

IMPACT

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2014 ELECTION CITY PUTS FIRST DEM AT HELM IN 20 YEARS

Campaign promises are one thing. Following up on those promises is something different. Union members across the board are hoping for an amicable relationship with the first Democrat in 20 years to lead New York City, and work with him to make sure he sticks to his pledges.

Bill de Blasio won a sweeping victory by reaching out to as many New Yorkers across the board as he could shake hands within the past several months, sparking hope that what has been the norm will no longer become January 1, 2014. Local 246 President Joe Colangelo said that he and other union leaders are now cautiously optimistic that de Blasio will be the real friend of labor he seemed to be while campaigning.

It's well known that the Mayor-elect will be dealing with a reported \$2 billion hole in the next City budget, a state legislature skeptical about his tax plan, and all municipal unions seeking to settle their long-expired contracts.

As was reported in the *New York Times*, "Mr. de Blasio, an untested manager with virtually no executive experience, will have to navigate this municipal minefield — and keep crime low, and avoid big gaffes — as he tries to placate an energized electorate expecting big results."

"We know there will not be change overnight, and we are not expecting that," Colangelo said. "What we are expecting, however, is that Mr. de Blasio will work with us on resolving contracts

that are years out of date, and make the City a less hostile environment for the hundreds of thousands of workers who keep it running smoothly every day."

Union members are hoping for an ally in City Hall, as de Blasio was a one-time labor organizer.

Unionized municipal workers — 152 bargaining units in all, representing most of the City's work force of 300,000 — have been working under expired contracts and are eager for long overdue retroactive raises.

Colangelo said that de Blasio campaigned on a platform of progressive change following Mayor Michael Bloomberg's 12 years in office, highlighting what he saw as "a tale of two cities." The moneyed Manhattan elite have had their mayor, de Blasio has



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Happy Thanksgiving
from the Local 246 Executive Board

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Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



The day has finally come when New York City has its first Democratic Mayor in 20 years, as Bill de Blasio heads into the Gracie Mansion on January 1. While it would be nice to say that unions are overjoyed with the pending change, it's safer to say that we all are cautiously optimistic that this new Mayor will address the needs of the City and balance those with the needs of the hundreds of thousands of workers who make this City so great.

The challenges Mr. de Blasio faces are enormous. He must keep the City safe while addressing the controversial stop-and-frisk program he campaigned against. Without safe City streets, tourism will flounder, leaving the City's coffers in dire straits. The Big Apple is

one of the more desirous places in the world to visit. If the apple isn't shiny and clean, tourists won't want to come, and neither will the cash flow.

De Blasio has promised to end the bad culture of real estate tax breaks for developers of luxury high rises with a commitment that any new development must contain affordable housing for poor as well as middle income New Yorkers.

He also has promised a moratorium on Charter Schools until a complete assessment of the entire program is completed. When Charters are given free space in public schools with no overhead, this arrangement presents a lot of questions

OBAMA CARE'S IMPACT ON ACTIVE WELFARE FUND

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("Obama Care") mandates that certain changes in health plans take effect January 1, 2014.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: The new law mandates that there **NOT** be any limits on a prescription drug benefit provided by a health plan. The existing prescription drug cap for the Active Welfare Fund (\$3,600 per family) must be eliminated on January 1, 2014. This could, however, cause financial difficulty for the Fund if members require costly drugs. After lengthy discussion the Trustees decided to delay action on this matter till next year. Therefore, the \$3,600 drug cap is suspended for next year. The issue will be reviewed during that time. A fully detailed letter explaining all options and decisions in regard to prescription drugs, as well as optical and dental benefits, was sent to all Active members in early November. **It's important for everyone to read that letter.**

as to the services those schools provide, given the fact that only five percent of the City's school students attend Charter Schools. The question that lingers is would the resources spent on Charters be better spent on the other 95% of City school children.

Our Union is asking the new administration to review the use of outside contractors doing Fleet repair in regard to the cost as well as the effectiveness of the program. The privatization experiment has gone on for far too long, and in our opinion, has been a dismal failure.

