

IMPACT

VOL. 9

NO. 2

OCTOBER 2012

LABOR DAY PARADE 2012

UNION MEMBERS COME OUT IN FULL FORCE



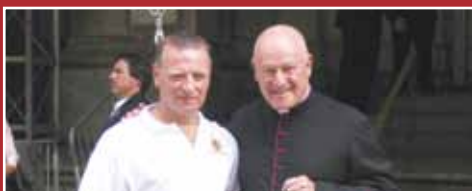
A day of rain couldn't damper the spirits of Local 246 members and their families who came out in full force to march behind the Union's banner in this year's Labor Day Parade.

"We had a large membership turnout and made a good showing as we marched behind the union banner," said President Joe Colangelo. "Seeing so many Local 246 t-shirts on members,

their families and friends showed how proud we are of our union. While the weather wasn't so cooperative, our members morale and spirit more than made up for the overcast skies."

In addition to those who marched behind the banner, the union also had several members come with their custom built cars and motorcycles and drove them in the parade. The cars always get a big reaction from the crowd.

[More photos page 6](#)



About Our Member



4-5 Order Your Union Jacket



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New York City SEIU Local 246

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Fire Dept.
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DEP
Chris Olsen (718) 743-6925
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Sanitation & Cioffe
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Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



By the time you read this newsletter, we will be less than a month away from the Presidential election. With New York being a heavily Democratic state, it's a virtual given that President Barack Obama will carry the Empire State. So why then is it so important to vote?

In addition to voting for President, we all have the chance to vote for Congressional representatives and State Senators and Assembly members. As we all know, it's extremely vital, especially in this anti-union climate, to put into office those who understand, relate to and support the labor movement. We need to support those who have supported us in the past and will continue to do so moving forward.

Candidates from both parties repeatedly tell us that this is the most important election in our lifetime. This sentiment actually would have some value if it weren't used in every single election year. The choice between candidates from the various political parties is not so clear cut, as both have done things that are not in the best interest of our members.

We need to look no further than Tier VI that was passed last year. Governor Cuomo, a Democrat, along with supporters from both parties passed this terrible bill that increases costs and reduces benefits. In the most recent news out of Chicago, Mayor Rahm Emanuel provoked the teachers to strike for more than a week over changes in the length of the school day and teachers' evaluations and hiring procedures. What you may not know is that this started last year when Mayor Emmanuel had a bill passed that required the teachers union to require its delegates vote by a two-thirds majority before a strike could be authorized, not the simple majority of 51% to 49% that was previously the case. This was seen by many as a way to influence or control the union's ability to strike. The

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. 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

legislation had the reverse effect with a 90% vote to strike that was taken this year.

Then, of course, who could forget about the Republican now known as the poster boy for anti-union laws — Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. If I were to list examples of attacks from both parties, I could fill 10 newsletters.

The reason I point out these examples is to show how fuzzy the lines between the parties have become. Our choices as municipal workers at the voting booths will be difficult. That's why it's more important than ever to read up about the candidates and understand who you are voting for.

Of course, it's just as important for me now to also point out a few politicians who have constantly supported us. New York City Comptroller John Liu is a true friend of labor. His positions on issues from pensions to collective bargaining affect us all. He is one of the most pro labor politicians we have. Others who also come to mind are State Assemblyman Peter Abbate and State Senator Diane Savino, both Democrats, with strong labor voting records.

We published a list on page 8 of this newsletter that contains all of the AFL-CIO endorsed candidates. As you will notice, both Republicans and Democrats received endorsements because of their pro-labor sentiments. In this newsletter we ran only those endorsed candidates as far north as Albany, as the majority of our members live south of that point. Anyone interested in reading the entire list could visit the AFL-CIO website.

In the end, endorsements always come down to who does the best job for our members. We want our members working and one of the best ways to do that is to vote for the right candidates. So as you go to the polls, be educated on your own individual local races, find out who's running, and make a choice that is best for you and your family, whether it's a national office, a state race or a local race in your town. After you decide whom to vote for, please VOTE; if not, we have no voice.

