

# IMPACT

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JANUARY 2013

## GOVERNOR'S STATE OF STATE NO MENTION OF LABOR OR RIGHT TO WORK LAWS

**President Joe Colangelo traveled to Albany January 9 to hear the 2013 State of the State message delivered by Governor Cuomo. Colangelo said that while he touched on a lot of topics, the speech sounded more presidential than gubernatorial.**

While guns and the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy were focal points of the Governor's 78-minute, 326-page speech entitled "New York Rising," it also included an onslaught of new proposals, such as raising the minimum wage and reforming Workers' Compensation and unemployment insurance. Absent from the speech was any mention of labor or reference to Right to Work laws being passed in a multitude of states.

Two years ago, the Governor said New York was "at a crossroads; that the state needed to chart a new course and begin a journey to rebuild our state. It was imperative that we restore the public trust and renew the dream and reverse decades of decline."

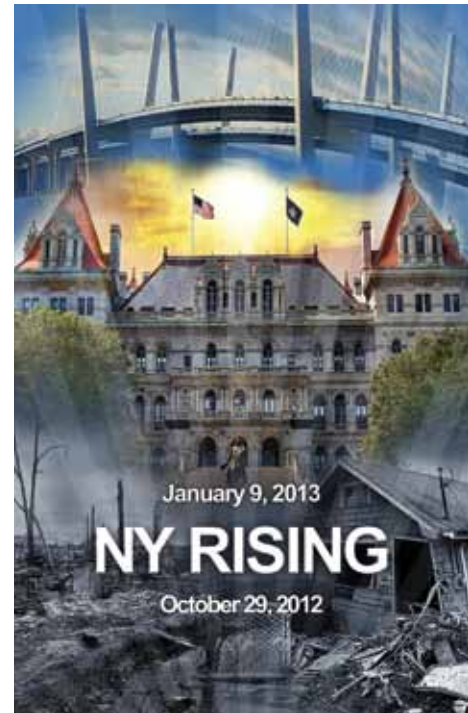
The Governor proposed reforms to both the unemployment insurance and Workers' Compensation systems that will increase unemployment insurance benefits to workers.

He also said that people deserve to be paid fairly and the current minimum wage is unlivable. He proposed raising the minimum wage to \$8.75 an hour. "A minimum wage ensures that the most vulnerable members of the workforce can participate and contribute to a robust and sustainable economy. A reasonable minimum wage increases the standard of living for workers, reduces poverty and incentivizes fair and more efficient business practices," Cuomo said in his speech.

With all his new proposals and initiatives, what remains to be seen is how the Governor plans to fund them all.

"At least there were no attacks on the labor movement," Colangelo said. "He even praised municipal workers for their outstanding efforts during and after Hurricane Sandy. Now we have to wait for him to release his budget and see if funding all his initiatives comes at the expense of hard-working New Yorkers."

NYS AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento said that Governor Cuomo's commitment to boosting the state's stagnant unemployment benefit is "welcome news to working men and women throughout the state. The Labor Movement has been fighting for an increase in benefits and a long-term solution for far too long – 13 years, and looks forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to finally give unemployed workers the help they need to support their families, stay in their homes, and most importantly find new employment."



Eyeglass Coverage Improved

3



Tax Benefit

4



Holiday Party

6-7

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# Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



This year will be very challenging for workers in both the public and private sectors. Although most of us hoped that after the presidential election we could stop reading about all the bad times, we were faced with the continued onslaught of fiscal cliff headlines.

It's not like our elected officials hadn't known for many months that the fiscal cliff deadline was looming. It's just that in typical political fashion, a resolution wasn't arrived at until the bitter end, which left Americans on our own cliff of nerves and anticipation. I would think that politicians would have learned by now that the public is tired of all the infighting and rhetoric and that they would have come to a solution sooner rather than later. Oh well.

For us in the New York and New Jersey area, insult was added to injury when House Republicans refused to vote on the Hurricane Sandy Relief Package. The voting delay by House Republicans so infuriated even those in their own party, that Congressman Peter King (R) Long Island and New Jersey Governor Chris Christy (R) together had harsh words for their own party's leadership in Congress.