Some time ago I posed a question to a manager who told me that privatization has been a success in his agency. I asked who did the analysis of the program's cost and he replied that he did it himself. I then asked who maintained the reports on the out-of-service rate by the contractor to ensure they met the contract standards. Once again he replied that he maintained those reports himself.

That's the same as me giving myself a test and grading it myself and giving myself a 100 percent! That's what we have been up against with the Bloomberg Administration. Obviously we are hopeful that this, too, will be coming to an end.

The use of outside consultants has gone on for far too long. The facts by both the Giuliani and Bloomberg administrations need to be scrutinized. Everything from the contractors who provide parts to the entire fleet, to the management contracts with Johnston Controls at HHC, and the Veolia contract with DEP — everything needs some serious review.

The biggest and most important issue is, of course, the expired municipal contracts. Every municipal Union in the City is without a current Collective Bargaining Agreement and the Bloomberg Administration's decision to not place any money aside for unsettled contracts in the City's budget is of serious concern. Some might even say it borders on criminal. Estimates on back pay alone run as high as \$7 billion. With no funding set aside in the budget to award back pay, there is a serious financial

dilemma, one the new Mayor will be left having to deal with. Of course, had Mayor Bloomberg actually negotiated contracts in a timely fashion, this wouldn't be an issue at all. He chose instead to leave the ball in the air as he leave office on December 31. No raises and no contract, combined with the escalating cost of living everyone has faced in the past few years, have only compounded the problems.

We have a lot of work ahead of us and we know that things will be difficult for Mayor Elect de Blasio. However, we have some comfort in the fact that we have elected a Mayor who shares the same beliefs and core values we all share. He knows it is time to stop catering to the one percent and instead focus on the 99 percent.

As Central Labor Council President Vinny Alvarez said: "[On November 5,] New York City's labor movement took a stand against 12 years of austerity politics that have taken precedence over the needs of everyday New Yorkers. Together with our affiliates, we took to the streets to make our voices heard, and together, we voted against policies and deals designed to favor the wealthy, while ignoring the needs of our cities working families....Throughout the five boroughs, residents cast their votes for Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio, a man who understands the severity of our city's income equality problem, and who is ready to tackle that problem head-on."

By the November general membership meeting, we will hopefully have heard more news from the de Blasio camp as to who he will be appointing to head various agencies. We also have plenty of other important issues to discuss, so we hope to see you there.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I'd like to ask our members and their families to take a few minutes to recall all we can be thankful for from the past year and to remember those still serving our country, protecting the rights and freedoms that allow us to celebrate Thanksgiving with our families and friends.

OPEN ENROLLMENT MONTH OF NOVEMBER

During the 2013 Annual Transfer Period, active members will have the option of changing health care carriers if they desire. Active members have this opportunity every year; retired members only have this opportunity on even-numbered years. The Annual Health Insurance Coverage Transfer Period for active members is November 1-30. During this period, active members may transfer from their present health plan into another City health plan, add or drop optional rider coverage, and add or drop a dependent. The Annual Transfer Period is the only opportunity to make any health insurance changes.

This is the **ONLY** opportunity to change your insurance carrier. If you miss the deadline, you will have to wait another year. You should have already received information in the mail.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, **NOVEMBER 21, 2013**

6:00 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Church
61-17 Grand Avenue
Maspeth, NY 11378

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

IN MEMORIAM

Alvin Wells

Machinist Helper — DEP

Kenneth Cruse

Ret. Auto Mechanic — San

IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

Andrzej Bator (Father)

Auto Mechanic — Fire

Harold Sarrett (Wife)

Ret. Auto Mechanic — Pol

Peter Yacca (Mother-in-Law)

Machinist — DEP

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SAL CHIAFFITELLI



Local 246 wishes Retired Machinist Salvatore Chiaffitelli a happy belated 93rd birthday. Sal marked this milestone in August 2013. He left the Fire Department in 1984 after 34 years of service with the City. Sal is pictured with his wife of 67 years, Gladys, son Chris and daughter Nancy on Easter Sunday in church where he was being honored for teaching Sunday School children on Palm Sunday how to weave Palm Crosses. Sal and Gladys enjoy spending time with their grandchildren, Alyssa (23) and Christopher (20). "Congratulations Sal on turning 93," said President Joe Colangelo. "It's great that you are still so active. You give us all something to aspire to."



