



WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

WOMEN WORKING

2018



Lacey Weber & Dionne Welch (cover)

Both Chemical Operators • Momentive Performance Materials • IUE-CWA Local 81359 (Communications Workers of America) • Lacey, Co-Chair; Dionne, Shop Steward and Co-Chair



During the recent strike at Momentive, Lacey and Dionne worked tirelessly to make sure the children and grandchildren of every family of striking Locals 81359 and 81380 got the Christmas assistance they needed. They took the effort to network, shop, gather, coordinate, and collect whatever gifts they could, and partnered with

Unions like NYSUT, NYSNA, CWA, USW, CSEA, PEF, and firefighters. During their own strike they also supported Honeywell Workers and others in need in the community.



Lacey, a new member of Local 81359, jumped right into the recent strike with amazing energy and dedication. Dionne has been a shop steward for several years. She has helped form the women's committee and is an active member in CLUW (Coalition of Labor Union Women). She continues to help lead the effort to take on any and all

issues for women in the workplace. Together, these two represent the future of women in the labor movement. They've been an inspiration to their union brothers and sisters.

Jennifer Andrus

Assignment Editor/Producer • WNYT-TV NewsChannel 13 and WNYA-TV My4 – Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc. • National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (NABET)/Communications Workers of America, Local 21 (CWA)



Jennifer is central to the news gathering process at NewsChannel 13. As the assignment editor, she develops story ideas, schedules shoots, responds to breaking news, and develops community relationships. Jennifer makes a point to show fairness and inclusion

when covering union and management stories in the Capital Region. She looks for opportunities to highlight issues important to working families across NewsChannel 13's 14 county coverage area.

Elizabeth Cassada

Foreman • S&L Electric • IBEW Local 910 • Local Union President



Since beginning her apprenticeship in 1979, Elizabeth has been a female pioneer in Northern New York's construction sector. She has worked as Foreman on many projects and has made major contributions of time and effort in her leadership roles with IBEW Local Union 910. She is one of the first females to be

President of an IBEW construction local union. Over the past 18 years, she has made major contributions to the success of the local union by serving in a variety of roles: President of the Local, a member of the Labor Management Committee, a member of the JATC, and a Trustee of the union's benefit funds.

Sandie Forte

Office Manager • United Auto Workers Local 1097 (UAW) • Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU)



Sandie is the office manager for United Auto Workers Local 1097 in Rochester, New York. After working at non-union Kodak during the early 1970's, Sandie landed a job at Delco Products, IUE-CWA, where she valued the union shop's better pay and more equitable

conditions for women. She endured a long-term layoff as a single mother in the late 1970's, but secured another union job at General Motors in a UAW-represented shop. Over her 37-year career, Sandie has counseled every local President and Union Steward, overseen every election, kept finances in order, and made UAW Local 1097 stronger and more active.

Kathy Rodriguez

Public Safety & Police Dispatcher • Orange County, NY and Wallkill Police Department • CSEA • Recording Secretary



For the past 29 years, Kathy has worked as a law enforcement dispatcher in New York and New Jersey. She is currently a Public Safety Dispatcher for Orange County, New York and a Police Dispatcher for the Town of Wallkill Police Department. Kathy has been active in

CSEA for over 20 years and has held various leadership and committee positions representing approximately 4,000 CSEA members in Orange County. She currently serves as the Secretary for CSEA Orange County Local 836 and the First Vice President for CSEA Orange County Unit 7900/7902. In addition, Kathy holds the position of Secretary for both the Town of Wallkill Department of Public Works Unit 7905 and the Hudson Catskill Central Labor Council.

Christina Nieves

Journeyman Ironworker • Gabriel Steel Erectors, Inc. • Iron Workers Local 40



Christina started out as an international flight attendant working for an airline contracted by the Department of Defense. After her brother encouraged her to take a test alongside him for the Iron Workers Union, she decided to trade in her wings for a spud wrench. For the past 5 years, Christina has made many strides to get where she is today

as one of a few female Structural Ironworkers. During her apprenticeship training, she was tasked to climb a 35-foot column in under 30 seconds. She trained herself until she could do it just as swiftly as the men and completed her climb in 12 seconds - a record time for women. Often the only female Ironworker on a site, Christina's work ethic consistently earns the respect of the men on her team and she was quickly promoted to Foreman on the job site for Gabriel Steel Erectors, Inc. Christina is dedicated to her union with the same passion, respect, and integrity she provides to her work. She attends her union's rallies and events, including apprenticeship school/union business, and strives to lend her support to her fellow union sisters throughout any obstacles incurred along the way.

