

# IMPACT

VOL. 9

NO. 8

APRIL 2013

## RETIRED BUT NOT REALLY GRAZIANO STILL WORKING FOR UNION

After 40 years on the job and a member of Local 246, Tom Graziano retired in November 1996—but he never really left. Upon departing from his job as a Carriage Upholsterer, he came back to work for the Union as Business Agent and has been an integral part of keeping Local 246 running on a day-to-day basis ever since. For all his efforts, Graziano was presented with a special commendation at the March general membership meeting.

President Joe Colangelo surprised the veteran Local 246 member by talking about "someone sitting here at the dais who continues to give his all to helping the Union every day. Not only does he have a hand in daily operations, but helps with grievances and is a member of the Union's Retiree Welfare Fund. Tom continually fights for the rights of our retirees and ensures that they receive all the benefits the Fund can provide."

Tom started his career as a Carriage Upholsterer. He was employed with the Department of Parks and Recreation in March 1973. He was elected Shop Steward in 1989 and served in that capacity until his retirement from City service. During this period, he was appointed Welfare Fund Trustee and continues in this capacity. Upon his retirement, he was hired on a part-time basis to help fight privatization in the Department of General Services and Department of Parks. In 2001 he was asked to work full time for the Union.



"Even though the majority of members in Parks are Auto Mechanics, they still elected Tom to represent them as they knew he would continually do what was in their best interests and be a resource for disseminating important Union information," Colangelo said. "He was always well liked and well respected by those he served as a Shop Steward, and to this day continues to have that same respect from retirees."

Pictured are Graziano, President Colangelo, Treasurer Ray Schacor and Vice President Charles Pastorelli.



Good & Welfare

New York City Local 246 Condensed Statement of Income and Expenses For the Calendar Year Ended December 31, 2012	
Dues Income	\$1,188,570
Less: Per Capita and Affiliations	(1,224,319)
	\$44,251
Investment Income	\$ 10,522
Sale of Apparel	335
Miscellaneous Income	294
Expense Reimbursements	4,388
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>46,280</b>
Expenses:	

Financial Statements



New EMS Shop

## New York City SEIU Local 246

217 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007

Phone: (212) 233-0616 • Fax: (212) 385-1859

Outside NY: 1-800-903-0246

Web site: [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org)

**PRESIDENT . . . . . JOSEPH A. COLANGELO**

**VICE PRESIDENT . . . . . CHARLES PASTORELLI**

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Wayne Esposito . . . . . (718) 734-3718

Andrew Weinstein . . . . . (718) 393-7321

Business Agent

Thomas Graziano . . . . . (212) 233-0616

### Shop Stewards

Mark Bardes . . . . . (718) 963-5751

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Sanitation, 4th Floor CRS

Salvatore Brucculeri . . . . . (718) 334-9171

Sanitation, 5th Floor CRS

Joe Buzzell . . . . . (917) 501-5590

DOT — MGO Field Representative

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Correction

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Parks

Glenn Holden . . . . . (718) 317-1747

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Sanitation, Bronx Area

Robert Lucey . . . . . (718) 571-7248

Fire Dept.

Chris Olsen . . . . . (718) 743-6925

Sanitation — Brooklyn & Cioffe Area

Anthony Piazza . . . . . (718) 649-8255

Sanitation & Cioffe

Stanley Pirpinias . . . . . (718) 495-5410

Police

Anthony Reyes . . . . . (718) 784-6538

Fire Dept.

Roy Rodriguez . . . . . (212) 926-1033

Sanitation

Edward Wojcik . . . . . (646) 210-7932

Dept. of Education

Joseph Yovino . . . . . (718) 476-7543

Police

Mordechai Ziv . . . . . (718) 533-5784

DOT

### Office Staff

Rosemary Aragona, Maureen A. Byrne, Pat Cruz

NEWSLETTER DESIGN/PRODUCTION:

Marci Rosenblum ♦ RWD Group

(845) 364-0222 ♦ [marci@rwdgroup.com](mailto:marci@rwdgroup.com)

# Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



There has been a lot of talk lately about balancing the nation's budget and paying down the debt.

