



Director of Safety and Health for the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), Jonathan has been a tireless health and safety activist for more than 25 years. Whether giving advice and comfort to an injured worker, energizing a health and safety committee, or testifying in state and national legislative hearings, Jonathan always keeps the needs of the injured worker foremost.

For the past 15 years, Jonathan has been a leader nationally on the issue of workplace violence prevention. His compassionate approach to individual workers who have been beaten and abused while on the job has resulted in legions of activist workers who often present their stories in graphic detail at trainings, hearings, and conferences. Jonathan was instrumental in the development of a special compensation fund and union benefit for PEF victims of workplace violence. He knew from listening to injured workers that their financial situation often deteriorated substantially after injury. He understands that the union benefit helps workers both materially and emotionally.

Jonathan will not accept the mistaken notion that, for some workers, getting assaulted is “part of the job”. He encourages PEF leaders to develop constructive relationships with local police and district attorneys so that perpetrators of assaults can be appropriately prosecuted. Even with the lack of a workplace violence standard, he has doggedly pursued and obtained “General Duty Clause” citations following egregious, obviously preventable incidents. In no small part due to Jonathan, New York State now has a model Workplace Violence Law, and a number of other states are considering similar statutes.

Finally, Jonathan has been instrumental in shaping the field of workplace violence research, insisting on participatory action research methods that emphasize the importance of including workers in all phases of a research project.