A recent *New York Times* article ("Income Data Shows Widening Gap Between New York City's Richest and Poorest") from mid September reports that "the rich got richer and the poor got poorer in New York City last year as the poverty rate reached its highest point in more than a decade, and the income gap in Manhattan,

already wider than almost anywhere else in the country, rivaled disparities in sub-Saharan Africa."

While the national recession officially ended in 2009 and Mayor Bloomberg has repeatedly touted the City's robust recovery, census figures released recently painted a decidedly sober view of how New Yorkers are faring.

Here's an interesting quote from the story: "The U.S. economy has shifted and too many people are getting left behind without the skills they need to compete and succeed," Samantha Levine, the mayor's deputy press secretary, said on Wednesday. "As President Clinton recently said, 'The old economy is not coming back,' and that's why the mayor believes we need a new national approach to job creation and education, one that gives everyone a chance to rise up the economic ladder."

So if that's what the Mayor truly believes, then he should stop trying to privatize and outsource work when he has people in house who are more than qualified and capable of handling the tasks at hand, namely Local 246 members. If the Mayor's idea of a "new national approach to job creation" is to take jobs away from Peter and give them to Paul, then he's succeeding. And for all those politicians who agree with him, be aware that you will NOT be receiving the support and backing of Local 246 or any other union for that matter.

On a very sad note, I'd like to mention two active members we lost in September: Gus Ekelund and Robert Colwell. It's difficult when we have to write about anyone from our Union who dies. Our condolences go out to both of their families at this time.

As you will see from reading this issue of the newsletter, we have been dealing with numerous issues lately that affect our members, including fleet consolidation and GPS tracking. While we stay on top of all the issues, we also count on our members and Shop Stewards to work with us in bringing issues to light.

And finally, a special thanks to all those who attended the Labor Day Parade. Although we got a little wet, the rain stopped long enough for everyone to dry off their cars and show them off to the crowd. Always a huge hit there. I hope to see more of you at next year's parade. It's our chance to show solidarity to all New Yorkers.

Thanks again for all you do to Keep New York City rolling.

ELECTION DAY

G
VOTE

Tuesday, November 6

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, **OCTOBER 18, 2012**

6:00 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Church

61-17 Grand Avenue

Maspeth, NY 11378

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



GOOD WELFARE

IN MEMORIAM:

Charles Deleva

Ret. Auto Mechanic — San

Robert Colwell

Active Motor Grade Operator — DOT

Gustaf Ekelund

Active Machinist — Housing

Kazimierz Gorzelski

Ret. Machinist — DEP

Patrick McManamon

Ret. Machinist Helper — DEP

Stanley Mosiello

Ret. Sr. Auto Service Worker — Fire

IN MEMORIAM FAMILY:

Joseph Oliveto (Father)

Auto Mechanic — Police

Patrick Roell (Father & Mother-In-Law)

Auto Mechanic — San

RETIRING MEMBERS:

Ronald Campisi

Auto Mechanic — DOT

Thomas Carver

Motor Grader Operator — DOT

Paul Neis

Auto Mechanic — San

Thomas Prete

Auto Electrician — Fire

NEW MEMBERS:

Michael Blacksberg

Auto Mechanic — San

Anthony Casalaspro

Auto Mechanic — San

Stephen Nogol

Auto Mechanic — San

Yancarlos Sanchez

Auto Mechanic — San

Gerard Savin Jr.

Auto Mechanic — San

John Townsley

Auto Mechanic — San

Anthony Vaccaro

Auto Mechanic — San



Monsignor Robert Richie from St. Patrick's Cathedral receives a new Local 246 T-shirt, especially designed for the Labor Day Parade, from President Joe Colangelo.

