

# IMPACT

VOL. 9

NO. 3

NOVEMBER 2012

## MAYORAL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS COALITION GRILLS CONTENDERS ON EXECUTIVE ORDER 88

**Unions comprising the Civil Service Coalition of Building Trades & Municipal Unions, including Local 246, gathered in mid October to screen candidates running for New York City Mayor in 2013. All five Democratic candidates, who will face off in a primary, had their chance to address questions predominantly about Executive Order 88 (EO88) asked by Coalition members.**



President Joe Colangelo, who attended the screening with Vice President Charles Pastorelli, Recording Secretary Jim Grillo and Business Agent Tom Graziano, said that labor is taking a proactive position on supporting a candidate for 2013 after years of battling with a Mayor who has proven to be so anti-union.

Earlier this year, Mayor Bloomberg's Executive Order 88 deleted members' classifications and reclassified the 106 ungraded prevailing rate titles affecting approximately 10,000 employees in a multitude of unions, into 14 new "Maintenance and Operation Services" titles. The City is now in the process of appealing the Judge's decision.

Colangelo said the October meeting of the Coalition was the most important meeting the group has ever organized. It's only focus was to articulate each candidate's position on EO88.

The five Democratic candidates who attended were NYC Comptroller John Liu, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, NYC Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, former NYC Comptroller William Thompson, and NYC City Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

EO88 is one of the most devastating changes to the way labor has been functioning in New York City. It is a huge reduction to the benefits of new hires, that Colangelo estimates to be valued at about \$6,400 annually. On July 5, less than three months after the Mayor tried to end the 118-year-old Labor Law §220 that gave the City

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About Our Members



Shop Stewards Conference



7 Fleet Consolidation

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# Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



If the presidential debates were any indicator, then neither President Barack Obama or Challenger former Governor Mitt Romney is guaranteed to emerge the victor in this November's election.

We all know this upcoming election is a crucial one to everyone in the labor movement. Of course, the most vital thing is to actually get to the polls and vote. Too often we hear that people don't vote because one candidate is definitely going to win anyway, or that it takes too much time to vote, or that one vote won't make a difference anyway. Voting is a fundamental right and responsibility of being American. It means we are a democratic society and not a dictatorship.

About 150 million American citizens are qualified to vote. Unfortunately, many don't. By not going to the polls, you give up a chance to choose leaders and representatives who will do things that are important for labor. It's not just about casting a ballot for President; it's also voting for local officials, as well as State Senators and Assembly members.

While nobody can force you to vote, remember that the labor movement has been under constant attack not only in New York, but across the country. We already have too many politicians in office who are anti-labor and will do whatever is within their power to eradicate the labor movement in its entirety. Imagine where we will be if that should actually happen?

Every vote does counts, so don't think that your one vote won't make a difference. Too many elections have been lost, or won, by just a single vote. We need look no further than the 2000 George Bush vs. Al Gore election, where 537 votes in Florida was the difference between what was and what could have been.

## EXAM FILING FOR AUTO BODY WORKER

Listed below is the civil service exam for which the application period is scheduled in the near future. This is a **tentative** schedule. The exam listed here may be cancelled or postponed. Applications are available online at [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov). For further information, you can call the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services at 212.669.7000.

TITLE EXAM	NUMBER	FILING START DATE	FILING END DATE
Auto Body Worker . . . . .	3010 . . . . .	Dec. 5, 2012 . . . . .	Dec. 26, 2012

Here are some important events in U.S. history that were decided by just a few votes:

- Richard Nixon, not John F. Kennedy, would have become President of the U.S. in 1960 if one person from each voting place had voted differently.
- If just one U.S. Senator had voted differently, U.S. President Andrew Johnson would have been removed from office in 1867.
- Texas might not have become part of the United States in 1845 if one U.S. Senator had voted differently. The vote in the U.S. Senate was 27-25 to invite Texas to become a state. If it had been a tie, Texas would not have been asked to become part of the Union.

There are probably dozens more examples of how one vote made a difference. When it comes to keeping anti-labor politicians out of office, or putting pro-labor politicians in, please make sure it's not your one vote that does us in. If you are not sure who to vote for, you can refer back to the last issue of our newsletter for a list of candidates being endorsed by the State AFL-CIO.

