

# IMPACT

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## EBOLA PLAN

### MEMBERS IN FDNY UPDATED ON PROCEDURES



**Although the City's first Ebola patient is improving, the City's Health and Hospitals Corporation is working with Unions citywide to implement safety precautions for those workers who come into direct contact with patients or vehicles that transported patients.**

"Ebola has been the topic of plenty of conversations lately," said Local 246 President Joe Colangelo. "Although to date there has been only one official case in New York, we don't know what the future will bring so we want to be sure we are as up to date as we can be with information our members need to have in order to remain safe. That's why we are working with other unions and the City to get out accurate information and precautions

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# Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



Election Day 2014 is over. As you know, Andrew Cuomo was re-elected as New York's Governor, becoming the first Democratic Governor of New York to get re-elected since his father, Mario, a quarter-century ago.

Reports immediately following his victory speech summarized it by saying that Cuomo's "ambitious slate of liberal priorities for his second term" include raising the minimum wage, protecting abortion rights, and fighting for women's equality.

According to Crain's, Cuomo will begin his second term with a long list of challenges: a decision on whether to allow hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, the awarding of up

to four licenses for upstate casinos and pressure from liberals to make good on promises, which also include extending financial aid to students in the country illegally and broad public campaign financing.

He'll have to contend with a divided Legislature: while Democrats held on to the state Assembly, an effort by the party to win a majority in the state Senate didn't pan out. Republicans took a solid grasp of the Senate with a 32-seat majority, the first time since 2008 that Republicans have had this control after winning back several seats they lost in recent elections.

According to voting results, Cuomo won three-fourths of the vote in New York City. Yet, after looking at all the results from both New York State and around country,

## 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.**

it is clear that there was a sense of voter frustration with both parties of government. Typically, voter frustration is aimed at whatever party controls the White House, and at this mid-term election, the target was Democrats.

What we really need is for the United States to move forward in a positive direction and for both parties to work together to solve the nation's problems. When it comes to matters like immigration reform and the income inequality that cause a great divide between the rich and the rest of us, it's going to take a real team effort, not finger pointing. In order to fix our broken trade policies, and bring jobs back to America that have been sent overseas for far too long, it's going to take both sides of the aisle becoming one. We need to focus more on our own citizens and less on the rest of the world's ills in order to begin to make a difference at home.

As a labor leader in New York City, it doesn't matter whether the politician is a Democrat or a Republican. What matters is that the politician is a friend of labor and does what's in the best interest of the hard-working people of our city and state. The coming year should be an interesting one in Albany. Working with our lobbyist and with other citywide labor leaders, we will be monitoring closely all legislation that could potentially impact us.

Another situation we are closely monitoring is Ebola. As you can see from the front page article and photo, Local 246 is taking the matter seriously, ensuring that our members who work on vehicles that might have come into contact with anything or anyone with Ebola have the training they need to stay healthy.

Since the first reported case in New York, the MLC and its leaders have been pressuring the City to come up with specific guidelines on everything from identifying possible cases and what procedure will be in place. The unions that represent first responders are all rightfully concerned, as they will be the ones whose members will mostly have initial contact with patients. After that would be the healthcare workers, doctors, and nurses

who will have to care for any victims.

We met on October 20th for a long presentation by the City and Commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Dr. Bassett. We needed to make sure our Mechanics who repair ambulances transporting patients and sanitation trucks picking up waste do not come into contact with anyone or anything that is Ebola related.

After the MLC meeting, we immediately sent all the information to our Shop Stewards and told each one to disseminate to the members within their shops. With so many different unions being impacted, it's important for us all to work together on coordinating information.

I want to point out that from the information we have been given, the likelihood of transmission is most evident when a patient is in the most severe stages of the disease — when they are experiencing vomiting and diarrhea. From what was explained to me by the Doctors Council, in that state the person would be extremely weak and most likely not be traveling. So what we are telling our members is to read all the material that is out there, educate yourself, and only you can decide your personal comfort level.

The number one priority as always is the safety of our members and their families. We all know that our professions in all titles are dangerous. What we do in the daily course of our jobs keeps us on our toes at all times. It's the City's job to protect its workforce. It's the Union's job to do the same. By all of us working together, we will be successful. If you have questions about Ebola, or anything else for that matter, know that our Executive Board and Shop Stewards are always on hand to speak with you.

With the holiday season fast approaching, I want to wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving. While you celebrate, please remember those who cannot be with their families this year as they are serving our country overseas.

## 9/11 HEALTH IMPACT

FIND OUT ABOUT POSSIBLE BENEFITS

Kandace Vallejo, Outreach Coordinator for the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health, will be attending our November meeting to inform those who were impacted by 9/11 about the healthcare benefits available to them.

Anyone who did volunteer or paid response work after 9/11, and anyone who lived or worked below Canal Street, as well as residents and workers in parts of Brooklyn and Staten Island, are eligible. Thirteen years after that tragic day, thousands of workers are dealing with the health impacts. Please attend to find out more information for yourself and your loved ones.