It should be noted that the battles being waged against labor are not by one party alone. Some Democrats are guilty of placing the blame on public sector workers as an excuse to impose harsh changes to public employee pensions. For example, Illinois Democratic Governor Pat Quinn was looking to enact changes before a new legislature is sworn in. He wanted to include higher contributions by state workers, reduce the cost-of-living adjustments, impose caps on salaries used to set pensions, eliminate pension abuse and after a long history of not making regular required contributions, guarantee the state will make required annual pension payments. The Governor looked to resolve the unfunded liability that has been accumulating for decades with the state's pension

## BENEFIT ENHANCEMENT FUNDS IMPROVE EYEGLASS COVERAGE

Trustees of both the Active and Retiree Welfare Funds have approved significant changes to our prescription eyeglass plan. This change will increase the plan from two pairs of prescription glasses per family to three pairs of prescription glasses per rolling 12-month period per family. This includes examinations, selected frames and selected lenses.

"The Trustees has always been to guide the funds' expenses in a financially prudent manner and now because of that, we are able to make this improvement that will greatly benefit our members," said President Joe Colangelo.

problems dating back at least 70 years. In Illinois, any fix pits a legislature dominated by Democrats against the wishes of labor unions, long seen as strong supporters of the Democrats. And the State Constitution includes a provision that has stirred endless debate over how much Illinois can change a public sector worker's pension in the first place. Sounds a bit like New York.

Labor's continued battle with politicians across the board stayed in the spotlight as Michigan's "Right to Work Law" was signed by Governor Rick Snyder, making it the 24th Right-to-Work state. This only 10 months after Indiana passed a similar law. The Michigan Law exempted police and firefighters, but one has to question the thinking of any of these types of attacks and the logic used to justify passage. It was only two years ago that Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker used similar laws to justify fixing his state's budget problems.

In New York City, Mayor Bloomberg — who despite his public stance that he is willing to negotiate raises for City workers — continues to stress that raises are fine as long as they are funded by productivity improvements that save the City an equivalent amount. It is every labor leader's belief that all union contracts will have to wait for the next Mayor. This has some serious consequences for whomever is elected, and also leaves hundreds of thousands of municipal workers without contracts until after November 2013. That's a long time away.

Thank goodness for the 1982 Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law that prohibits a public employer from altering any provision of an expired labor agreement until a new agreement is reached. Of course, this has also come under attack in recent years as New York is the only state with such a law, originally implemented specifically because contracts were not being negotiated in a timely fashion. Without it, municipalities would have no incentive to negotiate.

The Mayor also has appealed a Judge's ruling on our 220 reclassification case. The appeal will be heard by the New York State Appellate Division Second Department sometime this year, although as of now, we don't know exactly when. Unions affected by this would be severely impacted in bargaining if our Court victory in the Supreme Court is not upheld.

Local 246, as well as the labor movement in general, has some

serious battles this year. They remain some of our top priorities, as protecting what our members have is always our goal.

We still get many questions from members about the ongoing Fleet Consolidation. Due to Hurricane Sandy, a temporary hold was put on the DEP consolidation, which was later completed in mid-December. We are now tackling safety concerns that went un-addressed, specifically the cleaning of DEP equipment before repair are performed in Sanitation facilities. We are most concerned with equipment used in direct contact with raw sewage.

All our Shop Stewards have been notified and the Union instructed them that any members' questions or concerns should be addressed immediately before any repairs are performed. While this only affects certain types of vehicles, our members' safety always comes first.

The next phase will be the transfer of the FDNY ambulance shop into the former DEP shop. Part of the plan will require new shifts that will be instituted at the ambulance shop and as management develops the staffing plan, Shop Stewards will address any concerns.

On a bright note, shoe vouchers were mailed the beginning of January. The Executive Board has approved an increase of up to \$60 toward the purchase of work shoes for active members. This will go a long way toward offsetting the cost of work shoes, which have escalated in cost.

The Welfare Fund also approved an increase to our eyeglass voucher program to allow up to three vouchers per family unit. The Welfare Trustees are also overseeing our transition from Express Scripts to our new prescription provider Citizens Rx. In anticipation of the changes in 2014 to the prescription drug coverage as part of the Affordable Care Act, our switch is projected to save the Active and Retiree Funds a substantial amount of money that will be used to strengthen both funds.

Reminder that there are no membership meetings in January and February, so members are encouraged to check the Union's website on a regular basis for the most up-to-date information.

As always we are united in our commitment to provide the best representation you deserve.

## 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 last year. **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.

## NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

### in January & February

Reminder that there are no January and February membership meetings. President Joe Colangelo said that if there is an urgent matter that needs to be brought to members' attention, a special notice will be posted or mailed out. Regular monthly meetings will resume in March. Members can continue to visit the Union's web site at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org) for information.

