



A Pontiff For Human Rights



PEF-SIF NEWS



NYS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FEDERATION DIVISION 240

# To Protect State Jobs "Go Public" Campaign



New York Senate Majority Leader Joseph L Bruno and PEF President Roger Benson at the 'GO PUBLIC' rally which was organized in front of the State Capitol Building in Albany on June 8, 2005. More than thousand PEF members participated in the rally to press the State Government to pass the bills regarding disclosure of state contracts and number of employees hired on a contract basis and registration of lobbyists with the lobbying commission.

The above bills, supported by PEF, have passed in both the houses.

## Congratulations To NYSIF For H&S Award!

New York State Insurance Fund was awarded a Health & Safety Award recently at the New York State/PEF Health & Safety conference in Albany on May 13, 2005. Director of Service Operations John Bussman received the award on behalf of NYSIF. NYSIF was cited for safety in workplace, for installing blast resistant windows and other safety measures at NYC and other district offices. PEF/GOER Statewide H & S Committee Co-Chair Rocco Brindisi and PEF Health & Safety Director Jonathan Rosen are also seen in the picture.



Roger E. Benson President  
Jane Hallum Secretary-Treasurer

## A Change In Leadership At PEF

President Roger Benson and Secretary and Treasurer Jane Hallum announced that they will not seek reelection for their respective positions during 2006. Mr. Benson and Ms. Hallum made a great contribution to make PEF successfully represent state workers and protect their rights.

We wish them the best in their future endeavors and thank them for their great leadership and vision.

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## PEF Contract Books

The Contract Administration of PEF has notified all the divisions that New York State has signed-off on the text of the 2003-2007 Contract Books for PEF members. The Contract Books will be printed soon and our members will receive the books shortly.



# The Team—Council Members, Division 240



## UPDATED

### SHOP STEWARDS LIST:

Radhakrishna Mohan (Council Leader— NYC), Katherine Czachorowski (Secretary-Buffalo), Mark Seidner (Assistant Council Leader—Nassau), Matthew Litt (Assistant Council Leader—NYC), Jennifer Faucher (Region Coordinator-Region 10, NYC), Bernie Kahn (Executive Board Member—NYC), Carl Franklin (Executive Board Member and Treasurer-NYC), Rocco Brindisi (Executive Board member and Co-Chair, Health and Safety Committee-Buffalo), Thomas McKinney (Chair, Labor Management Committee, Rochester), Herb Hennings (Albany), Laura Lindbloom (Albany), Patricia McMahon (Albany), Patricia Mason (Albany),

Pamela Springer (Albany), Teddy Vazquez (Suffolk), Kurian Medayil (Nassau), Dreama Rainey-Davis (Suffolk), Joseph Allencherry (Suffolk); Christopher Rampe, Carol Benton, Hal Friedman, Raymond Palmer, Ben Gamoran, Robert Labella, Kenneth Johnson, Mathunny Jose, Nishith Shah, Victoria Baker, Felix Grimes (NYC); Sheryl Sperry (Syracuse), Eric A Ngwashi (Syracuse); Cherian Thomas (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.

**"It is one of the characteristics of a free and democratic nation that is have free and independent labor unions."**  
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

## LABOR NEWS



**John Sweeney, AFL-CIO president, said a "divided movement hurts the hopes of working families for a better life."**

### Teamsters, SEIU Quit AFL-CIO

Citing that unions aren't growing and policies aren't working, the Teamsters and SEIU (Service Employees International Union) voted on 7/25/05 to withdraw from AFL-CIO. At present PEF is affiliated to SEIU.

## Tsunami Relief Funds

- Thank You Mr. Ross For Your Support

In a coordinated effort through volunteers from all district offices and New York City offices, which included both CSEA and PEF members, a sum of \$12,355 dollars has been raised for the Tsunami Relief Funds. The collected money has been distributed more or less equitably to various relief agencies with emphasis on children's relief funds, per the advice of Mr. Ross since children were the most affected by this human disaster. Mr. Ross has encouraged the relief effort with his full support and was kind enough to sign the appreciation certificates to the volunteers of Tsunami Relief Efforts.

