

# IMPACT

VOL. 11

NO. 2

OCTOBER 2014

## 2014 LABOR DAY PARADE MEMBERS TURN OUT IN FULL FORCE



**Local 246 members turned out in full force to show support for the Union by marching in this year's Labor Day Parade on Saturday, September 6. Members came with their motorcycles, antique and refurbished cars, and trucks to march in this annual event.**

The City's Labor Day parade, a tradition begun in 1882 when about 10,000 people, workers and their families, marched from City Hall to 42nd Street under the umbrella of the NYC Central Labor Union, continues to draw massive crowds each year.

The original idea for the parade was to celebrate workers and express their solidarity and clout. President Joe Colangelo said that Local 246 had one of its largest member turnouts to date.

"We had all of labor sticking together and presenting a united front to New York City," Colangelo said. "New York City workers can be proud of how we keep the City running every day, no matter what. Local 246 members are the best at what we do. As I've said so many times in the past, 'no one does our jobs better than we do.' Showing off some of our cars, trucks and motorcycles gave us a chance to show how proud we are."

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# Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



November elections are less than a month away. As we approach this time of year, it's more important than ever that we all become educated on the candidates in our area, and more importantly, how these candidates vote on issues of importance not to only Local 246, but the labor movement as a whole.

As members of one of the largest labor movements in the country, we need to be more active in every election at every level of government. Not only do we need to understand each candidate's values and positions, but we must support those who support labor during the year. We need to educate our friends and families on the value of labor-positive candidates so they can be

partners in electing officials who stand up for workers and our families.

More and more across the country, elections are being controlled with money from PACs and Super PACs. Ever since the Citizens United ruling, released in January 2010, that tossed out the corporate and union ban on making independent expenditures and financing electioneering communications, corporations and unions have had the green light to spend unlimited sums on ads and other political tools, calling for the election or defeat of individual candidates.

What does this really mean? In a nutshell, the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision said that it is OK for corporations and labor unions to spend as much as they

## WELFARE FUNDS INCREASE DENTAL & HEARING AID BENEFITS

**The Trustees of the SEIU Local 246 Welfare Fund are continuously seeking new ways to improve benefits for you and your family. We are pleased to announce that the Trustees voted to enact changes — effective January 1, 2015 — for both Dental and Hearing Aid benefits. Letters have been mailed to members detailing these improvements. If you do not receive a letter by mid-October, please contact the Union office. "We monitor our Funds very closely during the year so we can find ways of enhancing the benefits we already provide. Our improvements will be a good way to start the new year," said Joe Colangelo, Fund Chairman and Administrator.**

want to convince people to vote for or against a candidate. The money that candidates receive is coming from large outside groups, and in many cases local elections are being decided by these outside groups. When huge corporations and individual billionaires single-handedly donate the bulk of the money to a campaign, that person's successful election is all but a done deal. Small unions like Local 246 cannot compete with these types of donations. Where we can make a difference, however, is by getting out and working with pro-labor candidates to spread their messages.

I recently read an article about the shift in elections in the south that has nothing to do with local issues but rather a national agenda by a Super PAC that wants to control politics on a national scale. This year all the talk is about control of the U.S. Senate. There may be Congressional races and Senate races where if a political candidate gets elected, it will change the balance of power in Washington. If this were to happen, the conventional wisdom is that the gridlock in Washington will continue for two more years, and that will only hurt our economy and our ability to get money for things like infrastructure, improvements, roads, bridges and transportation and also, money for schools and education.

In Washington, the last few legislative session years have been some of the least productive ever. Fewer and fewer bills are being passed. New York's elections this year for Governor, Senate and Assembly are grabbing the headlines. There are a lot of residents not thrilled by the Governor and the decisions he has made in the past few years. That unhappiness was evident in the primary election, when a little-known candidate named Zephyr Teachout, who was severely underfunded, still managed to get 34% of the vote. This definitely is a sign to the Governor that there is unrest in the Democratic Party.

What's transpiring in the New York State Senate also is creating a lot of buzz. The State Senate is controlled by Democrats, and

there is a five-member Independent Democratic Caucus (IDC) that is sharing power with the Republican minority. There has been some pressure on the IDC to join with fellow Democratic Senators in order to have a larger control of the Chamber. Whether you are a staunch Democrat or Republican, having a balance of power is still crucial to benefitting everyone. The IDC has been very helpful in creating this balance in the state.

