

June - July 2008

IAWP NYS District #2

*Capital/Northern, Central/Mohawk, Finger Lakes, Hudson Valley,
Long Island, New York City, Southern Tier, Western*

Newsletter

Linda Chapman, Communications

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What's Inside: Message from the Commissioner; WHY CHINA MATTERS; UNDERSTANDING THE GREEN ECONOMY; LABOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS; PS&T Tuition Voucher Program; It's That Time Again - IAWP NYS Individual Education Grant

Message from the Commissioner (...We will need perseverance and creativity – two qualities which are not in short supply here at the Department.)

Late July Governor Paterson addressed the state's deteriorating financial condition and made addressing this problem the highest priority. In response, all agencies have been directed to immediately develop a plan to realize a 7% budget reduction for this fiscal year. Since DOL is funded with a combination of state and federal funds, various functions will be impacted differently. However, we must identify ways to cut spending. ...

I applaud the Governor for taking this hard stance. New York's working families are struggling to make ends meet during these tough economic times so it is only right that government make some of the same tough choices.

The changes we must implement will not be short term and they will not be painless. There are difficult times ahead that require us to make hard choices and it will continue to be a challenge to balance delivering quality services that protect workers and support the economy with the financial realities of the State.

I appreciate your cooperation in the weeks ahead. We will need perseverance and creativity – two qualities which are not in short supply here at the Department.

International

Why China Matters

China emerged from 50 years of communist rule to become the manufacturer to the world, as well as the planet's fastest-growing economy. What happens with the development of China's workforce is likely to influence the West—including the United States. In this multimedia special report, staff writer Ed Frauenheim explores why China matters to workforce management professionals worldwide. **By Ed Frauenheim** Read the entire article online at: <http://www.workforce.com/section/09/feature/24/79/58/index.html>

National

Understanding the "Green" Economy

What is a "Green" industry or occupation? There are many aspects of work that could be considered green, such as new materials, methods, products, and services. However, we do not yet have a common language capturing the broad and varied nature of green industries and jobs. Several states and many local organizations are working collaboratively to better understand and promote the effects of clean and green technology on our economy.

BILL NUMBER: AB 2855 addresses Clean technology or "Clean Tech" (which) has been described as "the biggest economic opportunity of the 21st century," moving to the third-highest investment category within the entire venture asset class, overtaking the semiconductor sector in terms of dollars being invested. Passage of Assembly Bill 32 in 2006 (Chapter 448 of the Statutes of 2006) will increase the need for green technology efforts to meet industry efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Is it time for telework?

The House passed [telework legislation](#) just in time to save the federal workforce from gas-gouged wallets. A [study](#) by Robert Half International shows 44 percent of respondents say higher gas prices have altered their commutes. Are higher gas prices prompting you to work from home? If you are, how is your agency managing the herculean task of securing laptops? Is the trade-off worth it? Do agencies have the resources to transition employees to more flexible work schedules? See more at <http://www.nextgov.com>

Statewide

LABOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

Albany, NY (July 14, 2008) - State Labor Commissioner M. Patricia Smith today announced that an extension of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits is available for the thousands of New Yorkers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of benefits. This federal extension will provide an additional 13 weeks of benefits to more than 250,000 eligible New Yorkers, while pumping over \$850 million into the state's economy at no cost to taxpayers.

On a side note:

Seventy-five years ago, the New Deal relieved the economic hardship of millions of Americans and helped to transform a nation. Unemployment Insurance was one of its cornerstones, providing unemployed workers with a means to support and feed their families while getting back on their feet and into the labor force. Since that time, UI has served as a financial lifeline for millions more families across New York State and the nation.

Education/Training Opportunities

Broome Tioga Workforce NY receives NY Wired Metrix Learning system pilot grant.

Are you struggling in your customer service position and know that if you improve your computer skills you will be better at your job? Do you have a computer with internet access? This training can be accessed at any hour on just about any computer with internet access, One Stop Centers, local libraries, and other Technology centers.