We inadvertently left off the name, however, of one very important friend of labor in Albany — Senator Martin Golden. If you reside within his district, he is one candidate you will want to vote for. He's supported us throughout the years and will continue to do so if re-elected.

Although we will not be voting for a new Mayor of New York City until next November's election (2013), the union will be looking to become involved with endorsing a candidate who is supportive of the entire labor movement.

As you can see from the front page of this newsletter, the Civil Service Coalition of Building Trades & Municipal Unions, or 220 Trades Coalition as we are known, held Mayoral candidate interviews recently to question the five contenders on their stance regarding Mayor Bloomberg's Executive Order 88 that we have been reporting on for months already.

The Coalition, of which Local 246 is a member, is comprised of the District Council of Carpenters, Operating Engineers Local 30,

IUOE Local 15, Civil Service Electricians Local 3, Teamsters Local 237, Local 1969 Civil Service Painters, Steamfitters Local 638 and Supervisors Local 621.

Each candidate was invited to partake, and they all agreed. The Coalition made it clear that the interviews would center around their positions on the mayor personal order reclassifying all our jobs into Mechanical Maintenance Service Plan and how they felt regarding this vital issue affecting some 10,000 City workers.

We all know that Mayor Bloomberg has no regard for our current contracts and wants to eliminate each of the 220 union's ability to have our contract impasses go to the Comptroller's office for investigation. It should be understood that for the past 118 years that has been the process and it has served both the City and the unions well. By interviewing the Mayoral candidates our goal was to focus on each one's position on the Mayors Personal Order. I was pleased that all the candidates expressed a commitment to rescind the order or not continue to pursue the lawsuit if in fact the city continues its appeal. The coalition heard from Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, NYC Comptroller John Liu, NYC Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, former NYC Comptroller William Thompson and NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn. Each of these potential Democratic primary candidates had both knowledge of the personal order and as I just stated a commitment to correcting this attack on labor by Mayor Bloomberg.

In addition to Election Day on November 6, let's not forget about Veteran's Day on November 11. Veterans Day is intended to honor and thank all military personnel who served the United States in all wars, particularly living veterans. It is marked by parades and church services and in many places the American flag is hung at half-mast. Regardless of how Veteran's Day is observed, it is most definitely a time to remember those who lost their lives serving our country, and honor those still living. It is because of the sacrifice of military personnel that we are able to have the freedoms we all enjoy. We salute those who have given their lives for others.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that the November membership meeting on the 15th is also our annual Turkey Raffle, where we raffle off 60 turkeys. Members must be present to win, so what better time to attend a meeting than this one. Also, we have a lot of material to cover and update you on. See you there.

## ELECTION DAY



Tuesday, November 6

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, **NOVEMBER 15, 2012**

6:00 p.m.