Both sides are guilty to some degree of political gamesmanship. Republicans talk about an unsustainable entitlement program and propose cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security in order to reduce the deficit. While Democrats agree in some part to paying down the nation's debt, they disagree that cutting entitlement programs is the answer; instead they insist on eliminating some corporate and personal tax loopholes, which of course has the same effect as raising taxes.

So as you can see, both sides are using a play on words to make the same point. Republicans want to cut benefits and Democrats want to raise taxes, but both want to decrease the debt.

Now the question becomes, who is right?

One thing is clear. We need a comprehensive solution that both sides can live with that includes some entitlement reform and some new revenue. For the most part, neither side is willing to budge. Republicans say they already agreed to new taxes so they're done. Democrats say the economy is too weak and that the neediest of our society — those on Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security — can't be touched. "Stalemate" as they say in chess.

While the facts can be debated, the truth is that we are all suffering. Our household expenses keep rising, salaries aren't keeping up and our children can't find work. Due to the sequester on automatic spending cuts, people will start losing jobs. Maybe not at such a dramatic pace as Democrats stated, but all agree job loss is happening. It's been said that it's a recession when your neighbor loses his job, and a depression when

## FUNDS EXTEND COVERAGE TO ACTIVE MEMBERS' CHILDREN UP TO AGE 26

Local 246 has extended coverage for the children of active members up until the dependent children turn 26. However, active members must enroll these dependent children within 31 days of reaching age 19 or at the time they lose benefits from their own or spouse/domestic partner benefits.

**Again, there is a 31-day time limit to enroll dependent children for extended coverage. If you miss the time limit, you will have to wait until the following January 1 to enroll.**

Any active member who has questions about the extended coverage should contact the Union office prior to their dependent turning 19 in order not to miss out.

you lose your job. That we can all agree on. No matter what, the picture isn't pretty.

Let's look at some recent articles and some statistics they point too.

"The Hamilton Project" released an article in August 2012, called "A record decline in Government Jobs: Implications for the Economy and America's Workforce" in which the authors write:

*"A notable aspect of the July employment report is the decline in public-sector employment. In fact, public-sector employment (i.e. federal, state, and local government jobs) declined in 10 of the past 12 months, in sharp contrast to 29 consecutive months of private-sector job growth. Indeed, falling public employment has been among the largest contributors to unemployment in the United States since the end of the Great Recession."*

The report highlights the vast difference between the sharp decline in the public sector versus the more than two years of consecutive private-sector job growth. It also highlights the topic of "Declining Government Employment." Total government (i.e., the sum of state, local, and federal) employment has decreased by over 580,000 jobs since the end of the recession, the largest decrease in any sector since the recovery began in July 2009. State and local governments, faced with tough choices imposed by the confluence of balanced-budget requirements, falling tax revenues, and greater demand for public services, have been forced to lay off teachers, police officers, and other workers.

We as public employees have been vilified in the press as a contributing factor to the economic ills of cities and states around the country. The facts sometimes paint a different picture. One could argue that given the decline in public sector jobs may be why the economy is still not recovering. Why have city and state budgets not recovered as government jobs were reduced? The fact of the matter is, we were the scapegoats while the money flowed to Wall Street to get the financial markets stable. Money should have flowed to cities and states, too, in order to maintain the workforce because that also stimulates economic growth. Putting money in workers' pockets benefits everyone. The money I earn, I spend in the local supermarket or hardware store. In turn, they

hire to keep up with demand and those workers have money to spend as well. The point is that the more jobs created in the public sector benefit the private sector as well.

By reducing the size and scope of governments at all levels, society suffers and quality of life for everyone suffers with fewer teachers, police, fire fighters, emergency responders, air traffic controllers and auto mechanics, machinists and service workers.

In an article written by Chris Mooney on January 31, 2013, entitled "Paul Krugman: Austerity Is Not the Answer," the *New York Times* columnist explains why cutting government spending won't fix the economy.

*"Krugman's latest book, End This Depression Now!, makes a strong case that the current focus on cutting budget deficits is misplaced. An economic crisis like this, with lingering high unemployment, demands a big infusion of government stimulus, argues Krugman. In contrast, cutting spending or imposing austerity only worsens things — just as we've seen of late across Europe."*

Both sides need to man up, stop the political show, and do what's best for the citizens of this country. The time is now. Let's get our country back to work.

