

# IMPACT

VOL. 9

NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2012

## UNION WINS 220 COURT CHALLENGE CITY APPEALING JUDGE'S DECISION



*Pictured on front, seated are Local 246 Counsel Robert Burzichelli; Steve Melish, Painters Local 1969; President Colangelo; and William Lacey, District Council of Carpenters. Standing are Martin Lydon, District Council of Carpenters; and Sean Fitzpatrick, Electrician Union Local 3.*

**After months of protesting Mayor Bloomberg's Personnel Order to reclassify all 220 prevailing rate City employees, Local 246 won a court challenge to halt the actions.**

In what can be seen as a tremendous victory for Local 246, as well as numerous other trades worker unions, a Manhattan judge annulled two Personnel Orders issued in April by Mayor Michael Bloomberg that set out to change the way an overwhelming majority of Local 246 members' salaries are determined.

On July 5, less than three months after the Mayor tried to end a 118-year-old rule that gave the City 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.

"This is a great victory for our union and for labor in general. The Mayor has absolutely no regard for our current contracts and attempted to take full control of dealing with the City's unions, including removing prevailing wages and benefits for 10,000 highly skilled workers," said President Joe Colangelo. "The process that has been in place has worked well by fairly compensating those civil servants who do the same work as employees in their

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Career Day



8 June Membership Meeting



Visiting the Members

## New York City SEIU Local 246

217 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007

Phone: (212) 233-0616 • Fax: (212) 385-1859

Outside NY: 1-800-903-0246

Web site: [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org)

**PRESIDENT . . . . . JOSEPH A. COLANGELO**  
**VICE PRESIDENT . . . . . CHARLES PASTORELLI**  
**SEC/TREAS. . . . . RAYMOND S. SCHACOR**  
**RECORDING SECRETARY . . . . . JAMES GRILLO**  
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DOT — MGO Field Representative  
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Correction  
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Parks  
Giorgio Dessi . . . . . (718) 447-1100  
DEP ext. 311  
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DEP  
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Sanitation & Cioffe  
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Dept. of Education  
Joseph Yovino . . . . . (718) 476-7543  
Police  
Mordechai Ziv . . . . . (718) 533-5784  
DOT

### Office Staff

Rosemary Aragona, Maureen A. Byrne, Pat Cruz

NEWSLETTER DESIGN/PRODUCTION:

Marci Rosenblum ♦ RWD Group

(845) 364-0222 ♦ [marci@rwdgroup.com](mailto:marci@rwdgroup.com)

# Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



As we gear up for our first newsletter after the summer hiatus, I will be focusing most of my message on the topic foremost on everyone's minds — fleet consolidation.

The Mayor, in his State of the City speech in January 2010, addressed an important question — whether or not every City agency needs its own repair facility and its own mechanics. At that time, we took this as a direct attack on our members. However, what wasn't so obvious was the ultimate objective of the Bloomberg Administration. Were they looking for savings, were they looking to outsource, or was it like most announcements and just meant to sound innovative?

Just five months later, in May 2010, it became clear that fleet consolidation was going to get serious when the Mayor announced the appointment of Stephen Goldsmith, the former Mayor of Indianapolis, as the Deputy Mayor of New York City for Operations. Mr. Goldsmith had a history of privatizing City services and had previously used a model that forced city employees to bid against private contractors. The results were mixed to say the least.

Let's look back as to when this privatization scheme first began under Mr. Goldsmith when he was in Indianapolis in 1992. Thanks to numerous political appointments, fleet services had become management heavy, thereby adding undo costs to the overall fleet maintenance budget. Eventually, many of these political appointees either resigned or their positions were eliminated. After these changes occurred, the AFSCME Local placed a bid on providing fleet maintenance and won.

