

# IMPACT

VOL. 11

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JANUARY 2015

## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE MEMBERS COLLECT FOR FOOD PANTRY



Local 246 members wanted to do something this year to give back to the community. Knowing that area food pantries' supplies were running low, the Union asked Shop Stewards to let members know the problem and see what could be done. "Members didn't let us down," said President Joe Colangelo. "We set up collection boxes in the shops and members kept bringing in donations. Others brought donations to the December meeting. We ended up with a large collection of various food items that we donated to the food pantry at St. Stanislaus Church where we hold our membership meetings. The Church was incredibly grateful for our collection and said it would go a long way toward restocking their shelves." Colangelo said that Local 246 is planning to make this food drive an annual event.

*Happy New Year 2015*

## New York City SEIU Local 246

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

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# Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



The new year is always a time for individuals to take stock of their past year's accomplishments and to make resolutions for the new year about ways to improve their lives or the lives of those around them. The same holds true for our Union and Executive Board.

This past year, our members proved once again that we were up to the challenges and obstacles put in front of us. We had several great successes and showed that by working as a team, we would come out on top.

2014 kicked off with huge snowstorms that virtually shut down New York City. Yet, despite lack of public transportation, our members still showed up for work, knowing that vehicles

were going to be in need of definite repair and maintenance during that time. The challenges of fleet consolidation and the parts privatization contract were obstacles for our members in how our daily jobs were impacted. We persevered and overcame — we did our best to try and make it all work. We had a new computer system thrust upon us, which forced us all to learn a new way of reporting our daily work schedules. At the same time, the new, complicated system of parts ordering was an initial headache that still impacts our ability to repair equipment.

In March, the Union held classes for the Machinist exam, which hopefully helped some members with both studying for and passing that test. Those who did will be preparing for the practical exam in the next month.

## WORLD TRADE CENTER NOTICE OF Filing Deadline has Reopened and Extended to 9/11/15

The Retirement and Social Security Law has now been reopened to extend the deadline to September 11, 2015 for filing your notice of having participated in the World Trade Center rescue, recovery or cleanup operations during the qualifying period. (The qualifying period is from September 11, 2001 to September 12, 2002) Members who become disabled or die as a result of a "qualifying World Trade Center condition" are assumed to have become disabled or died as a result of an accidental or on-the-job disability or death.

You must file a Notice of Participation form with your applicable New York State and Local or City Retirement System. Doing so will entitle you to a presumption that any current or future disability caused by a "Qualifying Condition or Impairment of

Our then Vice President Charles Pastorelli retired after 33 years with the City. The Executive Board appointed James Grillo to fill the remainder of his term. We also welcomed Anthony Reyes to the position of Recording Secretary.

The Union had a number of bargaining sessions on most of the expired contracts and we do have some dates in January for continued talks. We remain optimistic about being able to bring them to conclusion within the next few months. The unions that have settled contracts with the City received back pay and raises, and the healthcare settlement protected our members from having to pay for premiums for healthcare. Also as a result of the MLC agreement on health, we won increases to our welfare fund.

During the summer, we won a big victory on the prevailing wage by having the Mayor withdraw an appeal of Executive Order 88 (E.O. 88) that will affect our Union and the other trades groups in the years ahead. The only drawback is that until that withdrawal, our 220 contracts had been stalled, which is part of the delay in settling them now. Again, we are hopeful that we can wrap up everything within the next couple of months.

The November elections saw Republicans win both the Senate and House on the national front, and in New York State, Republicans won the Senate. We will be closely monitoring how these newly elected bodies govern and how our lives and the lives of New Yorkers may change.

Also taking center stage was the Ebola virus, as hospitals and governments across the country planned for what could have been a huge outbreak. Thankfully the bark was worse than the bite, and the only thing spreading was panic — not the virus itself.

We saw the implementation of the Affordable Care Act requirement that no limit be imposed on some Healthcare benefits. For Local 246, this meant Active members no longer have caps on prescription drugs, pediatric dental, and pediatric eyeglasses. I

am proud to say we did so and were able to maintain our plan's coverage of prescription drugs during a time many unions were cancelling theirs. We also increased dental benefits this year for both Active and Retired members.

I would be remiss if I did not talk about the loss of the two New York City Police Officers who died simply because they were wearing blue. Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, assassinated the week before Christmas, were shot in the head by a deranged and dangerous man on a mission to "end police officers' lives," as he posted on social media.

