

Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 27, 2011
www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

LOCAL UNION OFFICIAL PLEADS GUILTY

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Thomas P. Wagner 49, of Orchard Park, New York, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott, to a misdemeanor charge of falsification of financial records required to be kept by a labor union. The charge carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison, a fine of \$10,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael DiGiacomo, who handled the case, stated that the defendant was the financial secretary for Steel Workers Local 897 which represents workers at ITT Heat Transfer Inc., located in Cheektowaga, New York. Wagner's responsibilities included accurately maintaining expense vouchers. Beginning in December 2004 and continuing into September 2008, the defendant made personal charges on his union credit card. Wagner then prepared and submitted fraudulent expense vouchers to the union in order to receive reimbursement for his personal charges. The union lost approximately \$5,526.20 from the defendant's conduct.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of investigators from the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Marjorie Franzman, Special Agent in Charge of the New York Region.

Sentencing is scheduled for September 21, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Scott.

###