This was more than 20 years ago. Those of us who were on the job can recall that not too long after, New York City elected a Mayor named Rudy Giuliani, who also made

## 2012 LABOR DAY PARADE

Local 246 is marching in this year's

LABOR DAY PARADE

Saturday, September 8, 2012

**Please bring your family and friends and show your support for our union.**

There will be hats and t-shirts for everyone. Food and refreshments will be served at the staging area. Bring your antique cars, trucks and motorcycles.

We will begin assembling at 9 a.m., with the parade to kick off at 10 a.m.

We will gather on West 44th Street between 5th and 6th avenues.

If you need any additional information, call the Union office.

privatization his mantra. Local 246 fought for and won the right to bid to maintain two Parks Department facilities. We placed a lower bid than the contractor and still lost to the private contractor. We would argue that the privatization operation was never a success just due to the fact it was never expanded beyond those two initial garages. It's clear to all that it was never about saving money, especially since we were able to prove it's cheaper to maintain the current in-house operation, yet we still lost the work to a private vendor.

The question now is, what's happening today? Mr. Goldsmith is gone and fleet consolidation has become the new privatization. The challenges we're facing under the consolidation plan are much different than what we were dealing with under privatization plans. Sure, we still have many concerns about the latest fleet consolidation, but these concerns are about how the process is going to work, and not about privatization.

So far we have had nine meetings with OLR, Agency heads and Deputy Mayor Caswell Holloway. At the most recent meeting with the Deputy Mayor, he again assured us this is not about privatization, but consolidation. I look forward to him addressing our concerns as there are many. While I am a firm believer that not all equipment is the same and therefore each agency should operate and maintain its own vehicles, at least the City's intention is to try and return some of its privatized work to our members, and at the same time, actually increase the number of mechanics. Their intent is to hire at least an additional 70 mechanics. If it actually comes to fruition, and it seems it will as the City has already hired some, then it's good news for Local 246.

The City's rationale — although again, we disagree — is that by consolidating services, they will save money in overhead costs. The point that is being overlooked despite the fact we keep making it, is that our mechanics are trained to work on specific pieces of equipment. By the nature of the job, a member who works in Sanitation will have tremendous experience on heavy equipment, while someone who works in Police will have more knowledge of light duty vehicles. By consolidating services, our members will need time to get up to speed on various vehicles that previously were not under their jurisdiction. Under the current system, we are able to return vehicles to service speedily because problems can

be identified quickly.

Along the same lines, I have addressed members many times about the parts contract and the impact it will have on our Union.

We have talked many times at the membership meetings and when we come around to the shops about how transfers from one agency to another are being accomplished. Transfers are accomplished strictly by seniority in accordance with Local 246's non-economical agreement. I know you are all nervous and are wondering how you will be impacted. We are addressing concerns on an individual basis and reaching out to members one on one to talk about personal circumstances.

I can speak from experience on this type of situation because back in the 1990s, when we had the transfers from Parks to Sanitation, I was personally affected. I know your concerns, but let's remember that the transfer we went through in the 90s was due to privatization and today's transfers are about consolidation. The circumstances are quite different.

Now we have an opportunity to showcase how superior our members are when it comes to providing services to City agencies. We are the best and our members will prove that. I, along with the Executive Board, will be out gathering your input and listening to your concerns so we can address them with the City. We will get through this together and be stronger for it.

I'll close by telling you something we recently learned while visiting the Sanitation 26th Street Borough Shop. I was looking at Tom DeSantis' tool box and noticed he had old photos of Sanitation collection trucks. I asked him why? He explained his hobby of studying the history of the Department and told us that the first Sanitation escalator truck was designed by a City Auto Engineman, but because he was a City worker, he couldn't patent his design. The HEIL Company took his design and that's how the first conveyor system to load refuse onto a truck was introduced. (see page 10 for story)

We are the best at what we do and we will prove it! I hope to see you all at our Labor Day parade. It's a time for us to show our solidarity amongst ourselves and to all those who come to the parade. On behalf of our entire Executive Board, thank you again for allowing us to represent the #1 Mechanics in the world.

## PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

President Joe Colangelo testified at a Contract Awards Public Hearing on June 21 against a Citywide takeover of parts rooms, currently staffed by Local 246 members. The City is intending to award the contract to NAPPA Auto Parts, valued at \$225 million over five years. To hear President Colangelo's testimony, visit the Union's website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org). Go to the news page, and click on the News tab.

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, **SEPTEMBER 20, 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:

### Julius Detsky

Ret. Auto Mechanic — Police

### Alfred Urbanski

Ret. Auto Machinist — San

## IN MEMORIAM FAMILY:

### James Dolan (Father)

Auto Mechanic — Parks

### William Josiah (Wife)

Ret. Auto Mechanic — DOE

### Milton Klein (Wife)

Ret. Auto Mechanic — Police

## RETIRING MEMBERS:

### Robert Ascaticno

Auto Mechanic — DOT

### Peter Chiodi

Auto Mechanic — San

### Thomas De Forest

Machinist Helper — DEP

### Eugene Desplantes

Sheet Metal Worker — Parks

### Gregory Edwards

Sr. Auto Service Worker — DOT

### Richard Hanan

Machinist — DEP

### Joseph Hurley

Auto Mechanic — San

### Mohanlall Jugmohan

Auto Mechanic — San

### Thomas Prete

Auto Electrician — Fire

### Gioachino Trincerì

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### Howard Weiner

Auto Mechanic — San

### Ivan Yelusich

Machinist — Marine & Aviation

## HAPPY RETIREMENT THOMAS PRETE



President Joe Colangelo (pictured above left) and Recording Secretary Jim Grillo were visiting the FDNY 35st shop on Friday, June 15, and were fortunate to see Thomas Prete on his last day before retirement after 26 years with FDNY. We wish him well in all future endeavors. "Stay in touch Tom and let us know what you are up to," Grillo said.

## WHAT DID YOU DO THIS SUMMER? SEND US PHOTOS FOR PUBLICATION



Everyone needs a hobby outside of work and when that hobby leads to a lot of homemade pasta sauce, it's even better. President Joe Colangelo leaves a hard day of work behind and takes to his garden of tomatoes and other vegetables. Judging by the results, the hard work really

paid off. Maybe Joe will bring the pasta and sauce to the next membership meeting!

We want to include photos of some of the more interesting things our members did during the summer. If you took a unique trip, or have a special hobby, send us some photos for inclusion in our next newsletter.

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

# 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.

**METCA TRAIN SHOW** — The METCA Train Show will be held on Saturday, Sept. 15 at the Freeport Rec Center, 130 E. Merrick Road in Freeport. There is free admission for METCA members with a valid membership card. METCA members are admitted at 8:00 a.m.; the general public at 9:00 a.m. Show runs until 2:00 p.m. There are drag races for kids 5-15. Adult (16+) admission is \$5. Children are free with a paid adult. Visit [www.metca.org](http://www.metca.org) for more information.

**FUNDS ARE FINANCIALLY SECURE** — The Union's Welfare Trustees met on June 6 and reported that the Funds have maintained good financial reserves. The union Trustees held their second quarter audit on June 11, and reported that the financials are also in order.

**NEW PHARMACY NETWORK AGREEMENT** — Starting September 15, 2012, Walgreens will begin to participate in the broadest Express Scripts retail pharmacy network for new and existing clients. Express Scripts members can log in to [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com) to see pharmacies that are currently in their network. By September 15, Walgreens pharmacies will be visible on the Express Scripts pharmacy locator for members who have access to the broadest network.

**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.

**2012 LABOR DAY PARADE** — Local 246 is marching in this year's Labor Day Parade on Saturday, September 8, 2012. Please bring your family and friends and show your support for our union. There will be hats and t-shirts for everyone. Food and refreshments will be served at the staging area. Bring your antique cars and motorcycles. We will begin assembling at 9 a.m., with the parade to kick off at 10 a.m. We will gather on West 44th Street between 5th and 6th avenue. If you need any additional information, call the Union office.

