

OSA's LABOR HERO OF 2004 SSEU LOCAL 371 SECRETARY-TREASURER JOE NAZARIO

Joe Nazario graduated from City College in the late 1960s. By the early 1970s, he was a union delegate for the Social Service Employees Union at Metropolitan Hospital. By 1977, he had been asked to take leave from his Civil Service job to assist the treasurer of SSEU Local 371.

Joe spent the next twenty-seven years working in a wide variety of union roles. To mention only two, Joe was a District Council 37 Field Representative for years, and is now serving as the elected Secretary-Treasurer of his original union, SSEU.

Joe is also a strong family man with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, but it is for one particular moment when he served his union family well that he is due our award.

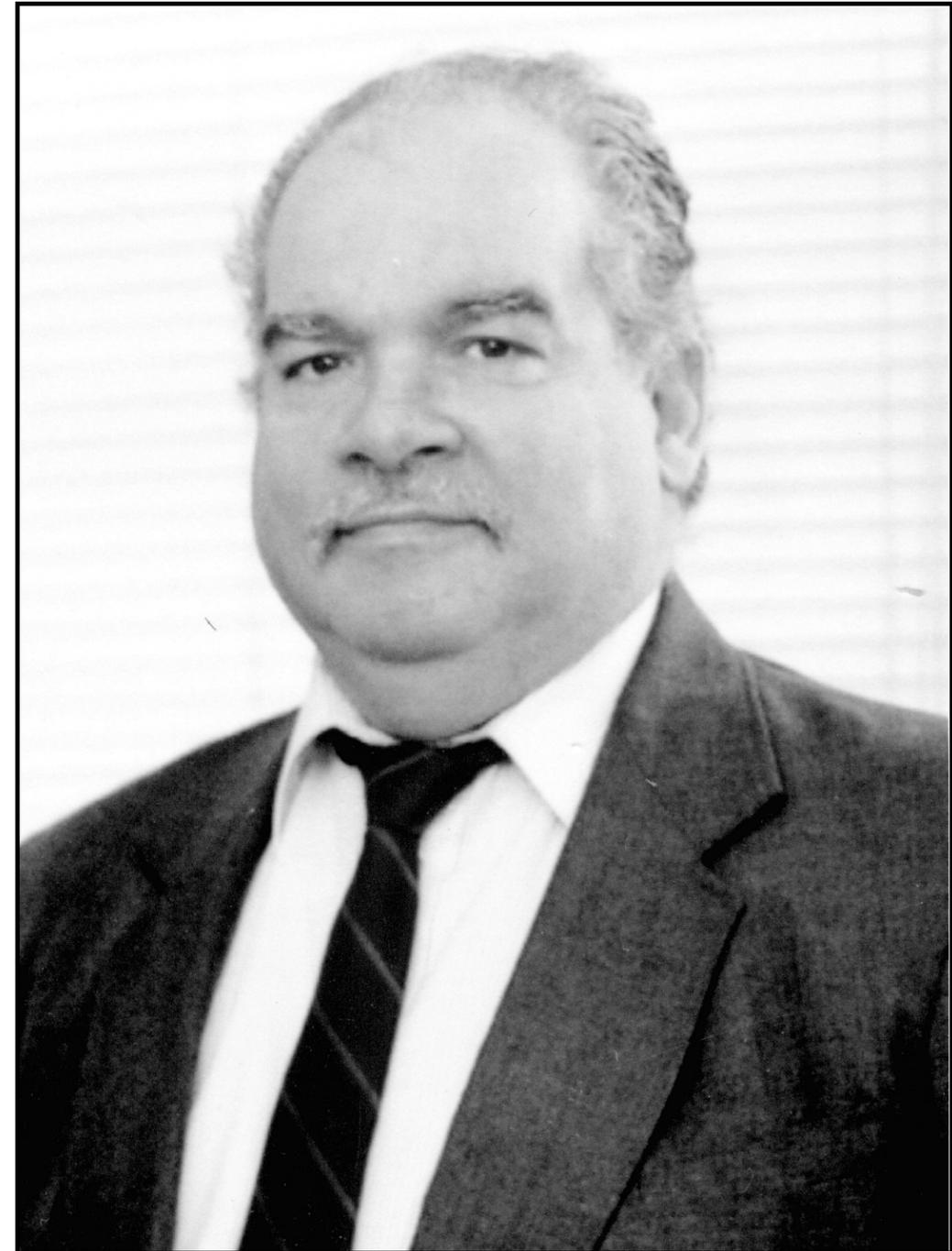
Between 1980 and 1982, the Social Service Employees Union was internally divided, a casualty of the fallout from the dispute between Victor Gotbaum and Jerry Wurf over the leadership of AFSCME. The dispute had seriously affected the ability of the union officers and staff to work together on behalf of the membership.

In 1982, an AFSCME judge rendered a decision (later reversed) removing two of the top officers of the union and requiring the appointment of an interim President. At that moment of bitter partisan division, both sides came together to choose the one person trusted and admired by the members of both factions. Joe Nazario was asked to serve as SSEU President.

The Organization of Staff Analysts was, in 1982, being helped by the Social Service Employees Union in our long fight to obtain collective bargaining rights for Analysts. In serving his 17,000 members as the interim, stabilizing leader of his union, he served our cause as well.

Joe has been a labor leader of unquestioned integrity for a great many years. His main strength comes from the life he has lived and the love he has shown for his brothers and sisters of Labor.

The Organization of Staff Analysts is proud to claim Joe Nazario as our labor hero for 2004.



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