In New York, at least our political leaders have managed an on-time budget. New York's \$135 billion spending plan was passed by the Senate early in the final week of March with the Assembly immediately following. See page 9 for more information.

Specifics of the agreement have been well-publicized, from increasing the minimum wage to providing a \$350 child tax credit to sending an additional \$1 billion to school districts. Workers' Compensation reform was included, while Binding Arbitration reform was excluded.

Now we just need to elect a more labor friendly Mayor in New York City and maybe we can start to make some real progress. As we know, pointing fingers and playing the blame game doesn't get us anywhere. Labor has been made the scapegoats for far too long. It's about time our political leaders at all levels got down to work and stopped with their incessant rhetoric.

## ANNUITY FUND BOOKS NEW VERSIONS IN APRIL

The Annuity Fund is in the process of updating and reprinting the Annuity Fund Book, last sent to members in 2007. They are scheduled to be mailed out in early April. When you receive your copy, please put it into your binders and save for future reference. Each member has an individual annuity account to which your employer makes contributions under collective bargaining agreements with Local 246. In the new Annuity booklet, you will find answers to specific questions that members frequently ask. We suggest you become familiar with the contents prior to calling Administrative Services Only, the Union's benefit administrator, as most answers can be found in the booklet. ASO can be reached at 1-877-999-3555.

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, **APRIL 18, 2013**

6:00 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Church

61-17 Grand Avenue

Maspeth, NY 11378

- ▶ 50/50 Raffle
- ▶ Door Prizes
- ▶ Refreshments



# GOOD WELFARE



## NEW MEMBERS:

**Gregory Avellino**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Thomas Baumann**  
Sign Painter — DOT

**Christopher Boodhan**  
Auto Service Worker — Fire

**Rigoberto Couloote**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Bernard Jean**  
Auto Service Worker — San

**Nabil Kader**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Abbas Khan**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**John Moschello**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Toshiro Ogikubo**  
Auto Service Worker — Fire

**Jomar Pichardo**  
Auto Service Worker — Fire

**Vladimyr Plaisance**  
Auto Service Worker — Fire

**Robert Price**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Bhupaul Redoy**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Joseph Schiro**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Robert Semansky**  
Machinist — DEP

**Keith Watts**  
Auto Service Worker — Fire

## IN MEMORIAM:

**Leo Hartman**  
Ret. Sheet Metal Worker — San

## IN MEMORIAM FAMILY:

**Michael Franco** (Mother)  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Anthony Sconzo** (Mother)  
Auto Mechanic — DOT

## RETIRING MEMBERS:

**Richard Atwood**  
Machinist — DEP

**Peter Pomaro**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Ivan Snyder**  
Auto Mechanic — San

## NEWBORN CHILDREN:

**Frankie Torres** (Boy)  
Auto Mechanic — San

## CONGRATULATIONS:



to **Harold Schmitt**, Supervisor of Sheet Metal Workers, upon his retirement after 26 years on the job.

The Carpenter Shop presented Harold with a retirement gift — a framed roll of duct tape enclosed in a glass case with a wooden handle. The plaque insides tells him to break the glass in case of emergency, and reads: "Kings County Hospital Center, Presented to Harold Schmitt. In appreciation for your 26 years of loyal and dedicated service. All the best in your retirement."

"Harold has been a real asset to the Union and he will definitely be missed by his co-workers and friends," said President Joe Colangelo. "We wish him well in all future endeavors, knowing that his time on the job was incredibly productive. As have we all, Harold had been through a lot of changes with HHC, thanks to the Bloomberg Administration's workforce reduction plan and fleet consolidation. He was always in a good mood despite what was going on around him."

To say that Harold has been around the block would be an understatement. He has worked at Bellevue, Coney Island, Woodhull, Lincoln, Harlem, Queens General, North Central Bronx, Kings County and many clinics for HHC.

**VISIT THE UNION'S  
WEBSITE**

[www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org)

for the most up-to-date information

**Send us announcements about family births, graduations, awards, honors, special trips and other family special occasions, along with photos, for our newsletter.**

# NEWS & NOTES

## ACTIVE MEMBER SHOE VOUCHERS —

The Officers and Executive Board of Local 246 announce that all **Active Dues Paying Members** may be reimbursed up to \$60 toward the expense incurred for one pair of work-related shoes purchased AT ANY STORE. This is an increase in the reimbursement rate from the last voucher. **Shoes must be purchased between January 1 and May 31, 2013. Claim must be submitted by June 15, 2013.** All active members should have already received a reimbursement form with instructions. Anyone who did not receive one should contact the Union office.

