MCMANUS | 10 | 329 | G | KAITLYN R GARDNER | 04 | 320 | A | ALEXANDRE Z DONASCIMENTO | 01 | 180 | U | JOSHUA D DEJESUS MARTIE FINKELSTEIN | 11 11 | 253 253 | E N |
| JEANNE L ORTIZ | 10 | 329 | S | JUANITA S HICKS BRITTANY M LACIK | 04 04 | 320 320 | A A | MICHAEL K GALLIVAN | 01 | 180 | H | PETER GORGOGLIONE | 11 | 253 | A |
| CASILDA E ROPER-SIMPSON | 10 | 329 | G | TAYLOR B LUKINS | 04 | 320 | A | RICHARD L LISMAN | 01 | 180 | Α | SHAQUANA F PERRY | 11 | 253 | Н |
| EX HSG&CMTY RNL | 10 | 02) | Ü | ANITA B MCCONNELL | 04 | 320 | A | KAYLA N MOOTRY | 01 | 180 | Е | MICHAEL PREMUS | 11 | 253 | D |
| NAOMI GEWIRTZMAN | 10 | 168 | S | TANYA M MERCURIO | 04 | 320 | Α | MH CNTRL NY P C | 0.0 | 044 | | MH SAG PC C YTH | 10 | 170 | |
| EX OFF GEN SERV | | 470 | _ | BRENDA L ONDERKO | 04 | 320 | Α | KRYSTAL L HODGE MINDY E KING | 06 02 | 344 222 | D E | JENNIFER R HALL MH ST LAW PSY C | 12 | 178 | Α |
| GEORGE T BALINDA SHOW BAMBA | 08 08 | 179 179 | B B | DAVID J PUTERBAUGH | 04 04 | 320 | A | TIMOTHY LEBLANC | 06 | 344 | E | LESLIE A MILLS | 07 | 249 | D |
| JUSTIN V BOPP | 08 | 179 | В | JOANNA M SPANO HUTCHS CHILD SV | 04 | 320 | Α | CHICQUITA MCCOVERY | 09 | 310 | Ē | JENNIFER A SHAVER | 07 | 249 | U |
| JUAN CHEN | 08 | 179 | В | TERRI L BUSBY | 04 | 301 | С | JAMES P MURPHY | 09 | 310 | D | MH WASH HTS UN | 4.0 | 254 | |
| GLORIA FUNG | 80 | 179 | В | GINA M CORONA | 04 | 301 | Е | SARAH F PALMER | 02 | 222 | A | DARLENE WILLIAMS MHK VLY C YTH | 10 | 254 | J |
| BE HA | 08 08 | 179 179 | P B | DAURYNE M METZ | 04 | 301 | С | KRISTY M PEARSON PATRICIA K SESSIONS | 09 09 | 310 310 | E E | SHEVAUN E ABBOTT | 06 | 183 | Н |
| MOHAMMAD E HAQUE JOHN H HUSTEDT | 12 | 179 | В | JUSTICE CENTER KERRY A ELAM | 08 | 232 | Е | JOSEPHINE A SLIFKA | 06 | 344 | A | MOTOR VEHICLES | | | ••• |
| DEVAN JACKSON-MULE | 08 | 179 | В | LABOR | 00 | 232 | L | MINDY L WEBER | 02 | 222 | E | HEIDI A BAZICKI | 80 | 211 | G |
| DAVID W MILLER | 08 | 179 | U | SCARLETT AHMED | 11 | 245 | 0 | MH CREEDMR P CT | | | | PATRICIA A BURKE | 08 | 211 | В |
| BRANDON P STANFIELD | 80 | 179 | В | SANDRA M ARANIVA | 80 | 202 | Е | ALBERT FAMULARO | 11 | 241 | Е | LINDA JOHNSON MAUREEN | 09 | 255 | R |
| RICHARD E VEHLOW JEFFREY L WESTERMAN | 08 01 | 179 179 | B B | DEBRA BESSON | 08 | 202 | 0 | FRANZ JEMIO | 11 | 241 | D | A KOZAKIEWICZ | 08 | 211 | J |
| KERI WOOD | 08 | 179 | P | MATTHEW M BOLEN | 04 08 | 264 202 | U U | DARLYNE RICHARDSON MICHELE ROSELLO | 11 11 | 241 241 | D E | RALPH A MABB III | 08 | 211 | P |
