

# IMPACT

VOL. 10

NO. 5

JANUARY 2014

## BILL deBLASIO SWORN IN AS MAYOR VOWS TO TACKLE "A TALE OF TWO CITIES"

**The City's first Democratic Mayor in 20 years is now officially New York's 109th Mayor after two January 1 swearing in ceremonies.**

Mayor Bill deBlasio will be faced with the challenge of running a large, diverse and complex city — one that has been paralyzed by a former Mayor intent on dividing along economic lines. DeBlasio has pledged to improve economic opportunities in minority and working-class neighborhoods, plans to tax the rich to pay for universal all-day pre-kindergarten, reform the police department's controversial stop-and-frisk program, and expand paid sick leave to include workers at small businesses.

But what labor leaders across the City are waiting to hear about is Mayor deBlasio's plan to come to the bargaining table and hammer out long-overdue contracts with every Union.

"Big dreams are not a luxury reserved for a privileged few but the animating force behind every community, in every borough," he said in his speech. "When I said we would take dead aim at the tale of two cities, I meant it. And we will do it. I will honor the faith and trust you have placed in me. And we will give life to the hope of so many in our city. We will succeed ... as one city."

Local 246 President Joe Colangelo agreed with Mayor



Mayor Bill deBlasio, with his family looking on, is sworn in by former President Bill Clinton.

deBlasio's comments and reiterated the fact that the City's skilled labor force is entitled to the salaries and benefits that will enable them to support their families.

"We didn't take our jobs to become rich; we took them for security," Colangelo said. "Mayor deBlasio won on his pledge to bring the City together as one and stem the great divide."

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# Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



Welcome to 2014. As we start another new year, we are looking forward to what we hope will be a more productive time for the labor movement. We have a new Mayor and a new administration. With that hopefully comes a new outlook toward those who keep our City running.

The year started off with a storm that once again crippled a large part of the metropolitan area. Despite all the businesses that shut down and the stores that could not open, our members diligently showed up for work, along with the City's police, firefighters, sanitation workers and correction personnel. We don't have the option of staying home. Our members found a way of getting to work no matter what it took.

The thought never crossed our minds to stay home in inclement weather. Imagine what would happen to the City if we did? This is what the new administration needs to remember when we try to start up contract negotiations. We are what keeps New York City rolling.

We do have great expectations from the deBlasio Administration to fix some of the problems caused by the changes we were forced into by the outgoing administration. As I visited the shops during the past few weeks, it was clear that our membership is frustrated — and rightfully so — with the current workload

## FINAL SPEECH OUTGOING MAYOR BLAMES UNIONS

*"It is unfortunate that Mayor Bloomberg would use his last few days in office to blame unions yet again for the failure of his own Administration. He should remember that the very people he blames for the city's financial problems are the same people whom he lauds for keeping this the safest city in the world, working around the clock after Hurricane Sandy, and teaching our 1.1 million public school children.*

*"Over the past 12 years, we have watched New York City's middle class get squeezed from every side. Unlike the private sector where workers jump from job to job and have higher pay, our municipal workers spend their entire professional lives working for the city knowing they will be able to have a secure retirement.*

*Pensions are at the heart of that commitment. Does he really believe there is something wrong with a City employee having adequate healthcare and a reasonable pension after 25-30 years of serving the public?*

*As Mayor Bloomberg goes off into his retirement, he should realize that others who have worked just as hard deserve it as well." — Harry Nespoli, MLC Chairman*

created by the Fleet Consolidation. Now that different Agency equipment is spread throughout so many different garages, there is a slow coordination in determining which vehicles are priority for repair. This is leaving members in a state of flux as to what they should repair first — their own Agency vehicles, or those that have come in from elsewhere? An example of the lack of direction is when a Mechanic gets a road call for a piece of equipment for an Agency he does not work for, and must stop working on his Agency's vehicle in order to make that call. Now he has to go out, make the diagnosis on the vehicle, return to his garage and restart his previous repair assignment.

The Fleet Consolidation plan was implemented so quickly and with little attention paid to input from those who actually perform the work. Agencies have yet to issue instructions on a pecking order for repairs and service calls. The above scenario is playing itself out every day in garages as different orders are being handed out based on varying vehicle down times.

These problems are being compounded by the parts ordering fiasco created under the former Mayoral Administration. Our members are trained as Mechanics and Machinists. We are not trained as computer operators and data input personnel. However, that is in essence what we are being forced to do under the new parts ordering system. This computer time is leading to an undue slowing down of work time and an inefficiency in the day's workflow. We have heard complaints from members — that we are attempting to address — that the new parts ordering system is only leading to a delay in getting the actual vehicles repaired.