## LAWRENCE KOMNICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATIONS

— Applications are now available for ACTIVE members to apply for our brother Lawrence Komnick Memorial Scholarship Award. For those members who do not know the history of this scholarship, Lawrence was an Auto Mechanic who worked at the Police Department and was tragically killed in the performance of a truck inspection. To receive an application for dependent children, Active members should call the Union Office. The scholarship is a \$1,000 award and is a one-time only grant. **Applications must be completed and postmarked by April 30,**

**2013, and include an official transcript of SAT scores that is signed and verified by the high school.** Members' dependent children graduating high school in June 2013 are eligible to apply. The names of those received with the top 10 highest SAT scores will be put into a raffle and one name will be picked to receive this scholarship award. Drawing for the scholarship will take place at the May 2013 General Membership Meeting.

**RETIREE DUES FOR 2013 —** Retiree dues for 2013 were payable in full by January 31, 2013, and are now **OVERDUE.**

If you have not already done so, please send your check or money order for \$60 payable to NYC Local 246, and send to the Union at 217 Broadway, Suite 501, New York, NY 10007. The amount is nominal and just covers the per capita and retiree mailings.

## CITIZENS RX PREFERRED FORMULARY

— The 2013 Citizens Rx National Preferred Formulary is now available on the Local 246 website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org). This list contains the most commonly prescribed drugs. For specific question about your coverage, please call the phone number printed on your ID card. If you do not have internet access, or

cannot download the list, please contact the Union office at (212) 233-0616.

**COBRA APPLICATIONS —** If you are no longer in active pay status you may not be eligible for health benefits and/or welfare benefits. You must purchase these benefits directly through the COBRA program for welfare benefits you should contact the Union office. For health benefits you should contact the agency benefits coordinator. You must enroll within 60 days from the qualifying event.

## COLLEGE LETTERS DUE FOR SPRING SEMESTER —

**Retiree members** with dependent(s) ages 19 to 23, who are attending college full time, must submit proof each semester, Fall and Spring. Spring semester letters are due by February 15, 2013. A letter that is signed, dated and bearing the seal of the College Registrar, stating that the dependent is a full-time, matriculated student is required as proof of eligibility for Prescription Drug Benefits. Claims for dependents whose letters have expired will not be honored. Dates on all claims must correspond with semesters for payment.

## MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES ENROLLED IN APPROVED HMOs —

NYC Local 246 is preparing the second half of 2012's reimbursement payments for those Medicare eligible retirees currently enrolled and/or who have opted to purchase their drug rider through deductions in their pension checks. In order to receive reimbursement from the Retirees Welfare Fund, eligible retirees must forward to the Union Office copies of their pension stubs for the period of July 1-December 31, 2012.

## COPE RAFFLE WINNER —

Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for March 2013 was Dimitrios Rigas (Auto Mechanic — Sanitation.)



## CONGRATULATIONS:



to Machinist and Shop Steward **Georgio Dessi** (DEP), who is retiring after 25 years on the job. Georgio started in the Department of Sanitation before the consolidation transferred him to DEP. Georgio became involved with the Union by attending membership meetings on a regular basis and after the retirement of former Shop Steward Ralph Alicea, Georgio was elected to represent Machinists in DEP in 2006.

"Georgio has represented with determination and forethought Machinists that work in both divisions," said President Joe Colangelo. "He has worked well with the entire Executive Board, and we thank him for his years of service. We all wish him well in his retirement and hope to see him as a retiree at all future meetings."



# MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING





# Remembering the TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY FIRE

On March 25, 1911, 146 workers — mostly young, immigrant women — were killed in a horrific fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory at Washington Place and Greene Street in lower Manhattan. Inadequate fire escapes, locked doors, and an overall disregard for worker safety contributed to this terrible disaster.