| EX VETERANS AFF | | | - | JOHANNA A CABRERA WILLIAM H CLINGERSMITH | | 278 | S | ELSA TARTT | 11 | 241 | D | NYC CHILDRENS CENTER | | | |
| JOSEPH R MOYNIHAN | 01 | 325 | Е | JAMIYLA CODY | 09 | 286 | 0 | ELAINE S VASILOPOULOS | | 241 | E | INDERMATTIE | 11 | 100 | 0 |
| H HELEN HAYES | | 001 | | JALEEL A CONWAY | 11 | 245 | М | JENNIFER WHITEHEAD | 11 | 241 | D | BALKARAN MARIA C BRYAN-DIXON | 11 10 | 188 213 | C C |
| PATRICIA OTOOLE H VET HOME BATV | 09 | 226 | U | SANDY DARBY-ROBERTS | 11 | 245 | N | MH ELMIRA PSY C | | | | SOL COLON | 10 | 213 | H |
| CORTNEY EDWARDS | 03 | 307 | Е | TINA M DAWSON | 80 | 202 | 0 | JENNIFER L JACKSON | 02 02 | 223 223 | N F | DANIELA SCAGLUISO | 11 | 252 | Α |
| HEALTH MAIN OFF | | | | ANTHONY J DEROSA DOMINICK J DIFULVIO | 03 05 | 278 281 | 0 G | DARREN J MACDOUGAL MH HUTCHINGS PC | UZ | 223 | г | LAUREN E WILLIAMS | 11 | 188 | Α |
| MARIE C AFFRIANY | 10 | 199 | Α | KIM K EHLERS | 08 | 202 | 0 | JESSICA L ANDRIANOS | 04 | 301 | Н | NYS GAMING COMMISSION RANBIR KUMAR | JN 11 | 332 | Р |
| JILLIAN C ALLARD | 01 | 220 | A | ANGELICA | | | | MARY S CARLISLE | 04 | 301 | Е | MICHAEL A SCLAFANI | 10 | 332 | S |
| SHEILA AMBROSE CHARLA D ANDERSON | 08 08 | 205 205 | D D | ESPIRITUSANTO | 80 | 202 | S | MH KNGBR PY CT | 11 | 0.50 | | JOSEPH ZICCARDI | 01 | 332 | Р |
| ERIKA L BAKER | 08 | 205 | D | CARYN F FELDMAN | 12 | 200 | 0 | COLLEEN GALY CARLINE GUERRIER | 11 11 | 252 252 | H A | OASAS MAIN OFF | | | |
| LINDA J BAKER | 80 | 205 | Е | MARLA FISCHL LISA A FITZPATRICK | 12 05 | 200 281 | U O | BERNADETTE OCONNOR | | 252 | Ĥ | MELANY R BRADSHAW | 08 10 | 265 | J |
| SUSAN BILLI | 12 | 317 | A | MATTHEW FLYNN | 07 | 273 | 0 | IRSHAD A SUMAR | 11 | 252 | D | WILLIAM CRUZ BARBARA J FAHEY | 08 | 314 265 | J J |
| IDELE BISSERETH STEVEN M BROOKS | 10 08 | 199 205 | A D | CINDY FRANQUI | 11 | 245 | P | MH MAIN OFFICE | | | _ | SOPHIA FAVELUS | 08 | 265 | Ĵ |
| MICHELLE J CAMPBELL | 08 | 205 | P | JIWANDA V GALE-ROGERS | 09 | 410 | S | RUDY A ARIAS JOSHUA BAKER | 08 08 | 392 392 | D P | JOSEPH M SWEET | 80 | 265 | J |
| MAXINE A CHAMBERS | 12 | 317 | Α | SCOTT K HEKTOR | 05 | 281 | 0 | PAUL J CARVER | 01 | 180 | D | OASAS TRMT CTRS | 00 | 070 | |
| DARCY J CHORWAT | 80 | 205 | E | MARIA D HERNANDEZ | 08 08 | 202 202 | S | DOROTA A KEARNEY | 08 | 392 | D | LAKISHA C ALVEREST MICHELLE A CARTER | 09 10 | 279 326 | A J |