NEW SHOP STEWARD

MIKE FAIX TAKES OVER FOR RON LATUSO



Congratulations to Auto Mechanic Mike Faix (San-Bronx Command) on being elected as the new Shop Steward. Mike is taking over for Ron Latuso who recently retired. Mike started with the City in 2004 and has been actively attending the Union meetings in order to stay aware of all that's transpiring within the Local. "We welcome Mike aboard and look forward to working with him," said President Joe Colangelo. "Members in Bronx Sanitation are encouraged to use Mike as a first resort for problems and issues at work." Colangelo also thanked Latuso for his dedication to the Union and wishes him well in retirement.

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.

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

IN MEMORIAM: Gustaf Ekelund



Machinist Gustaf (Gus) Ekelund, 53, of New Brighton, Staten Island, died September 16. Ekelund, a devoted husband and father who was recalled for his generosity and compassion, worked for the City's Housing Authority. He was most remembered by his colleagues for the elaborate holiday parties he organized each year.

Ekelund was an avid motorcycle enthusiast and a beer connoisseur who brewed his own beer at home. His taste in music was eclectic — anything from heavy metal to jazz to classical to Irish folk songs. He also held court in the backyard, grilling and smoking ribs by the dozen on the barbecue and in the smoker he received as a birthday gift from his daughters.

His family said the list of words to describe him was infinite: Energetic, loyal, trustworthy, strong, friendly, smart and enterprising. He was known for his sense of humor, his willingness to help anybody and his ability to fix everything.

Ekelund is survived by his wife Susan, two daughters, Kirsten and Caitlin Ekelund, and five sisters.

"Gus' death is a tragedy not only for his own family, but his working family as well. He was a great guy, whose constant smile and kind words were always appreciated by those around him," said President Joe Colangelo. "We are asking the entire Local 246 family to please keep the Ekelund family in their prayers and thoughts at this time."

LOCAL 246 WEBSITE

The union's website, www.nyclocal246.org, contains numerous downloadable forms for members' use and has various links to useful information. It also contains the most up-to-date news that happens in between newsletter publications. Please visit the site regularly.

NEWS & NOTES

SANITATION REUNION DINNER — The Department of Sanitation's 48th Annual Retirement & Reunion Dinner will be held on Monday, November 5, 2012, beginning at 5:00 p.m., at La Bella Vita, 106-09 Rockaway Blvd., Ozone Park. We invite you to join us in fellowship and hope we can count on your participation. Cost per ticket is \$55. Each table seats 10. Please call Jim Grillo at 212-233-0616 for tickets and table reservations.

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.

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.

SEPTEMBER GIFT CARD WINNERS — Congratulations to our five members who were the lucky winners of the Gift Card raffle at the September meeting:

Stanley S. Fera — Auto Mechanic, San
John Shaw — Rubber Tire Repairer, Fire
Emilio Cuomo — Auto Mechanic Diesel, DEP
Paul Petrelis — Auto Mechanic, San
Kandiah Manoranjithan — Auto Mechanic, DEP

COPE RAFFLE WINNER — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for September 2012 was Edward Topak (Auto Mechanic, Fire).

IN MEMORIAM: Robert Colwell



Motor Grade Operator (DOT) Robert Colwell, 62, died at his home on September 16, 2012.

Robert had many interests. As a young man, he excelled as a member of his high school swim team,

and sang in the elite All-City Chorus, performing at Lincoln Center. He had a passion for fishing, especially deep sea fishing off of Sheepshead Bay, and playing chess with his son.

Robert worked in a variety of positions, including the New York City Department of School Safety, the Parks and Recreation Department, Bronx Community College and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. It was there that he met his wife Regina. They married in 1975 and resided in the Bronx, where they raised their son Robert Luke III.

Robert was close to completing a 30-year career with DOT when he died. In addition to his wife, son and daughter-in-law Shana, Robert is survived by a brother, three grandchildren, and many other family members and friends who will miss his laugh, sense of humor, devotion and modest yet proud presence.

"Robert's death is a loss to the Local 246 family," said President Joe Colangelo. "He performed his job diligently and was a true example of what it is to be a Local 246 member. He was an inspiration to everyone. Our condolences go out to his family at this sad time."