At about 4:45 p.m. — just 15 minutes before closing

time — a fire broke out on the 8th floor. At least 120 of the garment workers were either burned alive or jumped to their deaths from the 8th, 9th and 10th floors of the sweatshop near Washington Square Park. Many of the victims jumped to their deaths after finding fire doors locked and fire escapes leading nowhere. It was all over in just 30 minutes.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire was one of the worst workplace disasters in American history, and galvanized the city and the nation to fight for workplace protections, spurred union organizing, and inspired far-reaching reforms for workplace safety, workers' rights, and more.

On March 20, 2013, labor leaders and rank-and-file union members joined with the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition in the 102nd Anniversary Commemoration of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire.

"It is unfortunate that it took such a tragedy to bring worker safety issues into the public spotlight. If not for the fate of these 146 workers, numerous new workplace safety rules and protections, such as Workers' Compensation, might never have come into existence," said President Joe Colangelo, who attended the commemoration. "March 25 is an important date on the labor movement calendar and should be remembered as a day that not only changed the lives of 146 workers and their families, but the lives of millions of workers today throughout the country."

The ceremony included the New York City Fire Department raising the fire truck ladder to the sixth floor, the highest point it could reach in 1911, although the fire engulfed the eighth, ninth and 10th floors. Family members of the victims, students, and workers will read the names and laid a flower for each of the 146 victims as a bell tolled.

Numerous politicians and labor leaders addressed the crowd, including City Comptroller John Liu (pictured above), who is also running for Mayor this November.



# 2012 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Local 246 has issued the following three financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2012. Clockwise from top they are the Income and Expense statement for New York City Local 246, Income and Expense statement for the Retiree Welfare Fund, and Income and Expense statement for the Active Welfare Fund. All were prepared by the accounting firm of Wendel-Walowitz, LLC.

"I'm happy to report that the Union and both Welfare Funds are in good financial shape thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Officers and Trustees," said President Joe Colangelo. "We have made sound investments that have paid off, despite a decline in our membership, which is now at its lowest level."

Colangelo reported on these statements at the March General Membership meeting. Anyone with questions should contact the Union office.

**New York City Local 246**  
**Condensed Statement of Income and Expenses**  
**For the Calendar Year Ended December 31, 2012**

Dues Income		\$1,188,570
Less: Per Capita and Affiliations		( 224,319)
		964,251
Investment Income	\$ 10,522	
Sale of Apparel	335	
Miscellaneous Income	294	
Expense Reimbursements	4,880	
		16,031
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>980,282</b>
Expenses:		
Organizing	705,437	
Administrative	186,692	
Other Expenses	73,420	
		965,549
<b>Gain (Loss) for Period</b>		<b>\$ 14,733</b>

**New York City Local 246**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**  
**December 31, 2012**

<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash - Checking Accounts		\$ 230,818
Investments - Fair Value		905,305
Prepaid Expenses		0
Accrued Interest Receivable		5,426
Fixed Assets - Net of Depreciation		49,005
Due From Retired Employees Welfare Fund		663
Due From Welfare Fund		0
Security Deposits		5,260
		\$1,196,477
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$1,196,477</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Due to Welfare Fund		\$ 27,126
Accrued Expenses Payable		35,692
		62,818
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>62,818</b>
Net Worth - January 1, 2012	\$1,118,926	
Gain (Loss) for Period	14,733	
Net Worth - December 31, 2012		1,133,659
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Worth</b>		<b>\$1,196,477</b>

**New York City Local 246 Welfare Fund**  
**Condensed Statement of Income and Expenses**  
**For The Year Ended December 31, 2012**

Employer Contributions		\$2,196,550
Employee Contributions		15,322
Investment Income		230,333
		2,442,205
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>2,442,205</b>
Expenses:		
Prescription Drug	\$1,234,975	
Dental Benefits	647,035	
Optical	49,325	
Claims Administration	42,121	
Death Benefit	30,000	
Hearing Aid	800	
General and Administrative Expenses	190,287	
		2,194,543
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>2,194,543</b>
<b>Gain (Loss) for Period</b>		<b>\$ 247,662</b>