| MARGARET A DOBBINS MICHAEL A DREIBELBIS | 04 08 | 312 205 | A D | JONATHAN P JONES LAURIE A KAIL | 08 | 202 | J G | CARMELA M TRIOLO | 80 | 392 | Р | SONJI JACKSON | 09 | 279 | J |
| ANNE M DUCHARME | 08 | 205 | D | ERIN L KELLY | 03 | 278 | 0 | MH MANHATN P CT | 10 | 267 | D | KELLY M LAME | 03 | 411 | J |
| ANGELA M FABIANI | 08 | 205 | P | MICHAEL LASCH | 80 | 202 | М | HAROLD E BREWSTER MH MHWK VAL P C | 10 | 207 | U | DAVID MCDANIEL | 11 | 326 | J |
| KENNETH FERRO | 80 | 205 | P | MICHELE E LASSI | 11 | 245 | 0 | MARY M KRUKONIS | 06 | 183 | Α | KELLIE A PALO OF CHILD FAM SV | 03 | 411 | J |
| SHANA M FLOW | 03 10 | 220 199 | A D | DEBRA P LINDSTADT RUI LUAN | 12 05 | 200 281 | 0 0 | MARK MILLER | 06 | 183 | Е | AIKIDO S AROUNSAVATH | 05 | 391 | U |
| SHERI M FRIEDBERG MYRON R GETMAN | 08 | 205 | Q | CYNTHIA L MCAULIFFE | 08 | 202 | 0 | MH MID HDSN P C | 00 | 074 | | DIANA L BARRINGTON | 09 | 404 | Ē |
| MARLENE F GRIMSHAW | 08 | 205 | Ď | DANIEL F MCCORMACK | 09 | 286 | М | MELINDA E DELAZAR MARIE C DENIS | 09 09 | 274 274 | D A | DIAMANTE O BETTS | 03 | 216 | U |
| BOBBI J HUFFER | 03 | 307 | Α | TRACEY A MURPHY | 80 | 202 | 0 | JODIE A GEWING | 09 | 274 | D | DEBORA DEBELL-DONOHUE | 08 | 234 | Е |
| JOHN A INGRAM | 01 | 220 | D | TANYA M NELSON | 11 | 245 | 0 | MH NAT KLN INST | | | | ROSS M DORSEY | 05 | 391 | U |
| BRENDA J JACKSON KIMBERLY A JENSEN | 04 08 | 312 205 | A E | SEAN RALEIGH JESSICA L RAMSEY | 08 05 | 202 281 | P 0 | SHAONA FANG | 09 | 235 | Q | WENDY L FANTAUZZO | 03 | 414 | Ā |
| ROBERT A JORDAN | 08 | 205 | Ū | ERIK RUIZ | 10 | 245 | 0 | ELIZABETH A MUENZER MH PILGRIM P CT | 09 | 235 | Q | SANDRA M GREENE | 80 | 234 | Е |
| ANDREW S KALTER | 09 | 291 | В | LAURA C SIGOND | 08 | 202 | 0 | CHRISTOPHER | | | | FATMATA P HILTON | 08 | 234 | E |
| RICHARD P KAPPES | 80 | 205 | P | MICHAEL R SINGLETON | 02 | 359 | 0 | J DAMIANI | 12 | 233 | D | CORY L JACKSON LISE K MALONEY | 03 08 | 414 234 | U E |
| TRACY KNOTT CRYSTAL LIDDLE | 08 08 | 205 205 | E E | MEIGHAN A SMITH | 08 | 202 | 0 | IVAN L GIANNOU | 12 | 233 | A | ROBIN M MATTHEWS | 10 | 191 | Ē |
| SHERESE M LINNEN | 08 | 205 | P | LARISA STRELTSOVA | 11 | 245 202 | M 0 | DIANE LOPEZ JOSEPH A MARSEILLE | 12 12 | 233 233 | A A | DONALD D OSHEA | 09 | 270 | С |
| TRACY L MANN | 10 | 199 | Ε | JESSICA E VERHOFF JACOB H WEINTRAUB | 08 11 | 245 | G | JOANE PHANORD | 12 | 233 | A | PETER J PADILLA | 01 | 337 | Е |
| JOSEPH W MOSSEAU | 80 | 205 | Р | LAW | | 240 | J | SABRINA F SANTOS | 12 | 233 | A | DEBORAH A POYDOCK-WHIPPLE | 01 | 337 | Е |
