

IMPACT

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NO. 8

APRIL 2014

UNION SPONSORS ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S GREENEST DAY CONTEST

Once again this year, Local 246 held its Greenest Contest in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. This annual event takes place at the March General Membership meeting, and gives members a chance to come dressed in anything green, showing their Irish pride.

"We've had some very interesting outfits in past years," said President Joe Colangelo. "This year, while only four members participated, it was still a lot of fun having the rest of the members vote on the winners."

Pictured from left: John Cinarella, Auto Mechanic — Fire; James Sullivan, Auto Mechanic — Fire; Shirley MacQueen, Machinist Helper — BOE; President Joe Colangelo; and Giorgio Dessi, Retired Machinist — DEP.



Winners were presented with American Express gift certificates as prizes. "We definitely encourage more people to participate next year." Colangelo said. "The more the merrier."



New York City Local 246 Welfare Fund	
Statement of Net Assets	
December 31, 2013	
Assets	
Cash - Checking Accounts and on Hand	\$ 324,957
Investments - Fair Value	4,309,528
Employer Contributions Receivable	172,491
Accrued Interest Receivable	19,757
Other Receivable	0
Prepaid Expenses	5,403
Due from Retiree Welfare Fund	15,289
Due from Local 246	29,423
Total Assets	\$4,927,232

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**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY & TIME FOR APRIL MEETING
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VICE PRESIDENT CHARLES PASTORELLI

SEC/TREAS. RAYMOND S. SCHACOR

RECORDING SECRETARY JAMES GRILLO

SENTINEL PHILIP MAZAL

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Sheet Metal Citywide Representative

Jeff Blond (718) 334-9113
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Edward Clas (718) 546-1308/1725
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Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



Something changed last month on the labor front that was very interesting. New Labor Relations Commissioner Bob Linn requested a meeting with the MLC Steering Committee to not only introduce himself to union leaders, but more importantly, to start a discussion on contract negotiations. This is something that has not happened with the City in a decade.

MLC Chairman Harry Nespoli started by saying that until the unions that were denied their two, 4% raises from the last round of bargaining receive those raises, no new negotiations could begin. The most notable unions still waiting are teachers and nurses.

The City's position — to no one's surprise — is that in order to have the ability to provide raises in the next round of bargaining, the City will require savings on healthcare. However, he did not say that unions would have to give back anything; he simply said that savings would have to be found. In other words, he left the topic open for discussion, something that has been blatantly missing from the City in the recent past. Linn said that by finding ways of saving money on one end, the City would be able to provide raises on the other. This is a much different approach to actual bargaining from the position of the Bloomberg Administration, which was "take it or leave it."

MARCH UNION ROUNDUP

The Welfare Fund Trustees met on March 13 and are looking to improve the benefits for next year. In light of the reserves, we now have the ability to increase some benefits for both the Active and Retiree plans. More news will follow shortly.

The Annuity Fund held its quarterly meeting on March 4 and Trustees reported that the Funds are performing well. Statements will be going out shortly. However, if you prefer to check your account online, you can go to the Fund Administrator's website at www.asonet.com.

to log in. Simply follow the instructions once you are on the site.

Shop Stewards were asked to canvas recently hired and current Service Workers to be sure those members hired as Auto Service Workers are not being required to perform duties outside of title and do the work of an Auto Mechanic. There have been some issues with this in the past and if it becomes an ongoing issue with Supervisors assigning work out of title, the Union wants to be able to file a grievance on behalf of affected Auto Service Workers.

The next step, of course, is to actually find ways of achieving those savings while not impacting our members with higher premiums or reduced benefits. Local 246, as a member of the MLC, will be working with other unions to suggest cost-saving measures that ultimately will bring our members larger paychecks.

In a *Crain's New York Business* article from March 5, it was reported that "The main area of concern in the budget for the de Blasio Administration is the roughly 150 public-sector labor contracts that have expired in recent years without a new agreement." This is a given; it's been reported time and again.

