

IMPACT

VOL. 11

NO. 10

JUNE 2015

9/11 MEMORIAL WALL TWO 246 MEMBERS NAMES ADDED



Local 246 members Lorenzo Morelli (Auto Mechanic — San) from the Bronx and Richard Denino (Auto Mechanic — San) from Staten Island, who lost their lives as a result of illnesses after 9/11, had their names added to the Memorial Wall on May 16, 2015. President Joe Colangelo and Retired Auto Mechanic John Nicastro attended the unveiling of the names.

"In the days immediately following the attacks on 9/11, tens of thousands of people responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center. Two of our own members lost their lives as a result of the work they did in the cleanup in the days and months that followed. Just as with First Responders, their resilience and dedication proved that our spirit would not be broken and that we would, through it all, recover. While America bounced back, these two courageous men did not," Colangelo said. "It was only fitting that their names be added to the wall so those visiting the memorial site will be able to pay tribute to them, the same as they do for those who responded to the tragic events within minutes of the attacks."

The Ground Zero Memorial and Museum — officially called the 9/11 Memorial and the 9/11 Memorial Museum — is an incredible tribute to the thousands of heroes lost on and involved in 9/11/01.

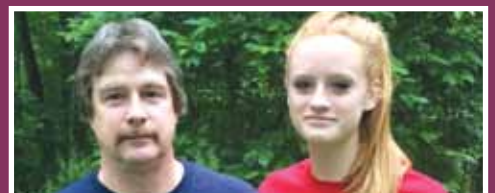
Morelli passed away on March 29, 2009; Denino on August 9, 2014. Previously, on September 8, 2011, NYPD Auto Mechanic Elmis A. Fisher was added to the Memorial Wall at Police Headquarters; he passed away on June 1, 2008. "We pray for the families of our members, as well as others who lost loved ones and those who are suffering," Colangelo said.



Good & Welfare



Commissioner's Award



Kornick Scholarship Winner

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

PRESIDENT JOSEPH A. COLANGELO
VICE PRESIDENT. JAMES GRILLO
SEC./TREAS. RAYMOND S. SCHACOR
RECORDING SECRETARY ANTHONY REYES
SENTINEL PHILIP MAZAL

Union Trustees

John Cox (718) 217-8947
Wayne Esposito. (718) 734-3718
Andrew Weinstein (718) 393-7323/24

Business Agent

Thomas Graziano (212) 233-0616

Shop Stewards

Mark Bardes (718) 818-8723
Sheet Metal Citywide Representative

Dominic Bavaro (718) 317-1744
Sanitation, Staten Island Area

Jeff Blond (718) 334-9113
Sanitation, 4th Floor CRS

Salvatore Brucculeri. (718) 334-9171
Sanitation, 5th Floor CRS

Joe Buzzell. (917) 501-5590
DOT — MGO Field Representative

Dominick Caracciolo (718) 393-7321/7324
Parks

Edward Clas (718) 546-1308/1725
Correction

Michael Faix (718) 892-5992
Sanitation, Bronx Area

Richard Mazze (718) 784-6515
Fire Dept.

Jack Minerva. (718) 334-8977
Sanitation — Queensboro

Chris Olsen. (718) 743-6925
Sanitation — Brooklyn & Cioffe Area

Anthony Piazza (718) 649-8256
Sanitation & Cioffe

Stanley Pirpinias (718) 495-5410
Police

Roy Rodriguez (212) 926-1033
Sanitation

Joseph Schneider. (718) 217-3875
Police

Michael Tsangarakis
DEP (917) 328-9340

Edward Wojcik (646) 210-7932
Dept. of Education

Mordechai Ziv (212) 839-2585
DOT

Office Staff

Rosemary Aragona, Maureen A. Byrne, Pat Cruz

NEWSLETTER DESIGN/PRODUCTION:

Marci Rosenblum ♦ RWD Group

(845) 364-0222 ♦ marci@rwdgroup.com

Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



As the summer approaches and the weather heats up, so does the heat on state legislatures to finalize bills and pass legislation ranging from teacher evaluation systems to tax break extensions to mayoral control of city schools.