While all these stories about control of government make for great conversation, as I said earlier in my message, the most important thing we can all do is educate ourselves on the candidates. Vote for those candidates who respect our values as that's the only way to protect what we have.

Voting is your civic duty, a constitutional right, and a privilege fought for and defended by brave American troops. But can one vote make a difference? Can your vote actually make or break an election?

Here are just a few examples: The races won by a single vote, in addition to the new 1910 Congressional election in New York, were: a 1982 state House election in Maine in which the victor won 1,387 votes to the loser's 1,386 votes; a 1982 state Senate race in Massachusetts in which the victor won 5,352 votes to the loser's 5,351; a 1980 state House race in Utah in which the victor won 1,931 votes to the loser's 1,930 votes; a 1978 state Senate race in North Dakota in which the victor won 2,459 votes to the loser's 2,458 votes; a 1970 state House race in Rhode Island in which the victor won 1,760 votes to the loser's 1,759; and a 1970 state House race in Missouri in which the victor won 4,819 votes to the loser's 4,818 votes.

While these are but just a few examples, there are plenty of others. So while you think your one vote can't possibly make a difference, think again. Take a few minutes on Election Day to cast your vote.

## ELECTION DAY



**Tuesday, November 4**

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, **OCTOBER 16, 2014**

6:00 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Church

61-17 Grand Avenue

Maspeth, NY 11378

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



## NEW MEMBERS

**Antonino Brucculeri**

Auto Body Worker — Police

**Vincent Calvo**

Auto Machinist — San

**Nicholas D'Amato**

Motor Grader Operator — DOT

**Brendon Hearne**

Auto Mechanic — DOT

**Jerrold Jennings**

Auto Mechanic — San

**Dereck Jones**

Auto Mechanic — Parks

**Sheik Khan**

Auto Mechanic — Parks

**Nicholas Koloniaris**

Auto Mechanic — San

**Vincent Lobritto**

Auto Mechanic — San

**Linden Pearson**

Auto Body Worker — Police

**Daniel Robles**

Auto Mechanic — DOT

**Joseph Shipley**

Auto Mechanic — DOT

**Alan Spiller**

Auto Mechanic — DOT

**John Sucich**

Auto Mechanic — DOT

**Andrew Trnka**

Auto Machinist — San

## RETIRING MEMBERS

**Errol Beckford**

Auto Mechanic — Police

**Richard Cook**

Auto Mechanic — Police

**John Nicastro**

Auto Mechanic — San

**Robert Quartararo**

Auto Mechanic — Police

# GOOD & WELFARE



## IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

**Michael Clohessy** (Wife)

Auto Machinist — San

**Paul Friedman** (Son)

Ret. Auto Mechanic — San

**Andrew Weinstein** (Mother)

Union Trustee

Auto Mechanic — Parks

**Andrew Weinstein** (Father-in-law)

Union Trustee

Auto Mechanic — Parks

**Edward Wojcik** (Mother-in-law)

Shop Steward

Machinist — BOE

## NEWBORN CHILDREN

**Jose Cortez** (Boy)

Auto Mechanic — Police

**Xenofon Dontis** (Boy)

Auto Electrician — San

**Ernesto LaCerra** (Girl)

Auto Mechanic — Police



Congratulations to Jose Cortez and his wife Marlene on the birth of their son Liam Aden Cortez, on July 1, 2014. Liam was 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20½" long.

## NEWLY ELECTED SHOP STEWARDS



Congratulations to Local 246's newly elected Shop Stewards, Richard Mazze (Rubber Tire Repairer) Fire Department 34th Street, and Joseph Schneider (Auto Mechanic) — Police.

Richard started with the City in 1987 and became active in the Union by attending the membership meetings. He took over for Anthony Reyes, who became the Union's Recording Secretary. Joseph started with the City in 1990 and took over for Joseph Yovino.

"We look forward to working with both Richard and Joe as the liaisons to their respective shops," said President Joe Colangelo. "I know they will each serve the members in their shops well."

Members are encouraged to reach out to their Shop Stewards with questions or problems regarding their worksites or Union matters.

