



PEF Contract!! Are we there yet?

What's going on?

We are cruising along! It seems a long time to negotiate a contract that is beneficial to our members. Every detail of the contract has to be given careful thought and attention in the deliberation with the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER).

Of course the PEF's contract team has our members' interests and concerns at the fore during their talks with GOER. After all they are all one among us.

Where are we?

The intensity of the discussion and focus is now shifted to Health benefits specifically the Rx portions which is at a crucial stage at this point time (December, 03). They hope to reach an acceptable solution with



PEF President Roger Benson

GOER. Our contract team has also tabled our main demand for salary increase and permanent wage Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for those who work in high cost areas of the State to raise their quality of life standard to a level consistent with other parts of the State and the Country. Our talks on other demands are continuing.

When could it be over?

Though we cannot tell with any certainty yet, we sincerely hope that we should be able to see something on the horizon (hold your breath) by the end of this year.

What's next?

Per PEF's constitution, our Executive Board would have to approve the contract prior to sending it out to the membership.

What shall we do now?

We approach this process with patience. Meanwhile please take a minute to send a Fax or a letter to Governor Pataki asking for a fair COLA (link is on the second page) to make our bargaining a success.

JOIN MEMBER MOBILIZATION!!!

In Memory!!



It is with great sadness, we share the sudden loss of our Council Member, Walter Hough, in March 2003. He was very active in PEF Division 240, not only as a Council Member, but also as a member of Health and Safety Committee. In him we not only lost a dear fellow Council member, but a

person who tirelessly tried to help others either through union effort or through his own personal efforts. He was a kind person who believed in the service of fellow members as his mission. We take this opportunity to share our kind memory with his dear family members.

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Call Of Duty!!



Yes the time to serve the nation has arrived for two of our colleagues at NYSIF. Mr. Daniel Fahey, ITS, Albany, and Raymond Arroyo, Administration, NYC, are now on active duty and will be in Iraq to join the rest of our dedicated soldiers in their mission to establish peace in that region.

The Team—Council Members, Division 240!!

UPDATED

SHOP STEWARDS LIST:

Radhakrishna Mohan (Council Leader— NYC), Victoria Baker (Secretary-NYC), Mark Seidner (Assistant Council Leader—Nassau), Matthew Litt (Assistant Council Leader—NYC), Jennifer Faucher (Coordinator-Region 10, NYC), Bernie Kahn (Executive Board Member—NYC), Carl Franklin (Executive Board Member and Treasurer-NYC), Teddy Vazquez (Chair, Labor Management Committee—Melville), Rocco Brindisi (Executive Board member and Co-Chair, Health and Safety Committee—Buffalo), Felix Grimes (Chair, Budget Committee—NYC), Herb Hennings (Chair Mem-



ber Mobilization Committee), Sophie Kelly-Carbonare (Albany),

Patricia Mason (Albany), Kimberly Mayhan (Albany), Katherine Czachorowski (Buffalo), Kurian Medayil (Nassau), Dreama Davis (Nassau), Christopher Rampe (Melville), Carol

Benton – NYC, Hal Friedman-NYC, Raymond Palmer-NYC, Bruce Werner-NYC, Bert Carroll—NYC, Thomas McKinney (Rochester), Michael Nedvesky (Syracuse), Bruce Simmons (Syracuse), Brenda Boston-Hudson (White Plains), Ed Krajewski (White Plains) and Catherine Kozlowski (Binghamton).

The above team looks forward to contributing their best for our members of Division 240 and closely working with State Insurance Fund Management to resolve any issues affecting our members.

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL YEAR 2004!!



Thanks to NYSIF management to honor the dress code agreement with PEF!!



L & M Committee members with casual dress during discussion on the dress code meeting with the management.

In a letter to the Buffalo Office Staff, Dir. of Adm. Albert DiMeglio stated that the NYSIF staff should adhere to the SIF dress code based on a formal agreement with PEF while at the office and during field trips. Thanks to the effort of Rocco Brindisi, our Executive Board member and the Co-Chair for the Health and Safety committees, and Kathy Zachorowski, Shop Steward at Buffalo Office, in successfully bringing to the attention of SIF management a recent dress code violation order issued at the Buffalo Office.

VETS FOR VETS!!

On Nov. 6, Vets for Vets members received an orientation to on-line resources to help veterans make informed choices at the polls, to keep track of the status of current veterans' legislation at the state and federal level, and to access the Veterans' Administration on line.