There are not enough words of comfort for not only the families of these two brave Police Officers, but for the men and women in blue who lost a part of their own family.

Police Commissioner William Bratton, in his eulogy of the two Officers, said it best: *"The police, the people who are angry at the police, the people who support us but want us to be better, even a madman who assassinated two men because all he could see was two uniforms, even though they were so much more. We don't see each other. If we can learn to see each other, to see that our cops are people like Officer Ramos and Officer Liu, to see that our communities are filled with people just like them, too. If we can learn to see each other, then when we see each other, we'll heal. We'll heal as a department. We'll heal as a city. We'll heal as a country."*

So as we move forward into the new year, let us learn from the past, change what we can, and all of us will become stronger for it. It's a time for positive change. A time for the labor movement to band together instead of attacking one another. It's a time for us to stay united and work toward a common goal. A Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone.

## PARTICIPATION

Health" arose from participation in operations at the WTC, unless the contrary is proven.

If you have already filed for a WTC disability presumption pension and have been denied the presumption for failing to file a Notice of Participation, you should file BOTH, a Notice of Participation, and refile a new presumption application immediately.

**THE NOTICE OF PARTICIPATION FILING DEADLINE IS NOW SEPTEMBER 11, 2015.**

## NO MEETINGS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Reminder that there are no General Membership Meetings in January or February. President Joe Colangelo said that if there is an urgent matter that needs to be brought to members' attention, a special notice will be posted on the Union's website or mailed out. Regular monthly meetings will resume in March. Members can continue to visit the Union's web site at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org) for information.

## IN MEMORIAM MEMBERS

### Lawrence Hoell

Ret. Machinist — San

### Sebastien Maitre

Ret. Auto Mechanic — Fire

### Adam Olive

Ret. Auto Mechanic — Parks

### Peter Sherkel

Ret. Auto Mechanic — San

### John Squicciarini

Ret. Machinist — EPA

## IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

### John Acocella (Wife)

Ret. Machinist — Bd of Ed

### Danny Graffeo (Mother)

Former Sentinel

Ret. Auto Mechanic — San

### Juan DeJesus (Father)

Ret. Auto Service Worker — Police

### Lawrence Martin (Father)

Auto Mechanic Diesel — San

### Peter Sherkel (Wife)

Ret. Auto Mechanic — San

### Harold Smith (Mother)

Rubber Tire Repairer — Fire

## NEW MEMBERS

### David Bovenzi

Machinist Helper — DEP

### Marvin Morrison

Auto Service Worker — DOT

### Christopher Obermayer

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### Steven Perri

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### Jonathan Rodriguez

Auto Mechanic — Police

### James Villecco

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### Angel Velazquez Jr.

Auto Mechanic — Housing



# GOOD & WELFARE

## RETIRING MEMBERS

### Ronald Bazil

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### John Ferriello

Auto Mechanic — San

### Edward Protheroe

Auto Mechanic — San

### Richard Sarnes

Auto Mechanic — Fire

### Tommie Sperrazza

Auto Mechanic — San

### Edward Stirpe

Auto Mechanic — San

### Ronald Stonebridge

Auto Mechanic — Police

### Robert Tursi

Auto Mechanic — DOT

### Albert Yarusinsky

Auto Mechanic — San

Visit the  
**UNION WEBSITE**  
[www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org)

## NEWBORN CHILDREN

### Harold Smith (Girl)

Rubber Tire Repairer — Fire

## LAWRENCE KOMNICK SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for Active members to apply for our brother Lawrence Komnick Memorial Scholarship Award will be available by February 1, 2015. To receive an application for dependent children, Active members should call the Union Office. The scholarship is a one-time only \$1,000 award. Applications must be completed and post-marked by April 30, 2015, and include an official transcript of SAT scores that is signed and verified by the high school. For complete information, visit the Local 246 website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org)

## NEFCU HOLIDAY GIFT BASKET WINNERS



Congratulations to **Shazam Ibrahim**, Auto Body Worker — Police, and **Brian Sweeney**, Auto Mechanic — San, on winning the gift baskets in a raffle at the December General Membership meeting and Holiday Party. The baskets were donated by Northeastern Engineers Federal Credit Union and were raffled off at the party. NEFCU is an ongoing supporter of Local 246, offering a variety of mortgage and credit card programs for members.