**New York City Local 246 Welfare Fund**  
**Statement of Net Assets**  
**December 31, 2012**

<b>Assets</b>		
Cash - Checking Accounts and on Hand	\$ 358,509	
Investments - Fair Value	4,076,584	
Employer Contributions Receivable	174,161	
Accrued Interest Receivable	18,079	
Other Receivable	0	
Prepaid Expenses	3,001	
Due from Retiree Welfare Fund	67,555	
Due from Local 246	27,126	
		\$4,725,015
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$4,725,015</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accrued Benefits Payable	\$ 129,646	
Due to Local 246	6,122	
Accrued Expenses Payable	0	
		135,768
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>135,768</b>
Plan Assets - January 1, 2012	\$4,341,585	
Gain (Loss) for Period	247,662	
Plan Assets - December 31, 2012		\$4,589,247

**New York City Local 246 Retiree Welfare Fund**  
**Condensed Statement of Income and Expenses**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2012**

Employer Contributions		\$1,621,777
Employee Contributions		15,491
Investment Income		206,520
		1,843,788
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>1,843,788</b>
Expenses:		
Prescription Drug	\$1,051,136	
Dental Benefits	280,614	
Optical	34,674	
Hearing Aid	3,600	
Claims Administration	30,763	
General and Administrative Expenses	135,977	
		1,536,764
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>1,536,764</b>
<b>Gain (Loss) for Period</b>		<b>\$ 307,024</b>

**New York City Local 246 Retiree Welfare Fund**  
**Statement of Net Assets**  
**December 31, 2012**

<b>Assets</b>		
Cash - Checking Accounts		\$ 472,274
Investments		3,565,502
Employer Contributions Receivable		143,444
Refund Receivable		22,056
Accrued Interest Receivable		15,372
		\$4,218,648
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$4,218,648</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Due to Active Employees Welfare Fund		\$ 67,556
Due to Local 246		663
Accrued Benefits Payable		116,784
Reserve for Medicare Part D Repayment		351,850
Accrued Expenses Payable		2,506
		539,359
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>539,359</b>
Plan Assets - January 1, 2012	\$3,372,265	
Gain (Loss) for Period	307,024	
Plan Assets - December 31, 2012		\$3,679,289



# CAREER DAY

## COLANGELO SPEAKS AT ALMA MATER

**President Joe Colangelo once again returned to his alma mater's career day to talk to students about career options in the areas of auto mechanic, sheet metal worker and even aviation.**

The annual event at Aviation High School was held this year on March 14 and marked 37 years since Colangelo himself graduated.

"A lot has changed since 1976," he told the students. "There are so many more options available to you. The evolution of technology has expanded your career choices to areas we never even dreamed about when I was a student."

Colangelo also attended Teterboro School of Aeronautics receiving an Aircraft, Airframe and Power Plant license. He obtained his Private Pilot's license in 1999.

"Once again, the students amazed me with the depth of their knowledge in the field and the types of questions they asked," he said. "They showed a real interest the field and I had the chance to talk to them about some of the hands-on work they were doing as part of their program."

While standing in the hall after his presentation, Colangelo noticed a young Marine in full dress uniform. He approached Sergeant Michael Blake, a graduate himself of Aviation High, and thanked him for his service to our country.

"I told him how honored I was to shake his hand and personally thanked him for his service. He then pulled out of his pocket an invitation to his Purple Heart Ceremony the following day and invited me to attend," Colangelo said. He attended the Purple Heart Ceremony with Business Agent Tom Graziano.

Colangelo said that the Officer who made the presentation talked about how the Purple Heart is not the type of medal you try to achieve, as it is presented to those wounded while under fire. More than 14,000 Purple Heart Medals have been awarded during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and most were given to Marines who are single- and double-amputees or those with severe burns covering a large percentage of their bodies.

"This is something to think about the next time you see someone in uniform," Colangelo said. "It is incumbent upon us all to personally thank everyone who serves our country for without them, we might not be able to enjoy the freedom we have become so accustomed to."



## 2013 STATE BUDGET PASSED ON TIME

For the third year in a row, the New York State Legislature was able to pass an on-time budget, beating the April 1 deadline by a mere few days. The finished product closes a \$1.3 billion gap and increases spending for schools by more than \$1 billion, to roughly \$21 billion. The plan extends higher income taxes on millionaires, and the \$350 checks will go to families

with children under 17 with incomes between \$40,000 and \$300,000.

