

When things get scary at work... Who you gonna call?



We stand with PEF.
Will you stand with USW?
Because, we don't stand a ghost of a chance
without unity. USW is ready to fight with you.

**LOCAL 9265** 

PEF Delegates, show your support for USW Staff! Vist our booth to get your FREE stickers!

## SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE



- Get to know the Steelworker staff that works for PEF
- An interview with a former PEF Member who is now USW
- Delegates, stop by the USW booth to get your FREE "Who You Gonna Call?" wearable stickers!



## You can call on us, your USW Staff

Here are some of your staff that picks up the phone when you call on us!

























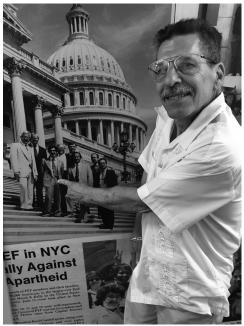


# Unionism begins at home

### Interview of Barry Markman, Field Representative by Priscilla Marco

PM - Barry, when did you start working for NY State and where?

BM - I first started working for NY State in 1971 at South Beach Psychiatric Center as a Rehabilitation Counselor grade 19, making \$20,000 a year. My parents were both active union members in the Furrier Trade. The Furriers were the most militant union in NYC at that time. My parents also fought to establish unemployment and social security benefits. They had an enormous impact on my decision to get active as a union member when I joined the state workforce. When I started with the state, I helped to found the CSEA local at South Beach (which was before PEF existed). I was one of the first 60 employees hired when the facility opened. I remember testifying before the NYS Assembly Mental Health Committee on safe staffing issues, which are still being talked about today. I was elected as a CSEA shop steward, representing members.



BACK IN THE DAY — NYC Field Rep. Barry Markman, points himself out of a group of PEF PAC leaders at our nation's capital steps in 1982.

PM - When did you get active with PEF?

**BM** - When PEF was formed in 1979, I helped to establish the PEF Division at South Beach. I became a steward and a delegate to the first PEF Convention. At the time, the leadership was appointed and the first PEF election was held at

the Convention. I ran for Vice President but I did not win at that time. The PEF Constitution was passed which established the procedures we have today where the entire membership directly elects the Statewide Officers, Regional Coordinators and Executive Board members. In 1982, I

became an Executive Board member, which I served as for almost 30 years. I have also served as a PEF Vice President.

#### PM - When did you become a Field Representative and USW member?

BM - I became a Rep in 2001, upon my retirement from South Beach. I chose to become a Rep because I wanted to remain in the union that I helped to

build. As a Field Rep, I have been able to put my historical and institutional knowledge to use working for the benefit of PEF members.

MARKMAN

## PM - What do you define as Unionism? How are USW and PEF similar?

**BM** - I define unionism as showing solidarity with fellow workers and becoming involved in the day to day life of

the union. Today, all unions are under attack by the Global Conglomerate, which is intent on destroying all unions. All unions must work together to build their solidarity, which is their strength and defend their

benefits from attack. PEF's first contract (I was part of the first PEF Contract Advisory Committee) achieved raises of 7, 7, and 8%. We were only able to achieve those raises through unified struggle.

## PM - What is the major issues facing USW and PEF members today?

**BM** - One issue is definitely Healthcare. The state of healthcare in the US is precarious. The only way to resolve the issue of healthcare is to convert to a Single Payer System, in my opinion. NY State has the

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ability to pass such legislation. Single Payer Health benefit can be achieved if everyone, union and non-union alike, fight for it the way my parents fought for Social Security and Unemployment benefits. The other issue is the survival of the Labor movement. Let me give you an example. When PEF came into existence in 1979, CSEA had about 120,000 members who were

state employees and PEF had 47,000. Today, CSEA has shrunk to 60,000 state employees and PEF has grown to 54,000. At the same time, the computerization of tasks and cost cutting measures have been expanded. PEF members are expected to provide services to the public and most of the clerical tasks that were previously the responsibility of

CSEA members are now done by PEF members.

The Janus case represents a threat to the services provided by both PEF and USW to their members

as a result of the loss of the Agency fee. The only way that unions can be successful today is by having total solidarity. That goes for USW and PEF as well as all public and private sector unions.

The global conglomerates seeking to destroy labor unions will only respect solidarity and struggle.

PEF. Who You Gonna Call for Union Representation in the NYC regions? You can call 1-800-522-8700 and 1-866-897-9775.



upcoming storm.

## A letter from USW Local 9265



We Are PEF Staff

**LOCAL 9265** 

The Union Behind The Union

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**Tara Bentley** Recording Secretary Financial Secretary

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