In case you are not aware, affordable housing — which the Mayor is trying to attach as an extension to the 421-A affordable housing tax break — is another hot button topic up in Albany. All of these items, and many others of course, have real consequences for working families and union members.

The 421-A tax break has a real and dramatic impact on middle-class families that oftentimes work more than one job in order to purchase and maintain a home that they can afford in the ever-increasing costly city in which we live. The tax break also has a huge impact on the decent middle-class wage construction workers are paid to build those houses so many struggle to afford.

The Mayor, unfortunately, has taken the position that in order to reach his ambitious goals of creating more affordable housing, developers who will be constructing this so-called affordable housing should not be required to pay prevailing wages to the construction workers who will build it. This is unacceptable and makes no sense. On the one hand, the Mayor advocates that once the buildings are complete, the developers should use union workers to maintain them; yet on the other hand, he is ok with not using union workers to erect the buildings in the first place. If this all sounds perplexing, don't worry, it is.

There are some interesting statistics being reported by the media. The estimated loss of revenue from the tax break is \$1.1 billion a year, according to the City's Independent Budget Office. That's a lot of money by anyone's standards. It's also been reported

SEND US YOUR EMAIL TO RECEIVE UNION UPDATES

During the summer when Local 246 suspends publication of the IMPACT newsletter, the Union will be utilizing our newly created email blast system as one means of disseminating important information to members. **Those who are interested can sign up to receive the emails by providing the Union with a personal email address, as well as both first and last names.** All addresses will be kept strictly confidential, will only be utilized for purposes of the email blast system, and will not be sold or provided to any outside party.

Anyone interested in receiving the blasts should email their personal email address to nyc246seiu@nyclocal246.org. **This address should NOT be used to contact the Union for anything other than signing up for the email blast.**

This program is optional and members can opt out at any time by clicking in the link that will be provided in all emails sent from the Union.

that some of these same developers use sub-contractors who are known to pay as low as \$12 an hour to workers on the projects. The list of sub-contractors with labor law violations is well reported. These same developers would reap huge profits not only from the tax breaks but from lower building costs by using non-union contractors who pay workers less than the prevailing wage. Looks like a win-win for developers and a loss for workers.

The Mayor's position is dead wrong and he needs to reconsider his position. The Governor has recently come out in support of good construction jobs and has even stated that an extension of the 421-A tax in its current form is a giveaway to developers. For the Mayor, who considers himself a progressive and a supporter of union workers to take this stance against decent, middle-class wages and jobs, is confusing. We certainly hope he will rethink his position.

In a City that is becoming more expensive year after year, we must protect the good-paying jobs that are out there, while at the same time, create an affordable plan for these same workers where they will live and raise a family. Al Hagan, past president of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association and a good friend of mine, had some interesting commentary on the status of 421-A. For more information, see the article on page 6.

The other large ticket item being pushed is the education tax credit that will allow a donation to an education scholarship fund to be deducted on your state tax bill. The belief is that this donation tax credit will largely benefit wealthy individuals and in turn, cost the state much-needed revenue. There are many tax breaks given to different businesses such as the film industry and beer distilleries. The belief that these tax credits create economic development that translates to increased tax collection by offsetting the loss of revenue. In this case it appears the real benefit will be wealthy individuals who have the means to donate large sums of money that will offset their state tax burden.

Religious and private schools are pushing the plan as a means to offer relief to the many students who want to attend their schools. The counter argument not to provide this tax credit is that this legislation would reduce the money available for public schools, in turn further eroding our public school system. This is where the real problem lies.

The public education system and teachers union have been under attack by the Governor; this appears to be another way of further deteriorating funds needed for public education. Charter schools, private schools, and religious schools are all clamoring for their share of these tax breaks, but if it were to pass, we must also consider the impact to the state revenue and our public schools.

Both these topics I spoke about have passion and good arguments on both sides. No matter what the topic, the solution must take into account the fairness factor to everyone involved or impacted. Any rush to get things done sometimes creates bigger problems down the road.

As we enter what will hopefully be two months of warmer weather and a chance for us all to enjoy the great outdoors, please remember to keep an eye on the Union's website and our Facebook page. We do not print our newsletter in July or August, so we will be utilizing social media as our means of disseminating important and useful information. If you haven't already liked our Facebook page, please remember to do so. The number of likes we get every week is increasing.