**UNION WEBSITE** — The union's website, [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org), contains numerous downloadable forms for members' use and has various links to useful information. Please visit the site regularly for important updates, to see photos from latest events, and to find out dates to upcoming events on our calendar.

**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.

**OPTICAL VOUCHERS** — When requesting optical vouchers from the Union office, please use them within 45 days of requesting them. Too often members are holding on to the vouchers and they are

expiring. This is resulting in undue costs to the Union. Again, please make sure to only request an Optical Voucher if you plan to use it within 45 days.

**URGENT CALL TO UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY CARD** — Members, when was the last time you thought about who you have listed as your Beneficiary? Over the years, your beneficiary might have changed. It's important to you and for our Office to have the correct information for each member on your beneficiary card. Please contact the Fund office at (212) 233-0616 to either verify who you have listed, or request that a new beneficiary card be sent to you. Once you received the card, fill it out completely and accurately and send it back to our office immediately before you forget.

**DENTAL CLAIM SUBMISSION** — All dental claims should be filed with the Union's Dental Administrator. Claims should be sent to Healthplex, Inc., 333 Earle Ovington Blvd., Suite 300, Uniondale, NY 11553. **Claims must be submitted within one year after completion of dental treatment.** You can also visit their web site at [www.healthplex.com](http://www.healthplex.com) at any time to view your account, or call their customer service department at 1-888-468-5178, option 1.

**COPE RAFFLE WINNER** — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for June 2012 was Alan Naimas — Retired Auto Mechanic, Sanitation. He is pictured below at left with VP Charles Pastorelli (center) and Treasurer Ray Schacor.



# UNION WINS 220 COURT CHALLENGE

## MAYOR'S 220 CHANGES HALTED BY JUDGE Continued from page 1

comparable titles in the private sector. The process has been fair to both the City and its workers."

Not one to sit back and take a defeat lightly, on August 9 the Mayor appealed the Judge's decision to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Department.

In the appeal, the City seeks reversal of the judgment on the grounds that the "trial court erred as a matter of law and abused its discretion.

"Starting in the Fall of 2010, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services ("DCAS"), in consultation with the City's Office of Labor Relations ("OLR"), began reviewing all prevailing rate titles employed by the City. DCAS determined that no sound public policy existed for continuing to set the salaries of trade workers by exclusive reference to the private sector 'prevailing rate' while all other City workers are negotiated through the collective bargaining process under the New York City Collective Bargaining Law. DCAS' review

also found that paying public sector titles private sector rates yielded inequitably high salary determinations," the City's appeal said.

**"He tried to yank the rug out from under the feet of labor. He thought we'd just sit back and take it. He was wrong. We formed a collective voice with other affected unions and we succeeded."**

The City's claim went on to say that "DCAS created a comprehensive plan to 'grade' all trade worker titles, pursuant to the authority granted under the City Charter. By grading the titles, trade worker wages would no longer be determined through the §220 prevailing rate process because

§220 does not apply to graded civil service titles. DCAS created a comprehensive grading and classification construct, which places each title in a grade in one of 14 new services based on the nature and skill level of the work performed. Placement of a title within this graded system removed the title from the prevailing rate system. On April 11, 2012, this graded system was implemented through the pay regulations established by the MPOs."

The City claims that the trial court erred as a matter of law and abused its discretion because the grading of titles was rational, not arbitrary and capricious, and did not violate Civil Service Law §20.