### Tsunami Relief Effort Volunteers New York City Office:

Anita Booker, Harpreet Attreya, Bhmesh Desai, Nishith Shah, Matthew Litt, Gino Carlay, Sumaneah Khodai, Anil Dixit, Sarath Ekanayake, Helen Roberts, Arya Ranasinghe, Daval Shah, Radhakrishna Mohan, Michele Sisak, Jackie Stanford, Una Hutson, Carl Franklin, Bernie Kahn, Linda Dalton  
**Albany (Building 8)** - Armando Muniz, Deborah Riley  
**Albany (Building 15)** - Patricia Mason, Edward Obbertubbesing  
**Albany (Watervliet)** - Ray Callanan,  
**Buffalo** - Kathy Czachorowski, Rocco Brindisi, Dortha Toporek, Kathy Puzan

**Endicott** - Catherine Kozlowski  
**Nassau** - Kurian Medayil  
**Suffolk** - Dreama Rainey-Davis, Paula Plotkins  
**Rochester** - Rita Novakowski, David Hutchinson  
**Syracuse** - Mary Lou Angarano, Sheryl Sperry, Kathleen Campbell  
**White Plains** - Edward Krajewski, Raji Iyer, Carl Heitner, Deborah Van Wagner, Marisela Tavaréz, Veena Puri, Ingrid Peirre-Lorick, Pamela Loh, Pamela Ash, Sonia Flores-Diaz, Sophia Green, Clayton Webster, Henrietta Broadie, Jessie Abraham, Hormis Thekkekunnel, Felicia Smith.

**We thank and appreciate all the volunteers for their great work in raising the relief funds for Tsunami victim's rehabilitation.**



### Daily Worksite Jokes

A worker who was being paid by the week approached his employer and held up his last paycheck. "This is two hundred dollars less than we agreed on," he said.

"I know," the employer said. "But last week I overpaid you two hundred dollars, and you never complained."

"Well, I don't mind an occasional mistake," the worker answered, "but when it gets to be a habit, I feel I have to call it to your attention."



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**PEF Benefit day at Albany in August, 2005**

**PEF Convention at Rochester September 18-20, '05**

**PEF 240 Council Meeting - 09/28/2005**

**PEF 240 L&M Meeting - 09/29/2005**



# Events



## PEF Division 240 Health & Safety Team



PEF Division Council Members who attended the New York State/PEF Health and Safety Conference held in Albany in May 12-14, 2005, are seen here with Director of Service Operations John Bussman, who came to receive the Health and Safety award on behalf of NYSIF at the conference.

## Konnor & Brennan NYSIF Walk Team For Autism Cure



In support of NYSIF employee Christopher Rampe's children, NYSIF distributed T-shirts to the volunteers who participated in the NYC Walk For Autism Cure that was held on June 4th, 2005 at Battery Park in Lower Manhattan. Thanks to CEO Ken Ross and Deputy Executive and Marketing Director Ann Formel for their whole hearted support for the NYC Walk for Autism Cure.

## PEF Division 240 Delegates For 2005 PEF Convention

**The following PEF Division 240 members have been elected for the 27th PEF Convention to be held in Rochester from September 18-21, 2005.**

This is PEF's 27th Annual Convention and during this convention the participating delegates debate and discuss to pass important resolutions that is normally has to be endorsed by the general body of PEF.

- Albany** - Herbert Hennings, Patricia Mason, Patricia McMahon
- Buffalo** - Rocco Brindisi, Katherine Czachorowski, Daniel Warren
- Endicott** - Catherine Kozlowski

- Melville** - (Nassau) Mark Seidner, Kurian Medayil (Suffolk) Teddy Vazquez, Dreama Rainey-Davis, Joseph Allencherry
- New York City** - Carol Benton, John Bradley Jr, Jennifer Faucher, Carl Franklin, Hal Friedman, Benjamin Gamoran, Joseph Gamoran, Felix Grimes, Kenneth Johnson, Bernard Kahn, Radhakrishna Mohan, Raymond Palmer, Nishith Shah, Heather Spencer, Robert LaBella
- Rochester** - Thomas McKinney, Joseph Kania
- Syracuse** - Michael Nedvesky, A. Eric Ngwashi
- Whiteplains** - Charles Holodak

**Congratulations to all the delegates!**

## PEF 240 Members At The 'Go Public'



Jennifer Faucher (NYC) and Cathy Kozlowski (Endicott) at the rally.

## OTHER NEWS

### AED/Defibrillator Training at NYC Office

Three AED/Defibrillator training sessions were conducted at the NYC office by American Heart Association. About 47 Volunteers have undertaken the training and were certified to provide first aid in case of emergency for co-workers in the office. Similar recertification training is being conducted in all NYSIF district offices.

