



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Albany, New York —United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and Joseph Wasik, District Director, United States Department of Labor, Office of Labor Management Standards, Buffalo District Office, today announced that, KELLI FAHRENKOPF, age 41, of Rensselaer, New York, pled guilty in United States District Court in Albany before the Honorable Norman A. Mordue to Count One of an Information charging her with embezzling union monies.

In connection with her plea, FAHRENKOPF admitted the following during her plea proceedings:

In 1999, FAHRENKOPF was elected to be the vice president of CSEA, Local Union 316 in Albany, New York. CSEA, Local Union 316 is a labor organization within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 501(c). FAHRENKOPF remained as the vice president until June, 2008.

In or about the summer of 2006, FAHRENKOPF requested that CSEA, Local Union 316 pay money in order for her to attend a leadership training class entitled "Upstate Women's Leader." The union approved the defendant's request and issued her union check #1282, dated August 22, 2006 payable in the amount of \$6,500.00. The leadership training class did not exist. FAHRENKOPF then used the funds for her own personal benefit, including gambling.

In or about February, 2007 FAHRENKOPF requested that CSEA, Local Union 316 pay money in order for her to attend leadership training at Cornell University. The union approved the defendant's request and issued her union check #316, dated February 16, 2007 payable in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Kelly Cirilli. FAHRENKOPF never attended the leadership training at Cornell University and instead personally cashed the union check and used the union funds for her own personal benefit, including gambling.

In or about March, 2007, FAHRENKOPF requested that CSEA, Local Union 316 pay money in order for her to attend another leadership training class entitled "Upstate Women's Leader." The union approved the defendant's request and issued her union check #1333, dated March 12, 2007 payable in the amount of \$3,000.00 to Kelly Cirilli. The leadership training class did not exist.

FAHRENKOPF personally cashed the union check and used the union funds for her own personal benefit.

As a result of the defendant's conduct, she caused at least three union checks totaling approximately \$11,500.00 to be cashed, the proceeds of which went to the defendant for her own personal use.

Sentencing was scheduled by Judge Mordue for August 11, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in U.S. District Court in Albany, New York. FAHRENKOPF faces a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000.00. FAHRENKOPF was released pending her sentencing.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Labor Management Standards, Buffalo District Office.

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