I hope you all make an extra effort to join us at the final General Membership meeting before the summer hiatus. We will be bringing everyone up to date on what's been going on within the Union. We will also have great food and plenty of door prizes. You don't want to miss out. If we don't see you at the meeting, the Executive Board wishes everyone an enjoyable summer.

STAY IN TOUCH VIA OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Since we launched our Facebook page a couple of months ago, hundreds of members, municipal workers and other labor organizations have liked us. Same goes for our Twitter page. Don't be left out in the cold. If you utilize social media, be sure to LIKE US and FOLLOW US.



Like us on Facebook:
SEIU Local 246



Follow us on Twitter:
@nyclocal246

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & BBQ

Thursday, **JUNE 18, 2015**

6:00 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Church

61-17 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

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

IN MEMORIAM MEMBERS

Fernando Henao

Retired Auto Mechanic — San

Howard Kane

Ret. Motor Grader Operator — DOT

George Schmitt

Ret. Auto Mechanic — San

Jairam Sukhram

Retired Auto Mechanic — San

IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

David M. Smith (Son)

Auto Mechanic — San

RETIRING MEMBERS

Charles Blauth

Auto Mechanic — Pol

Neville Maragh

Auto Mechanic — Fire

Roy Menzel

Machinist — BOE

Norman Moutran

Auto Mechanic — San

James Nolan

Machinist — BOE

Claude Outar

Senior Auto Service Worker — Pol

Ragalan Singh

Auto Mechanic — San

William Webb

Auto Mechanic — San

NEW MEMBERS

Carlos Payamps

Auto Mechanic — Parks

Christopher Diamond

Auto Mechanic Diesel — San

Gene Windisch

Auto Mechanic — Pol

Bryan Jainarain

Junior Auto Service Worker — Pol

Jesse Festa

Auto Mechanic Diesel — San

Richard Horsford

Rubber Tire Repairer — San



GOOD & WELFARE

FAMILY TIME: NOTHING LIKE IT

Frank Gramarossa (Retired Auto Mechanic — San) enjoys time spent with his two great granddaughters, Mia and Morgan. "You couldn't look any happier than with those two gorgeous girls on your lap," said President Joe Colangelo of his father in law.



GIFT CARD WINNERS

Congratulations to gift card winners selected via raffle at the May membership meeting.

Kandiah Manoranjithan

Retired Auto Mechanic — Police

Philip Carpenter

Auto Mechanic — Police

Wayne Eng

Retired Auto Mechanic — Parks

Richard Saunders

Auto Mechanic — Police

Anthony Donadio

Retired Auto Mechanic — San

LETTER OF THANKS FROM A MEMBER

I would just like to take a minute and thank Tom Graziano for the information he gave me in a recent phone call to the Union Office regarding my health benefits and the change that will take place when I turn 65 years old this January. I'd been searching the web for info but was getting nowhere as it's all Greek to me and at a recent gathering with some of my retired Sanitation Mechanic friends one of the guys mentioned calling the Office. Best suggestion I ever got. Tom answered all my questions, (I had plenty of them too), and I came away with a clear understanding of what's going to happen and what I need to do. Got more out of that 10 minute call than all the looking I did on my own.

Thanks again Tom.

Charlie Brancato
Retired Auto Mechanic
(Staten Island — Sanitation)

VISIT THE
UNION'S WEBSITE
www.nyclocal246.org

for the most
up-to-date information,
especially during the summer
months when our newsletter
is not published

NEWS & NOTES

SUMMER RAFFLE AND PARTY — Come join us for the customary June meeting and summer celebration that includes hot dogs and refreshments. We also will have our traditional summer gift raffle consisting of 25 door prizes, plus a 50/50 raffle. You must be present to collect prizes. This is also your final chance to get your picture in the newsletter before we go on our summer hiatus. See you there!

NO SUMMER MEETINGS — General membership meetings for July and August are suspended, as is our newsletter. In the event that a special meeting is necessary, we will inform the membership. In the meantime, please remember to visit our website on a regular basis and keep in touch via our Facebook page.