### Guyana Flood Relief

PEF coordinated efforts to raise \$1030 for Guyana Flood Relief at the NYC office. Thanks to the following volunteers who spear-headed the relief donation drive. Shayna McPherson, Roshan Palacio, Michele Sisak, Chris Rampe, Linda Dalton, Carl Franklin and Nishith Shah. The relief money was donated to 'Guyana Flood Relief/OSHAG'.



### Daily Worksite Jokes

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees.

"Yes, Sir." the employee replied.

"Well, then, that makes everything just fine," the boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you."



A Tribute to US Soldiers in War

**NYS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
FEDERATION DIVISION 240**

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**One Team, One Mission!**

**Visit Our Website at**  
[www.pef240.org](http://www.pef240.org)

**Division 240 Committees**

**Labor Management  
Committee**

Chair Tom McKinney  
Jennifer Faucher  
Bernie Kahn  
Carl Franklin  
Herb Hennings  
Patricia Mason  
Rocco Brindisi  
Edward Krajewski  
Mark Seidner  
Ted Vazquez  
Sheryl Sperry  
Cathy Kozlowski  
Radhakrishna Mohan  
Secretary Katherine Czachorowski

**Health and Safety Committee**

Co-Chair Rocco Brindisi  
Patricia Mason  
Kurian Medayil  
Tom McKinney  
A Eric Ngwashi  
Ed Krajewski  
Cherian Thomas  
Kenneth Johnson  
Cathy Kozlowski  
Teddy Vazquez

**Grievance Committee**

Herbert Hennings  
Tom McKinney, A Eric Ngwashi,  
Daniel Warren

**Other Committees**

**Retirement & Membership:** Chair Herb Hennings,  
**Statewide Veterans (Region 10):** Chair Michele Sisak  
**Elections :** Chair Bernie Kahn, Victoria Baker  
**Budget :** Chair Felix Grimes, Carl Franklin, Mathunny Jose  
**Constitution & By-laws:** Chair Raymond Palmer, Hal Friedman, Kurian Medayil,  
Daniel Warren and Philis Martin  
**Audit** —Ben Gamoran, Demarris Torres and Wayne Roache  
**Communication&Cultural :** Chair Dreama Rainey-Davis, Carol Benton, Matthew  
Litt , Mark Seidner, Nishith Shah, Teddy Vazquez and Chris Rampe  
**Benefits :** Chair Carol Benton, Nishith Shah , Matthew Litt and Kurian Medayil

**Committee Reports**

**LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

**By Statewide Labor-Management  
Chair Tom McKinney:**

The Statewide Labor/Management meeting was held on 6/16/05 (Teddy Vazquez substituted for Tom McKinney)  
Lead topics of discussion were:

**Medical Case Manager Titles:**

PEF independently filed an objection as the job description did not satisfy MCR's.

**Hearing Rep Upgrade proposal:**

In the light of recent denial of Hearing Rep. upgrade, further steps are under discussion.

**Joint L/M Training:**

A two day joint L/M training of Management and L&M Team is being planned in the month of August, 2005.

**Title Standards:**

Development of title standards and job

descriptions are complete and are at management's discretion.

**Personnel files copying:**

Management is considering copying personnel files in house rather than by outside vendors.

**HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**REPORT:**

**By Co-Chair and Executive Board  
Member Rocco Brindisi:**

**199 Church St:**

Blast resistant windows have been installed on floors 2 to 15 with fortification changes around the building.

Completion of Cafeteria on the 15th floor

Three AED training sessions has been given to 52 First responders at NYC office by American Heart Association. Our Executive Director Ken Ross also participated.

NYSIF will install Defibrillator on each floor of the building at NYC. NYSIF is

ahead of rest of agencies in this regard.

**Other District Offices:**

Emergency plans are updated every 2-3 months at all the offices.

Plans are afoot to use the 2nd floor space as a disaster relief area at the White Plains Office.

A second disaster site is also being set up on the fourth floor of the Hempstead office.

Names for Health & Safety Award nominations have been received and will be announced soon.

A proposal for a Job Stress Workshop has been discussed and is being explored.

**Rocco Brindisi** who is also the Co-chair PEF/GOER, Statewide Health & Safety Committee, has been congratulated for his efficient organizing of the recently held Health & Safety Conference in Albany at the PEF 240 Council Meeting held on 6/15/2005.