Valerie Thomas

Staff Representative • United Steelworkers • Member of United Steelworkers Local 3657 • International Staff Representative



Valerie has worked for the United Steelworkers since May 1997. In May 2017, she became an International Staff Representative, currently serving 19 units. Under Valerie's co-leadership, the Next Gen program has trained approximately 500 members, many whom

have taken on union positions within their locals in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Puerto Rico. Next Gen members also volunteer in their communities, work on New Hire Orientation programs at their locals, and are very involved in politics and organizing.

Ann Marie Taliercio

President/Business Manager • UNITEHERE Local 150, AFL-CIO • President of the Central New York Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and Executive Council Member of the NYS AFL-CIO



Ann Marie is the President and Business Agent for UNITEHERE Local 150, AFL-CIO, in Syracuse New York. She has been an Executive Council Member of the NYS AFL-CIO since 1991. In 2009, she became the first woman elected in a contested election as President to the Central New York Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Ann Marie's work experience in the hospitality industry combined with her education led her to be a successful local and statewide labor leader. Ann Marie has led numerous campaigns to advance the rights of all workers throughout New York State. She most recently organized the renovated Marriott Downtown Hotel Syracuse and was awarded the NAACP A. Philip Randolph Union Award for her work on social justice issues.

Randi DiAntonio

Licensed Master Social Worker • NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) • Public Employees Federation (PEF) – Finger Lakes DDSO • Council Leader & Executive Board Member



Randi works daily with close to 600 members to educate, organize, and represent the members in her division. She is the Council Leader of PEF Division 259 and a member of PEF's Statewide Executive Board and Statewide Political Action Committee. She also acted as the Interim Regional Coordinator in 2016. Over the

past decade, she has fought layoffs and cuts to services. Randi takes pride in cultivating a new generation of union leaders at her workplace.

Linda Lesnewski

Operator for Water Quality • SUEZ • Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA Local 1-2) • Executive Board



Linda is a UWUA 1-2 member and an Operator for Water Quality, employed by SUEZ. Linda is the Vice President of the WPCLB Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO and the Chair of the Community Services Committee. Within her community, she partners with groups like the Girls Scouts and WPCLB (Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body) to support local women in the workforce.

Kathleen Taylor

Election District Director • Retired, Ulster BOCES • NYSUT • President Upper Hudson Valley Central Labor Council



Mother, teacher, unionist, Kathy taught for 22 years at Ulster County BOCES, where she also served in many capacities in her local union, including Union President. Kathy's love for unions and what they do for all workers inspired her to work with and serve as President of the

Upper Hudson Valley Central Labor Council, eventually becoming the first female President of a Central Labor Council in New York State. Kathy was elected in 2008 to the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) Board of Directors and continues her work on the Board as well as serving on the state committee for the Working Families Party. She has been lucky enough to be recognized by her fellow Unionists by receiving the Mother Jones Award from the HVALF.

Nikki Kateman

Political and Communications Director • Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW



Nikki was raised in a union household and joined the staff of Local 338 in 2007 as an intern while attending college. Since then, she has taken on a number of positions and was promoted to Political and Communications Director earlier this year. Nikki serves on several policy committees on the state and local levels. She is also a Delegate of the

Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO and the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and is a member of the Executive Board of the UFCW Women's Network, a constituency group focused on issues that impact working women and their families.

Norma Chrisman

Educational Technology Specialist • Mohawk Valley Community College • NYSUT/Mohawk Valley Community College Professional Association (MVCC PA) • President



Norma is dedicated to her job, her union, and her community. Her hard work was recognized in 2012 when she received the 2012 SUNY Chancellor's Award in Professional Service. Norma is the president of her local union, as well as the recording secretary for the Central New York Labor Council. She is a member of

NYSUT's Women's Committee, Higher Ed Policy Council, Community College Planning Committee, and the higher education leadership of Election District 39. She plays an active role in youth sports in her community and also fundraises and advocates for the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York.

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Elizabeth Cassada

Foreman
S&L Electric
IBEW Local 910



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Valerie Thomas

Staff Representative
United Steelworkers

United Steelworkers Local 3657



WORKFORCE
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NOV

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Ann Marie Taliercio

President/Business Manager
UNITEHERE Local 150, AFL-CIO

(Photographed to the right of Ann Marie Taliercio is Karen Pavia, Chief UNITEHERE Local 150 Shop Steward)



**WORKFORCE
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Randi DiAntonio

Licensed Master Social Worker

NYS Office for People With
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Public Employees Federation (PEF)
Finger Lakes DDSO



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Linda Lesnewski

Operator for Water Quality
SUEZ

Utility Workers Union of America
(UWUA Local 1-2)



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Sandie Forte

Office Manager

United Auto Workers Local 1097 (UAW)