## IN MEMORIAM:

### **Bruce Allison**

Retired Jr. Auto Service Worker — DOT

### **Raymond Dezinski**

Retired Sheetmetal Worker — HHC

### **David Kettle**

Retired Auto Machinist — San

### **Richard Ohanian**

Retired Rubber Tire Repairer — San

### **Edward Sullivan**

Retired Machinist — San

### **Arthur Surrey**

Retired Auto Mechanic — Pol

### **Alexander Suto**

Retired Machinist — DOC

### **Frank Zancocchio**

Retired Machinist Helper — San

# GOOD WELFARE



## REPORTING ILL:

### **Eugene Dajczak**

Retired Machinist — San

## NEW MEMBERS:

### **Attilio Agostino**

Machinist Helper — DEP

### **Faraz Gafur**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Diogenes Mata**

Machinist Helper — DEP

## RETIRING MEMBERS:

### **William Bosman**

Auto Mechanic — Pol

### **James Brunning**

Rubber Tire Repairer — San

### **Victor Segarra**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Edward Zborowski**

Auto Mechanic — DCAS

## IN MEMORIAM FAMILY:

### **Robert LaBella** (Brother)

Auto Mechanic — San

**VISIT THE UNION'S WEBSITE [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org)**

for the most up-to-date information

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF

# UNION'S INCOME TAX BENEFIT

Members who wish to take advantage of Local 246's income tax benefit must do so by April 15, 2013. The benefit is administered by the accounting firm of Wendel-Walowitz Associates, Inc. and is available to both Active and Retired members. Members will be able to file their returns electronically and will receive their refunds in about half the time of filing a paper return. The schedule for 2013 is below. All appointments begin at 8:00 a.m. and will continue as long as needed. Anyone who cannot make it to one of the times listed below should contact David Walowitz at (212) 682-6003 to schedule an appointment at his office, 420 Lexington Ave., Suite 2737, New York, NY 10170.

### **Kowalinski VFW Post #4: 61-57 Maspeth Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378**

Saturday, February 2, 9, 23 ♦ Saturday, March 9, 23

### **Long Island Office: 68 South Service Road, Suite 100, (Regus Office Center) Melville, NY 11747**

Saturday, February 16  
Wednesday, February 27  
Saturday, March 2

Monday, March 11  
Wednesday, March 20  
Saturday, March 30



# NEWS & NOTES

**LAWRENCE KOMNICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** — Applications to apply for our brother Lawrence Komnick Memorial Scholarship Award will be available by February 1, 2013. 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.

**NEW PRESCRIPTION PLAN CARDS** — Members should have already received their new Citizens Rx prescription drug plan cards in the mail. Anyone who has not received theirs, or who received cards with incorrect information, should contact the Local 246 office at 212-233-0616. The new cards became effective January 1, 2013. Additionally, the 2013 Citizens Rx National Preferred Formulary is now available on the Local 246 website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org). Please check it before getting your prescriptions filled.

**RETIREE DUES FOR 2013** — Retiree dues for 2013 are due to the Union office no later than January 31, 2013. 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.

**NOTIFY US IF PROMOTED** — You must notify the Union immediately when you are promoted to another title such as foreman, or a provisional title that is not represented by Local 246. It is also very important that you notify the Union office or your Shop Steward immediately if you

are going to be taken off payroll, after you use up all of your time due to sickness, accident or compensation injury. **Remember...you lose your union welfare benefits and your health insurance coverage from the day you are suspended or terminated.** Any bills incurred from that date until you go back on payroll, rehired, reinstated or resume a Local 246 title are your responsibility. You can arrange through COBRA to continue your health insurance coverage. Call the Union for more information.

**MECHANIC'S EXAM STUDY GUIDES ON UNION WEBSITE** — Study guides for the upcoming exams are now on the Union's website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org) in the News link. Scroll about half way down the page. All the questions and answers from the last classes the Union sponsored for the Auto Mechanic and Diesel Mechanics exams are available.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE LOSS RESULTING FROM SANDY** — All SEIU Local 246 members who, as a result of hurricane Sandy, had property damage loss of personal tools and or equipment used in the performance of their duties should file a claim with the Comptroller's Office Bureau of Law and Adjustments using the claim forms that can be found on the Union's website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org) on the News page. **Please be advised that you have 90 days from the date of occurrence to file your claims, which must be notarized.** Time is running out. All claims must be submitted in person or mailed by certified mail.

