

# Weekly Word



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John Vasko

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## 2006 Ed Grabowski Scholarship Winners

I am pleased to announce the winners of this year's scholarships. Each winner will receive a \$1000 scholarship. Usually, there are only two scholarships awarded each year, but since there was no scholarship contest held last year, we are providing four this year.

The winners were chosen from a group of eight applicants. I want to thank all who applied and encourage every applicant to excel in school this coming year. I also hope that each winner remembers the little help that the labor movement has given to gain this education and to devote their lives to "paying it forward." by helping other people that they meet on their life journey.

### The Winners

Eliud Mendez Jr  
Shannon Nealon  
Joseph Hayflinger  
Gary Rumpf Jr.

### Proud Member

Esther Mendez  
Sheila Nealon  
Sandi Hayflinger  
Joyce Rumpf



"I am really surprised: I never win anything. This will help me become a licensed electrician. Thank you to the Union, and I am marching again (3<sup>rd</sup> time) on Labor Day."

Gary Rumpf Jr.



"I want to thank the Federation for this awarded scholarship and during both my academic and work years I will strive to "make a difference". Thank you "

Joe Hayflinger

"I would just like to say thank you to the scholarship

committee for choosing me as one of the winners of the scholarship. I am very grateful and know that the money will be a great help to me in the furthering of my education into the field of veterinary medicine. I will be attending Cornell University in the fall and am sure that the award will be of great help in the future.



Congratulations to the other three winners of the scholarship and once again, thank you for my award."

- Eliud Mendez Jr.

## Labor Day Parade

Keep watching the flyers that are distributed regarding the annual Labor Day parade being held on September 4<sup>th</sup> this year. The Executive board has voted to give each person marching with the Federation contingent a movie pass.

Directly after the parade there will be a family picnic at Cobb's Hill Park.

Please call Joyce at the Federation office to say if you are marching and how many people are marching with you so that we have enough tickets for your group.

As with last year's parade, we ask that you and your group wear red shirts to the parade. Also...don't forget to bring the zinnias you have been growing this summer to make the float a truly beautiful thing to view.

## Mileage Reimbursement

I have heard from one person that has received their denied mileage claim from last year. I don't know if that means she was the only person who received the payment. Please respond to this email so I know where we stand on this matter.

## Union Communications

The ability to spread information throughout the membership was greatly increased with the ability to distribute news via email and I thank the County for having this opportunity. The other methods of communication are by postings on Union bulletin boards and through the steward and team captain pass outs to your desks.

Unfortunately communication stops when you don't read the information. If the material is sent and you choose not to read it, please do not complain to your steward or others that you did not know about something happening when it was clearly communicated through one or more of these methods.

## Golf Tournament Success!

Our first golf tournament held Sunday August 13 was a huge success. The tournament was held to raise money for the Ed Grabowski Memorial Scholarship fund and for Christopher's Challenge. There were 77 golfers and 88 folks for dinner. I think about 70 people were screened and became part of the Marrow Donor Program, too. The weather was superb and I didn't hit anyone with a golf ball. Who could ask for more?

True to her word, Commissioner Kelly Reed came to greet the golfers and to extend her best wishes (plus support the fundraising in a very generous way). Could this be a change in the wind from the past few years' experience?

My hat is off to the Planning co-chairs Ed Thomas and Ginny Baggs and to Markethold Productions for ensuring a successful event. As soon as the figures are tallied, we'll report the amounts of money raised for this event and the businesses and leaders in this community that sponsored parts of the event.

## Casework Workload Survey

From September 11-22, Monroe County will be joining 10 other districts in a state sponsored workload survey in an effort to establish acceptable individual caseload sizes. This is an historic endeavor that culminates from years of testimony regarding inadequate staffing levels and recent tragic incidents with children across the state.

You may approach this survey feeling that you do not have time to add yet another task to your daily regimen. **Change your thought process!!** This is the first statewide study regarding workload that I am aware of. The potential to establish statewide guidelines greatly increases the possibility of finally achieving a manageable caseload. This could allow you the opportunity to really safeguard the children in your care and to give you some peace of mind when you leave the job for the day.

This is only a two week commitment that you must take very seriously. You must account for each minute that you spend doing casework...even if it's beyond your seven hour day and the overtime you are

working. You know what I'm saying...the time when you come in early, work through lunch and breaks, and stay late that you do not claim as work time. If you do not truly account for all the time you give, there will never be an accurate way of determining the level of staffing necessary to protect children in your care.

**Bite the bullet and complete the survey!**

## Union Mergers

We have had two meetings with other IUE-CWA locals exploring the possibility of merging into one large local. Should this merger take place, each local would have to develop terms of the merger and would then seek approval from their respective executive boards and memberships. It is unclear how long these merger talks will last before any proposals are presented, or whether the mergers will happen at once or unit by unit.

The bottom line of the merger is to create a more efficient and effective labor organization within this area whose purpose is to increase the bargaining and representation power of the merged locals. The other major hope is to finally be able to develop a greater organizing capacity. It is my firm belief that a larger membership increases our stature within the IUE-CWA and the CWA as well as within the local political arena.

I will keep you posted as discussions progress.

## 2006 Labor Film Series

The Labor Film Series at the Dryden Theatre begins anew on September 1. Each film represents a labor perspective on the plight of workers in the United States and across the world. Each program starts promptly at 8pm, often with a discussion about the film's purpose. Tickets are required and provided by calling the Union office. There is no charge if you get the ticket through us.

September 1	<i>Which Way is Up?</i>
September 8	<i>Sir! No Sir!</i>
September 15	<i>Isn't This a Time!</i>
September 22	<i>Bubble</i>
September 29	<i>Lost in America</i>
October 6	<i>Who Needs Sleep</i>
October 13	<i>Goin' Down the Road</i>
October 20	<i>Five Easy Pieces</i>
October 27	<i>Our Daily Bread</i>

## Mark Your Calendars!!!

**October 18<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting**

*5:30pm Union Office*

**October 19<sup>th</sup> Human Service Worker of the Year Awards, Lunch time, Rochester Riverside Convention Center**