| CHELSEA R NASH | 80 | 205 205 | E P | CHARMAINE G BLAKE | 10 | 351 | G | CHRISTINA R WOLFLE | 12 | 233 | Α | NEAL F REILLY | 03 | 414 | C |
| BRYAN J TARR TANIA R TINLEY | 08 08 | 205 | D | TIMOTHY J BOPP | 08 | 187 | K | SHAKIL ZUBAIR | 12 | 233 | D | PHILIP J ROLON | 08 | 234 | E |
| SARAH S WILFRED | 04 | 312 | D | CRYSTAL R COMBS ALAN FISH | 10 08 | 351 187 | J K | MH RCK PC C YTH ZELMA M DENNIS | 09 | 235 | Α | SHARON P SAMUELS | 11 | 352 | U |
| HOMELAND SECURITY | | | | TAMARA C MARTIN | 10 | 351 | G | GEETA TRIPATHI | 09 | 235 | Â | RONALD L SIMMONS ALTHEA A SOLOMON | 08 11 | 234 352 | E P |
| LISA M CAPONE | 80 | 179 | S | JOHN NICOTINA | 08 | 187 | K | MH ROCH PSY CTR | | | | JOSEPH P STEIN | 05 | 352 391 | D D |
| KEVIN D CLAPP MEDLY POMPEE | 08 10 | 179 179 | F P | CHAD SHELMIDINE | 04 | 187 | J | RAYMOND KENT | 03 | 283 | C | ZACHARY J SWIFT | 08 | 234 | E |
| HSC BRKLN P/R | 10 | 1/9 | r | DAVID STERN | 80 | 187 | K | ANASTASIA LAVIGNE LAURA E OSBORNE | 03 03 | 283 283 | A E | DAVID TAKOR | 08 | 234 | Ε |
| AVALON T ADAMS | 11 | 198 | Α | MH BING PSY CTR Angela M Reh | 05 | 208 | N | JOSHUA REDMAN | 03 | 283 | A | VERONICA V WARREN | 80 | 234 | E |
| KERBY Y DESMORNES | 11 | 198 | A | AMANDA M RULAND | 05 | 208 | H | NICOLE C TARSON | 03 | 283 | N | OF TEMP DI ASSI CHUKWUDUZIE AJOKU | 10 | 191 | S |
| ABDALLAHI DIOP GRACE A FELIX | 11 11 | 198 198 | A | LYDIA VELEZ | 05 | 208 | Н | MH ROCKLAND P C | | | _ | CARL E ANDERSON | 10 | 191 | D D |
| IVY R LEE | 11 | 198 | A A | MH BRONX PSY CT | 10 | 212 | D | CARL ANKRAH SALOMI P BENJAMIN | 09 09 | 235 235 | A | LESLIE APACIBLE | 05 | 399 | М |
| JOHANNA L MALONE | 11 | 198 | A | JOHN F BROWN VENICIO MOJICA JR | 10 10 | 213 213 | D A | VIJU T CHACKO | 09 | 235 | A A | DAMIAN AROCHUKWU | 10 | 191 | S |
| | | | | . 2 | | | | | ~, | | | PAMELA G AUGUST | 80 | 234 | E |

Convention Delegate List

| NAME | REG. | | TITLE | NAME | REG. | DIV. | TITLE | NAME | REG. | | TITLE | NAME | REG. | DIV. | TITLE |
|--|----------|------------|--------|--|----------|------------|--------|---|------------|------------|--------|---|----------|------------|--------|
| SARAH I BETANCOHURT MARK CENSOR | 08 10 | 234 192 | G M | | | | | SAMARA S WHEELER | 09 | 248 | Н | HEATHER V SPENCER | 10 | 240 | Р |
| DEBI E CHOWDHURY | 08 | 409 | M | OPWDD BERN FINE DDSO | 1 | | | OPWDD WESTERN NY DD |)SO | | | AARON D UCHYTIL | 08 | 240 | K |