GOOD WELFARE

RETIRING MEMBERS

Brian Blass

Auto Mechanic — DEP

Yervant Ishanyan

Auto Mechanic — Fire

Ronald Roldan

Auto Mechanic — BOH

William Spahr

Machinist — BOE

NEWBORN CHILDREN

George Liadis (Boy)

Auto Mechanic Diesel — DOT

LET US KNOW:

If you have news you'd like to share with other members, send it to the Union Office for the newsletter. Birthdays. Graduations. Trips. Honors. Community Service. New babies. It's all good news to share with other members. Be sure to include photos!

NEW MEMBERS

Noel Amundsen

Auto Mechanic — DEP

Carlos Aitken

Auto Service Worker — San

Moses Blanks

Auto Service Worker — San

Richard Bourne

Auto Service Worker — Fire

Francesco Bonsangue

Auto Service Worker — San

Peter DeMarco

Auto Service Worker — San

Alan Kunze

Machinist — Cor

Philip McCaughey

Marine Maint. Mechanic — Parks

Michael Ramlall

Auto Service Worker — Fire

Nicholas Sakkas

Auto Mechanic — Fire

Harold Smith

Rubber Tire Repairer — Fire

MACHINIST & MACHINIST HELPER EXAM STUDY GUIDES

AVAILABLE FROM SHOP STEWARDS

Local 246 is gathering study materials for the upcoming Machinist and Machinist Helper exams. When prepared, the study guides will be available through your Shop Stewards.

"We are exploring the possibility of giving classes prior to the exams, and will let members know as soon as we have the information," said President Joe Colangelo.

As posted at DCAS's website, the following are the filing dates for the two upcoming exams:

Machinist . . . December 4-24, 2013
Machinist Helper . . . May 7-27, 2014

Dates of exam are not finalized yet. As soon as the Union receives the test dates, they will be posted to the website at www.nyclocal246.org.

NEWS & NOTES

LETTERS TO SOLDIERS — Well-wishers who would like to send Christmas (and other seasonal) cards to U.S. service members should address those cards to: Holiday Mail for Heroes, PO Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456. All cards must be postmarked no later than Friday, 6 December 2013 in order to ensure sufficient time for sorting and distribution before the holidays.

ONLY MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES ENROLLED IN APPROVED HMOs — NYC Local 246 will prepare the first 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 January 1-June 30, 2013.

COLLEGE LETTERS DUE NOW FOR RETIREE — RETIREE members with dependents ages 19 to 23, who are 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.

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 by contacting the union office. For health benefits you should contact the agency benefits coordinator. You must enroll within 60 days from the qualifying event.

HEALTH PLAN TRANSFER FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS — The annual health insurance coverage transfer period will be open from November 1-30, 2013 for Active mem-

bers. During this period, members may transfer from their present health plan into another City health plan and add or drop optional rider coverage to your present plan. This annual transfer period is your only opportunity to elect changes in your health insurance coverage. Changes are effective January 1, 2014. Watch your mail for information about the plans and how to switch to a different one if you choose.

CHANGE SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES — November 3 was Daylight Savings Time. It's the best time of year to also change batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Each year, thousands of people die in homes with smoke detectors simply because the batteries were not working. Changing the batteries, even if they are still working, will only take a few minutes of your time, but could save your life.

URGENT CALL TO UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY CARD — When was the last time you thought about who you have designated as your beneficiary? Over the years, your intended beneficiary might have changed but you haven't notified the Union office. It's important for Local 246 to have the correct information for member. Please contact the Fund office at 212.233.0616 and request that a new beneficiary card be sent to you if you need to update the information or to verify who you have listed. Once you receive the card, fill it out completely and accurately and send it back before you forget.

VISION BENEFITS — Did you know that 95 percent of people age 45 and older need eyeglasses? Or that many serious, sight-threatening eye diseases do not have early warning signs or symptoms? Even if you do not currently wear eyeglasses, protect your eyesight by scheduling a complete eye exam.

