Lacey Weber & Dionne Welch (cover)
Both Chemical Operators • Momentive Performance Materials • IUE-CWA Local 8159 (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 Local 8159 and 8181 got the Christmas assistance they needed. They took the effort to network, shop, gather, coordinate, and work with each other. They along with and partnered with Unions like NYST, NYXNA, 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 8159, jumped right into the union movement. Very soon after joining, Lacey and Dionne have been a shop steward for several years. She has helped form the women’s committee and is an active member in the Union and in Leadership Training. She continues to help lead the effort to take on any and all issues for women in the workforce. Together, they have represented the future of women in the labor movement. They’ve been mentors 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 anywhere in the Capital Region. She looks for opportunities to highlight important issues to working families across NewsChannel 13’s 13 county coverage area.

Elizabeth Cassada
Foreman • IUE-CWA • NEW Local 910 • Local Union President

Since becoming her Local’s Foreman in 1987, Elizabeth has been a female pioneer in Northern New York’s construction sector. She has worked as a Foreman on many high profile projects involving substantial investments of time and effort in her leadership roles with IUE Local 910 in Tupper Lake. She is one of the first females to be appointed as a President of an IUE 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 National Leadership Committee, a member of the JATC, and a Trustee of the union’s benefit funds.

Sandie Forte
Office Manager • United Auto Workers Local 1057 (UAW) • Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU)

Sandie is the office manager for United Auto Workers Local 1057 in Rochester, New York. After working at non-union Kodak during the early 70’s, Sandie joined a job at Delco Products, IUE-CWA, where she soon realized the importance of standing up for employees in order to make improvements to working conditions. During her 20+ year career, Sandie has held several positions representing approximately 4,000 UAW members in Monroe County. She currently serves as the Secretary for CSEA-Orange County Local 806 and the first Vice President for CSEA-Orange County Unit 7926. In addition, Kathy holds the position of Secretary for both the Town of Penfield Department of Public Works Unit 7935 and the Hudson Central Labor Council.

Kathy Rodriguez
Police Safety & Police Dispatcher • Orange County, NY and Walton Police Department • CSEA • Recording Secretary

For the past 25 years, Kathy has worked as a law enforcement dispatcher in the Town of Newburgh, New York. She is currently a Public Safety Dispatcher for Orange County, New York and a Police Dispatcher for the Town of Newburgh Police Department. Kathy has been active in CSEA for 20 plus 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 806 and the First Vice President for CSEA-Orange County Unit 7926. In addition, Kathy holds the position of Secretary for both the Town of Penfield Department of Public Works Unit 7935 and the Hudson 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 American Airlines in the Department of Defense. After her brother encouraged her to take a test and become an Ironworker, she decided to leave her career in service for a more skilled trade. For the past 10 years, Christina has made many strides to get where she is today as an ironworker with a proven track record. She was tasked to climb a 35-foot column in under 30 seconds. She trained herself until she could do it just as safely as the men and completed her climb in 29 seconds – a record time for women. Often the only female trainee on a job, Christina’s work ethic constantly earns the respect of the men on her team and she was quickly promoted to Foreman on the job site. In 2019, Christina was a member of the IUFSC’s Women’s Committee, gaining valuable insights into the women’s role in the industry. She is proud of this passion, respect, and integrity she provides to her work. She attends her union’s rallies and events, including apprenticeship outreach and 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 2014. As a Local Organizer, she serves as an International Staff Representative, currently serving 14 unions. 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, Maryland, Virginia, 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 organization activities.

Ann Marie Taliercio
President and Business Agent for UNITEHERE Local 515, AFL-CIO • President of the Central New York Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and Executive Council Member of the NYS AFL-CIO

Ann Marie is the President and Business Agent for UNITEHERE Local 515, AFL-CIO, in Syracuse, New York. She has been an Executive Council Member of the NYS AFL-CIO since 1981. In 2008, she became the first female member elected to a contested election as President to the Central New York Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. Ann Marie’s work experience in the hospitality industry combined with her educational background led her to be a successful local and statewide labor leader. Ann Marie has run numerous campaigns to advance the rights of all workers throughout New York State. She is currently one of the organizers helping to run the remodeled Marriott Downtown Hotel Syracuse, and was awarded the NAGCP A. Philip Randolph Award for her work on social justice issues.

Randi DiAntonio
Licensed Master Social Worker • NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) • Monroe County Finger Lakes DD NSF • President/Business Manager • UNITEHERE Local 150, AFL-CIO • Member of the NYS AFL-CIO

Randi works daily with close to 2000 members to educate, organize, and represent the members in her division. She is the Council Leader of MEP Division 209 and a member of her Local’s Executive Board and Statewide NYS AFL-CIO Coordinator. She also served as the Interregional Coordinator in 2016. Over the past decade, she has fought Local 150’s efforts to strengthen and take pride in cultivating a new generation of union leaders at her workplace.

Linda Lesnewski
Operator for Water Quality • SIUE • Utility Workers Union of America (GWUA Local 1-2) • Executive Board

Linda is a GWUA 1-2 member and an Operator for Water Quality, employed by SIUE. Linda is the Vice President of the WPLC/Hudson/Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body and also serves as the Chair of the Communications Services Committee. Within her community, she partners with groups like the Catskills and WPLB (Westchester/) Putnam Central Labor Body) to support local women in the workforce.

Kathleen Taylor
Director • Board Chair • Retired, Water DOSG • NYSUT • President Upper Hudson Valley Central Labor Council

Kathy has been a union member for over 37 years. She has been with the IUE-CWA Local 910 in Rochester, New York. After working at non-union Kodak during the early 70’s, Kathy joined a job at Delco Products, IUE-CWA, where she soon realized the importance of standing up for employees in order to make improvements to working conditions. During her 20+ year career, Kathy has held several positions representing approximately 4,000 UAW members in Monroe County. She currently serves as the Secretary for CSEA-Orange County Local 806 and the First Vice President for CSEA-Orange County Unit 7926. In addition, Kathy holds the position of Secretary for both the Town of Penfield Department of Public Works Unit 7935 and the Hudson Central Labor Council.

Nicki Kateman
Political and Communications Director • Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW

Nicki was raised in a union household and joined the staff of the UFTI-UAW in 2003 as an intern while attending college. Since then, she’s taken on a number of positions and was promoted to Political and Communications Director earlier this year. Nicki serves on several key committees on the state and local levels. She is also a Delegate of the Local 338’s Political Committee, is an IATSE Political Coordinator, and is a member of the Executive Board of the UFTW 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 • MVCC/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 unit and serves on the executive council for the Central New York Labor Council. She is a member of the MVCC Professional Association and MVCC Committee, and the higher education leadership of Empire 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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(Photographed to the right of Ann Marie Taliercio is Karen Pavia, Chief UNITEHERE Local 150 Shop Steward)
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Operator for Water Quality
SUEZ
Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA Local 1-2)
Sandie Forte
Office Manager
United Auto Workers Local 1097 (UAW)
Office and Professional Employees
International Union (OPEIU)
Kathy Rodriguez
Public Safety & Police Dispatcher
Orange County, NY and
Wallkill Police Department
CSEA
Christina Nieves
Journeyman Ironworker
Gabriel Steel Erectors, Inc.
Iron Workers Local 40
Kathleen Taylor
Election District Director
Retired, Ulster BOCES
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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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