# NEWS & NOTES

## ACTIVE MEMBER SHOE VOUCHERS —

The Officers and Executive Board of Local 246 are pleased to announce that all **Active Dues Paying Members** may be reimbursed up to \$60 toward the expense incurred for one pair of work related shoes that you purchase at any store. Reimbursements will apply only to shoes purchased between January 1, 2015 and May 31, 2015. Claims MUST be submitted by June 15, 2015. Letters are going out soon to Active Members explaining the details and how to submit for reimbursement.

## 2015 MEMBERSHIP CARDS —

2015 union membership cards for Active members were mailed in December. Cards for dues-paying retirees are being mailed from the Union office. Any retiree who pays their dues for 2015 but does not receive a membership card within a month should contact the Union office. Any Active member who did not receive one should also contact the Union.

## NEW MEMBERS —

New Members must send us a copy of your marriage certificate and/or your dependent (s) birth Certificates. Members who are divorced must send us a copy of your divorce papers. You will be responsible for any outstanding bills your spouse/domestic partner use which they are not entitled to.

## RETIREE DUES FOR 2015 —

Retirees' annual dues for 2015 are due to the Union office no later than January 31, 2015. Please send your check or money order payable to NYC Local 246, 217 Broadway Suite 501, New York, NY 10007 in the amount of \$60. The amount is nominal and just covers the per capita and dues mailings.

## CITY SPEED LIMIT —

Starting November 7, 2014, the speed limit on all New York City streets was changed to 25 mph unless

otherwise posted. This new speed limit will be enforced by the NYPD and with speed enforcement cameras. Lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH is one aspect of the Mayor's comprehensive Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries. The new 25 mph speed limit will affect all NYC streets, except those where a different speed limit is posted. The speed limits on our highways will remain the same. Some big streets, which have been designed to accommodate faster speeds will remain at 30 mph. Other streets, particularly streets near schools, may have a lower speed limits posted. All streets that do not have a posted speed limit have a speed limit of 25 mph.

## 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 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.

## CITIZENS RX PREFERRED FORMULARY —

The 2015 Citizens RX National Preferred Formulary is now available on the Local 246 website at [www.nyclocal246.org](http://www.nyclocal246.org). This list contains the most commonly prescribed drugs and represents an abbreviated version of the drug list (formulary) that is at the core of your prescription-drug benefit plan. **The list is not all-inclusive and does not guarantee coverage.** In addition to using this list, you are encouraged to ask your doctor to prescribe generic drugs when-ever appropriate. An asterisk next to a drug signifies it is subject to non-formula status when a

generic is available. **I** Check your benefit materials for the specific drugs covered and co-payments for your prescription drug benefit program. For specific question about your coverage, please call the phone number printed on your ID card. If you do not have internet access, or cannot download the list, please contact the Union office at 212.233.0616.

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

NYC Local 246 will prepare the second 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 July 1-December 31, 2014.

## COPE RAFFLE WINNER —

Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle from the month of December 2014 was **Larry Yong** (Auto Mechanic-San). Pictured with Yong presenting the money is Treasurer Ray Schacor.



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DEP & BOE HONOR MEMBERS

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Board of Education (BOE) recently held Employee Recognition Ceremonies at which time members were honored for their long-term years of service and perfect attendance records.

"The Union is very proud of all members who were honored," Vice President James Grillo said. "They have shown a true commitment and dedication to the job. These members, and everyone who is a member of Local 246, consistently show what it's like to be the best in our field. When we say that we keep New York City rolling, we really mean it. Without our members, the tens of thousands of vehicles used in the daily operation of our City would not be on the streets."

Pictured at left are Machinist Shawky Boulos (15 years), Machinist Arthur Batson (25 years), and Machinist Bahgat Ibrahim (Perfect Attendance). Pictured at far right is Shirley MacQueen, Machinist Helper — BOE (Perfect Attendance).



## SAN RETIREES REUNITE FOR HOLIDAYS



A group of NYC SaniBoys and their wives gathered together for a fun evening filled with stories, memories and laughter in December on Long Island. Bottom row from left: Cathy and Paul Battaglia, Barbara and Bobby Gagliardo, Vinnie and Linda Pellegrino, Carmella and Sal Agostinacchio and Roberta Signoriello. Top row: Bob Rossi, Bob and Janet Serrao, Bob and Christine Rosenberg, Frank Signoriello, Jeanette and John Damaduk, and Fran and Joe Pugliese. "It was nice to get everyone together and catch up," reported the Pellegrinos after the event. They said that anyone interested in future gatherings, should contact Bob S. in New York, Sal A. in New York or Vinnie P. in Florida.