COPE RAFFLE WINNER — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for October 2013 was Vito DiVittorio, Auto Mechanic Diesel, Sanitation.

UNION ROUNDUP

Unions sponsored the Deferred Compensation Bill (A.6867/S.4907) to address the make up of the Deferred Compensation Board that would give labor an equal voice with the City in decisions made by the Board. Our members' contributions make up 90% of all the monies and we feel strongly that we need to be heard. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the bill; however, this will not stop us from trying again next year.

President Colangelo recently attended an Awards Ceremony by Policy Research Institute, at which Juan Gonzales *Daily News* investigative reporter, who espoused the CityTime contract corruption scandal was honored. It was interesting to hear his view that the City's consulting contracts are the new political patronage corruption of our time. He pointed out the 25 consultants working for CityTime billed an average of \$400,000 a year total for their services. Since these contracts are under the capital expenditures of the City's budget, the bills are not itemized and can therefore not be scrutinized as closely. They do point out, however, that the City is being ripped off.

The Civil Service 220 Trades Coalition met on October 9th to discuss our strategy regarding the City's appeal of our appellate victory on Mayor Bloomberg's Executive Order 88. Unions are trying to prevent the New York State Court of Appeals from even hearing the case. We are counting on Mayor Elect Bill de Blasio who has committed to the Coalition to undo this disastrous Executive Order when he takes office.

**VISIT THE
UNION'S WEBSITE**
www.nyclocal246.org
for the most
up-to-date information

2014-2015 SEIU SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

SEIU has a long and proud history of helping union members pursue their dreams through higher education. SEIU offers scholarship opportunities to support studies in areas including the arts, social justice, labor studies and the healthcare field. All scholarships are open to members and their children; one scholarship is open to local union staff, as well.

The 2014-2015 SEIU Scholarship Program will kick off December 2, 2013. The following information and enclosed materials will help you prepare for the application launch.

SEIU's SCHOLARSHIPS

SEIU Lottery Scholarships (Apply online at aim.applyists.net/seiu)

\$1000 scholarships renewable for up to four years as well as \$1,500 scholarships for one year of study.

The Bonnie Ladin Scholarship (Apply online at nlc.edu)

The Bonnie Ladin Scholarship is available for SEIU members, their children and local union staff who are attending the National Labor College. Bonnie Ladin was an organizer at SEIU for 20 years and played an integral role in building SEIU to make it the union it is today. In honor of her tremendous contributions to the labor movement, SEIU created a scholarship in her name.

SEIU J.J. Johnson Scholarship (Apply online at aim.applyists.net/jj)

One \$5,000 scholarship renewable for up to four years is given to a student whose work and aspirations for economic and social justice reflect the values and accomplishments of J.J. Johnson, former Local Union President of Local 617 in New Jersey and one of the founding members of SEIU's African American Caucus, AFRAM.

SEIU Moe Foner Scholarship (Apply online at aim.applyists.net/mf)

Moe Foner founded Bread and Roses, a cultural program for union members. One \$5,000 nonrenewable scholarship is available to students who are pursuing a degree or training in the visual or performing arts, and who, like Moe Foner, believe the arts are a vehicle to advance social change.

Nora Piore Scholarship (Apply online at aim.applyists.net/np)

Born in 1921, Piore was a public healthcare pioneer whose career spanned more than 60 years. Nora Piore worked as a union organizer, labor educator, college professor, healthcare economist and healthcare activist who changed the face of public health in the United States. The scholarship is made possible by an endowment by the family of Nora Piore. It is for \$4,000 and is renewable for up to two years.

Applications

For more information about the scholarship program including links to online applications visit the "member" page of our website at www.seiu.org/scholarships. We are encouraging all applicants to apply online—it's easy, convenient, and a greener way to go.

Deadlines and Notifications

- Applications must be filed online by 12:00 AM EST on March 3, 2014.
- Scholarships will be awarded and winners notified in the late spring of 2014.
- All of the awards will be announced on www.seiu.org in the fall of 2014.