# NEWS & NOTES

**SEPTEMBER GIFT CARD WINNERS** — Congratulations to the following gift card winners from the September General Membership Meeting:

Julio Alverio — Auto Service Worker, DOT  
Randy Hall — Auto Mechanic, San  
Shibu Joseph — Auto Body Worker, Pol  
Carmine LaBruna — Auto Mechanic, San  
George Rallo — Auto Body Worker, Pol

**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.

## **DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION RETIREMENT & REUNION DINNER**

— The Department of Sanitation's 51st Annual Retirement and Reunion Dinner will be at Villa Marcello, 96-27 Rockaway Blvd., Ozone Park, NY on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. The cost per ticket is \$60, with 10 per table. Please call Jim Grillo at (917) 750-9370 for tickets and table reservations. **Please note new location for event.**

**URGENT CALL TO UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY CARD** — Members, when was the last time you thought about who's 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 their beneficiary card. Please contact the Fund office at (212) 233-0616 and 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.

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

— NYC Local 246 will prepare the first half of 2014's reimbursement payments for those Medicare eligible retirees currently enrolled and/or who have opted to purchase their drug rider through deductions in their pension checks. In order to receive reimbursement from the Retirees Welfare Fund, eligible retirees must forward to the Union Office copies of their pension stubs for the period of January 1-June 30, 2014.

## **COLLEGE LETTERS DUE NOW FOR RETIREE**

— Retiree members with dependents ages 19 to 23, who are attending college full time, must submit proof each semester – fall and spring. A letter that is signed dated and bears the seal of the College Registrar, stating that the dependent is a full time, matriculated student is required as proof of eligibility for the prescription Welfare Benefit. Prescription claims for dependents that letters have expired will not be honored. They will be terminated.

**UNION WEBSITE** — The Union's website contains numerous downloadable forms for members' use, and has various links to useful information. Please visit the site at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org) regularly for important updates. Please call the Union office if you don't know your user name and password.

## **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). Once you do find a dentist, please call the dentist to verify that they still participate with Heathplex. The group number is GG-493.

**GUARD YOUR HEALTH** — Health is an essential safety topic for the month of October, as the cooling weather makes it easier for viruses to thrive. This increases the chances of you and your children getting sick from viruses such as the common cold and the flu. To guard your family against airborne viruses, practice good hygiene such as washing hands, using hand sanitizer and wiping down surfaces with antibacterial wipes. You may also consider getting a flu shot to decrease your likelihood of contracting the flu.

**COPE RAFFLE WINNER** — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for September 2014 was **Dhanraj Bridgelal** — Auto Body Worker, Police.

## HEALTH PLAN TRANSFER PERIOD FOR ACTIVE & RETIRED MEMBERS

The annual health insurance coverage transfer period for **ACTIVE MEMBERS is October 1-31, 2014, and for RETIRED MEMBERS is November 1-30, 2014.** 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, 2015. Retirees will not have the option of switching for another two years. Watch your mail for information about the plans and how to switch to a different one if you choose.



# 2014 LABOR DAY PARADE









# 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 eligible under these new rules, please complete the downloadable form from the Local 246 website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org). 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 his/her 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.

# 220 TRADE COLLECTION RAISES \$20,000 FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS



The 220 Trades Coalition raised \$20,000 for Wounded Warriors at this year's golf outing fundraiser on September 22.

"I would again like to thank everyone who donated to help make this event so successful, and recognize the Shop Stewards who went above and beyond the call of duty and the members who donated," said President Joe Colangelo.

He said the event would not have been possible without everyone's support, but wanted to individually recognize those Shop Stewards who were able to get donations in support of this organization: Chris Olsen, Anthony Piazza, Stanley Pirpinias, Jeff Blond and Mark Bardes.

"It was a great, fun-filled day that was enjoyed by all," Colangelo said.

The Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to honor and empower Wounded Warriors. Programs are specifically structured to engage warriors, nurture their minds and bodies, and encourage their economic empowerment.

VISIT THE UNION'S WEBSITE  
[www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org)  
for the most  
up-to-date  
information on  
both  
union matters &  
welfare fund benefits.



# UNION ROUNDUP

**At a meeting earlier this year with the Comptroller's office,** the union outlined our concerns with the parts contract. Unfortunately, we still have not received any feedback. An August *Newsday* article about Nassau County's decision to terminate a contract with Nassau Suffolk Truck brought to light allegations of overcharging by this vendor, which is the same one utilized by some City agencies. Our lobbyist Robert Ungar, along with our office, put in additional calls to the Comptroller about this company and work they perform for some New York City agencies. As much as we can highlight the abuse of outside contractors, the problems never get resolved and unfortunately we are left with the "I told you so" scenario.