ANNUITY FUND STATEMENTS — Members should be receiving their Annuity Fund Statements and Transactions shortly. If you do not receive yours, please contact ASO at (877) 999-3555 ext. 5520 or check your account online at www.asonet.com/annuity/signin.asp?

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.

ACTIVE MEMBER SHOE VOUCHERS — Active members utilizing the Union's shoe voucher program are reminded that **ONLY** original receipts can be submitted for reimbursement. **Photocopies of receipts will no longer be accepted.**

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.

THE MERMAID PARADE — Saturday, June 20, 2015 Come join the fun at the Mermaid Parade of Coney Island, an annual, ocean-themed parade that takes place each June down by the sea on Coney Island in Brooklyn. This year's parade is scheduled for June 20, 2015. Along with kicking off the summer, the Mermaid Parade originated to help continue the tradition of Mardi Gras like events that were often held on Coney Island in the first half of the 20th century. Artistic self-expression is also a highly encouraged part of the parade, and Mermaid Parade observers are likely to see mermaids, mermen, and a wide variety of other sea creatures. The Mermaid Parade also features local celebrities who take on the coveted roles of King Neptune and a Queen Mermaid each year. After the Mermaid Parade, the Mermaid Parade Ball takes place, in which parade participants and observers can get together and mingle, enjoy live music, and watch the many sideshows and burlesque acts that come out to entertain. For more information visit www.coneyisland.com/programs/mermaid-parade.

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 changes: this way we can send you a change of beneficiary card.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES ENROLLED IN APPROVED HMOs — Local 246 will prepare the first half of 2015'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 received 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, 2015.

CITIZENS RX PREFERRED FORMULARY — The 2015 Citizens RX National Preferred Formulary is now available on the Local 246 website at www.nyclocal246.org This list contains the most commonly prescribed drugs. It 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 nonformula status when a generic is available. Not all the drugs are covered by all prescription-drug benefit programs. 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.

COPE RAFFLE WINNER — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for May 2015 was **Vito Divittorio** (Auto Mechanic Diesel — San). Lucky guy — he won two months in a row.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING VS. PREVAILING WAGE

NYS ASSOCIATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRESIDENT SAYS STATE CAN'T PAY TOP DOLLAR

The future of affordable housing in New York City is in the hands of Albany as the debate over whether to renew the 421-A tax abatement — the key City program promoting low-cost residential development — gets fully underway. As the state reviews ways to reform the program, legislators must avoid proposals to link prevailing wage to 421-A projects. That's the word from Jolie Milstein, president of the NYS Association for Affordable Housing.

Mandating prevailing wages on 421-A construction projects will severely limit the creation of new rental housing in New York City — especially affordable units, she claims.

It is no secret that New York City is experiencing a severe housing crisis. Today, more than half of the City's renter households struggle to pay the bills. Affordable housing lotteries regularly receive tens of thousands of applications for a fraction of available units. According to a report in the *Daily News*, the City's homeless shelter population has swelled to nearly 60,000. Rising construction costs and

unprecedented land prices are making it even harder to build the housing that most New Yorkers need.

Milstein has said that given the magnitude of the crisis, New York must use every available tool to serve the needs of the City's residents — and 421-A is one such critical tool. The program offers property tax abatements of between 10 and 25 years for new rental buildings, encouraging the construction of new multi-family housing that would otherwise be impossible to build given the city's high tax rate on rental buildings. But labor leaders like Al Hagan, former head of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association, said that what Milstein should be doing is calling on developers to reduce their profits to mirror the 40 percent wage reduction that she finds necessary for construction workers.

"Milstein's plan is brilliant — for the point 1 percent," Hagan said. "She wants to skip the prevailing wage and pay minimum salaries to unskilled workers, leading to higher profits for the builders."

Milstein claims the program has been a huge success and has led to the creation of more than 70,000 affordable housing units in the last three decades, helping revitalize neighborhoods throughout the City. But that success would be drastically undermined, she said, if prevailing-wage rates were required on all projects built under the program.

Income inequality has rightly become a major topic of public debate. Milstein, however, claims that requiring the prevailing wage to be paid on 421-A projects would only exacerbate the problem and kill job growth in the affordable housing industry.