| SHARON V DESILVA | 80 | 234 | G | GWENDOLYN | | | | KAREN L BARNES-DEAN | 01 | 167 | С | KYLE D WAGNER | 80 | 240 | G |
| ROBERT F DICKERSON | 10 | 192 | D | J CULPEPPER | 11 | 207 | Н | VALERIE R BROWN | 01 | 167 | E | SAMUEL F WAGNER | 04 | 240 | М |
| RICHARD A FLETCHER DARCEY M GATTO | 05 08 | 399 234 | M G | TIMOTHY GRAHAM VANESSA HARVIN | 11 11 | 207 207 | C C | RENEE D CHEATOM THOMAS R CIEZKI | 01 01 | 167 167 | C C | DANIEL WARREN LISA M WELLS | 01 04 | 240 240 | K M |
| GERMAINE GRECO | 10 | 192 | M | NOEMI SEABROOK | 11 | 207 | č | SCOTT R DOBE | 01 | 167 | Ü | STATEWIDE FINANCIAL S | | | |
| NATHAN I HORWITZ | 80 | 234 | K | OPWDD BROOKLYN DDSC | | | | SHAUNA | | 4.7 | _ | MICHELLE G MCDONALD | 80 | 408 | S |
| NYSSA J KREPLIN OMOTAYO O KUKU | 08 10 | 234 373 | G U | NAIMA D READY CARRIE L SAUNDERS | 11 11 | 244 244 | C | L EVANCZIK-OLROGG MALACHY L GATELY | 01 01 | 167 243 | D C | STONYBRK HOS PR ROWENA A ABESAMIS | 12 | 225 | Α |
| KEITH A MCCABE | 05 | 399 | M | OPWDD BROOME DDSO | | 244 | J | DONNA S KARCZ | 01 | 243 | C | MELISSA | 12 | 223 | Α. |
| MATTHEW B MORRIS | 80 | 234 | N | DENISE BAILEY | 05 | 197 | Н | GRANT W QUALE | 01 | 167 | С | S ASHE-FEQUIERE | 12 | 225 | Α |
| MATTHEW L NIRELLI | 01 | 369 | М | AMANDA L BRECHKO | 05 | 197 | E | OPWDDMETRO NY DDSO | | 407 | 0 | DOUGLAS BEGENT | 12 | 225 | A |
| JENNIFER J NYE PHILLIP PLESSAS III | 08 08 | 234 234 | E N | SHERRY L HANSON MATTHEW F NORTHRUP | 05 05 | 197 197 | A A | MARCELLUS BENNETT PATRICIA CHERY- SIMON | 10 I 10 | 407 292 | C E | BARBARA L CONIGLIO YOUNG HYUN P DE SAW | 12 12 | 225 225 | A A |
| JILL E POELLER | 01 | 369 | М | MATTHEW S ROLLEY | 05 | 403 | N | MURIEL T HARDY | 10 | 407 | Ē | EUGENE DEAL | 12 | 225 | A |
| JUSTIN RISING | 80 | 234 | E | OPWDD CAP DIST DDSO | | | | MARK HENRY | 10 | 407 | E | DEBRA DELGIORNO | 12 | 225 | Α |
| MARTIN J ROBINSON DANIEL S SCHWARTZ | 08 10 | 234 192 | E D | ANNETTE M ABARE JENNIFER M ANTAL | 08 08 | 251 251 | C U | CLARA R HENRY PK&REC FINGER L | 10 | 292 | E | MICHAEL S DOYLE LAURA A FLERX | 12 12 | 225 225 | A A |
| SCOTT STAUB | 05 | 399 | M | STACY M MOREY | 08 | 251 | D | VICTORIA L SRNKA | 02 | 0 | С | HEATHER J KAMMERER | 12 | 225 | A |
| NATHAN TUCKER | 08 | 234 | E | OPWDD CENTRAL NY DD | | | _ | PK&REC MAIN OFF | | • | _ | ANGEL A MANGUERA | 12 | 225 | Α |
| JARED F VIBERT | 80 | 234 | G | HAGGAII ALI | 04 | 304 | C | DENISE E MARTIN | 80 | 305 | U | J C OBRIEN | 12 | 225 | Α |