Office and Professional Employees
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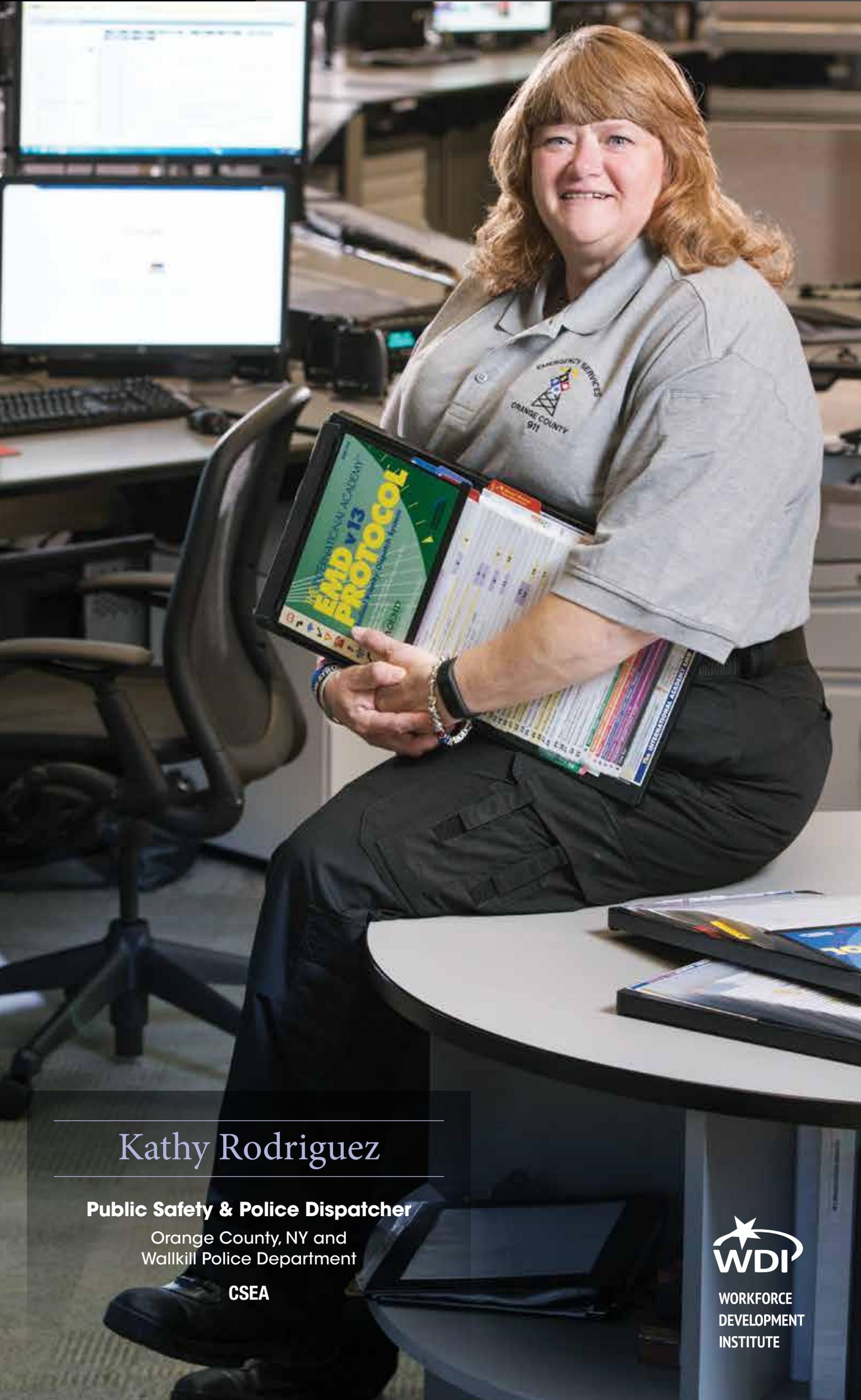

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2018



Kathy Rodriguez

Public Safety & Police Dispatcher

Orange County, NY and
Walkill Police Department

CSEA



WORKFORCE
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Christina Nieves

Journeyman Ironworker
Gabriel Steel Erectors, Inc.
Iron Workers Local 40



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Kathleen Taylor

Election District Director

Retired, Ulster BOCES

NYSUT



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2018



Norma Chrisman

Educational Technology Specialist
Mohawk Valley Community College
NYSUT/Mohawk Valley Community College
Professional Association (MVCC PA)





The **Workforce Development Institute** (WDI) develops, supports, and enriches the workforce throughout New York State through collaboration and funding initiatives with businesses, unions, nonprofits, educational institutions, and government.

The **2018 Women Working Calendar** is a project of the WDI. In partnership with the NYS AFL-CIO, Area Labor Federations, Building Trades and Central Labor Councils, WDI works to advance the dialogue around women and work.



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Growing & Keeping
Good Jobs In
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Ed Murphy, Executive Director