Said Hagan: "If our elected officials allow the good-paying union construction jobs to be sacrificed upon the altar of higher profits, perhaps we should help them experience the joys of unemployment? It will be a crowd racing to the bottom. Once the back of the union movement is broken in New York, the rest of the states will fall like dominoes."

DEP 26 DAY SHIFT MACHINISTS

Last month, Local 246 featured a story on Sanitation night shift workers who keep New York City rolling after regular working hours. Machinists Arturo Ortiz, Konstantin Kolodka and Richard Rodriguez crossed paths with Vice President Jim Grillo when they started their shift and wanted to be included in the newsletter as well.

"Here's your moment of fame guys," Grillo said. "While many of our members work the overnight shift, these three are a productive part of the municipal work force on the job during the day."

Grillo said the three Machinists are working on a shaft for pumps to purify waste water to keep our beaches clean and safe for bathing and boating.



COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR MARCH

The Jamaica Main Sewage Pump Machinists Team

The March Commissioner's Award celebrates the achievements of the Jamaica Main Sewage Pump Machinists Team. One of the Machinists' responsibilities is to maintain and overhaul main sewage pumps. An overhaul consists of disassembling a 6,000 pound pump, replacing bearings and impellers, fabricating parts when needed, machining the pump housing, and recording dimensions using precision tools.

While performing their annual inspections of the five main sewage pumps at the Jamaica wastewater treatment plant, the Machinists noticed excessive wear on the impellers and cracks on all five main sewage pumps. The team knew that a damaged impeller can lead to catastrophic failure, and immediately developed a plan to expedite the overhaul of all five main sewage pumps. To successfully and quickly complete this complex job, the Machinists designed tools to remove the impellers using a new procedure to reduce downtime. They also fabricated a pulling device to remove the bearings and the pump couplings.

Without these tools, removing the bearings would have been virtually impossible. To accomplish this major overhaul quickly, the team made a full commitment to the projects, working extended hours when needed and rescheduling vacations and personal time to accommodate the overhaul schedule.

Thanks to their experience, creative problem solving, and specialized skills, the team was able to complete each over-



haul in less than three weeks, rather than the customary two to three months. Their great efforts prevented any unexpected failures or disruption to plant operations, which could have taken a pump out of service for several months.

"The work of these fine men proves the level of skill and expertise, not to mention dedication and determination, our members have on the job every single day," said President Joe Colangelo. "They are a true example of a Local 246 member and shine a very bright light on our Union. They more than deserved to be recognized for their outstanding work."

Pictured are Supervisor of Mechanics (and former member) Richard Hubert, Machinist Grigoriy Roytberg, Machinist Sankarathil Thomas, Machinist John Morrell and DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd.

RIGHT-TO-WORK GOES DOWN IN FLAMES ZERO YES VOTES IN ILLINOIS HOUSE

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's desires to have right-to-work in his state went down in flames in the House recently, gaining zero yes votes in a fiery debate Democrats aimed squarely at the governor.

The vote tally was 0 yes votes, 72 no votes, and 37 voting present, offering a blistering rebuke to Rauner's anti-union agenda. A handful of Republicans went for a walk during the vote, not publicly falling on one side or another.

Republicans dismissed the vote as political theater even as Democrats pit workers' rights against corporate greed and called Rauner "divisive" for touring the state and essentially asking local towns to kick unions out.

A right-to-work law is a statute in the United States that prohibits union security agreements, or agreements between labor unions and employers, that govern the extent to which an established union can require employees' membership, payment of union

dues, or fees as a condition of employment, either before or after hiring. Right-to-work laws do not aim to provide general guarantee of employment to people seeking work, but rather are a government regulation of the contractual agreements between employers and labor unions that prevents them from excluding non-union workers, or requiring employees to pay a fee to unions that have negotiated the labor contract all the employees work under.