# CLASSIC PATROL CAR ONE POLICE PLAZA



## THREE JOES CATCH UP AT MEETING

Joe. Joe. Joe. It was a drop confusing as the Three Joes stood together catching up on old times. Joseph Dell'Aquila, who started in 1964, Joseph Mennella, who started in 1970, and President Joe Colangelo reunited at the December General Membership meeting. "These guys have supported the Union for years," Colangelo said. "Joe Mennella has always brought antique cars to the Labor Day parade, and both have been attending meetings for as far back as I can remember. It was great to see them both and catch up."



Vice President James Grillo visited One Police Plaza, where he met up with members to pose in front of a 1972 Plymouth Classic Patrol car. Pictured from left are Auto Mechanic Timothy O'Brien, Senior Auto Service Worker Anthony Formisano, Auto Mechanics Daniel Decker and Robert Chee.

## BROTHERLY LOVE BILSKI BROTHERS



Brothers Stanley and Michael Bilski got together with friends and co-workers at the Local 246 December meeting. Stanley (pictured left) is an Auto Mechanic-FDNY, who started on June 4, 2007. While he spent many years trying to get younger brother Michael to take the exam, it wasn't until 2014 that he took Stanley's advice. Michael is now an Auto Mechanic-DSNY Q10, who started on October 27, 2014. "We've had many relatives who were both members of Local 246," said President Joe Colangelo. "It's nice to know that automotive repair runs in their family."

## WHAT TO DO IF A RETIREE DIES

To obtain Survivor benefits, you must notify the following offices as soon as possible:

### **Social Security Administration**

800.722.1213

### **Local 246 Retiree's Benefit Fund**

212.233.0616

### **NYC Employee Benefit Program**

(NYCEB) (Health Insurance)

212.513.0470

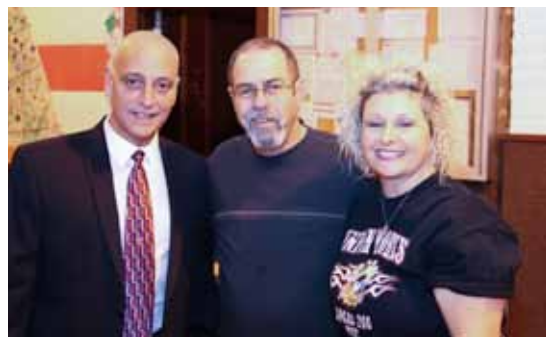
### **NYC Employee Retirement System**

(NYCERS)

347.643.3000/3620

When calling these offices ask about survivor continuation of benefits under COBRA. We also are available to answer questions.

# DECEMBER





# MEMBERSHIP MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY



# 2015 HOLIDAY CALENDAR

<b>New Year's Day</b> .....	Thursday .....	January 1, 2015
<b>Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Day</b> .....	Monday .....	January 19, 2015
<b>Lincoln's Birthday</b> .....	Thursday .....	February 12, 2015
<b>President's Day</b> .....	Monday .....	February 16, 2015
<b>Memorial Day</b> .....	Monday .....	May 25, 2015
<b>Independence Day</b> .....	Saturday .....	July 4, 2015
<b>Independence Day Observed</b> .....	Friday .....	July 3, 2015
<b>Labor Day</b> .....	Monday .....	September 7, 2015
<b>Columbus Day</b> .....	Monday .....	October 12, 2015
<b>Election Day</b> .....	Tuesday .....	November 3, 2015
<b>Veteran's Day</b> .....	Wednesday .....	November 11, 2015
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> .....	Thursday .....	November 26, 2015
<b>Christmas Day</b> .....	Friday .....	December 25, 2015

## MANHATTAN SAN 10 GARAGE VISIT



President Joe Colangelo made a visit to the Manhattan Sanitation Garage to talk to members about pending contract negotiations and other year-end happenings within the Local. The discussion turned to maintaining the new hybrid vehicles and whether members will be given proper training and pertinent technical specs in case they are required to do even minor repairs or analyses of problems arising. Colangelo delivered the current repair manual for members in the shop.