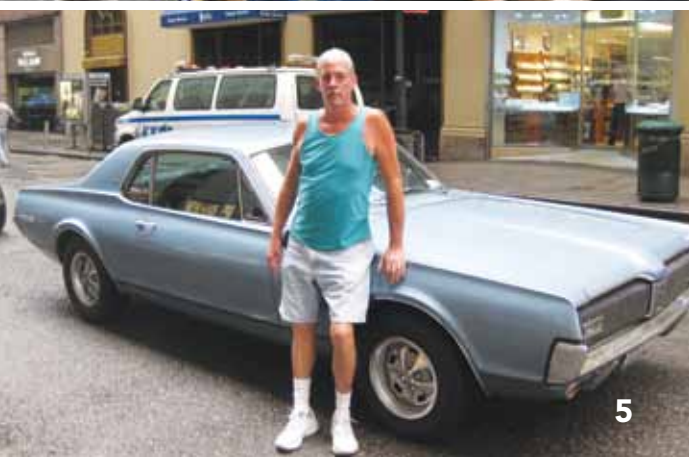
LABOR DAY



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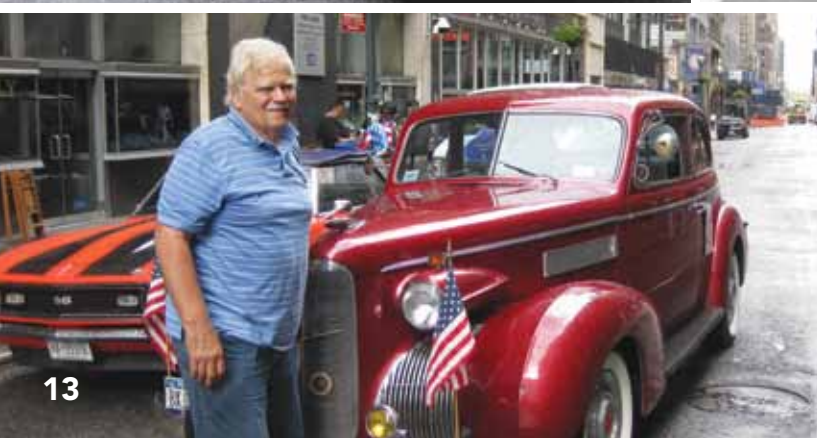
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PARADE 2012



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1. Robert Lucey, Sal Arcabaschio, Giorgio Dessi, and Andy Gleiss with his dog Zeke
2. Lou Morrow and Retiree Pat Fedele with a Lemans
3. Brian Codd with daughter Ella and his 1973 Roadrunner
4. President Joe Colangelo, Secretary Jim Grillo, Trustee Andrew Weinstein and members with Assemblyman Peter Abbate
5. Henry Meckl and his '67 Cougar
6. Sal Arcabaschio and his Harley Davidson
7. Secretary Jim Grillo and his 1968 Camaro
8. Andy Gleiss, wife Angela and their '52 M.G.
9. Sentinel Phil Mazal with his 1987 Mustang
10. Andy Gleiss driving his M.G. in the parade
11. Trustee Wayne Esposito and Giorgio Dessi carrying the Local 246 banner
12. Marc Abrams, Jeff Blond, Roy Rodriguez and Mike Faix
13. John Ledwith with his '48 LaSalle
14. Angela and Andy Gleiss with their 1993 Flower Car
15. Steve Codd and his 1966 GTO



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STATE AFL-CIO ENDORSES CANDIDATES

LOCAL 246 ENCOURAGES MEMBERS TO VOTE

At the State AFL-CIO's 32nd Constitutional Convention in August, the Federation announced endorsements of candidates running for U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, as well as State Senate and Assembly. Local 246 President Joe Colangelo said the Union is following the endorsements of the AFL-CIO, and encourages everyone to go out and vote on November 6 for pro-labor candidates. The endorsements listed below only those that go up to the Albany area, as the vast majority of members live down-state, with only a handful of DEP members living further north. Any district not listed is because there is no AFL-CIO endorsement.