| HOLLIE M WALSH DIANE YADLOSKY | 05 05 | 399 399 | M M | NICOLE L FRANK JACKLYN HOPKINS | 04 06 | 304 189 | A C | PK&REC NIAGARA JAKE A BETZIG | 01 | 219 | В | JESSICA M OHEA JOHN F ONEILL | 12 12 | 225 225 | A A |
| OFC MDICAID INSP GEN | 03 | 377 | IVI | VICTORIA C HULL | 04 | 304 | C | PUBLIC SERVICE | 01 | 219 | ь | AMY L PACHOLK | 12 | 225 | A |
| EDWARD J KUHNER | 12 | 191 | Р | GRACE E MILLER | 06 | 189 | Č | SANGEETHA KAILAS | 10 | 321 | В | KATHRYN S ROSA | 12 | 225 | A |
| KAYLA MCDOUGALL | 03 | 360 | D | MONICA G MOORE | 04 | 304 | E | STEPHEN POWERS | 80 | 203 | В | LUISA A STELLATO | 12 | 225 | Α |
| MATTHEW S MYERS CANTAVE PAUL | 08 09 | 205 191 | D P | MEGAN ROTIS | 06 04 | 189 304 | U C | ROSWELL PARK LETITIA Y ADAMS | 01 | 196 | V | PENNY M WHITTAKER | 12 | 225 | Α |
| OFF OF INFO TECH SRVC | | 191 | г | KEVIN A ROBENOLT SAMETTA L SHAW-LIPIEC | | 189 | U | LAUREN J BETZIG | 01 01 | 196 | K A | SU COL CORTLAND JESSICA J BERGERON | 04 | 320 | Α |
| REISSA ALDERMAN | 08 | 357 | K | ANTHONY M THOMAS | 06 | 189 | Ü | JORDAN M BLATZ | 01 | 196 | A | SU TECH ALFRED | ٠. | 020 | • |
| MAMADOU A BALDE | 80 | 357 | K | OPWDD FINGER LAK DDS | | | _ | SUZANNE E BOEHM | 01 | 196 | U | THERESA | | | |
| NUDSARA BELL DANA BLAIR | 08 08 | 357 357 | K S | LEISA ABRAHAM BETH S AMODIO | 03 03 | 246 259 | D C | THERESA A BURKE ANN R DUTCHESS | 01 01 | 196 196 | U A | L TOTH-FLEISCHMAN TAX FINANCE | 02 | 0 | Α |
| MATTHEW | 00 | 337 | 3 | JENNIFER J DAVIS | 03 | 201 | A | YATRAM B JAGROOP | 01 | 196 | В | SCOTT P BAXLEY | 08 | 190 | Р |
| M BROCKBANK | 80 | 357 | K | RANDI L DIANTONIO | 03 | 259 | E | FAYE L KIFNER | 01 | 196 | Ā | CHRISTOPHER G BUMAN | 03 | 360 | Р |
| CHRISTOPHER A BULL | 80 | 357 | K | MEAGHAN D DWYER | 03 | 259 | С | MARY T MILLER-KOTRYS | 01 | 196 | В | JOSEPH CHENAILLE | 08 | 190 | Р |
| JAMES CAMPBELL NATIEA CANNON | 08 11 | 357 357 | K K | SANDRA MOORE JOSE A MORALES | 03 03 | 246 246 | C C | ALETHA B O'STEEN-WOODS | 01 | 196 | Е | ROCCO CITENO JEFFREY D COZZY | 12 08 | 186 190 | P P |
| MARIO CHIARELLO | 08 | 357 | K | ELIZABETH H MURRAY | 03 | 201 | A | NAZIA H RAHMAN | 01 | 196 | K | CONRAD DAVIS | 11 | 406 | P |
| GILLIAN G CONOVER | 08 | 357 | K | ANNE M PARRY | 03 | 259 | E | MICHAEL D RYAN | 01 | 196 | D | JOSEPH DONAHUE | 80 | 190 | Р |
| HEATHER L CRAVEN | 80 | 357 | K | GREGORY SALAMIDA | 03 | 246 | D | KATHRYN J SCHULTZ | 01 | 196 | A | BERNICE B EDWARDS | 08 | 190 | P |