De Blasio's Budget Director Dean Fuleihan declined in the article to put a timeline on when contracts would be completed, or to offer any guidance on how the City would find savings that would offset expected pay increases and possible retroactive pay for municipal workers. "The city is likely to look for savings in health care costs," he said. "We are just beginning this process and I think we need to give it a little bit of time."

It was refreshing to read a story that actually gave a non-distorted view of what really happened.

Also reported was that New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer is predicting an extra \$510 million in revenue in next year's budget. "Even that sum, however, could be eclipsed by the costs stemming from the renegotiated labor contracts. Mr. Stringer has called on de Blasio to negotiate settlements by June 30, the end of the city fiscal year," it was reported.

The facts, according to the City, are that 150,000 City employees did not receive the 4% and 4%, the Bloomberg Administration left no money in the budget to fund raises, and 350,000 employees have not received any increases in more than two years. For our members it's been four years, which by anyone's account is horrific.

The City spends close to 10% of its total yearly budget on healthcare premiums for both active and retired members. That's \$6 billion a year, or 18% to 24% of each employee's

total compensation. This bottom line is what impact on the City's ability to provide raises and why we must work with the de Blasio Administration on finding ways of cutting without negatively impacting our members' wallets.

If in fact the City does settle all outstanding contracts by the end of the current fiscal year, it would be good news for labor unions that have been waiting for upward of four years. We remain optimistic that the City will in fact reach that target date.

On a different note, Vice President Charlie Pastorelli and I, along with other union representatives, met with the new Police Commissioner Bill Bratton. He spoke about the dedication of all NYPD employees, both uniform and civilian, and commended everyone for their service and dedication to the Department. This meeting was one of the few I've attended where the Commissioner addressed civilians with such high praise. We left the meeting with a feeling of respect, something much needed within every Agency.

Local 246 will be requesting meetings with each Agency's new Commissioner in the next few months so we can present to the new Commissioners what our members contribute to their particular agencies. Some of de Blasio's recent appointments are people we have known previously: DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd was a previous Sanitation Commissioner, and Kathryn Garcia, the new Sanitation Commissioner was previously the Chief Operating Officer at DEP. I am confident we can develop a working dialogue with both and look forward to achieving that goal.

There appears to be a new approach to labor relations throughout the de Blasio Administration. Let's hope it stays that way. We have always said that by working together, instead of against one another, we can achieve success. Oftentimes, there is no better way of realizing savings than by getting the input from those who actually work in the field each day. By keeping open the lines of communication, we are striving to settle our contract quickly.

APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, **APRIL 15, 2014**

6:00 p.m.

Frank Kowalinski Post #4

61-57 Maspeth Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

NOTE CHANGE OF DAY & LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING ONLY!

► 50/50 Raffle ► Door Prizes ► Refreshments



GOOD & WELFARE

NEW MEMBERS

Fazir Ali

Auto Mechanic — San

Terence Benloss

Auto Service Worker — Police

Tomas Dowler

Auto Service Worker — Police

William Lucid

Machinist — DOE

Donald Maebert

Auto Mechanic — San

Vincent Yassim

Auto Mechanic — San

RETIRING MEMBERS

Robertson Bahaw

Rubber Tire Repairer — San

Winston Radcliffe

Machinist Helper — DOT

Edward Smith

Auto Mechanic — San

Robert Vandermaas

Auto Mechanic — Parks

IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

Anthony Cesare (Son)

Auto Mechanic — San

Ruben Delgado (Mother)

Auto Mechanic — Police

Michael Kranz (Father)

Auto Mechanic — Police

NEWBORN CHILDREN

Anthony Cappello (Girl)

Auto Mechanic — San

Michael Johnson (Boy)