United States Senate

Kirsten Gillibrand

House of Representatives

1 CD: Timothy Bishop (D)
3 CD: Steve Israel (D-WF-I)
4 CD: Carolyn McCarthy (D)
6 CD: Grace Meng (D-I)
7 CD: Nydia Velazquez (D-WF)
8 CD: Hakeem Jefferies (D-WF)
9 CD: Yvette Clarke (D-WF)
10 CD: Jerrold Nadler (D-WF)
12 CD: Carolyn Maloney (D-WF)
13 CD: Charles Rangel (D-WF)
14 CD: Joe Crowley (D-WF)
15 CD: Jose Serrano (D-WF)
16 CD: Eliot Engel (D-WF)
17 CD: Nita Lowey (D-WF)
18 CD: Sean Patrick Maloney (D)
19 CD: Julian Schreibman (D-WF)
20 CD: Paul Tonko (D-WF)

New York State Senate

1 SD: Kenneth P. LaValle (R-C-I)
6 SD: Kemp Hannon (R-C-I)
8 SD: Charles Fuschillo, Jr. (R-C-I)
9 SD: Dean G. Skelos (R)
11 SD: Tony Avella (D-C-I-WF)
12 SD: Michael Gianaris (D-WF)
13 SD: Jose Peralta (D-WF)
15 SD: Joseph Addabbo (D-WF)
16 SD: Toby Ann Stavisky (D-I-WF)
18 SD: Martin Malave Dilan (D)
19 SD: John Sampson (D-WF)
20 SD: Eric L. Adams (D-WF)
21 SD: Kevin S. Parker (D-WF)
22 SD: Andrew Gounardes (D-WF)
23 SD: Diane M. Savino (D-WF-I)
24 SD: Andrew J. Lanza (R-C-I)
25 SD: Velmanette Montgomery (D-WF)
26 SD: Daniel Squadron (D-WF)
27 SD: Brad Hoylman (D-WF)

28 SD: Liz Krueger (D-WF)
29 SD: Jose Serrano (D-WF)
30 SD: Bill Perkins (D-WF)
31 SD: Adriano Espaillat (D)
32 SD: Ruben Diaz, Sr. (R-D-C)
33 SD: Gustavo Rivera (D-WF)
34 SD: Jeffrey Klein (D-R-I-WF)
35 SD: Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-I-WF)
36 SD: Ruth Hassell-Thompson (D)
37 SD: George Latimer (D-WF)
44 SD: Neil Breslin (D-I-WF)
51 SD: James Seward (R-C-I)

New York State Assembly

4 AD: Steven Englebright (D-I-WF)
5 AD: Alfred Graf (R-I)
6 AD: Philip Ramos (D-I-WF)
9 AD: Joseph Saladino (R-C-I)
10 AD: Joseph Dujmic (D-WF)
12 AD: Andrew Raia (R-C)
13 AD: Charles D. Lavine (D)
14 AD: David McDonough (R)
16 AD: Michelle Schimel (D-I-WF)
22 AD: Michaelle Solages (D)
31 AD: Michelle Titus (D-WF)
32 AD: Vivian Cook (D)
34 AD: Michael DenDekker (D-WF)
35 AD: Jeffrion L. Aubry (D-WF)
37 AD: Catherine T. Nolan (D-WF)
38 AD: Michael Miller (D-WF)
39 AD: Francisco Moya (D-WF)
41 AD: Helene E. Weinstein (D-I-WF)
42 AD: Rhoda S. Jacobs (D-WF)
43 AD: Karim Camara (D-WF)
44 AD: James F. Brennan (D-L-WF)
45 AD: Steven Cymbrowitz (D-WF)
47 AD: William Colton (D-WF)
49 AD: Peter J. Abbate, Jr. (D-I-WF)
50 AD: Joseph R. Lentol (D)
51 AD: Felix W. Ortiz (D)
52 AD: Joan Millman (D-WF)
54 AD: Rafael Espinal, Jr. (D-C)