| BISWAJIT DATTA DRISHTI S DESAI | 08 08 | 357 357 | K K | LENA SANK CHERIE J STEVENS | 01 03 | 201 259 | D A | JAMES SZTABA LAWRENCE M TWOREK | 01 01 | 196 196 | A R | ANNETTE M EVERETT STACEY L FINN | 04 08 | 333 190 | P P |
| CHRISTOPHER J FORD | 08 | 357 | K | TAMMY L TERWILLIGER | 03 | 246 | Ĥ | SAVANAH M WIK | 01 | 196 | A | SABRINA FURMAN | 08 | 190 | Р |
| TERRY M GUTHRIE | 11 | 357 | K | JEREMY C WHITE | 03 | 246 | С | SEC TREATMENT AND RI | | | | SARDHAWATIE | | | _ |
| ZHENYING HENDERSON | 10 08 | 357 357 | K S | SHELBY A WISNESKI OPWDD HDSN VAL DDSO | 02 | 201 | E | AUDREY C COLEMAN | 06 07 | 344 249 | A A | M HARDUAR | 08 08 | 190 190 | P P |
| BRANDON L HILL JUSTIN M HOELLIG | 08 | 357 | S K | FREDERICK AIDOO | 09 | 276 | С | DOUGLAS J MCCARNEY PAMELA E SOHIGIAN | 06 | 344 | A P | SHAYE HEINS SHARON HYDE-SCULLY | 08 | 190 | P P |
| LUCIA E HOFFMAN | 08 | 357 | K | PATRICE S ALSTON | 09 | 276 | D | ST LAW CHILD SV | | | | KYLE M JACOBSON | 08 | 190 | P |
| GEORGE H HOWARD | 11 | 357 | K | MICHELE S CARAWAY | 09 | 276 | С | KAREN MARTIN | 07 | 249 | E | JOSEPH KLEIN | 01 | 224 | Р |
| RITA C JORDAN NOURHAN | 80 | 357 | K | MARISA J MC CLINTON AMA SAKYI | 09 09 | 276 276 | C A | SARA E OLIN STATE | 07 | 249 | Е | KENNETH D LASKY RAJENDRA MANGROO | 08 08 | 190 190 | P P |
| KHALED FARGHALY | 08 | 357 | K | LUISA A SCOTTCOOPER | 09 | 276 | D | CHIJIOKE I AJOKU | 12 | 186 | М | GEORGE MARRETT | 09 | 182 | Р |
| ADRIENNE KIRKLAND | 10 | 357 | K | OPWDD INS RES DEV DIS | | | | BENJAMIN BIDELL | 01 | 295 | Р | EVERTON MAXWELL | 80 | 190 | Р |
| AARON KLOB | 80 | 357 | K | MOHAMMED JUNAID | 11 | 345 | Q | THOMAS DITULLIO | 04 | 295 | U | JOHN MCDONALD | 80 | 190 | Р |
| MITHILESH KUMAR PRAKASH LAL | 08 08 | 357 357 | S K | OPWDD L. ISLAND DDSO PIERRE V AFFRIANY | 12 | 209 | Α | FRANCIS M MCANDREW KAREN M TULLY | 08 08 | 295 295 | K G | MICHAEL A MILLER PATRICK M MOYLAN | 08 04 | 190 333 | P P |
| ANTHONY J LAPOINTE | 08 | 357 | K | KEHINDE M AJIKOBI | 12 | 209 | A | STATE INS FUND | 00 | 270 | J | MISTY L NICHOLS | 08 | 190 | Р |
| ELIZABETH M LIGHT | 80 | 357 | K | ASHLEY M CARIDI | 12 | 209 | E | TONY W ANTHONY | 04 | 240 | М | JONATHAN J OLIVERI | 12 | 186 | Р |
| MEREDITH A MARTIN HENRY K MATALA | 08 08 | 357 357 | K K | IDOWU M DADA CAROLINE O ETORUOM | 12 12 | 209 209 | A A | CHARLES L BROWNING ROBERT S BUREY | 05 01 | 240 240 | G O | ANGELO P POLITO NAZMUL QUAYYUM | 08 11 | 190 406 | M P |
| REGINA D MCDONALD | 11 | 357 | K | OPWDD MAIN OFF | 12 | 209 | ^ | CHERMAYNE | 01 | 240 | U | BRITTNEY A RENAUD | 08 | 190 | P |
