

President's Message

Thanks, It Was a Great Run!

In 1982, after a hotly contested election, I became President of the Union. I was determined from the start to make SSEU Local 371 a great union that would make its members proud.

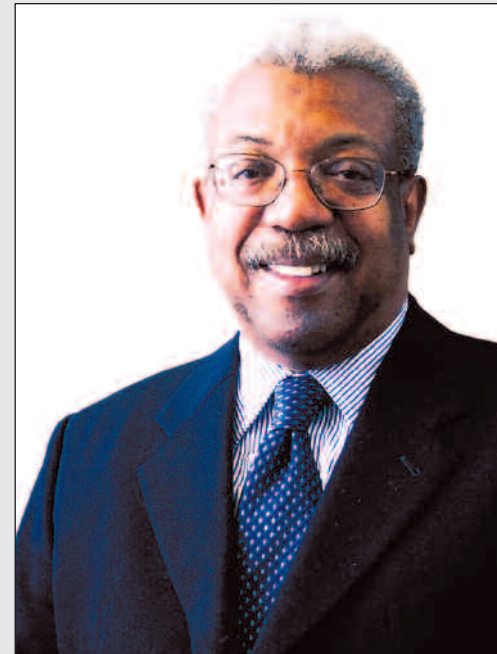
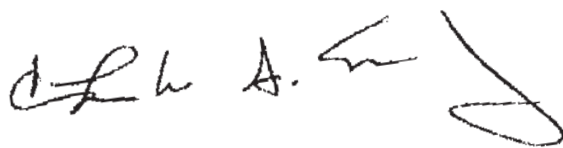
I was also determined to build on our history of militancy and progressivism. In 1965, SSEU and Local 371 went on strike, not only for higher wages, but also for better treatment for our clients. After a month-long struggle, we won that strike and negotiated the first contract between a public service union and the City.

Later, we became one of the first unions to oppose the Vietnam War – a stand subsequently adopted by our national union. Through the years we aggressively fought to improve the economic conditions of our members and protect the social safety net that our jobs provided.

We faced great challenges over the past 26 years – layoffs, attacks on the civil service system, and contracting out. We never doubted our ability to prevail, even when the odds were greatly stacked against us. Along the way, we negotiated additional money for our members beyond the general economic package through longevity steps, assignment differentials, and an annuity plan. We organized and energized our members and together we fought and won many victories. We are proud of what we have accomplished.

But now it's time for new leadership. They too will face challenges, but I am confident that, with your continued support, the Union will grow and prosper.

Saying goodbye is difficult. Saying thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve comes easily. It was a great run. Thank you. And remember, the union makes us strong.



President Charles Ensley

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