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

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

# GOOD WELFARE



## NEW MEMBERS:

### Kevin Bisram

Auto Service Worker — San

### Vasiliy Bolgov

Auto Service Worker — San

### Angel Burgos, Jr.

Auto Mechanic — San

### Kenold Dorvil

Auto Service Worker — San

### Philip Gallina

Auto Mechanic — San

### Pathayapurayil Jayandran

Auto Service Worker — San

### Darwin Kim

Auto Mechanic — San

### Richard Malone

Auto Mechanic — San

### Gary Martin

Auto Mechanic — Pol

### Ioannis Moundros

Auto Service Worker — San

### Krishna Paltoo

Auto Mechanic — San

### Vincent Pinello

Auto Mechanic — San

### Raphael Rodriguez

Auto Mechanic — San

### Kareem Roper

Auto Service Worker — San

### Arrow Scroggins

Auto Mechanic — San

### Gurdev Singh

Auto Service Worker — San

### Michael Tempesta

Auto Service Worker — San

### Joseph Vecchie

Auto Mechanic — San

### Clement Welch

Auto Mechanic — San

## RETIRING MEMBERS:

### Anthony Donadio

Auto Mechanic — San

### Ronald Latuso

(Shop Steward)  
Auto Mechanic — San

### Frank Lazzarano

Sr. Auto Service Worker — San

### Joseph Oliveto

Auto Mechanic — Police

### Michael Petito

Auto Mechanic — San

### Thomas Rojack

Auto Mechanic — DOT

### Dennis Shane

Machinist — San

### Richard Sleight

Auto Mechanic — San

## IN MEMORIAM:

### Anthony Avenoso

Ret. Auto Mechanic — San

### Irving Melton

Ret. Machinist — M & A

### William Osterhoudt

Ret. Machinist Helper — DEP

## IN MEMORIAM FAMILY:

### Jorge Martinez (Sister-in-Law)

Auto Mechanic — DOT

### Daniel Russo (Father)

Auto Mechanic — Correction

### Jairam Sukhram (Wife)

Auto Mechanic — San

### Edward Topak (Mother)

Auto Mechanic — Fire

## CARRYING THE BANNER MEMBERS LEAD THE PACK



Trustee Wayne Esposito carried the Local 246 banner in the Labor Day Parade with the help of Richard Mazza and Joseph Lam. Thanks again to everyone who came out to show their support for our Union and solidarity with the labor movement.

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

## Congratulations to the October Gift Card Winners:

### **Anthony Donadio**

Auto Mechanic — Sanitation

### **Henry Meckl**

Ret. Auto Mechanic — Sanitation

### **Dimitrios Rigas**

Auto Mechanic — Sanitation

### **John Bertorelli**

Auto Mechanic — DOT

### **John Cronin**

Auto Mechanic — Police

## MARK VALLI ENLISTS IN NATIONAL GUARD



Honorary Local 246 Member Mark V. Valli, also known as PVT2 Valli, attended Basic Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia during the summer. He enlisted under the Army National Guard "Split Training" program, which let him enlist at age 17 and attend Basic Training between his Junior and Senior year of High School. His enlistment duration is for five years, and he is assigned to the 69th Infantry in NYC. He's currently assigned to Combat Medic training, after graduating The Academy of American Studies in Long Island City, NY. However this will be superseded upon his acceptance to an ROTC College such as VMI, Citidel, or the US Military Academy; which he has applied for. He plans for either an extended education in Civil Engineering, or Medicine, to which Uncle Sam will graciously supply. Mark is the son of Ron Valli, Auto Electrician, Sanitation.

# NEWS & NOTES

### **HEALTH PLAN TRANSFER PERIOD FOR ACTIVE & RETIRED MEMBERS**

— The annual health insurance coverage transfer period will be open from November 1-30, 2012 for both Active and Retired members. 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, 2013. Retirees will not have the option of switching for another two years. Don't miss out on this opportunity if you want to make a transfer. Watch your mail for information about the plans and how to switch to a different one if you choose.

### **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 a 20 pound Butterball turkey. You must be present to win, so come and participate. The odds of winning are very good. Good luck to all.

### **SEIU 2011-2012 SCHOLARSHIPS**

— SEIU awards 51 scholarships each year. Only members of SEIU and their children are eligible to apply. Application information will be available after November 15 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. The phone number is 615-320-3149.

### **COLLEGE LETTERS NOW DUE FOR RETIREES' CHILDREN**

— 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 with expired letters will not be honored. They will be terminated.

### **MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES ENROLLED IN APPROVED HMOs**

— NYC Local 246 will prepare the first 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 January 1-June 31, 2012.

### **GOOD STANDING**

— The Union audit was held on October 1, 2012, and the Trustees found all receipts and invoices in order. The Union maintains a good financial reserve with close to \$1 million on hand.

### **FINANCIAL RESERVES**

— The Welfare Trustees met on October 3, 2012, reported good financial reserves and are considering benefit improvements in part due to the projected savings from the switch to CitizensRX from Express Scripts. Trustees also are discussing the next big change in 2014 when the Affordable Health Care Act (Obama Care) will require the elimination of the cap on prescription drugs for both active and retiree funds. This presidential election will most assuredly affect how the law either stays the same or changes depending on who wins the election.

### **DOWNLOAD DENTAL CLAIM FORMS**

— Members can now download their dental claim forms and find a participating dentist by logging on the Union's web site at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org).

### **COPE RAFFLE WINNER**

— Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for October 2012 was Stanley Kowalski (Auto Electrician — Police).

# MAYOR BLOOMBERG TO FEDERAL COURT:

## KILL LIVING WAGE LAW

New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg filed suit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in September seeking to invalidate Local Law 37, titled the Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act (NYC Admin Code Section 6-134) but otherwise known as the "Living Wage Law" that was passed by the City Council over his veto.