President Colangelo said the Mayor implemented the personnel orders because he wanted trades workers to hash out their salaries via collective bargaining without any input from the Comptroller. Immediately upon getting news of the Mayor's underhanded attempt to destroy labor, Local 246 joined with other impacted unions to

## FILING FOR AUTO MECHANIC EXAM

### TENTATIVE EXAM SCHEDULE Through June 30, 2013

Auto Service Workers Level I and II can now apply for the upcoming promotional exam as long as they have five years of qualifying experience either in the private sector, with the City, or a combination of both. President Joe Colangelo said this was part of a deal negotiated with DCAS and OLR. The open filing period runs from Sept. 5-25, 2012. Previously, Auto Service Workers needed to become a Senior Auto Service Worker prior to applying. "This is a big change from the way things were done previously," Colangelo said. "The Union is encouraging all those members in Levels I and II to apply to take the exam as long as they also have the necessary five years experience."

TITLE EXAM	NUMBER	FILING START DATE	FILING END DATE
Auto Body Worker . . . . .	3010 . . . . .	Dec. 5, 2012 . . . . .	Dec. 26, 2012
Auto Mechanic . . . . .	3011 . . . . .	Sept. 5, 2012 . . . . .	Sept. 25, 2012
Auto Mechanic (Prom) . . . . .	3515 . . . . .	Sept. 5, 2012 . . . . .	Sept. 25, 2012
Auto Mechanic (Diesel) . . . . .	3012 . . . . .	Sept. 5, 2012 . . . . .	Sept. 25, 2012
Auto Mechanic (Diesel) (Prom) . . . . .	3514 . . . . .	Sept. 5, 2012 . . . . .	Sept. 25, 2012

# JUNE MEETING

## RAFFLE WINNERS

vigorously oppose the Mayor's order, and filed an immediate lawsuit seeking a restraining order, which was granted.

"While we argued several points before the court, the one that appeared to carry the most weight with Judge Mendez was that the Mayor did not have the authority to make the change without the approval of the State Civil Service Commission," Colangelo said.

According to the Judge, Mayor Bloomberg exceeded his authority when he usurped a long-standing practice of the City Comptroller to set prevailing wages for. Previous contracts through agreements between unions and the City Comptroller, based on prevailing wages in business and government, were valid.

The Judge ruled that the Mayor's move "does not have a rational basis and is arbitrary and capricious." He wrote that the Mayor had sought to alter work terms "without any notice, hearing or determination by the New York State Civil Service Commissioner." This is what the Mayor is now arguing is invalid.

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.

The Mayor's orders 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.

"He tried to yank the rug out from under the feet of labor. He thought we'd just sit back and take it. He was wrong. We formed a collective voice with other affected unions and we succeeded," Colangelo said. "Labor will once again be banding together to fight the City's appeal."

Julio Alverio . . . . .	Sr. Auto Service Worker . . . . .	DOT
John Amendola . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
John Cinarella . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	Fire
John Cronin . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DEP
Anthony Cuomo . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DEP
Paul D'Amico . . . . .	Sheet Metal Worker . . . . .	Pol
Joseph Dell'Aquila . . . . .	Ret Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Vito Divittorio . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
James Dolan . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	Parks
Johannes Eder . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DOT
Geoffrey Eisenbarth . . . . .	Ret. Sheet Metal Worker . . . . .	DCA
Paul Friedman . . . . .	Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Michael Graff . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Carmine Labruna . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Joseph Lam . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Pasquale Libassi . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DEP
Bill Lynch . . . . .	Ret. Auto Machinist . . . . .	San
Shirley Mac Queen . . . . .	Machinist Helper . . . . .	BOE
Frank Mancini . . . . .	Ret. Machinist Helper . . . . .	BOE
Leonard Malichuk . . . . .	Machinist Helper . . . . .	BOE
Daniel Malone . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DOT
Kandiah Manoranjithan . . . . .	Jr. Auto Service Worker . . . . .	DEP
Mario Marroquin . . . . .	Machinist Helper . . . . .	BOE
Larry Martin . . . . .	Auto Mechanic Diesel . . . . .	San
Henry Meckl . . . . .	Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Joseph Mennella . . . . .	Ret Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Richard Montalbano . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DEP
Michael Moscato . . . . .	Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . .	Parks
Steve Murk . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	Fire
Alan Namias . . . . .	Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Thomas Patrick . . . . .	Sheet Metal Worker . . . . .	DOC
Dimitrios Rigas . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Franklin Rivas . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DEP
Brian Roach . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DEP
Paul Rosina . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	Fire
John Smith . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DEP
John Sperling . . . . .	Sr. Auto Service Worker . . . . .	Parks
James Sullivan . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	EMS
Robert Toigo . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Edward Topak . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	Fire
Kenneth Triolo . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DOC
Michael Troisi . . . . .	Auto Mechanic . . . . .	DEP
Wayne Wang . . . . .	Auto Mechanic Diesel . . . . .	DEP
Dennis White . . . . .	Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San
Frank Yost . . . . .	Ret. Auto Mechanic . . . . .	San