Right-to-work provisions (either by law or by constitutional provision) exist in 25 U.S. states, mostly in the southern and western United States, but also including the midwestern states of Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

Illinois House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, lambasted Democrats for moving what he said amounted to "sham bills" in the House.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

On May 15, the Fire Department held its Annual Employee Recognition Award Ceremony at FDNY Metro Tech Headquarters. Nearly 300 employees were recognized for service ranging from 20-40 years. Among those were the following members of Local 246:

35 YEARS

Michael Dickie (Auto Mechanic)

30 YEARS

Seukumar Gandharry (Auto Mechanic)

Joseph Mignemi (Welder)

Roy Culkin (Auto Mechanic)

John Evangelista (Now Retired Auto Mechanic)

25 YEARS

Orville Grey (Auto Mechanic)

Emanuel Missud (Auto Mechanic)

Michael Carroll (Now Supervisor of Mechanics)

Ronald Bazil (Auto Mechanic Diesel)

Ezekiel Brandon (Auto Motor Service Worker)

Neville Maragh (Auto Mechanic)

John Podhajecki (Auto Mechanic)

Esteban Rodriguez (Auto Mechanic)

Joseph Steil (Auto Mechanic)

Joseph Dorce (Rubber Tire Repairer)

Milton Joseph (Rubber Tire Repairer)

Cecil Mitchell (Auto Motor Service Worker)

20 YEARS

Robert Burns (Auto Mechanic)



Pictured standing from left: Michael Dickie, Orville Grey, Emanuel Missud, Seukumar Gandharry, Michael Carroll (Supervisor of Mechanics), Joseph Mignemi, Ronald Bazil, Ezekiel Brandon, and Recording Secretary Anthony Reyes. Kneeling in front: Cecil Mitchell and Vice President James Grillo.

"Whenever our members get honored for outstanding service, commitment to their jobs, or going above and beyond, it shines not only a light on them as individuals, but also on Local 246 as the union representing them," Grillo said. "The members recognized by the Fire Department are true examples of what it means to be a dedicated municipal worker.

"When we say that Local 246 members keep New York City rolling, we really mean it," Grillo said. "Having anywhere from 20 years to 35 years on the job is quite an accomplishment in and of itself."

WORLD TRADE CENTER NOTICE OF PARTICIPATION FILING DEADLINE 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 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.**

Members with questions should contact Jordan Ziegler, Esq. at Pasternack Tilker Ziegler Walsh Stanton & Romano at 800.692.3717.

MADE IN AMERICA COOKOUT SHOPPING LIST

2015 LABOR DAY PARADE

Local 246 is marching in this year's Labor Day Parade on **Saturday, September 12, 2015**. 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. Local 246 will have it's own parade of antique cars and customized motorcycles. We will begin assembling at 9:00 a.m. with the parade to kick off at 10:00 a.m. Check out our website in August for the exact location. We will also send out an email blast to those who have signed up for this service. Mark your calendars now so you don't forget.

WOUNDED WARRIOR GOLF OUTING

The Second Annual Golf Outing to support the Wounded Warrior Project is scheduled for Thursday, September 24 at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course. For more info, or to register, visit the Local 246 website at www.nyclocal246.org



Hot Dogs

- Ball Park
- Boar's Head
- Foster Farms
- Hebrew National
- Hofmann
- Oscar Mayer



Condiments

- French's Mustard
- Gulden's Mustard
- Heinz Ketchup
- Hidden Valley Ranch
- Lucky Whip
- Vlasic®



Sodas & Bottled Water

- Bart's
- Coke
- Diet Sprite
- Pepsi
- Sprite
- American Spring
- Pocono Northern Fall's .
- Poland Spring®



Sausages

- Farmland
- Gianelli
- Hofmann
- Koegel's
- Kroger



Buns

- Oroweat®
- Sara Lee



Snacks & Dessert

- Breyers® Ice Cream
- Flipz® Pretzels
- Frito-Lay Chips
- Good Humor Ice Cream .



Beer

- Budweiser®
- Bud Light®
- Michelob
- Miller
- Milwaukee's Best
- Rolling Rock

HAPPY RETIREMENT SANDY CESTRA



Sandy Cestra is hanging up his tool belt after 29 years on the job as an Auto Mechanic in Sanitation. Sandy was first hired in 1986 and is now looking for a bit less structure in his day.

Local 246 Vice President, upon hearing about Sandy's leaving the job, stopped by BK 16 to wish him well. "He is definitely looking forward to spending more quality time with his wife Christina, his grandchildren, and of course, his beloved automobiles," Grillo said.

Grillo said that Cestra was a great guy to work with, whose co-workers had nothing but praise and admiration for his skills.

