



PEF Ground Zero Awards For Division 240 members!

On November 14, 2002, PEF organized an award function for those State Workers who worked at the Ground Zero helping and counseling those affected by the 9/11 tragedy. The event was well attended by over 300 members including the Honorees .

President Roger Benson stated that the PEF members had participated in every aspect, meeting the challenges of September 11 tragedy. PEF takes great pride in recognizing the invaluable services provided by these members and honoring them with PEF instituted awards. In addition Region 10 Coordinator Jennifer Faucher gave high praise for those who volunteered to be at service at Ground Zero and

the dedicated work these state workers had shown in helping those affected by the 9/11 tragedy.

The following State Insurance Fund employees have received awards for their volunteer service at Ground Zero:

Laurence Adams, Raymond Arroyo, Norman Bumgardner, Gary Dombroff, Ula Grant, Christian B. Glorius, Richard Hoffer, Trevor Jackson, James Jaegar, Shelford John, Susan Kornbluth, Estelle Margolin, Lynne Sklamberg, Louis Vassallo and Barbara Williams.

The Ground Zero Award function featured documentary film on the PEF memorial for the 34 PEF

members who fell victim during this tragedy . Exemplifying PEF's commitment to help its members during the hours of crisis,

Vice President Patricia Baker dedicated this film to the victims and their fami-



Division 240 Ground Zero Honorees

lies.

We at Division 240 congratulate our members for their service and the award they richly deserve.



“Vets for Vets” - Veteran Day Honor



At its November meeting, “Vets for Vets” Secretary Jack Lim honored NYSIF veterans for their selfless service during the September 11 tragedy.

Chris Glorius of ITS, NYC office, Raymond Arroyo of Administration, NYC Office, Larry

Adams of Group 90 Metro, NYC Office, Tonya-King of Group 90 Metro, NYC Office, Trevor Jackson of White Plains Office, SIF. All of these veterans worked tirelessly in different branches of the Army to deal with the aftermath of

9/11 tragedy. Regional Coordinator Jennifer Faucher has appointed Michelle Sisak as the next Chair for Division 240 Veterans Chair in place of Jack Lim who retired recently from SIF.



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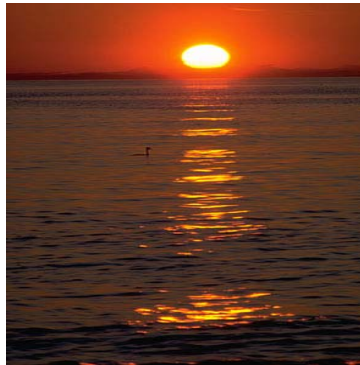
Holiday Celebrations!!
Christmas-Hanukkah-Kwanzaa
New Year!!

Friday December 20, 2002
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Food-Open Bar-Door Prizes-Music
Location:
NYC PEF OFFICE
136 Church St @ Warren Street

The New Team—Council Members, Division 240

The following team of Shop Stewards representing our Division 240 Council had been elected for a term of 2 years.

Radhakrishna Mohan (Council Leader— NYC), **Victoria Baker** (Secretary-NYC), **Carol Bristol** (Assistant Council Leader— Endicott), **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** (Chair Nominee, Health and Safety Com



mittee-Buffalo), Felix Grimes (Chair, Budget Committee-NYC), **Herb Hennings** (Chair Member Mobilization Committee), **Walter Hough** (Albany), **Sophie Kelly-Carbonare** (Albany), **Patricia Mason** (Albany),

Kimberly Mayhan (Albany), **Katherine Cazchorowski** (Buffalo), **Mark Seidner** (Melville), **Kurian Medayil** (Melville), **Dreama Davis** (Melville), **Carol Benton** –NYC, **Hal Friedman**-NYC, **Raymond Palmer**-NYC, **Bruce Werner**-NYC, **Thomas McKinney** (Rochester), **Michael Nedvesky** (Syracuse), **Bruce Simmons** (Syracuse), **Brenda Boston-Hudson** (White Plains) and **Ed Krajewski** (White Plains).