Some of the more useful links are:

1. For legislation go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
1. For NYS Legislation go to <http://www.senate.state.ny.us/>
1. To find out what bills your federal and state elected officials support, go to <http://www.vote-smart.org/>
2. To find out about and apply for many federal veterans' benefit, go to <http://www.va.gov/>

Our next meeting will be **May 27, 2004** at noon in the Conference Center at NYSIF, 199 Church Street, NY, NY.

Take action now!!

Wage Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for PEF members!!

Send a fax to Governor Pataki today and ask your friends and co-workers to do the same. Let the Governor know how important this issue is to you and your family! You can also go to link

“http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/wage_colo_for_pef” to send the message to Governor Pataki .

PEF BENEFIT EVENT!!!

PEF Division 240 is organizing a Benefit Event to highlight the various benefits available to our members and to encourage them to take advantage of these benefits. The PEF benefit administrator from Albany will be on hand to speak about various benefits offered by PEF for its members. Representatives from the Insurance Industry will also be present to provide information on Car, Home, Life and Disability Insurance and various discounts offered on these policies.

(DON'T MISS IT!!!!)

Date: 12/17/03 Venue: 15th floor Auditorium, NYC



A Tribute to US Military!!

NYS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FEDERATION DIVISION 240

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One Team, One Mission!!

Visit [PEF Website at
www.pef.org](http://www.pef.org)

Division 240 Committees !!!

Labor Management Committee

Teddy Vazquez—Chair
Jennifer Faucher
Bernie Kahn
Carl Franklin
Herb Hennings
Carol Bristol
Rocco Brindisi
Edward Krajewski
Mark Seidner
Thomas E McKinney
Michael Nedvesky
Radhakrishna Mohan
Victoria Baker(Ex-Officio)

Health and Safety Committee

Rocco Brindisi—Co-Chair
Patricia Mason
Kurien Medayil
Thomas McKinney
Bruce Simmons
Ed Krajewski
Brenda Boston-Hudson

Grievance Committee

Bernie Kahn,
Carl Franklin, Herb Hennings and
Brenda Boston-Hudson

Other Committees!!!

Retirement & Member Committee—Herb Hennings, Chair
Statewide Veterans Committee (Region 10)—Michele Sisak, Chair
Elections: Bernie Kahn, Chair
Budget Committee—Felix Grimes, Chair
Constitution & By-laws Committee—Hal Friedman(Chair), Philis Martin, Bert Carroll and Kurien Medayil
Audit Committee—Mark Seidner, Demarris Torres, Wayne Roache
Communication—Victoria Baker, Bert Carroll, Mark Seidner, Carol Benton and Valry Reynolds
Benefits — Carol Benton (Chair), Bernie Kahn and Matthew Litt

Committee Reports!!!

LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORT:

By Ted Vazquez, Statewide Labor- Management Chair

The Statewide Labor/Management meeting was held on 9/04/03. Lead topics of discussion were as follows:

Medical Case Manager Titles:

PEF is pursuing the matter further legally and with Civil Service department.

Hearing Rep Upgrade proposal:

It is under active consideration of the management and closely pursued by PEF.

Promotional Units:

PEF is awaiting the management decision to make one list instead of upstate and downstate list.

Out of title work:

PEF is currently pursuing with management for cessation of Investigator duties that are performed by CSR 1.

Travel Policies & Procedures:

In the light of new Travel policies and Procedures, PEF will be discussing with the Management the effects of these changes and address any issues in this regard.

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT:

Updates by Rocco Brindisi, Co-Chair and Executive Board Member:

199 Church St:

Blast resistant windows have been installed on floors 2 to 15.

NYSIF will be the first company in the nation to soon install blast resistant 'revolving door' in the lobby.

By year end 14th floor will be renovated and a new lunch room will be located on 15th floor with vending machines and 4 new commercial microwaves.

Additional Emergency lights and florescent lights were installed in the stairwells of the building. Portable evacuation chairs for our disabled employees have been placed

in Stairwell A.

A fire alarm will be installed soon so that the alarm goes off at the fire command center.

Other District Offices:

Security Cameras have been installed in Building 1 and Building 8 in Albany.

Security Cameras will be installed in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse.

Building-wide Emergency plan is in place at Endicott.

Special carpeting will be placed over the existing carpeting in Rochester so as not to disturb tiles.

Elevator problems at Melville have been corrected.

**CPR & AED Trained Personnel
List along with the location of De-
fibrillator will soon be on NYSIF
Intranet site for easy access of in-
formation !**