| MEGAN MCLEAN | 10 | 357 | K | CHAD BURDETTE | 80 | 257 | Р | B CAMPBELL | 10 | 240 | М | LINDA J SCOTT | 80 | 190 | Р |
| ANDREW J MICHELA | 08 | 357 | K | MILLAH N CHRISTINE | 80 | 257 | S | KEVIN J DOBIES | 08 | 240 | G | JACQUELINE B SHEA | 80 | 190 | P |
| SHANNON N MORTON RONALD F OBRYAN | 01 08 | 357 357 | K K | NATASHA GREENSLADE MARIEANNEZA | 09 | 257 | Р | GEORGE HSIAO JEFFREY P HUNT | 10 08 | 240 240 | G K | CHRISTINE L SICINA ANTHONY E SMITH III | 09 01 | 182 224 | M P |
| RAJIB PAUL | 08 | 357 | K | S STEINIGER | 10 | 292 | Р | TANGELA V JOHNSON | 10 | 240 | М | JAKOB WESTMAN | 08 | 190 | P |
| ELAINE PETERS-GUTHRIE | | 357 | K | ROSHELLE WALKER | 03 | 257 | Р | KENNETH J JOHNSON | 10 | 240 | М | W NY CH PSY CTR | | | |
| ALEC J PRICE | 08 | 357 | K | OPWDD STATEN ISL DDS | | 000 | | DIANN JONES | 03 | 240 | K | PATRICIA M MORAN | 01 | 167 | F |
| JEAN A SALERNO BINOD P SHAH | 11 08 | 357 357 | K K | CANDACE L DOTTS SAMUEL C ENUDI | 11 11 | 280 280 | D E | CLIFVON D JONES MELISSA A KING | 10 10 | 240 240 | P P | HATTIE L SLATER WKRS COMP BOARD | 01 | 167 | Α |
| KELLEY SMITH | 08 | 357 | K | LEONIDAS LEE | 11 | 280 | Ē | PATRICIA A MASON | 08 | 240 | A | MEGAN S HILL | 08 | 363 | Р |
| JEFFREY SMITH | 80 | 357 | K | OPWDD SUNMOUNT DDS | 0 | | | TERESA R MCLEOD | 10 | 240 | М | LISA G O'BRIEN | 80 | 363 | Р |
| LAURA D STEWART | 10 | 357 | K | JOEL W BARTLETT | 07 | 242 | N | RADHAKRISHN MOHAN | 10 | 240 | K | MARY G PARISH | 08 | 363 | M |
| AMY SUTTON JHONATHAN D TERRERO | 02 08 | 357 357 | K K | STEPHANIE M CHAMPAGNE | 07 | 242 | Ε | JAYSON NOVOK ANDREA L PFEIFER | 12 12 | 240 240 | M A | TRACY A PEEL REBECCA S SCHWARTZ | 10 11 | 285 285 | G G |
| ION TIMOTIN | 08 | 357 | S | BRANDEN M FOOTE | 07 | 242 | Ċ | CHRISTOPHER J RAMPE | | 240 | P | AMERICA B SOTOMAYOR | 08 | 363 | F |
| L M TRACY IRELAND | 80 | 357 | S | VICKI A HUBBARD | 07 | 242 | С | EILEEN M RICHARDSON | 04 | 240 | Α | VERONICA J SPRINGER | 11 | 285 | G |
| JOSEPH F UGINO | 80 | 357 | K | ERICA M LAFLAIR | 07 | 242 | D | STEFANIE A RIOS | 10 | 240 | M | VICKI A SWEET | 80 | 363 | K |
| RUBIN VARGHESE SAM S WIN | 08 08 | 357 357 | K K | BARBARA E STRANSKY OPWDD TACONIC DDSO | 07 | 242 | D | DIANA S ROBERTS BRANKO J ROKOV | 12 08 | 240 240 | M K | D M THOMSEN | 80 | 363 | Α |
| TAMMY J ZULLO | 08 | 357 | F | BROOKE E BOSCH | 09 | 248 | С | NISHITH SHAH | 10 | 240 | М | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



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.