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.

Joint CSEA/PEF SUPPORT FOR 'SEFA'

The 2002 State Employees Federated Appeal Campaign is underway, and we urge our entire membership at the State Insurance Fund participate as generously as possible. Our unions have always supported SEFA, and we are reaching out to every one of our members.

In a troubled economy, with business slowdowns and layoffs, many individuals and families need our help more than

ever before. As State employees, we should give thanks for the blessings that we have, and be more than willing to do our part to help our neighbors in need.

Our union President Roger Benson has officially endorsed SEFA, and we urge PEF members to contribute to charities of their choice.

"Payroll deduction is the best way to give: If you don't see it, you don't miss it"
-Mr. Ken Ross, CEO, NYSIF

Please visit the SEFA information pages on the FUND's Intranet site (click on the "SEFA@NYSIF" link). Even a modest dollar per pay period goes a long way towards helping according to Gary Dombroff, SEFA downstate coordinator. Your contribution will be very much appreciated.

PEF RETIREES

The following PEF members retired as of 10/29/2002. We wish them a happy and healthy retired life.

Albany: John Bourdeau, Lewis Di-Caterino, Mary Ellen Dix, Val Robert

Buffalo: Catherine Madigan

Nassau: Carol Brill, Robert Razzano, Mamie Sprauve

New York: Oscar Barros, Bernice Benja-

min, Thomas Dwyer, Fred Feldstein, Robin Ferencz-Kotfica, Walter Flowers, Arvella Haynes, Harold Huges, Augustine Joseph, Marie Juste, Jack Lim, Jonathan Lin, Suresh Modi, Nansaram Bajjnauth, Alan Nazer, Kumud Patel, Ronald Purifoy, Weilhern Rock, Evette Sapirman, Joseph Silio, Arnold Spector, Rajni J Vyas, Alexis Williams, Luther Williams

Rochester: Susan Crellin, Renate Gill,

Pennie Misuraca, Judith Palma, Bonnita Reynolds, Donald Shea, Sharon Wandtke

Suffolk: Rhona Abrams, James Citera, Louis Guardino, Francis Hanson, Anna Maria Maxwell

Syracuse: Kenneth Bauer, Richard Beardsley, Carolyn Chesley, Barbara Epler, Linda Grastorf, Charmaine Hauff

White Plains: Michael Dush, Seymour Feder, Frederick Jaeger

The Union's Role as Watchdog — by Jennifer Faucher, Regional Coordinator, Region 10

As Regional Coordinator, I can attest to the fact that the union's role as watch dog pays off for our members in the long run. Union members do have rights! Over the years, there have been many violations of article 12.17 of our contract, time-keeping. Situations arise when supervisors claim that they were not aware that they could not be the "timekeeper" for our members, who are professionals.

As professional employees, we tend to be goal oriented. We are about accomplishing the mission of the State Insurance Fund. Sometimes in order to meet the standards that we set for ourselves, we work beyond our seven and a half hours. That is why article 12.17 states that: No employees in this unit shall be required to punch a time clock or record attendance

with a timekeeper. Under this contract article, the employee is required to maintain their own time records.

There are so many instances when the union as watchdog has resolved problems before they become grievances. Article 34.4 of the PEF contract encourages PEF to try to solve the problem before the formal process is needed. We can be much more effective with your help. When a problem arises, let your steward know.

There is a wealth of information that you can acquire from being part of your region's events. Networking is important. For those in NYC your next opportunity will be at the Region 10 Open House on December 18. Ask your steward for the details. In the meantime, enjoy the holidays.



Executive Board Report — by Bernie Kahn, Executive Board Member, PEF Division 240

It is with great pleasure that OUR divisional newsletter is back in business I want to thank our council leader, Mohan, for his leadership and the opportunity to write this article.

At the most recent quarterly executive board meeting held 11/21-11/22/2002 in Albany PEF President Roger Benson gave his report. This report is both informative and inspirational. It highlights the last few month's activities as well as setting a road map for the upcoming months or years.