56 AD: Annette Robinson (D)
59 AD: Alan Maisel (D)
60 AD: Inez Barron (D-WF)
61 AD: Matthew Titone (D-WF)
63 AD: Michael Cusick (D-C-I)
64 AD: Nicole Malliotakis (R-C-I)
65 AD: Sheldon Silver (D-WF)
66 AD: Deborah J. Glick (D)
67 AD: Linda Rosenthal (D-WF)
70 AD: Keith L. Wright (D-WF)
71 AD: Herman D. Farrell, Jr. (D)
74 AD: Brian Kavanagh (D-WF)
75 AD: Richard Gottfried (D-WF)
76 AD: Micah Kellner (D-WF)
77 AD: Vanessa Gibson (D-WF)
78 AD: Jose Rivera (D)
79 AD: Eric Stevenson (R-D-WF)
80 AD: Naomi Rivera (D-WF)
81 AD: Jeffrey Dinowitz (D-WF)
82 AD: Michael Benedetto (D-WF)
83 AD: Carl Heastie (D-WF)
85 AD: Marcos Crespo (D-WF)
86 AD: Nelson Castro (D-WF)
87 AD: Luis Sepulveda (D-WF)
89 AD: Gary Pretlow (D-I-WF)
90 AD: Shelley Mayer (D-I-WF)
91 AD: Steve Otis (D-I-WF)
92 AD: Thomas Abinanti (D-I-WF)
93 AD: David Buchwald (D-I-WF)
94 AD: Andrew Falk (D-WF)
97 AD: Ellen Jaffee (D-I-WF)
98 AD: Annie Rabbitt (R-C-I)
99 AD: James Skoufis (D-I-WF)
100 AD: Aileen Gunther (D-C-I-WF)
103 AD: Kevin Cahill (D-I-WF)
104 AD: Frank Skartados (D-I-WF)
106 AD: Didi Barrett (D-I-WF)

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

FLEET CONSOLIDATION TALKS WITH MEMBERS

After seven Fleet Consolidation meetings during the summer, President Joe Colangelo said the Union is still no closer to knowing the exact terms of the plan, but is tackling issues as they arise.

"The plan is all over the map, but we are dealing with new challenges as they arise," Colangelo said. "We've been meeting with members to explain their options to them."

The current consolidation is the Department of Environmental Protection to DSNY and NYPD, with light vehicles going to Police and medium to heavy going to Sanitation. Both Colangelo and Vice President Charles Pastorelli met with DEP members during the summer to explain the differences between the two agencies when it comes to time and leave, discipline and work schedules. For example, Sanitation has more shop locations, thereby giving members more options. Yet, Police for the most part is a Mon-

day-Friday job with limited weekends, while Sanitation is a six-day job. Each has very different standards, for example, when it comes to vacation and sick time. Since Police and Sanitation are each taking a different percentage of existing DEP employees, members were able to select where they would like to go and spaces are being filled on a seniority basis.

"We wanted to give members the most information we could so they could make their best choice based on individual circumstances," Colangelo said. "We didn't want to tell members which agency to choose; we just wanted them to have enough information to make an educated decision on their own."

Members have already made their decisions and the Union is just waiting to hear the dates of when the transferring will begin.

FUNDS EXTEND COVERAGE

Active Members' Children Covered to 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.

OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

When you change the clocks on Sunday, November 4 to mark the end of Daylight Savings Time, it's a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors as well.

As you get ready to turn the clocks back one hour, it is an opportunity to follow the advice of fire experts throughout the nation and change the batteries in **all** of the smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in your home. It's important to make sure you test the alarms after putting in new batteries to guarantee they are working properly. Another important fall safety tip is to change the batteries in your emergency flashlights at the same time.

There are many types of smoke alarms, each with different features. Alarms can be electrically connected, battery powered or a combination of both. This combination - and a pause feature to reduce nuisance alarms - is highly recommended. One smoke detector is not enough. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and near sleeping areas. If you or your loved ones sleep with bedroom doors closed, install an alarm inside each bedroom.