# CAREER DAY

## FEATURING THE JOB OF AN AUTO MECHANIC



On May 9, Recording Secretary James Grillo attended Career Day at PS/MS 43 in Far Rockaway, Queens. Local 246 was invited, as in previous years, by John Matthews, Jr., who is part of the Career Day Committee and a Local 246 Mechanic (DOT). This was the school's 15th annual event.

"I had a great time talking to the students from fifth through eighth grades," Grillo said. "Many remembered me from years past and it was exciting for me to see their progress from year to year."

Grillo said he spoke about his job as a Mechanic for the City and as Recording Secretary for the Union. "They asked a lot of questions about my both my jobs and my hobbies, which I was glad

to talk about. We also discussed their goals and what they want to do when they finish school. Their answers were great and they were very interesting. This is a group of students I look forward to meeting every year."

In concluding his presentation, Grillo told them to partake in as many extracurricular activities as they can so they have the opportunity to meet different kinds of people and broaden their horizons. "There is a whole big world out there. Go out and explore it," he said.

Any member interested in having Local 246 attend a child's career day should contact the Union office.

## LUCKY \$100 GIFT CARD WINNERS NEFCU RAFFLES OFF PRIZES AT JUNE MEETING

Northeastern Engineers Federal Credit Union Chief Executive Officer Timothy Faughnan raffled off two \$100 gift cards at the Local 246 June membership meeting. NEFCU is a supporter of the Union and offers special mortgage and credit card deals for members.

The lucky winners were Frank Mancini (Ret. Machinist Helper, BOE) and Paul D'Amico (Sheet Metal Worker, Police).

"We want to thank NEFCU for their continued partnership with our Union and for helping make our June meeting more exciting by contributing to the grand raffle," said President Joe Colangelo. "We can always count on their support and highly encourage our members to contact NEFCU for information about their products and services."





# JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING



# KOMNICK SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

## MICHAEL FALCONIERI RECEIVES AWARD



Michael Falconieri, winner of the 2012 Lawrence Komnick Scholarship Award, came by the Union office during the summer with his parents to pick up his award from President Joe Colangelo.

Michael, the son of Joseph (Auto Mechanic — Police) and Marietta Falconieri,

is attending Ithaca College and majoring in journalism. He hopes to one day work for ESPN in the field of sports communication. He has one sister, Valerie.

Michael graduated from Leon M. Goldstein High School for the Sciences, which is on the campus of Kingsborough Community College. He was a highly involved member of his high school community, and was voted as the Student Government Treasurer in his senior year. He was also the head crewmember in technical theater for three years, and was ranked number 11 out of a graduating class of 263 students.

## FORMER CITY AUTO ENGINEMAN INVENTS KURTZ BODIES



Did you know that a DSNY Auto Engineman invented a mechanical collection truck? Mr. Kurtz invented the hydraulically driven conveyor system. A hydraulic motor coupled to a drive sprocket would turn a chain and flights to move garbage into the body. These became known as the Kurtz bodies.