Pictured with Cestra (left) is friend and co-worker Joe Natoli (Auto Mechanic — San).

GHI NEW DIABETES PROGRAM

Recently, the Municipal Labor Committee along with the New York City Office of Labor Relations Committee, agreed to create two new Diabetes pilot programs to assist our members with managing their diabetes. As part of this program, EmblemHealth will identify and contact eligible GHI Non-Medicare subscribers and give them instructions on how to join this program.

These programs will not replace the care you receive from your doctor, but will provide additional support you may need to manage your diabetes and meet your health goals. The programs will begin on July 1, 2015. It is important for you to know that the program is completely voluntary and confidential — your personal health information will not be shared with anyone. Enrollment in the program is limited.

Diabetes is an ever-increasing threat to the health and welfare of the American public. Due to the seriousness of this health issue, Local 246 supports this diabetes management program. If selected, we urge you to participate!

Did you know?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately 29 million Americans have diabetes, costing about \$245 billion in medical expenses and loss wages annually. If left untreated, diabetes can cause serious health problems such as heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, blindness and even the loss of a toe or foot! The good news is that the more you know, the better you will be able to manage your diabetes and prevent these problems. Let us help you.

City of New York Diabetes Program

Managing diabetes can be overwhelming. There's so much to learn and remember in order to keep your diabetes under control. The diabetes case management program provides support from a nurse case manager, educational materials and important information to help you better understand and manage your type 1 and 2 diabetes.

City of New York Diabetes Pregnancy Program

There's nothing more important than caring for yourself and your baby. That's why we're excited to offer the Healthy Beginnings PATH (Positive Actions Toward Health) pregnancy program to our pregnant members who have type 1 or 2 diabetes or develop gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) during their pregnancy. We want to help you have a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby.

Online Health Management Tools

Check out our electronic wellness services on www.emblemhealth.com. They are free, secure and easy to access whenever and wherever you may need them! Once you are registered and login, you can access a Health Assessment (HA), Personal Health Record (PHR) and other health information tools for a variety of health related topics including diabetes.

If you receive an invitation to participate in this program, we urge you to take advantage of this opportunity and start managing your diabetes today — you will be doing a great service to yourself and your family and friends will appreciate it!

WHAT'S HAPPENING UNION ROUNDUP

The bill to amend the New York State Constitution to allow for the retroactive removal of pensions from public employees convicted of a felony related to public office has stalled in the Assembly because of opposition from the AFL-CIO. Many labor organizations throughout the state felt the language left open the possibility that everyday civil servants could have their pensions removed as well.

HHC has started supplying uniforms to trades staff throughout the network. To date it appears to be off to a smooth start.

All unions representing 220 prevailing rate titles are still dealing with costing of pensions for 220 trades contracts. A meeting was held between the City Control-

lers and the Mayor's office of Labor relations to try and resolve this issue that in effect is preventing many 220 contracts to go unsettled. The City changed the method it has used for the last 25 years.

The 220 Trades Coalition met recently with City Council Member Ritchie Torres, Committee Chair for Public Housing, to discuss the plan in the Housing Authority to use non-union contractors to rehab apartments and how this new system may lead to overbilling and corruption.

Annuity Trustees met recently to review the Funds, which performed well last year. Statements to members will be going out in June once the audits are complete by

both the Fund Accountant and Fund Administrator.

Union Trustees met to review receipts, which were proven in order. Even with this year's added shoe benefit expense, the Union remains in a positive financial position.

Contract talks are moving along and we are working to resolve most of them as quickly as possible. At the end of April, we held joint contract talks with IUOE Local 15 regarding the Tractor Operator and Motor Grader Operator contract. Unfortunately, the pension costing is holding up this negotiation. This group has been out of contract since June 2, 2009.

#StopFastTrack Show us the Jobs!

Legislators have introduced a bill that is bad for democracy and bad for America. The Fast Track legislation would establish a process that allows no amendments and limited debate on trade deals such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Once negotiators have the Fast Track ticket in their hands, they are free to agree to provisions that will send jobs overseas, reduce the bargaining power of workers, jeopardize health and safety regulations and give corporations more control over our economy and our trading partners' economies.