Local Law 37 requires employers to pay workers at least \$11.50 an hour or \$10.00 with health benefits on projects that receive at least \$1 million in tax abatements or low-cost financing from the City Economic Development Corp. The law specifically exempted jobs in manufacturing, affordable housing, nonprofit organizations and small businesses, thereby limiting its application to between 400 to 600 workers. However, the Mayor still took the position that this measure would hurt the City's efforts to attract and generate what he termed "business activity that is necessary to support the local economy." Showing more than a hint of the philosophical differences between the Council and the Mayor on the point of a "living wage", the Village Voice quoted Bloomberg as comparing this modest effort by the Council with the "big managed economy" of the former USSR.

"I've said this before, the Mayor will stop at nothing, even if it means continually going to court," said President Joe Colangelo. "He doesn't think twice about trying to hurt the middle class worker. But why would we expect any different from a billionaire who doesn't struggle a day in his life to pay a bill."

The Council had passed the measure with a vote of 44 to 5, and then overrode the Mayor's veto by the same margin. In his filings the Mayor laid out a multi-pronged attack against the law including:

- Preemption by the New York State Minimum Wage law (which currently sets minimum wage at \$7.25 per hour);
- Various violations of the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law and the New York State Constitution – which would make the law invalid and "unauthorized";
- Preemption by the New York State Industrial Development Agency Act and the corresponding New York City provisions;
- Preemption by Affordable Housing Statutes;
- Two counts claiming an undue infringement on what could be summed up as "Mayoral Executive Authority"; and
- Both preemption by, and violation of, the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") The law is preempted because it gives an employer the option of providing a lower wage along with health benefits, and is in violation of ERISA since it limits the mandate to "health benefits" only.)

The lawsuit seeks a declaratory judgment of the Court stating the law is invalid and without force or effect, and further requests a permanent injunction. For their part, the Council remains committed to meeting the Mayor in court.

## SANITATION AWARD CEREMONY

Each year the Department of Sanitation recognizes individuals who have gone above and beyond in their job.

This year, a Local 246 member was singled out for his excellence. Auto Mechanic Ray Saareste was recommended by his Supervisors and chosen by the Department as Employee of the Quarter.

"We offer our congratulations to Ray for all he's done in his more than 30 years on the job to continually show that Local 246 members are the best at what we do," said President Joe Colangelo.

Ray started as an Auto Mechanic in December 1981. Pictured from left are: Sanitation Commissioner Rocky DiRicco, Auto Mechanic Ray Saareste, Supervisor Anthony Gleason, and President Colangelo.



# SHOP STEWARDS CONFERENCE



**For the third consecutive year, Shop Stewards gathered for a Conference designed to bring everyone up to date on important issues facing Local 246 members. From September 23-26, Shop Stewards heard guest speakers address a variety of topics, including Workers' Compensation, Disability, pensions, health care and investments.**

"Our Shop Stewards Conference gives us a chance to have everyone in the same place at the same time to get better educated on more effective ways to service the membership," said Recording Secretary James Grillo, who planned the event.



Guest speakers included Attorney Robert Burzichelli from Greenberg, Burzichelli, Greenberg; Investment Advisors Joseph Lizzio and Maria Keeler from Morgan Stanley; Gary Scarmato from Emblem Health; Attorney Jordan Ziegler from Pasternack, Tilker, Ziegler, Walsh, Stanton & Romano; David Walowitz from Wendel-Walowitz Assoc.; Sherif Soliman from the NYC Pension Bureau and Local 246 President Joe Colangelo.

Grillo said about 90 percent of the Shop Stewards were able to attend. He said that while all the presentations were informative and helped Shop Stewards better understand information the Union needs them to explain to members, the presentation by Sherif Soliman was ultra informative as his topic was so timely. Soliman explained the new Tier VI and how it affects new members. He discussed the Automotive 25/50 pension, and explained how it was not eliminated although the contribution rate changed due to the increased rate of the standard pension based on salary.

Colangelo said the Union extends a special thank you to all the vendors who sponsored various events, thereby substantially reducing the Union's expense.

"We owe a great thanks to the guest speakers and providers who gave their time to help make the Conference a huge success," Colangelo said. "I also want to thank Jim Grillo for all his hard work in pulling it all together. It's important for the betterment of the Union that we have a chance to get together as a group to discuss issues of importance that not only affect the entire membership, but issues that arise in specific shops that we can all learn and benefit from."