Anyone with questions should contact ISTS, 1321 Murfreesboro Road, Suite 800, Nashville, TN 37217; (615) 320-3149.

NEXT ROUND FOR FLEET SERVICES

With just two months left in office, Mayor Bloomberg announced another consolidation of fleet services, closing 10 repair facility locations in what he claims would produce savings of \$415 million by 2016.

"Although fleet consolidation initially presented some challenges for Local 246 members, our Mechanics, Machinists and Service Workers displayed the same professionalism and dedication they provide each and every day to keep New York City's fleet rolling," President Joe Colangelo was quoted as saying.

He said that by working with the City, Local 246 was able to prevent privatization and ensure that all members remained employed. "While some of our members were transferred to other shops, everyone is still gainfully employed," Colangelo said. "That was a top priority for us."

Deputy Mayor for Operations Caswell Holloway said the reorganization would treat "the city's fleet as one common resource rather than a dozen separate operations" and thanked President Colangelo for helping with the consolidation efforts.

"I'm proud of the work our tradesmen and women perform, and the Union continues to work with the administration to complete this transition in a way that allows each Agency's fleet to be prepared and deliver vital services to our citizens," Colangelo said. "Aspects of this plan changed constantly from the beginning and we fought it from the outset. No one does our work better than we do. Our members are highly skilled and have the training needed to keep the City's fleet operating at peak efficiency. If our jobs are not impacted, then we will have to work within the parameters of what has been thrust upon us."

2014 ELECTION

CITY PUTS FIRST DEM AT HELM IN 20 YEARS

Continued from front page

argued, and now the 46 percent of New Yorkers living at or near the poverty level need one of their own. "I've spoken often about a tale of two cities," he said late Tuesday night. "That inequality – that feeling of a few doing very well, while so many slip further behind – that is the defining challenge of our time."

In making new appointments to help him run the City, de Blasio said he was looking for people with a "keen understanding of the practicalities of government" and vowed to place an emphasis on diversity. He made it clear that the City was going to move in a very different direction, saying that it was "not just enough to have a statistically strong economy."

De Blasio has longstanding ties to New York politics. He was Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign manager during her 2000 Senate race, then served eight years on the New York City Council before being elected as the City's Public Advocate in 2009.

"Labor threw their support behind Mr. de Blasio and we are looking forward to resolving all the issues that have occurred in the last several years once he actually takes office," Colangelo said. "We aren't expecting miracles, but we are expecting honesty and a willingness to work with us fairly and quickly on resolving problems that directly affect our membership."

"Progressive changes will not happen overnight, but they will happen," de Blasio has said. Colangelo said he is hopeful that those "progressive changes" mean treating unions and municipal workers with the respect and consideration they deserve.

ANNUAL TURKEY RAFFLE

The Union's traditional turkey raffle will take place at the November General Membership Meeting. Sixty lucky winners will receive a gift certificate that can be used at their local supermarket to purchase either a turkey or ham. The odds of winning are high, but you must be present to win. So, come join us at the meeting and get a chance to participate in the drawing. It's a great kickoff to the holiday season.



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REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

Praise for Local 246 Members

Mini Miracle on the Hudson helicopter Pilot Michael Campbell made a safe landing on the Hudson last June while piloting a sight-seeing helicopter. His plane's engine failed and Campbell was forced to make an emergency landing in the Hudson River, saving the lives of his four passengers and himself.

Campbell, friends with Retired Auto Mechanic Anthony Lucchese (San, Retired 2004) praised the work of Local 246 members, saying that without them, none of the City's fleet maintenance would operate effectively or efficiently. Lucchese, a pilot himself, said that



Campbell can now better appreciate the importance of keeping engines well maintained and having members with the right training to do so. "Thanks for the shout out and the praise of our members. We are all glad you're safe," said Recording Secretary Jim Grillo.

President Joe Colangelo, who has known Anthony for many years, said they both share a love of flying, although Colangelo flies fixed wing and Anthony's passion is helicopters. "I'm glad you're enjoying your retirement Anthony, although I'm jealous that I don't get to fly every day like you do."