We have always prided ourselves on efficiency. Now, however, thanks to the former City Administration, we are running into a brick wall. This is, of course, one of the many issues that will be broached quickly with the deBlasio Administration. The system is not user friendly and many of our members are having difficulty learning it, thereby creating another layer of responsibility to our daily workload.

When I was out visiting shops in December, several members showed me how just to order a part for a down vehicle, they first must start a work order in the system, or the Parts Department cannot accept the request. Mechanics need to stop working on their vehicles, wash up, and open up the program in order to create a job order by vehicle and down code before they can contact parts and request what is needed. What previously only took a few minutes on the phone and the parts were on their way, now takes upward of 15 minutes.

Finally, we cannot forget about our labor of contracts. Our members are into the fourth year of expired contracts, thereby making this our number one priority with the new Administration. The hardship this has caused our members and all City workers is totally unacceptable. We all know the media is not sympathetic to our plight and we don't expect any of them to side with us. The deBlasio Administration has so far said the right things to the press; now all we are waiting for is to give him ample time to settle in, make his necessary appointments, and open up discussions.

When the outgoing Mayor gave his last policy speech at the Economic Development Corporation, he attacked our pensions and health care, and went so far as to recommend that the opportunity was right for the new mayor to bargain aggressively to take away or diminish these benefits. Mayor elect deBlasio put out a statement saying: "Every labor contract is open in New York City. That's never happened before. No previous mayor's ever let that happen, so I would caution, as much as I appreciate Mayor Bloomberg's advice, that one should be careful from giving advice from that perspective." I felt he hit the nail on the head with that one.

We have a lot to look forward to and as always, a lot of work ahead of us. The Executive Board looks forward to the challenges. Be assured we will fight for everything our members deserve and fight for the respect for the jobs you all perform each and every day.

## CHANGES TO ACTIVE WELFARE FUND BENEFITS

The Local 246 Active Welfare Fund made changes to the prescription drug benefit, eliminating the cap on essential medical services. This change is for **ACTIVE MEMBERS ONLY**. According to President Joe Colangelo, the Fund also will be addressing the pediatric optical and dental coverage, as these services will fall under the same no-cap guidelines. **THERE ARE NO CHANGES TO THE RETIREE PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE AT THIS TIME.**

The Welfare Fund Trustees approved the changes so the Fund remains in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. A more detailed explanation of the changes was mailed out from the Active Welfare Fund to each participant and is posted on the Union's website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org). Again, **CHANGES ONLY APPLY TO ACTIVE MEMBERS, NOT RETIREES.**

## NO MEETINGS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Reminder that there are no General Membership Meetings in January or February 2014. 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 on the Union's website 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.

## NEW MEMBERS

**Arben Amsterdam**

Auto Service Worker — Police

**Edward Beck**

Auto Mechanic — San

**Deonarine Bindesh**

Machinist Helper — DEP

**Christian Farah**

Auto Service Worker — Police

**Stacy Kruckenberg**

Machinist — DEP

**Rodrigo Paulino**

Auto Service Worker — Fire

**Sergio Ricano**

Auto Mechanic — San

**Alexander Sanchez**

Auto Service Worker — Police

**Joseph Tuffarelli**

Auto Service Worker — Fire



# GOOD & WELFARE

## RETIRING MEMBERS

**William Bianco**

Auto Mechanic — San

**Michael Caldarella**

Auto Mechanic — San

**James Corcoran**

Sheet Metal Worker — Dept. of Homeless

**William Igarburu**

Auto Mechanic — San

**Trevor Robinson**

Auto Mechanic — Police

## IN MEMORIAM

**Romano Pinggera**

Ret. Auto Mechanic — DOT

## IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

**Walter Lynch** (Father)

Ret. Auto Machinist — San

## LET US KNOW:

If you have news you'd like to share with other members, send it to the Union Office for the publication in this newsletter. Birthdays. Graduations. Trips. Honors. Community Service. New babies. It's all good news to share with other members. Be sure to include photos, as well as daytime and evening phone numbers where you can be reached if we should have any questions.

## HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER



During the holidays, Retired Sanitation Auto Mechanics Sal and Carmella Agostinacchio, Vinnie and Linda Pellegrino, Bob and Janet Serrao, Barbara and Bob Gagliardo, John and Jeanette Damaduk met at the Paradise Diner on Long Island for a great night of food and conversation. "It's always great to get together with our friends from the ole' job," they said.