# MAYORAL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Continued from front page

Comptroller power to set prevailing wages for about 3 percent of the City's workforce, the Mayor's actions were deemed "arbitrary and capricious" by State Supreme Court Judge Manuel Mendez.

The legislative intent of Labor Law §220 is to impose upon the state and municipal corporations the same obligations of paying the prevailing rate of wages to laborers, workmen and mechanics employed in public works, in ungraded or noncompetitive employment as private employers.

The Judge's ruling states that reclassification can only be accomplished with proper notice, a hearing, review and approval by the State Civil Service Commission.

Recording Secretary Grillo said the Coalition received a commitment from all the candidates that they are against Mayor Bloomberg's unilateral change, with even a few saying that rescinding the Order would be tops on their priority list if elected.

In a thank you letter sent to all candidates, the Trades Coalition wrote: "We believe both sides benefitted from the information and discussion regarding Executive Order 88. It was heartening that we agree the negative impact of the Mayor's unilateral decision to attack our member's collective bargaining rights, strip them of prevailing wage protections that have been in existence for over a hundred years, and slash wages and benefits that have been fought for over decades would be vacated in your potential Mayoral term.

By focusing on this issue and this issue alone during our meeting we endeavored to confer the severity of this blatant attack on prevailing wage in both the public and private sector as part of an overall Wisconsin-type of attack on organized labor as a whole. Thank you again for clearly grasping that and offering additional insight and assistance in our fight.

As you are now aware, we have been successful in our litigation by having the New York State Supreme Court annulling the Mayor's Order on June 29, 2012. However, the City has filed for their intent to appeal. Given these facts, we are excited to report to our members that you have committed to not only ending any ongoing litigation, but overturning these Executive Orders if elected.

"We are going to be following the issues arising from each candidate's campaign camp to be sure they stick to their commitment to support labor," Colangelo said. "The minute someone deviates from that promise, they will not be a contender for labor's full support."

Pictured from top are John Liu, Bill deBlasio, Christine Quinn, Scott Stringer and William Thompson.





# UNION JACKETS ON SALE NOW

## ORDER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

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.



### LOCAL 246 JACKET ORDER FORM

**Please Print NEATLY or Type**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Shop \_\_\_\_\_ Jacket Size \_\_\_\_\_

Personalization Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Personalization Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to **SEIU Local 246** and sent to  
SEIU Local 246, 217 Broadway, Suite 501, New York, NY 10017

**Checks must accompany orders**

## FUNDS EXTEND COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN

### Active Members' Children Now Covered to Age 26

Under the Affordable Care Act, adult children up to age 26 can be covered for benefits from the Fund. Adult children up to age 26 are eligible for Fund coverage regardless of their student status, marital status, employment status or financial dependency on you. However, the Fund will not cover your adult child who is eligible for his or her own employer-sponsored health coverage either through their own job or their spouse's job. Fund coverage will only be extended to your eligible adult child — not to his or her spouse or children.

You may enroll your child (ren) who was previously covered by the Fund and lost eligibility when, for example, they reached age 19, got married or stopped being financially dependent on you. If you have an adult child who is now eligible under these new

rules, please complete the downloadable form; include a copy of the child's birth certificate, and return to NYC Local 246, 217 Broadway, Suite 501, New York, NY 10007.

Each adult child will require a completed form and copy of their birth certificate. If you have any questions, please contact the union office at 212-233-0616.

**You may enroll these dependents at the time they are becoming 19 years old, or at the time they lose benefits from their own or spouse/domestic partner's benefits. There is a time limit of 31 days from reaching age 19, or loss of other benefits. If you miss the time limit, you will have to wait until the following January 1st.**

# FLEET CONSOLIDATION

## A NEVER-ENDING PROCESS

President Joe Colangelo (seated far left) and VP Charles Pastorelli (standing second from left) met with Inspector Vincent LaRusso, Director Greg De Meester and Executive Director Robert Martinez (all from Police Dept.) to discuss the ongoing Fleet Consolidation plan.

"Fleet Consolidation is still a major focus for the Union as we are resolving problems everyday as they arise whether it's the wrong seniority roster from DCAS or the awarding of bids before members are transferred," Colangelo said.

Colangelo said he had a conversation with the Office of Labor Relations recently to discuss the transfer of members from DEP to NYPD.