Because smoke rises, you should place alarms on the ceiling. If you cannot do this, place them high up on a wall according to manufacturer's instructions. There are certain locations to avoid such as near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows, or close to ceiling fans. Smoke alarms should be mounted on the ceiling at least 4 inches from a wall or on a wall with the top of the alarm not less than 4 inches, or more than 12 inches, below the ceiling.

UNION ROUNDUP

The MLC Steering Committee met on September 10, at which time the City gave a presentation on hiring a Chief Investment Officer (CIO) for the Deferred Compensation Board, at an annual salary of between \$250,000 and \$450,000. The Plan currently has \$11 billion in assets with 90% of it coming from union members and 95% of the Fund's 150,000 participants represented by unions. Since this is a self directed plan, meaning members choose the investments, unions are questioning the need for a CIO. The concern is that the Board is made up of nine appointees: seven from the Mayor and two from labor. A vote would probably not go in labor's favor.

The Union's Welfare Fund Trustees met and after an RFP of the prescription drug plan, voted to change PBM providers to CitizensRX. The transition process has begun, with a January 1 start date. Everyone will be notified and the Trustees are looking at additional benefit enhancements with the savings projected from this move.

December 7, 2012 is the scheduled date for the overtime cap arbitration. It has taken the Union two years to get to this point, with significant amounts of frustration involved trying to resolve the problems.

Local 246 met with Sanitation on September 6 regarding the Zerega Shop relocation in the Bronx and the safety concerns our members have. New Shop Steward Mike Faix hit the ground running in his new position in order to stay ahead of the numerous problems, which include no building permit; poor lighting; broken, cracked and uneven floors; and poor ventilation. Local 246 is asking for a suitable repair location so that our members can work in a clean and safe environment for the six members who work there.

GPS TRACKING UNDER VEOLIA CONTRACT MAKES UNIONS QUESTION THEIR RIGHTS

Last year DEP entered into a multi-phase contract with Veolia to provide consulting services focused on "improving the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, while reducing costs, enhancing operational efficiencies, improving productivity, and promoting excellence," according to the terms of the contract.

That was Phase I. Now, DEP is entering into Phase II of the OP-X program as they have signed a five-year contract with Veolia that leaves Local 246 with some significant concerns.

President Joe Colangelo said that one of the first issues the Union is dealing with under Phase II is the installation of GPS equipment on vehicles used by Machinists. The Union attended a meeting in July, which was attended by various other unions impacted by the new GPS installations, to talk about some of the concerns.

Unions discussed with management how the GPS systems will be used. The original intent was to provide the location of vehicles at all times in order to have the proper work crews more quickly respond to different type of needs, such as water main breaks or sewage blockages.

At the meeting, the Unions were told that the GPS system will also provide vehicle speed and how it relates to posted speed limits where the vehicles are operating. He said that part of the problem is the admittedly inaccurate information that comes from the devices. Unions believe that information could potentially be used against employees and the issue was raised that this may violate the original terms and conditions of employment.

"Now we are not only talking about disciplinary actions against members with information collected, but how is other data going to be used," Colangelo said. "As employers, they have a right to install the GPS system, but as the Union representing the workers, we want to be sure that our members are protected."

Colangelo said the Union may look to file an improper labor practice on a change to the terms and conditions of employment if data is used against members. Members in the Clean Water Division and the vehicles that Machinists use are the first to be impacted by the GPS installation.

"We are watching how this progresses and are in regular contact with management to be sure none of our rights are violated," Colangelo said.



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END OF SUMMER VISIT AT HOUSING AUTHORITY

Vice President Charles Pastorelli stopped by the Housing Authority to talk with members about how their summer was and discuss any problems or issues at work.

"It's nice to catch up with members on a personal level as well as discuss work-related topics," Pastorelli said. "When we all get to know one another as more than just co-workers, it helps build camaraderie within the shops."

Pictured from left: Senior Auto Service Workers Lewis Torres, Maximo Bonifacio and Juan Abreu, Auto Mechanic Marcelino Cruz, Senior Auto Service Worker Nelson Perez, Auto Mechanic Jeffrey Frame, and Pastorelli.



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