NY Wired Metrix Learning system, assesses job seekers' and incumbent workers skills, evaluates skill gaps, prescribes online training and tracks results. All of this is free. Contact your IAWP representative for more information.

It's That Time Again - IAWP NYS Individual Education Grant

The New York State IAWP Educational Grant is available to all IAWP members, and their family members (children/dependent child/dependent grandchild). 2,000.00 will be shared, with no grant less than \$100.00. Filing for the application will begin as of the publication of this notice and will end 12/31/08. Grants will be awarded on a first come basis.

New York State IAWP – Working for You

Start Steering your Career – take advantage of educational opportunities:

Office of Staff and Organizational Development Announces

Web-Based E-Learning Course entitled: The Dynamics of Interaction

OSOD Announces Grammar & Usage Refresher One

Buffalo-284 Main Street

September 10, 2008	Mezzanine	9:30-3:30
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Albany -Building 12

September 19, 2008	Rooms A-B	9:30-3:30
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Endicott – TCC on Perimeter Road

October 6, 2008	Room C	9:30-3:30
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Please note that prior supervisory approval must be obtained before registering for courses. Employees who are interested in attending the upcoming course may enroll through OSOD's [Learning Management System](#). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the instructor, Susan Tucker, at 212-775-3307. Sherry A. Edwards, Acting Director - Office of Staff and Organizational Development

The **Office of Staff and Organizational Development** has been informed that the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER) is announcing the **College Tuition Reimbursement (CTR) and Voucher Alternative (VALT) Programs** covering state fiscal years 2007 – 2008 and 2008 – 2009 for employees in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (PS&T) bargaining unit. The State/Public Employees Federation Professional Development Committee met and agreed to establish these programs.

Capital Subchapter

A Thank You Letter from Mary Brady Murray LSR Albany:

My sister in law is now #2 on the list for a double lung transplant. When a notice was sent round our office about a fund raiser I was organizing the district gave a check for \$50 to her fund. On 8/24 we had a large benefit day in Cohoes and currently we have raised about \$6000 for the extraneous costs. I just wanted to have the NY chapter made aware of how thankful the family is for the help from the Albany sub-chapter

Mary Brady Murray LSR

In Memory of John Marshall Director NYC TCC

John Marshall passed away this summer, after a long illness.

In a letter to the family, The NYC TCC Family from the pen of Evarist Nicholas wrote a letter of remembrance, below is an excerpt:

For the last ten (10) years of his tenure with New York State Department of Labor, you shared your loved one with us, and we thank you. We want you to know your son, brother, husband, father, cousin or friend stood as tall and steadfast as the mighty oak on the behalf of each of the employees under his Directorship. In many cases, in spite of our selves, we maintained employment because he went to bat for his staff.

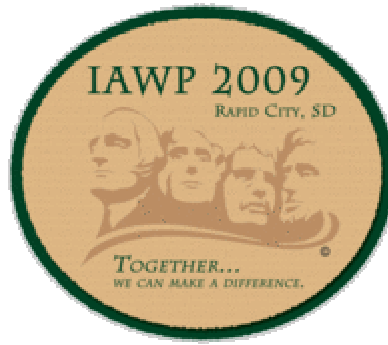
...Many of us returned to the NYC-TCC for the last day at the Telephone Call Center and remember John stayed in the office and would not come out, because he did not like goodbyes.

Well, we too don't like goodbyes, so to this special life that has passed from our sight we say 'see you at another time'. You and Mr. John Marshall will never leave our hearts.

Conference Corner

Thinking about your future, want to hear the latest about what's going on with our Workforce, mark your calendars and plan to attend:

"Together We Can Make a Difference".



June 14-17, 2009 - Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza

Future Conferences

2010 - Greenville, SC (June 27-30)

2011 - St. Louis, MO (Tentative Dates - June 26-29)