The most important topic is of course the contract! President Benson stated he will NOT accept a contract with ANY major concessions, major health insurance increases or Zero's. The contract team is in place and well-trained and he expects negotiations to start after the New Year. Patience is a keyword, and I would state it fair to say that due to budgetary constraints, NOT expected early! Transit check as a pilot

"The budgetary situation, nationally and locally, will affect us ALL in the coming year!"

program is to start early 2003 with SIF as one of the agencies picked for the project.

There was a presentation regarding the budgetary situation, both nationally and locally, which will affect us ALL in the coming year!

ing year!

I wish you ALL a happy and healthy holiday season and look forward to writing regularly in OUR divisional newsletter.

Retirement Party for Harold Huges and Jack Lim!!



Harold Huges: Harold Huges who joined SIF in 1977 has been elected for four consecutive terms as Council Leader of Division 240. During his tenure as Council Leader, Mr.

Huges led PEF Division 240 through difficult times and made his valuable contribution to the members of this division. A retirement party was held aboard Spirit

Cruises on December 5, 2002. PEF President Roger Benson and other important union members attended the party. Mr. Huges continues his community and Church service actively even after retirement. We wish him all the best.

Jack Lim: A retirement party was held on November 22, 2002 at Captain's Ketch Restaurant for Mr. Jack Lim which was organized by the Field Services Dept. Mr. Lim who joined SIF in 1977 had held many



offices as Executive Board Member, Council Leader and Chair for 'Vets for Vets' which he started at NYSIF in 1986. A Vietnam Veteran, he served with the 101st Airborne. His pleasant personality and dedicated service to the members will be missed. We wish him all the best.





A Tribute to 9/11 Heroes!!

NYS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FEDERATION DIVISION 240

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Team Work!!!

PEF Website
www.nyspef.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—Chair
Walter Hough
Carol Bristol
Dreama Davis
Thomas McKinney
Michael Nedvesky
Ed Krajewski
Brenda Boston-Hudson

Grievance Committee

Bernie Kahn
Carl Franklin, Herb Hennings

Other Committees!!!

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

Committee Reports!!!

LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORT:

By Ted Vazquez, Statewide Labor-Management Chair

The Labor-Management Committee meets quarterly with SIF Management to discuss matters affecting our members statewide. The Committee is comprised of Stewards representing all District Offices of the SIF. At the last meeting held on 9/19/2002 the following topics were discussed.

- A) Civil Service Examinations: PEF requested dates and minimum qualifications for the next series of Civil Service examinations slated for 2003. Titles to be tested according to Management are the CSR 2 & 3; Underwriter 2 & 3; PHSR 2 & 3; and the Hearing Representative.
- B) Direct Deposit of Travel Checks: PEF and Management are in agreement that this would be worth while pursuit. SIF is looking into the me-

chanics.

- C) The Department of Civil Service has not approved the new titles for the MCR's. Meanwhile, PEF had received an affirming decision of the Article 78 enforcement of the out-of-title work grievance for the MCR's. The decision was appealed by Management and is awaiting review.
- D) Hearing Rep Upgrade Proposal: PEF has submitted a proposal to upgrade the Hearing Rep title.
- E) Alternative Work Schedules: PEF asked Administration for a statewide policy in the matter.
- F) Transit Check: PEF and Management are in agreement that his program should be implemented. SIF has established communication with GOER.

The next meeting will be on 1/9/2003.

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT:

Updates by Rocco Brindisi, Chair, H&S

199 Church St: More security features are added including new mailroom on 13th floor.

Hempstead: Disaster Recovery Area is being setup.

Rochester: Certain asbestos problem being followed up with SIF management.

Defibrillator:

It has been almost a year since the initial training and re-certifications will be due very shortly.

Evacuation Plan: Copies of the new Evacuation Plan were reviewed. Training for all wardens will be held shortly.

Health & Safety Conference: The next PEF/GOER Health and Safety conference will be held from 1/30/03 to 2/1/03 in Albany at Crown Plaza.

