



## Onondaga County Employees

# UNION INFO IBLAST

Thursday, July 2, 2009

### **UNION NEWS: Retiree Health Insurance Issue Update**

As we reported recently, CSEA had scheduled a meeting with County representatives to attempt to negotiate any changes to retiree health insurance, rather than have the County make changes through Legislative action. It remains our desire to try and get language secured in our contract that would protect your rights from having these benefits unilaterally changed at the will of politicians in the future. Currently our contract remains silent on retiree health insurance eligibility and contribution rates, thus leaving those benefits vulnerable to Legislative changes, like those which are currently being proposed.

On Tuesday, June 30, our Unit Presidents and Labor Relations Specialists met with the County to exchange proposals and discuss our positions. At this meeting, we shared a proposal that was non-specific in terms of potential contribution rates dependent on years of service, as we were still waiting for information from the County. We have now received that information and are in the process of finalizing our proposal which we will share with the County at our next meeting, scheduled for next Thursday, July 9. County Director of Employee Relations Peter Troiano did commit to sharing our initial proposal with the County Executive.

In the meantime, CSEA has continued to reach out through our Political Action Department to urge our County Legislators to not move forward with any legislation over this issue, until such time as both parties have had the time to conclude our negotiations. That said, it would not hurt to have you call your County Legislator and reinforce our message, urging him or her to hold off on voting on any retiree health insurance changes until after the Union and County have finished negotiating the issue.

We promise to keep you informed as we continue to protect your rights.

**Your CSEA Onondaga County Leadership**