"First we resolved a major assignment problem and then I was stunned when told by DEP labor relations that they were informed we were notifying members of their assignments," Colangelo said. "We cleared that up and I assured DEP that if they want Local 246 to coordinate the merger, we would have been more than happy to do so and it would have been a much smoother transition."

Colangelo said the Union also expressed a concern about the entire Fleet Consolidation process being remarkably flawed. "Obviously we don't even agree with the process from the get go, but unfortunately we are not calling the shots. If we can't receive a straight answer now as to where employees are being assigned, imagine when the Department has to locate their own vehicles," he said.



## UNION PRESCRIPTION PLAN

### 246 SWITCHING TO CITIZENS RX

As a way of saving money while still providing quality prescription plan services to all members, Local 246 is in the process of switching providers.

President Joe Colangelo said the Union, effective January 1, 2013, will be utilizing the services of CitizensRx instead of Express Scripts. He is reassuring members that there will be no lapse in coverage. New membership cards are in the process of being made up now and will be issued to members prior to the effective start date of January 1.

The Union is approximately 65% complete with the transition and is just finalizing everything and testing the system to try and ensure as little disruption as possible. "We are having weekly update meetings with CitizensRX to work out any kinks before members get their new cards," Colangelo said.

## EXAM STUDY GUIDES

### AVAILABLE ON UNION WEBSITE

Study guides for the upcoming exams are now on the Union's website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org). All the questions and answers from the last classes the Union sponsored for the Auto Mechanic and Diesel Mechanics exams are available for download.

Due to the short notice and time frame between the filing and exam dates, Local 246 may not be able to schedule classes.

"We are trying, but unfortunately because of the school's basketball games and other events, the hall is unavailable," said President Joe Colangelo. "We are trying to get another location and if we can, will have at least one class. In the meantime, please use the website to start your studying. We will try and assist members any way we can."

He said anyone with questions or without access to the internet should contact the Union office.

# NOVEMBER SPECIAL PRESENTATION WTC HEALTH PROGRAM INFORMATION

A representative from the World Trade Center Health Program, previously known as the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program, will be at the November general membership meeting to address questions about and provide information on free and confidential medical services.

This is available for all 9/11 responders and volunteers. President Joe Colangelo said it is crucial for anyone who was affected medically by 9/11 to get monitored and keep track of their health over time in order to receive necessary treatment.

Implementation of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act on July 1, 2011, expanded the eligibility criteria for new enrollees, which means that many more responders may qualify for the WTC Health Program and receive the best medical health care they need and deserve.

The Zadroga Act also reopens the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund(VCF). This Fund has the potential to provide financial relief for WTC responders whose injuries, illnesses or deaths had not occurred prior to the Fund's original closing in 2003.

President Joe Colangelo said it's important for anyone who might have worked on vehicles after 9/11 and who become ill, to get information from this presentation. He said it's also crucial to know about the WTC Health Program in case any member get sick down the road from their services in relation to 9/11.

## President Colangelo recently attended Governor Andrew Cuomo's labor barbecue reception in Albany,

where the Governor spoke about his accomplishments and also his commitment to work with labor in addressing the state's needs, creating jobs and balancing the budget.

"We realize some of his early positions have not gone over well with labor, but we also know we are better off engaging him and participating in the discussion. We may not always agree, but we must stand up for our members and all workers in this state — union and non-union alike," Colangelo said.

He added that 2013 will be an interesting year in Albany for labor as new politicians will be taking office after the November election. Hopefully many of them will be labor friendly.

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# TRANSFERRING FROM DEP TO POLICE

Vice President Charles Pastorelli (white shirt) and Police Shop Steward Joe Yovino (standing to Pastorelli's left) visited members who were redeployed from DEP to Police as part of the City's fleet consolidation program.

Auto Mechanics and a few Supervisors (who jumped into the photo) had a chance to ask Pastorelli and Yovino about any concerns they had with the consolidation or questions about the transfer and new place of employment.

Both were there to attend the Police orientation for new members that was held at Police CRS on October 23.



"While Local 246 is certainly not happy with the consolidation plan, and we have made that very well know since this started, we are working with our members being redeployed to ensure a smooth transition," Pastorelli said. "Members should know that if there are any issues that arise, they should immediately contact their Shop Steward or the Union office. For now, however, it seems that everyone is settling into their new jobs."

REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

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