Able to secure a patent for the design, the City contracted with three different manufacturers, including Heil, who built the Kurtz conveyor bodies for the City of New York, supplying most on Autocar cabover chassis. By 1939, Heil was building their own patented variation of the NYC loader, but with a unique dual side opening hopper. Milwaukee and Chicago were among the bigger users of the Heil Conveyor, with some models being constructed as semi-trailers. Like the Kurtz DSNY bodies, the Heil Conveyor was not a true refuse packer, but rather an enclosed body with a mechanical loading means. Auxiliary compaction was eventually offered on the Conveyo-Pak model. As novel as they were in their time, conveyor loaders were complex and noisy machines, prone to wear and in need of frequent maintenance. The cost and complexity undoubtedly prevented many cash-strapped communities from buying these beasts.

It would be interesting to note how many other inventions or improvements were made by City workers.

# UNION ROUNDUP

**DEP Commissioner Strickland invited unions to an informative meeting** to announce the results of a study conducted by DEP employees and Veolia Water on ways to improve efficiency, productively and reduce energy. The OPX teams conducted interviews, visited maintained yards, and Wastewater Treatment facilities, recommending areas of improvements such as high level of inventories not matched to demand, systems and control rooms not having been utilized to better preventive maintenance on agency vehicles and other areas.

**On May 24, Local 246 held two meetings with DOT** at the Mayors' Office of Labor Relations. At the first meeting we discussed the assignment of Tractor Operators to perform duties of the Motor Grader Operator. Although we share a bargaining certificate with Local 15, it is Local 246 that represents MGOs in DOT and Local 15 who represents Tractor Operators. Local 246 has argued that work assignment is determined by the types of equipment as specifically described in agency memos. After a long discussion, DOT agreed to post future openings with the types of equipment.

The second meeting was with Local 15 to discuss the job posting at SI Ferries in which the agency included job duties for a riggers position that required operation of equipment covered by Local 246's MGO & Tractor titles. After discussion, the agency agreed to remove the duties from the riggers posting.

**The MLC met during the summer to discuss the City budget.** The major concern is that although the Mayor has projected no deficit in 2013, he also has not included money in the budget to settle contracts that every prior administration always set aside. There is also pressure to have City workers pay a portion of our health care premiums and the pressure next year will be even greater.

# 26th STREET MANHATTAN BORO SHOP



President Joe Colangelo and Recording Secretary Jim Grillo visited with members of the 26th Street Manhattan Boro Shop during the summer to talk about issues directly impacting members and inspected the equipment that was transferred from Parks as a result of the recent consolidation.

Pictured from left: Auto Mechanics George Heilig, Nick Teta and Oswald Pierre, Auto Mechanic Diesel Joe Parascandola, Auto Mechanics Mike Strovar and David Ferrara and President Joe Colangelo.

During the visit, David mentioned to Joe that he never had his photo in the IMPACT newsletter, so "here you go David, this one's for you. I hope you enjoy this photo," Colangelo said.

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# A VISIT TO QUEENS WEST BROOM GARAGE

President Joe Colangelo also visited with Local 246 members at the Queens West Broom Garage this summer to discuss fleet consolidation as well as other issues impacting members. The old location was one of the first Sanitation garages Colangelo was assigned to. That's where he first met Nicholas Roseta (Auto Mechanic), and they have remained friends for 31 years.

Colangelo always enjoys getting out to the shops, meeting our new members one on one and catching up with older members who he has not seen in a while.

"The summer is a great time for the Executive Board to get around to the various shops and visit with members," Colangelo said. "What I really want to know is why Nick still has a full head of dark hair while I, on the other hand, am losing mine and what's left is turning grey? What's the secret?"

Pictured from left: Auto Mechanics Joseph Iocca and Nicholas Roseta; and Hector Aquino, Auto Mechanic Diesel.



REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

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