**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.

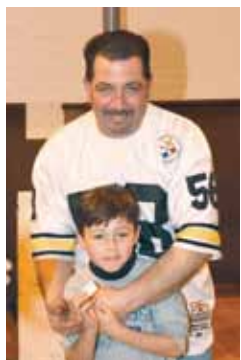
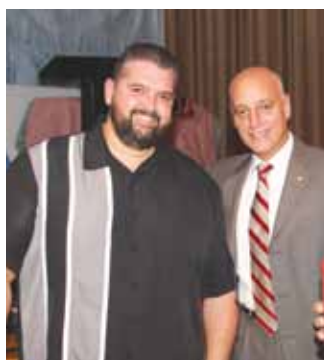
**MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES ENROLLED IN APPROVED HMOs** — NYC Local 246 will prepare the second half of 2012's reimbursement payments for those Medicare eligible retirees currently enrolled and/or who have opted to purchase their drug rider through deductions in their pension checks. In order to receive 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.

**ORDER YOUR UNION JACKET NOW** — Local 246 has made available for purchase by members Union jackets featuring a large scale color version of the Local 246 logo on the back. The cost of the jacket is \$80. If you want to add your name on one line to the front, the cost is \$82. If you want your name and your shop or title on the second line, the cost is \$84. If you need a size 2X, add \$3 to the total cost of whatever jacket you choose. If you need a 3X, add \$6 to the total cost of whatever jacket you choose. Jackets can either be picked up at the Union office or at a general membership meeting. Anyone with questions should call the Union office.

**COPE RAFFLE WINNER** — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for December 2012 was Victor Maineri (Auto Mechanic — DOC). Vice President Charles Pastorelli displays the winnings with Treasurer Ray Schacor.



# DECEMBER



Tim Faughnan, CEO of Northeastern Engineers Federal Credit Union, and Billy Jelley, NEFCU Chairman, present two gift baskets at the Holiday Party. Lucky winners of the raffle were Thomas Patrick (Sheet Metal Worker — DOC) and Dean Sclafani (Auto Mechanic — DOC).

# MEMBERSHIP MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY



## 2012 HOLIDAY RAFFLE WINNERS

Nasir Ali . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 John Amendola . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Peter Barry . . . . . Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Christian Bernard . . . . . Sheet Metal Worker . . . . . DOT  
 Alphonza Brathwaite . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Philip Carpenter . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Police  
 Michael Cawley . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . DOT  
 Kraig Codner . . . . . Auto Mecha Diesel . . . . . San  
 Luis Contreras . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Police  
 Anthony Cuomo . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Police  
 Paul D'Amico . . . . . Sheet Metal Worker . . . . . Police  
 Joseph Dell-Aquilla . . . . . Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Vito Divittorio, Jr. . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Dimitrios Dolan . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Parks  
 Gregory Edwards . . . . . Ret. Jr. Auto Service Worker . . DOT  
 Wayne Eng . . . . . Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . . Parks  
 Joseph Fishkin . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Police  
 Ignazio Focarino . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Police  
 Paul Friedman . . . . . Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Steven Johnson . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Fire  
 Brian Kacher . . . . . Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . . Fire  
 Charles Kingly . . . . . Sr. Auto Service Worker . . . . . Parks  
 Nicholas Lauda . . . . . Sheet Metal Worker . . . . . DOT  
 Edwin Lopez . . . . . Rubber Tire Repairer . . . . . DOC  
 Shirley MacQueen . . . . . Machinist Helper . . . . . BOE  
 Victor Maineri . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . DOC  
 Leonard Malichuk . . . . . Machinist Helper . . . . . BOE  
 Moe Mangaroo . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . San

Kandiah Manoranjithan . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Police  
 Lawrence Martin . . . . . Auto Mechanic Diesel . . . . . San  
 Carlton Mazyck . . . . . Auto Service Worker . . . . . DOC  
 Henry Meckl . . . . . Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Jack Minerva . . . . . Auto Electrician . . . . . San  
 Edward Mitchell . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Fire  
 Michael Moscato . . . . . Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . . Parks  
 Pablo Oliver . . . . . Sr Auto Service Worker . . . . . Parks  
 Thomas Patrick . . . . . Sheet Metal Worker . . . . . DOC  
 Pablo Perez . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Fire  
 Paul Petrelis . . . . . Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Richard Ramirez . . . . . Sheet Metal Worker . . . . . DOC  
 James Rigas . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Esteban Rodriguez . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Fire  
 Richard Saunders . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Police  
 Antonio Sedita . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Police  
 Raymond Sellers . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Police  
 Vijay Singhal . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . Police  
 Deryck Thomassian . . . . . Auto Mechanic Diesel . . . . . San  
 Robert Toigo . . . . . Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Kenneth Triolo . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . DOC  
 Anthony Turrignano . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Ronald Valli . . . . . Auto Electrician . . . . . San  
 Luis Vasquez . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
 Joseph Vecchie . . . . . Auto Mechanic . . . . . San  
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