

OSA's LABOR HEROES OF 2005

As the national labor movement debates the importance of organizing, OSA would like to take note of three union presidents who did their part when they had the chance. Each devoted his life to the cause of labor – and each continues to do so today!

Lou Albano



Lou Albano, president of the Civil Service Technical Guild (Local 375 of AFSCME DC37) from 1981 to 1998, fought to stop the contracting-out of work that could be done, and done well, by his bargaining unit and saw his local grow from 4000 to 7500 members. He brought union representation to the Administrative Architects and Engineers, and he engaged in years of administrative proceedings that won representation for many, though not all, Associate Transit Management Analysts. After winning that case, he agreed to co-sponsor an organizing drive with OSA to extend union coverage to Transit Management Analysts not covered by the earlier case. It was the right decision.

Michael Collins



Michael Collins, president of the Transit Supervisors Organization (TSO) from 1976 to 1997, not only took his membership from less than 400 to over 1100 through organizing, but also ran a joint organizing drive with OSA that led to OSA representing Analysts working for the Transit Authority.

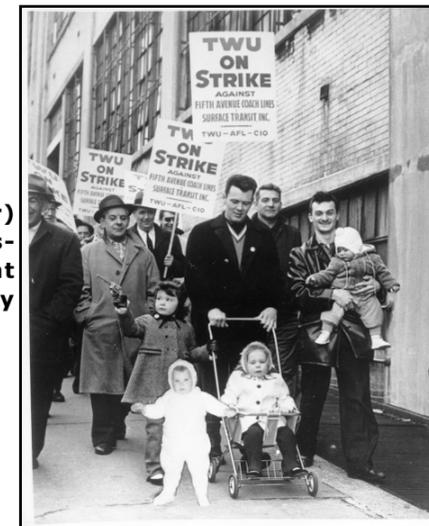
Joe Sperling



Joe Sperling, president of the Social Service Employees Union (Local 371 of AFSCME DC37) from 1976 to 1982, supported that union's Analyst Organizing Drive from its inception until he left office. The final result of the support he provided was the eventual creation of a new bargaining unit containing thousands of Analysts represented by a union called the Organization of Staff Analysts.

It takes many of us playing different roles to build a strong and effective labor movement. Presidents of civil service unions who believe in and work to support organizing drives are not the full story, but they are a major part of it. The Organization of Staff Analysts, representing over four thousand civil service workers, takes pleasure in noting the work done in that good cause by these three labor heroes of the year.

Michael Collins (behind stroller) with his children on the Transport Workers Union picket line at the Fifth Avenue Coach Company in 1960.



Lou Albano (behind banner, center left) at an anti-privatization rally in 1984.

Joe Sperling (front left) joins the picket line of the Committee of Interns and Residents in 1979.



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PAST OSA LABOR HERO AWARD WINNERS

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 2003 Battalion Chief Tony Morelli, UFOA
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 2000 Randi Weingarten, President, UFT
 1999 Donald Singer, President, CSA