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

for the most  
up-to-date information

*Happy  
New Year*  
2014

# NEWS & NOTES

**RETIREE DUES FOR 2014** — Retirees' annual dues for 2014 are due to the Union office no later than January 31, 2014. Please send your check or money order payable to NYC Local 246, 217 Broadway Suite 501, New York, NY 10007 in the amount of \$60. The amount is nominal and just covers the per capita and dues mailings.

**CITIZENS RX PREFERRED FORMULARY** — The 2014 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. It represents an abbreviated version of the drug list (formulary) that is at the core of your prescription-drug benefit plan. The list is not all-inclusive and does not guarantee coverage. In addition to using this list, you are encouraged to ask your doctor to prescribe generic drugs when-ever appropriate. An asterisk next to a drug signifies it is subject to non formula status when a generic is available. Not all the drugs are covered by all prescription-drug benefit programs. Check your benefit materials for the specific drugs covered and co-payments for your prescription drug benefit program. 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.

**LAWRENCE KOMNICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD** — Applications for Active members to apply for our brother Lawrence Komnick Memorial Scholarship Award will be available by February 1, 2014. 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 one-time only \$1,000

award. Applications must be completed and postmarked by April 30, 2014, 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 2014 are eligible to apply. The names of those 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 will take place at the May 2014 General Membership Meeting.

**SEIU 2013-2014 SCHOLARSHIPS** — SEIU is offering 51 college scholarships each year. Only members of SEIU and their children are eligible to apply. Application information is available at [www.seiu.org/mbe/scholarships](http://www.seiu.org/mbe/scholarships) or by contacting the Scholarship Program at the SEIU Scholarship Programs, c/o Scholarship Program Administrators Inc., P.O. Box 23737, Nashville, TN 37202-3737. You may also call (615) 320-3149.

**ONLY MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES ENROLLED IN APPROVED HMOs** — NYC Local 246 will prepare the second half of 2013'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, 2013.

**COLLEGE LETTERS DUE BY FEBRUARY 15 FOR SPRING SEMESTER** — RETIREE members with dependents ages 19 to 23 attending college full time, must submit proof each semester – fall and spring. A letter that is signed dated and bears the seal of the College Registrar, stating that the dependent is a full time, matriculated student is required as proof of eligibility for Welfare Benefits. Prescription claims

for dependents that letters have expired will not be honored. They will be terminated.

**WHAT TO DO IF A RETIREE DIES** — To obtain Survivor benefits, you must notify the following offices as soon as possible:

Social Security Administration  
800.772.1213

Local 246 Retiree's Benefit Fund  
212.233.0616

New York City Employee Benefit Program (NYCEB) (Health Insurance)  
212.513.0470

New York City Employee Retirement System (NYCERS)  
347.643.3000/3620

When calling these offices, ask about survivor continuation of benefits under COBRA. The Union is also available to answer questions.

**LOCATE POSSIBLE UNCLAIMED FUNDS** — To see if you have unclaimed funds in New York State, go to the following link and type in your name — <https://ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/>

**COPE RAFFLE WINNER** — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for December 2013 was Auto Mechanic Michael Szumega (San). He is pictured below receiving his winnings from Business Agent Tom Graziano (center) and Treasurer Ray Schacor.



# DECEMBER



# MEMBERSHIP MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY



# HOLIDAY RAFFLE WINNERS



Northeastern Engineers Federal Credit Union once again donated two large gift baskets and two gift certificates to Local 246 that the Union raffled off at the December General Membership Meeting and Holiday Party. "We have been working with NEFCU for quite some time and they are always very generous in giving back to the Union," said President Joe Colangelo. "We are very appreciative of their efforts and of course, the winning members definitely enjoy their prizes." Picture above are representatives from NEFCU, along with the raffle winners. From left: Tim Faughnan, NEFCU Chief Executive Officer; Kandiah Manoranjithan, Auto Mechanic, Police; President Joe Colangelo; Shirley MacQueen, Machinist Helper, BOE; Billy Jelley, NEFCU Chairman of the Board; Wayne A. Figliola, Auto Mechanic, DOT; and Michael Carroll, Auto Mechanic, Fire.

## UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

### FOR 2014

It's important for our office to have correct information for each member. Please take a few minutes to call the Union Office at (212) 233-0616 to advise us of any of the following changes:

- Name Changes
- Domestic Partner
- Spouse's Name
- Marital Status
- Newborn
- Title/Department Changes
- Address Changes
- Home and work telephone numbers
- Children in College
- Retiree Status
- Compensation
- Off Payroll
- Termination
- Resignation
- Deaths
- Reporting Ill

New members **must** send us a copy of your marriage certificate and/or your dependent(s) birth Certificates. Members who are divorced must send us a copy of your divorce papers. You will be responsible for any outstanding bills your spouse/domestic partner use that they are not entitled to.

## BILL deBLASIO SWORN IN AS MAYOR VOWS TO TACKLE "A TALE OF TWO CITIES"

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One of the best ways for him to put action behind his words is to start negotiating right away with labor leaders."

In his swearing in remarks, deBlasio condemned former Mayor Mike Bloomberg for failing to address the gap between rich and poor in the city. "He did not address inequality. He looked away from it. He governed during the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression and he never addressed it," de Blasio said. "We will decidedly write a new chapter."

"Albert Einstein said it best: Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results," Colangelo said. "Nothing Bloomberg did in regard to the labor movement was

fair or decent, and it always resulted in the same outcome — nothing. Let's take a different approach, come to the bargaining table and actually bargain, and maybe the insanity that was the norm will change."

On December 22, 2013, a USA Today article said that "de Blasio will also have to negotiate with the city's unions: about 300,000 city workers who been working for years without a contract and now want retroactive pay increases that could cost the city \$7 billion." DeBlasio said contract talks will be "a long and difficult challenge. We're going to get right to work on that on day one, but by definition those negotiations take time."



# LOCAL 246

## INCOME TAX BENEFIT

Wendel-Walowitz LLC once again will be administering the Income Tax Benefit for members this filing season. They are available to prepare your tax returns either by mail or at one of the following locations (by appointment only):

### **Manhattan**

420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2737  
New York, NY 10170-0002

### **Long Island**

68 South Service Road, Suite 100  
Melville, NY 11747

### **Queens**

Kowalski Post 4  
61 -57 Maspeth Avenue  
Maspeth, NY 11378

To facilitate the preparation of your tax returns please remember:

- Make an appointment for all locations through our Manhattan Office 212.682.6003, ext. 1, and identify yourself as a Local 246 member.
- Please bring a copy of your 2012 Income Tax return if it was not prepared by our office.

- If you are claiming new dependents, please bring their social security number.
- If you would like your refund directly deposited into your bank account, please bring the account number and bank routing number, or a check.

**Long Island** (additional dates will be added as need arises):

- Saturday February 15
- Wednesday February 26
- Saturday March 1
- Monday March 10
- Wednesday March 19
- Saturday April 5

**Queens** (additional dates will be added as need arises):

- Saturday, February 1, 8, 22
- Saturday, March 8, 22

Tax returns must be filed electronically when available, and is included in the co-payment. If you choose not to file electronically, there will be a \$50 fee to cover the penalty imposed to our firm by New York State.

Please call 212.682.6003 x1 to book an appointment or if you have any questions. We look forward to speaking and meeting with you.

## VISIT TO POLICE SHOP

President Joe Colangelo visited the Police Shop at Floyd Bennett Field in December to talk to members about issues they are facing with parts ordering and the Fleet Consolidation. The parts ordering issue for Police Department Mechanics is different than in other Agencies, Colangelo said, so members here are not yet experiencing the same headaches. Although parts problems have not been a major concern to the Police Department as of yet, Colangelo said he did explain to the members what is happening in other Agencies in case the situation spills over into Police.

"We want our members here to know they should contact the Union office immediately if parts ordering becomes a problem so we can stay on top of the issue," Colangelo said.

Pictured from left: Auto Mechanic Qi Hong Chen, President Colangelo, Auto Mechanic Tom Treacy, and Auto Service Worker Level II Danny Markov.



# IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

## FAILURES OF OUTSOURCING PUBLIC SERVICE

**Eager for quick cash, state and local governments across America have for decades handed over control of critical public services and assets to corporations that promise to handle them better, faster and cheaper. Unfortunately for taxpayers, not only has outsourcing these services failed to keep this promise, but too often it undermines transparency, accountability, shared prosperity and competition – the underpinnings of democracy itself. As state legislatures soon reconvene, policy makers likely will consider more outsourcing proposals. *Out of Control: The Coast-to-Coast Failures of Outsourcing Public Services to For-Profit Corporations* serves as a cautionary tale for lawmakers and taxpayers alike.**

Too often, outsourcing means taxpayers have very little say over how tax dollars are spent and no say on actions taken by private companies that control our public services. Outsourcing means taxpayers cannot vote out executives who make decisions that hurt public health and safety. Outsourcing means taxpayers are contractually stuck with a monopoly run by a single corporation – and those contracts often last decades. And outsourcing too often means a race to the bottom for the local economy, as wages and benefits fall while corporate profits rise.