The budget also includes tax breaks for businesses and includes a three-year phase-in of an increase in the minimum wage — from \$7.25 an hour to \$9 an hour by 2016.

Assembly members spent more than two hours debating the education, labor and family assistance bill, which included some of the more controversial pieces of the budget agreement: the minimum-wage hike and tweaks to the state's new gun-control law.

# UNION ROUNDUP

**On February 7, President Joe Colangelo, VP Charlie Pastorelli, Recording Secretary Jim Grillo and Business Agent Tom Graziano met with Housing to discuss the new Bronx shop doing small engine repairs. We are hopeful that this leads to a position for some of our members. We will keep you informed.**

**Local 246 and management met** on February 27 to continue discussions regarding CityTime procedures and how Union members are impacted. Several problems and discrepancies were resolved, as well as payroll issues. While a few sticking points still remain, Local 246 will continue to meet until a final resolution is reached.

**The MLC Steering Committee** meeting on April 15 will include an update for unions on the impact of the removal of a drug cap from the Active Welfare Funds. Some are praising this change, but the consequences could be that the Union may no longer be able to provide coverage and you would have to pay for the drug rider, which is currently \$92 bi-weekly for families and about \$51 for individuals. After the meeting, we will have more detailed information and will post on our website.

**Welfare Fund Trustees** met on March 13 to discuss everything from the transition to CitizensRx to the proposed elimination of the drug cap. Both Active and Retiree Funds continue to remain financially healthy. The Active Fund has seen a drop in contributions due to a loss of membership. The Retiree Fund has seen an increase due to the increase in member retirements. As always, we continue to monitor both funds closely. We are finalizing the updated welfare booklets, which will be distributed to all active and retired members in the next few months.

## LUCK OF THE IRISH

## GIFT CARD WINNERS



In keeping with the St. Patrick's Day spirit, Local 246 raffled off five American Express gift cards at the March membership meeting. The lucky winners of the \$25 gift cards were:

**Dimitrios Rigas**  
Auto Mechanic — Sanitation

**Ronald Hutson**  
Machinist — DEP

**Wayne Chang**  
Auto Mechanic — DOT

**Mario Marroquin**  
Machinist — DOE

**Paul D'Amico**  
Sheet Metal Worker — Police

## MAKING THE ROUNDS SANITATION BK8

As part of his regular rounds visiting members at their jobs, President Joe Colangelo stopped by the Sanitation BK8 shop in early March the day of the snow storm to see how the guys were doing keeping up with salt spreader repairs. Colangelo said that while New Yorkers see the obvious results of the machines on the road spreading salt to cut down on the number of accidents, what they don't see is the behind-the-scenes hard work put in by Local 246 members to keep those machines operable. Pictured are Auto Mechanics Donovan Hylton, Chickey, and Colangelo.





# DRESSED IN GREEN FOR ST. PAT'S DAY

## MEMBERS SHOW IRISH SPIRIT

The Union's annual Greenest Contest brought out many different shades of green (and some questionably green), but was fun all the same. Members came, showing their Irish spirit, while those not dressed up voted on their favorite. The lucky winners this year were John Sperling (Auto Service Worker — Parks); Henry Meckl (Retired Auto Mechanic — Sanitation); and John Cinarella (Auto Mechanic — Fire). All received gift cards. Even President Joe Colangelo once again got into the spirit by donning his official Irish tie, as did VP Charles Pastorelli.



"It's a fun event to hold each year. We didn't have any crazy green costumes at the meeting, but we did have members wearing all different shades of green in one form or another," Colangelo said. "That, combined with the cabbage and corned beef, made for a fun first meeting of the calendar year."



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REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

## NEW SHOP

## EMS REPAIR FACILITY OPENS IN LONG ISLAND CITY



Local 246 Vice President Charles Pastorelli represented the Union at the March 18 building ceremony for the new Fire Department EMS repair shop in Long Island City. The Union stands firm in its belief that the DEP shop previously at this location, dismantled and split between Sanitation and Police should have stayed intact. President Joe Colangelo said Local 246 is in total disagreement with management's decision to transfer responsibility between the two agencies and then transfer the physical shop to Fire/EMS. However, Colangelo said the Union stands behind its members 100 percent and is working to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.