

# BIO

**P**atricia Baker is one of three vice presidents of the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), an affiliate of both the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of Teachers. PEF represents 56,000 professional scientific and technical employees across the state, including more than 15,000 in the New York City area.

Ms. Baker began her career in the labor movement in 1992, as a union activist and chairwoman of the Planning Committee of PEF Division 252 at Kingsboro Psychiatric Center. In 1993, she became a steward and continued to rise through the ranks becoming an Executive Board member in 1994 and regional coordinator of PEF Region 11 in 1997. Ms. Baker is PEF's Chair of the joint Labor-Management Committee at the Office of Mental Health and also serves as PEF labor-management coordinator. She is chairwoman of the Employment Security Committee, as well.

Ms. Baker spent 25 years working at Kingsboro, continuously showing her dedication and desire for improvement of mental health in the state of New York. She was instrumental in perfecting the policies and procedures of the Kingsboro Liaison Team from which the Discharge Planning Unit was derived. Her greatest achievement was as one of the PEF organizers of Kingsboro's "Fight Back" campaign to oppose the proposed closure of the psychiatric center. As a political and community activist, Ms. Baker distinguished herself as a front-line fighter and leader. Today, Kingsboro remains open and fully funded.

In addition, Ms. Baker is active in several community and civic organizations. She serves on the East Mental Health Services Community Advisory Council of Catholic Charities of Brooklyn, the Mount Sinai Occupational Treatment Center, and the Queens College Labor Board. She is a board member of Fresh Start Inc., a community-based mental health program, and a member of Congressman Major Owens' 11th District Health Advisory Board. Ms. Baker is also a dedicated member of the New York State PEF Black Caucus, AFT Black Caucus Coalition of Union Women and is a member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. She is a founding member and chair of the Kingsboro Psychiatric Women's Committee.

Ms. Baker was educated in the New York City School system, and is an alumna of both Eastern District High School and New York Institute of Technology. From Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, she received certificates in leadership, alcoholism and drug abuse awareness and intervention, suicide prevention and management. She has also earned certification in mediation and conflict resolution from Long Island University.

Ms. Baker has received numerous awards that reflect her boundless energy, dedication, respect and hard work for the labor and mental health community.