This report highlights the failed experiences of cities and states across the country that recently experimented with outsourcing

**OUTSOURCING means taxpayers cannot vote out executives who make decisions that hurt public health and safety. OUTSOURCING means taxpayers are contractually stuck with a monopoly run by a single corporation – and those contracts often last decades. And OUTSOURCING too often means a race to the bottom for the local economy, as wages and benefits fall while corporate profits rise.**

how the state's transportation department spends public funds, why the health and human services agency decides to adopt new public policies, what is discussed at public meetings, and much more.

Unfortunately, the same rules do not necessarily apply once for-profit companies take over these public services, even though

they receive tax dollars to perform public functions. Corporations can — and do — circumvent open records requirements claiming that documents and records related to government functions are “proprietary information” exempt from disclosure. Even basic information about a government contract and the accompanying procurement process can be difficult to obtain.

Corporations may not diligently collect data and information related to public programs and services, leaving the public record incomplete. As a result, the public loses access to information about our own government. The debate about the size of government at the state and local level becomes meaningless because no one knows exactly how many people — including contractors — are on the government payroll.

By skirting open records laws, private corporations essentially perform public functions behind a veil of secrecy that would not be tolerated by public agencies.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

Our tax dollars pay for our roads, schools, libraries and for public services such as water treatment and food inspection. But when for-profit corporations assume control of these public functions, the opportunity for meaningful and effective oversight is hampered. Taxpayers and elected officials have too little say over decisions that impact public health and safety, and have little recourse to challenge bad decisions made by corporate officials who may have priorities other than the public's best interest. And too often, once a for-profit corporation controls a public service, it is not necessarily accountable to taxpayers.

"I could not have said any of this better myself," said President Joe Colangelo. "This December 2013 report proves exactly what I have been saying for years. Privatization and outsourcing do not benefit the residents of the City of New York, or those who work so hard to keep the City running. In fact, outsourcing has proven itself to contribute to a significant increase in related problems that are typically not even taken into consideration initially.

"Members of Local 246 can vouch for this personally. We are dealing with our own set of problems brought on by the former City Administration that we will now be working to undo with the deBlasio Administration. We will use this report to support our case."

in a variety of sectors. Organized by failures in transparency, accountability, shared prosperity and competition, these stories will show how hastily and ill conceived outsourcing deals fail to protect taxpayers and the public interest.

### TRANSPARENCY

Open access to public information helps taxpayers hold elected officials and the people who provide public services accountable. Taxpayers deserve to know who works in our children's school,

# HURRICANE SANDY

## PROPERTY LOSS CLAIMS

Any member with a personal property loss such as tools as a direct result of Hurricane Sandy should obtain a property damage or loss claim form and submit it to the Office of the New York City Comptroller, 1 Centre Street, Room 1225 New York, New York 10007. **The window to submit a claim closes at the end of January 2014.**

The normal procedure to submit a claim for reimbursement of losses with the City is to file with the Comptroller's Office either manually or electronically at <http://comptroller.nyc.gov/forms-nrfps/filing-claims/> within 90 days of the event. However, claims can still be submitted with the Comptroller up to one year and 90 days after the event. These late claims will be subject to a court hearing before they will be considered. If you have any questions please call 718-334-8915.

Claim forms can also be downloaded from the Local 246 website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org)



**The window to submit a property loss claim closes at the end of January 2014**



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# IMPACT

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REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

## HO HO HO MERRY CHRISTMAS

He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake. Santa Claus stopped by the Local 246 office in late December to see how good everyone had been before he delivered his real presents on Christmas Day. As a prelude, Santa brought a goodie basket to the office and stopped to take a photo with President Joe Colangelo before he found some more chimneys to drop down.

"Santa was so busy in the month of December delivering toys to good girls and boys everywhere that we were very honored he found time to come to Local 246," Colangelo said. "We talked about problems with the City and I asked him to please bring us good tidings in 2014."

Colangelo remarked at how Santa looked an awful lot like the Local 246 building front desk manager Willie. "They must be related somehow," Colangelo said. "It was amazing that they even talked alike."