**Local 246 is concerned** with the increase in the hiring of the Service Workers and the impact it will have on Auto Trades hiring. We notified OLR of our concern; it's now up to us to make sure new hires are not pressured in any way to work outside their job specifications.

**During the summer, Local 246 met with DCAS, DEP and Police** to discuss the policy of sending out light duty DEP vehicles by Police. The decision by DCAS was a response to complaints by DEP that vehicles were not being repaired quickly by the Po-

lice Department. We were told that it was temporary and due to a manpower shortfall. The NYPD noted that additional hiring had been approved and the situation will improve once the new hires are in place.

**At a meeting with Health and Hospital Corporation,** the trades voiced a concern with the Johnson Controls contract, the consequences of the layoffs to the trades, and the problems caused to patient care by deteriorating facilities conditions. Local 246 still is waiting for developments to take place to correct the problem. DC 37 is leading continuing efforts to address this ongoing problem.

**At the MLC meeting in September,** we discussed the ongoing health agreement in which no money will be coming to the Welfare Funds. I have signed a letter that will start the process of getting those funds retroactive to July 1, 2014. The increases per member will be \$25 this year, increasing to \$50 on July 1, 2015, \$75 on July 1, 2016, and finally \$100 on July 1, 2017. This is a much-needed shot in the arm, although fortunately for Local 246, our Funds were in great shape anyway.



We Put Members First

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# SHOP STEWARD



Local 246 Shop Stewards, Trustees and Executive Board members recently met for the Annual Shop Steward Convention, at which various speakers brought everyone up to date on issues from Workers' Compensation and Social Security Disability to health insurance and legislation.

Attorney Robert Burzichelli (Greenberg Burzichelli Greenberg) kicked off the event, and was followed by Barbara D. Tilker, Esq. and Michael Gruber, Esq. (Pasternack Tilker Ziegler Walsh Stanton & Romano), June Guiffo (GHI), Lynne Perry (NYC Employee Retirement System),

Attorney Harry Greenberg (Greenberg Burzichelli Greenberg), State Senator Diane Savino and State Assemblyman Michael DenDekker.

"This was a great convention, with Shop Stewards learning about topics that are of great importance to the members," said President Joe Colangelo. "This gave us all a chance to hear directly from those with the best knowledge in their areas of expertise and give us information that we can take back to the membership at large and keep them updated as well."



# ANNUAL CONVENTION



Assemblyman DenDekker told attendees that the reason he went to Assembly was because no one was looking out for working men and women. "I believe the more we work and the harder we work, the more we deserve. We need more people in Albany and in the City Council who will represent unions because nobody represents working people better than union members."

Greenberg and Burzichelli discussed the

recent MLC health agreement, the victory against the Bloomberg Administration to keep all NYC trades under the NYS Prevailing Wage Law, and the status of current collective bargaining.

President Colangelo concluded the Conference by saying, "There's no 'I' in 'team'. We are all part of a team that sticks together and supports one another even when we are dealing with difficult situations."

Assemblyman Michael DenDekker (left) brought a guest when he came to speak at the Shop Steward Convention — Jeff Knatz, a Local 812 member attending his own convention at the time. Jeff's father, an Auto Mechanic, was a 1st Division of MTD Roadside Repair at the 58th Street Police Shop, who retired in the 1970s.

NEW YORK CITY LOCAL 246 • SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO

# IMPACT

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REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

## VISIT TO SANITATION GARAGE

In making his rounds to various shops to visit with members, President Joe Colangelo stopped by Sanitation recently to bring everyone up to date on happenings in Local 246.

Colangelo answered questions about shop issues, contract talks and problems surrounding the labor movement in general.

Pictured from right are Auto Mechanic Nick Aguanno, President Colangelo, and Auto Mechanic Damien Montalvo. This work location is responsible for repairing the Sanitation Queens Enforcement vehicles.

"While we use the monthly general membership meetings to bring members up to date on important issues, not everyone can attend," Colangelo said. "Additionally, many members have questions that pertain to a specific personal matter that they do not want to discuss in an open meeting format. These impromptu visits to various locations allow members to talk about issues that are specific to them."

Colangelo said the Officers are continuing to visit as many shops as possible in order to reach out to the broadest array of members.

