

SERVING THE WORKING PERSON

Outgoing President Steven Perruccio's Column, Printed from the February 2007 Newspaper:

I quietly began my employment with CEUI in January 1970 and over 37 years later I remember countless skirmishes, battles and wars in the crusade to improve the lives of working people. To choose an event as the "best" or most "beneficial" to CEUI members and their families, in my opinion, is impossible because each victory has meant something important to members.

The successes would not, more accurately, could not, have occurred if it were not for the members who volunteered to help a family in need, who served as a steward, who served on a committee, who participated in political campaigns, who walked with pickets and protestors, and, importantly, who stood up to be counted. Thank you for all you did to help!

To the loyal staff, decades of many active and (now) retired members can tell you based on personal experience how conscientious, dedicated, loyal and hard working you have been and are today. Staff made the difference in every way possible. Thank you, Connie, Lisa and Sue. Tracy, you made the last 5 tough years a lot easier. Thank you!

To the Executive Board, you are top shelf. If it were not for your tenacious adherence to your convictions our members would not enjoy many of the benefits they have today: salaries have almost doubled and a 20 year pension/medical contract is the envy of every Connecticut newspaper editorial board. Your leadership will continue to improve the benefits and working conditions of members for a very long time.

So who was here before me? Joy Bylan and Ed Lynch, two individuals who played an integral role in almost every critical issue over several decades. On a personal note, if I could turn the clock back and change several decisions in line with the advice they gave, I would do so in a heart beat.

In 1970, shortly after starting my State job as an assistant storekeeper for DAS, Middletown Central Warehouse, Frozen Food (minus 30 degrees) Department, I said to myself, I will turn 55 in August 2006, so I will retire April 2007. So I signed the papers in early January 2007.

Dear members, I kept my intentions to myself so you would be the first to know. I have tried to be available seven days a week and as many hours as it took, and as often as possible to assist and serve you in any and every way possible. I never said never. When necessary I fought and now I will quietly leave with good health. Thank you for letting me serve you, God bless and please don't tell me what kind of retirement to have!