Auto Mechanic — Fire

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Chiusano

Auto Electrician — San

GIFT CARD RAFFLE WINNERS

**Michael Blacksborg**

Auto Mechanic — San

Jason Bride

Auto Service Worker — DOC

Geoffrey Eisenbarth

Sheet Metal Worker — DCA

Cedric Jackson

Auto Mechanic — Park

Peyadhar Mohabir

Auto Service Worker — Fire

LET US KNOW:

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

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

APRIL 30 DEADLINE KOMNICK SCHOLARSHIP

DEADLINE for applications for our brother Lawrence Komnick Memorial Scholarship Award is **APRIL 30, 2014**. To receive an application for dependent children, ACTIVE members should call the Union Office. The scholarship is a \$1,000 award and is a one-time only grant. Applications must include an official transcript of SAT scores that is signed and verified by the high school. Members' dependent children graduating high school in June 2014 are eligible to apply. Drawing for the scholarship will be at the May 2014 General Membership Meeting. Don't miss the opportunity to help offset college costs.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATE YOUR BENEFIT CARD — Members It's important for our office and to you that we have the correct information for each member on their beneficiary card please call the Union Office at (212) 233-0616 to advise us of any the following changes: this way we can send you a change of beneficiary card.

LAST CALL FOR INCOME TAX BENEFIT — Members who wish to take advantage of Local 246's Income Tax Benefit must do so by April 15, 2014. Contact Wendel-Walowitz Associates, at 212.682.6003 ext. 3 for information. Unless you make a specific appointment, the following are the last remaining scheduled dates: **Long Island:** Wednesday March 19 and Saturday April 5; **Queens:** Saturday, March 22. Tax returns must be filed electronically when available, and is included in the co-payment. If you choose not to file electronically, there will be a \$50 fee to cover the penalty imposed to our firm by New York State.

LOCAL 246 WEBSITE — The new website is much easier to navigate and find useful information, such as downloadable dental claim forms, up to date provides, optical benefits and much more. Log on to the Union's web site at www.nyclocal246.org go to the "Members Only" section and put in your username and password

FUNDS EXTEND COVERAGE TO ACTIVE MEMBER'S CHILDREN UP TO 26 — 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.

COBRA APPLICATIONS — If you are no longer in active pay status you may not be eligible for health benefits and/or welfare benefits. You must purchase these benefits directly through the COBRA program

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

REMINDER FOR RETIREE DUES — Retirees who have not paid their 2014 dues in the amount of \$60 are **NOW OVERDUE**. We urge all retirees who forgot to send in their dues to do so immediately. After May 1, 2014, your name will be deleted from our mailing rosters. Dues checks should be payable to New York City Local 246 and sent to: NYC Local 246 SEIU, 217 Broadway, Suite 501, New York, NY 10007.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES ENROLLED IN APPROVED HMOs — NYC Local 246 will prepare the second half of 2013's reimbursement payments for those Medicare eligible retirees currently enrolled and/or who have opted to purchase their drug rider through deductions in their pension checks. In order to receive reimbursement from the Retirees Welfare Fund, eligible retirees must forward to the Union Office copies of their pension stubs for the period of July 1-December 31, 2013.

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 at any time to view your account, or call their customer service department at 1-888-468-5178, option 1.

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. Once you do find

a dentist, please call the dentist to verify that they still participant with Heathplex. The group number is GG-493.

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE WORKERS EXAM — Please be advised that the filing period for the next examination for Automotive Service Workers Title Code No. 92508, Exam Number 4069 is open from June 4-24, 2014 (subject to change). The filing fee is currently \$47. Please refer to the DCAS website to apply for the examination for this position.

CLASSIC & CUSTOM CAR SHOW — On Sunday June 15th, Automotive High School will be hosting its next Classic and Custom Car Show. Last year's show brought out so many cars that some had to be turned away at the gate once the lot was full. As a result, Automotive is looking for a bigger venue near the school to host this year's events and allow it to grow even further. Please mark the date of the show on your calendar and pass the word along.