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, **NOVEMBER 20, 2014**

6:00 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Church

61-17 Grand Avenue

Maspeth, NY 11378

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

## NEW MEMBERS

### **Wael Ahmed**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Rogelio Babilonia**

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### **Winston Bisnauth**

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### **Emilio Campanaro**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Frankie Casals**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Joel Collado**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Anthony Curotto**

Auto Service Worker — San

### **Roshel Davydov**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Earl Durjan**

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### **Michael Gratzer**

Sheet Metal Worker — San

### **Dan Kanchanarin**

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### **Nick Kontonicolas**

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### **Surujpaul Kundan**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Norman Labossiere**

Auto Service Worker — San

### **Michael Lavista**

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### **Luis Martinez**

Auto Service Worker — San

### **Elias Matos**

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### **Earl Middleton**

Rubber Tire Repairer — San

### **Sebastijan Milos**

Auto Mechanic — Police

### **Joel Padro**

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### **Jose Rodriguez**

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### **Gianfranco Prosa**

Auto Service Worker — Police

### **Tameshwar Sewnauth**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Ioannis Stanisis**

Auto Mechanic — Fire

# GOOD & WELFARE



## IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

### **Anthony Reyes** (Father-in-Law)

Recording Secretary  
Auto Mechanic — Fire

### **Damon Thompson** (Brother)

Auto Mechanic — DOT

## IN MEMORIAM MEMBERS

### **Charles Gerhard**

Ret. Auto Mechanic — DOT

### **Robert Goohs**

Ret. Auto Mechanic — DEP

### **Joseph Parisi**

Ret. Motor Grader Operator — DOT

### **Alvin Russo**

Ret. Machinist — BOE

### **George Schramm**

Ret. Machinist — BOE

## MEMBER LETTER

*Hello Joe. I just read the new message in the newsletter. I was very pleased with what I read. Sometimes it's a delicate line to toe.*

*Also, been meaning to call the office to thank all involved, especially yourself and Jimmy Grillo, for getting the laundry situation sorted out at RBS. The result was worth the effort!*

*Thank you for what you do.*

*Wayne Moschella*

## OCTOBER GIFT CARD RAFFLE WINNERS

### **Brian Angenbroich**

Auto Mechanic Diesel — Police

### **Carmine LaBruna**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Henry Meckl**

Retiree Auto Mechanic — San

### **Justin Primiano**

Auto Service Worker — Fire

### **Juan David Vargas**

Auto Service Worker — Police

## RETIRING MEMBERS

### **Matthew Cerbone**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Michael Cunningham**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Emilio Cuomo**

Auto Mechanic Diesel — San

### **Jimmie Jones**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Walter Kerr**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Kandiah Manoranjithan**

Auto Mechanic — Police

### **Robert Olivieri**

Auto Mechanic — San

### **Charles Pastorelli**

Vice President  
Auto Mechanic — Pol

### **Charles Thompson**

Auto Mechanic — San

# Happy Thanksgiving



# NEWS & NOTES

**ANNUAL TURKEY RAFFLE** — The Union's traditional turkey raffle will take place at the November General Membership Meeting. Sixty lucky winners will receive a gift certificate that can be used at their local supermarket to purchase a 20 lb. turkey. You must be present to win, so come and participate. The odds are very good. Good luck to all.

**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.

**SEND US YOUR INFORMATION** — If you have a letter of thanks or comment you'd like to share with other members, send it to the Union Office for inclusion in the newsletter. Also, remember to send us photos and stories of major happenings in your families — births of new children, high school and college graduations, special honors, community projects, milestone anniversaries and birthdays. We want to include news about our members. You can also e-mail digital photos to the Union office.

**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.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER** — You must notify your union immediately or Shop Steward when you are promoted to another title such as foreman, or a provisional title that is not represented by Local 246. It is also very important that you notify the union office or your Shop Steward immediately by telephone or in writing if you are going to be taken off payroll, after you use up all of your time due to sickness, accident or compensation injury.

**COPE RAFFLE WINNER** — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle from the month of October 2014 was **Robert Labella** – Retired Auto Mechanic, Sanitation.

## HEALTH PLAN TRANSFER PERIOD FOR ACTIVE & RETIRED MEMBERS



The annual health insurance coverage transfer period for **RETIRED MEMBERS is open until November 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.

# SAFETY FIRST

## FOLLOW BASIC GUIDELINES AT ALL TIMES



**SAFETY  
FIRST**

A recent accident in one of the shops where Local 246 members work brings to the forefront the safety precautions that members should follow at all times when on the job. President Joe Colangelo said that workplace accidents usually can be prevented, with any potential issues being reported to Shop Stewards or the Union office immediately.

"One of our members, working around heavy machinery, experienced a highly unfortunate incident recently that once again highlights how dangerous our jobs really are," Colangelo said.