Fast Track legislation allowed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to be rammed through Congress with weak labor and environmental side deals. Since NAFTA went into effect in 1994, North American workers have experienced downward pressure on wages and a tougher organizing environment.

The Hatch-Wyden-Ryan bill would do nothing to fix the U.S. trade deficit or grow the middle class. In fact, it would interfere with important health and safety regulations, ensure the primacy of investor rights over labor rights and boost profits and incomes for global corporations and the top 1%. But it will shrink the paychecks of working families and make it less likely that America's children can climb the ladder of success.

The bill doesn't give the public any opportunity to improve a bad deal. Indeed, it doesn't even require Congress or an independent body to evaluate the trade deal to ensure it has a positive impact on the U.S. trade balance, job creation or environmental protections before the Fast Track procedures apply — every deal, not matter how bad, is entitled to the same preferential treatment. If passed, the bill would:

- Keep the very low congressional "standards" that allowed weak trade agreements like NAFTA to pass;
- Keep the negotiating process behind closed doors, subject to too much Wall Street and special interest influence;
- Ensure that irresponsible corporations remain unaccountable for labor and environmental violations in their supply chains.

The Hatch-Wyden-Ryan bill does not create a trade policy that is open for input, discussion and amendment. America's workers want a trade policy that contains robust jobs, skills and investment packages. We want trade and economic policies designed to help U.S.-based companies and their workers to be able to share the benefits of trade — not skew benefits away from working families.



NORTHEASTERN ENGINEERS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ...Serving Operating Engineers Since 1974

NO FEE-FIXED RATE Mortgage Loan Program

Rates as Low as **3.25%** APR

SAVE \$1000s ON

Application Fee

Credit Report Fee

Document Prep Fee

Appraisal Fee

Loan Origination Fee

Underwriting Fee

Commitment Fee

Loan Points Fee



Contact Your Customer Service Representative

718.847.0202
www.nefcuny.org

115-06 Myrtle Avenue • Richmond Hill, NY 11418

INTRODUCING OUR NEW LOW RATE CREDIT CARD

3.99% APR*
No Annual Fee

* ON PURCHASES AND BALANCE TRANSFERS
* FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS



WE ALSO OFFER THE FOLLOWING LOAN PRODUCTS

Residential Mortgages

Home Equity

Home Equity Lines of Credit

Commercial Real Estate

Personal & Auto Loans

For information about our Credit Union visit

www.nefcuny.org



For qualified applicants

Borrower responsible for third party fees

We Put Members First!

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

IMPACT

SEIU Local 246 ~ 217 Broadway, Suite 501 ~ New York, NY 10007

Prsrt First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit #370

REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

KOMNICK SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to Vivia Amanda Fastiggi, daughter of **Peter Fastiggi** (Machinist Helper — DEP) on being chosen as the 2015 Lawrence Komnick Memorial Scholarship winner. Vivia will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to be used toward her college education at Wells College in Aurora, New York, where she plans to major in biology, specifically biomedical engineering.

Vivia was very active in high school activities, including volunteering at the Pleasant Valley Food Pantry (2008-present), helping with VBS props at her church (2007-2010), working as a volunteer counselor at VBS (2009-2010), and volunteering to do water stations at the Dutchess County Classic.

She has also participated in the ALS Walk over the Hudson and both a 5K and 10K run to help raise awareness for brain cancer. Additionally, Vivia received a Silver Award in Girl Scouts (2010) and a Gold Award in Girl Scouts (2014); was president of her 4-H clubs (2013-2014); was a teen representative on Dutchess County Fair Committee (2012-2014); won second place in the state for Horse Communications (junior) (2009); won most challenging use of fabric in a 4-H fair (2012); went to the State Fair to model (2012); was captain of her cross country team (2014-present) all-league, all-county; captain of her indoor track team (2014-present) all-league, all-county; and captain of the outdoor track team.

"Vivia has excelled at such a tremendous amount so far that she is sure to go far in her college career," said President Joe Colangelo. "Peter, you should be extremely proud of your daughter. She sets an example for others to follow by persevering at all she undertakes and giving back to her community. We wish her well in the future and know she will make us proud as the 2015 Lawrence Komnick Scholarship winner."

