



SEIU

Stronger Together

JERRY DENNIS
President

LIZ COLEMBESKI
Executive Vice President

MICHAEL LONIGRO
Vice President

Dan Verstreate
Vice President

ROBERT CONNOLLY
Secretary-Treasurer

MARK DeSANTIS
Recording Secretary

JOHN WALKER
Sergeant-at-Arms

For Immediate Release: May 26, 2005

Workers Reject George Junior Contract

Direct care workers at the George Junior Republic overwhelmingly rejected management's "last and final" contract offer in voting held Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, May 25 and 26. Voting followed a spirited "Vote No" rally held outside the agency's Freeville, NY offices Wednesday morning.

"We had over 100 members turn out for the rally and their determination to fight for a better contract carried over to the vote," said SEIU Local 200United Representative Mark Keith. *"Only one member voted in favor of the contract."* Approximately 80% of eligible voters turned out, Keith reported.

Local 200United represents over 200 direct care and maintenance workers at George Junior, 149 of whom were eligible to vote on the contract. Due to a high rate of employee turnover, a significant number of the agency's workers are on probation at any given time. As a result, the direct-care workers aren't able to develop sustained relationships with the agency's clients, many of whom come to George Junior from broken homes and otherwise dysfunctional families.

The most recent extension to the current contract expires at midnight Friday, May 27 and the parties are expected to sign another extension tomorrow.

Contact: Union Representative Mark Keith, 607-423-0027 (cell)

SEIU Local 200United represents more voluntary human service agency workers than any other union in Upstate New York. In total, the Local represents over 12,000 workers in human services, the public sector, education, and building services in 52 Upstate counties.

**SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
AFL-CIO,CLC**

SYRACUSE OFFICE

1153 West Fayette Street
Suite 302
P.O. Box 1540
Syracuse, NY 13201
Phone: 315/424-1750
Fax: 315/479-9030

BUFFALO OFFICE

2495 Kensington Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14226
Phone: 716/631-8940
Fax: 716/631-3929

Albany
55 Grant Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
518/438-4206

Binghamton
2006 North Street
Endwell, NY 13760
607/748-0751

Hudson Valley
594 Rte. 299
Highland, NY 12528
845/883/4155

Rochester
225 West Broad St., Suite B
Rochester, NY 14608
585/464-8880