Whether working on and around heavy machinery or on trucks with boom equipment with cables, Colangelo said all members should remain alert at all times utilize basic safety procedures.

"We know how dangerous our jobs are, and when we spend each and every day working around heavy machinery, we must be vigilant and wear safety equipment," Colangelo said. "When any of our members gets hurt, and thankfully it isn't that often,

it just reinforces why the Union stresses safety and how our dangerous our jobs can be every day."

He said that while safety guidelines vary by type of equipment and work environment, some basic rules everyone should follow include:

- Everyone is responsible for a safe working environment
- Read and understand the operation and safety manual
- Get proper training on all equipment
- Operate machinery with safeguarding properly installed
- Wear protective/safety clothing
- Keep hands/fingers away from moving parts
- Do not attempt to maintain equipment while operational
- Pay attention to what's in and around your work area
- Anticipate potential problems before starting work
- Contact your Union immediately about safety issues that arise

## UNION ROUNDUP

**The Annuity Funds held their quarterly meeting in September, at which time members met with two new Fund consultants.** We reviewed the Funds' financials year to date and it was reported that everything was in order. While no one can predict the future, with the help of our consultants, we are trying to minimize problems and maximize performance going forward.

**President Joe Colangelo met with Union lobbyist Robert Ungar** at the end of September to get an overview of Albany and how things look for the coming year. There were a couple of key races Republicans lost in the last Election that this year they were able to regain. With the Republicans now in full control of the Senate, it will be an interesting year in Albany.

**Local 246 had a technical meeting in early October** regarding a comparison of Citywide contracts. Once the Union receives a response, President Colangelo said he will set up meetings with representatives from each group to review bargaining demands and priorities.

## PARTS CONTRACT EXPANDED IN POLICE

The Genuine Parts Contract, also known as Napa Auto Parts, currently in place in the Police Department is being expanded to two additional shops, the Union was recently notified.

President Joe Colangelo said that this is just another example of the City moving forward with a plan that is not well thought out. "Once again, there was no input from Local 246, and our members are the ones who are going to be impacted," he said. "We are in the best position to have told the City what the problems were going to be with this contract and how they could have best been avoided."

He said that while the transfer of responsibility over to Genuine Auto Parts has not yet officially taken place, when it does there will be a reassignment of personnel in the affected shops.

"This whole process directly impacts our members, and our ability to effectively and efficiently get our jobs done," Colangelo said. "The new process slows us down, hinders our ability to have the parts we need in a timely fashion, and quite honestly, just adds another layer of bureaucracy to a system that was previously working just fine."

Colangelo said the Union will be carefully monitoring the transition to be able to tackle head on any problems that arise.

# EBOLA PLAN

## MEMBERS IN FDNY UPDATED ON PROCEDURES

Continued from front page

everyone needs to take. That is why we met with members working in the Fire Department, to answer their questions and be sure they understood the procedures," Colangelo said.

Local 246 also spoke with the Commissioner of Sanitation, Kathryn Garcia, who explained the steps her Department would be taking in regard to refuse picked up after an Ebola patient was treated. Questions and concerns arose after news photos surfaced of police officers disposing of their gloves and face masks in a local corner waste basket. Although the two officers never came into direct contact with the Ebola-infected patient, Sanitation workers became alarmed and questioned procedures, which then in turn led to some concern for Local 246 Auto Mechanics who repair the vehicles that transported the doctor and the sanitation trucks that picked up the refuse.

"I'm glad to report that all unions and Agencies are working together to ensure everyone's safety," Colangelo said. "Initially there was a lot of panic when the first Ebola patient was identified in the United States. Now that panic seems to have subsided

somewhat as the mass outbreak people were predicting has not come to fruition. That doesn't mean, however, that we are ignoring the possibilities."

According to the CDC and OSHA, Ebola is a severe, often fatal disease that affects humans and some animals. Ebola is spread by directly touching an infected person's skin, blood or bodily fluids. It is not spread through the air or simply by being near someone who is infected. People infected with Ebola only become contagious after they begin to have symptoms, such as fever. The illness progression includes nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and impaired organ function. In some cases, rash, internal/external bleeding, and death may occur.

**Local 246 has posted on our website Ebola Virus Information Fact Sheets from both the Department of Environmental Protection and Health & Hospitals Corp. To view these Fact Sheets, go to [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org) and then to the News Page**



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# IMPACT

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REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

## GARAGE VISIT ON WORKERS' COMP



Jordan Ziegler, Esq., senior partner at Pasternack Tilker Ziegler Walsh Stanton & Romano and Workers' Compensation counsel to Local 246, sponsored a garage visit to discuss with members the various types of worksite injuries that would qualify for a Workers' Comp case. "Far too often members get hurt on the job and they don't even realize they are entitled to file a claim because they don't know they have a claim to file," Ziegler said. Local 246 President Joe Colangelo said the garage visits have been very productive and informative for the members.