2014 CITIZENS RX — The National Preferred Formulary is now available on the Local 246 website at www.nyclocal246.org.

COPE RAFFLE WINNER — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for March 2014 was **Michael Moscato** — Ret. Auto Mechanic, Parks. He received his winnings from Vice President Charles Pastorelli (center) and Treasurer Ray Schacor.



MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



ACTIVE & RETIREE WELFARE FUNDS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WENDEL - WALOWITZ, LLC

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

Max Wendel
David S. Walowitz, CPA

Phone: (212) 682-6003
Fax: (212) 682-2276

New York City Local 246 Welfare Fund Condensed Statement of Income and Expenses For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

Employer Contributions		\$2,187,723
Employee Contributions		15,065
Investment Income		72,578
Total Income		2,275,366
Expenses:		
Prescription Drug	\$1,080,371	
Dental Benefits	642,563	
Optical	69,680	
Death Benefit	30,000	
Hearing Aid	400	
General and Administrative Expenses	189,594	
Total Expenses	2,012,608	
Gain (Loss) for Period		\$ 262,758

New York City Local 246 Welfare Fund Statement of Net Assets December 31, 2013

Assets	
Cash - Checking Accounts and on Hand	\$ 324,357
Investments - Fair Value	4,309,528
Employer Contributions Receivable	172,691
Accrued Interest Receivable	19,757
Other Receivable	0
Prepaid Expenses	3,988
Due from Retiree Welfare Fund	73,289
Due from Local 246	29,623
Total Assets	\$4,933,233
Liabilities	
Accrued Benefits Payable	\$ 74,166
Due to Local 246	7,062
Accrued Expenses Payable	0
Total Liabilities	81,228
Plan Assets - January 1, 2013	\$4,589,247
Gain (Loss) for Period	262,758
Plan Assets - December 31, 2013	\$4,852,005

New York City Local 246 Retiree Welfare Fund Condensed Statement of Income and Expenses For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

Employer Contributions		\$1,454,322
Employee Contributions		18,617
Investment Income		68,009
Total Income		1,740,948
Expenses:		
Prescription Drug	\$ 958,691	
Dental Benefits	311,290	
Optical	47,025	
Hearing Aid	2,400	
General and Administrative Expenses	131,094	
Total Expenses	1,450,500	
Gain (Loss) for Period		\$ 290,448

New York City Local 246 Retiree Welfare Fund Statement of Net Assets December 31, 2013

Assets	
Cash - Checking Accounts	\$ 495,343
Investments	3,792,959
Employer Contributions Receivable	135,033
Refund Receivable	54,063
Accrued Interest Receivable	17,470
Total Assets	\$4,494,868
Liability	
Due to Active Employees Welfare Fund	\$ 73,289
Due to Local 246	663
Accrued Benefits Payable	76,740
Reserve for Medicare Part D Repayment	370,934
Accrued Expenses Payable	3,505
Total Liabilities	525,131
Plan Assets - January 1, 2013	\$3,679,289
Gain (Loss) for Period	290,448
Plan Assets - December 31, 2013	\$3,969,737



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IMPACT

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REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR RETIREMENT

Winston Radcliffe (Machinist Helper — DOT) recently stopped by the Union office with his stepson Rorhohn Stephens to discuss his upcoming retirement.

"It's always an honor for me when members take time from their busy schedules to stop by and visit with me personally, especially before they retire," said President Joe Colangelo. "I recently met with Winston at the DOT Ferries Shop and he told me about his upcoming retirement. I was pleasantly surprised when he came by the Union office to ask questions about paperwork he needed to file. It gave me a chance to talk with him before he officially leaves service about his upcoming plans. We wish him well in all his future endeavors."



Colangelo said he encouraged Winston to stay in touch by attending meetings as a retiree and sending news into the Union office for publication in the newsletter. Pictured are President Colangelo, Radcliffe, Stephens, and Recording Secretary Jim Grillo.