Pictured from left are Auto Mechanic Michael Lawrence, Auto Mechanic Diesel Steve Budai, President Colangelo and Auto Mechanic Roy Rodriguez (Manhattan Shop Steward).

## UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

### FOR 2015

It's important for our office to have correct information for each member. Please take a few minutes to call the Union Office at 212.233.0616 to advise us of any of the following changes:

- Name Changes
- Domestic Partner
- Spouse's Name
- Marital Status
- Newborn
- Title/Department Changes
- Address Changes
- Home and work telephone numbers
- Children in College
- Retiree Status
- Compensation
- Off Payroll
- Termination
- Resignation
- Deaths
- Reporting Ill

New members **must** send us a copy of your marriage certificate and/or your dependent(s) birth Certificates. Members who are divorced must send us a copy of your divorce papers. You will be responsible for any outstanding bills your spouse/domestic partner use that they are not entitled to.

## SEIU 2014-2015 SCHOLARSHIPS

SEIU is offering 51 college scholarships each year. Only members of SEIU and their children are eligible to apply. Application information is available at [www.seiu.org/mbe/scholarships](http://www.seiu.org/mbe/scholarships) or by contacting the Scholarship Program at the SEIU Scholarship Programs, c/o Scholarship Program Administrators Inc., P.O. Box 23737, Nashville, TN 37202-3737. You may also call (615) 320-3149

# LOCAL 246 INCOME TAX BENEFIT

Members who wish to take advantage of Local 246's income Tax benefit must do so by April 15, 2015. The benefit is administered by the accounting firm of Wendel-Walowitz Associates, Inc. This benefit is available to both Active and Retired members of Local 246. Members will be able to file their returns electronically. Those who file electronically will receive their refunds in about half the time of paper returns. Co-pay has increased to \$100 for all Active and Retired members. You will receive a letter from Wendel-Walowitz Associates in the near future, or call their office at 212.682.6003.

## Manhattan

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

## Long Island

68 South Service Road, Suite 100  
Melville, NY 11747

## Queens

Frank Kowalinski Post 4  
61-57 Maspeth Avenue  
Maspeth, NY 11378

To facilitate the preparation of your tax returns please remember to make an appointment for all locations by calling 212.682.6003, ext. 1, and identifying yourself as a Local 246 member.

Bring a copy of your 2014 Income Tax return if it was not prepared by our office. If you are claiming new dependents, please bring their social security number.

If you would like your refund directly deposited into your bank account, please bring the account number and bank routing number, or a check.

**Long Island** (additional dates will be added as need arises):

- Wednesday February 18
- Saturday February 21
- Saturday March 7
- Monday March 9
- Tuesday March 17
- Saturday April 4

## Queens:

- Saturday, February 7, 14, 28
- Saturday, March 14, 28

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.

**Manhattan:** Call to schedule an appointment

**Co-pay increased to \$100 for all Active and Retired members.**



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# IMPACT

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REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

## CONTRACT TALKS UNION WORKING IN EARNEST

In preparation for bargaining sessions with the City regarding contracts, Local 246 officers met to discuss details pertaining to each individual group and the concerns that need to be addressed. The Union negotiates 10 separate contracts for the titles of: 1. Auto Trades, which includes Auto Mechanic, Auto Mechanic Diesel, Auto Machinist, Electrician Automobile, Machinist and Machinist Helper; 2. Outside NYC Auto Trades, which covers the Mechanics and Machinists who work at the upstate reservoirs; 3. Auto Service Workers, which includes Auto Service Worker Level I and II, Oil Burner Specialist, Auto Body Worker and Marine Maintenance Mechanic; 4. Rubber Tire Repairer; 5. Carriage Upholsterer; 6. Door Stop Maintainer and Door Check Maintainer, 7. Sheet Metal Worker and Supervisor of Sheet Metal Worker; 8. Letterer/Sign Painter; 9. Tractor Operator; and 10. Motor Grader Operator. The contracts

for Tractor Operator and Motor Grader Operator are bargained jointly with IUOE Local 15 as we share a bargaining certificate. Pictured from left: Business Agent Tom Graziano, Recording Secretary Anthony Reyes, Treasurer Ray Schacor, Vice President Jim Grillo, and President Joe Colangelo.

