

IMPACT

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LABOR DAY PARADE 2015 MEMBERS MARCH IN UNITY

Local 246 joined with tens of thousands of other members of New York City's organized labor movement in this year's Annual Labor Day Parade.

Proudly marching behind the Local 246 banner, dozens of members, families and friends took part in what is the largest gathering of labor to mark the day.

"We all get a chance to show our support for one another and the labor movement in general at the Parade," said Local 246 President Joe Colangelo. "It's a tradition for our union."

While many Local 246 members actually walk in the parade, others drive their antique cars, trucks and motorcycles.

"Organized labor makes tremendous contributions to the City every day," Colangelo said. "Without us, the City would cease to function. The annual Labor Day Parade is our chance to show the rest of New York our pride and that we stand strong through all types of adversity. New York is a union city."

Labor Day honors the American labor movement and the contributions that workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of the country. Additional photos can be found on pages 6-7.



President Joe Colangelo and Shop Stewards Richard Mazze (Fire) and Sal Brucculeri (San) carry the parade banner with elected officials including Assemblyman Michael DenDekker.



Good & Welfare



4-5 Longevity Awards



7 Queens North Transfer Station

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Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



I would like to start by thanking everyone who came out to march in this year's Labor Day Parade. It was a huge success not only for Local 246, but for the entire New York City labor movement. A special thanks goes to Trustees John Cox and Andrew Weinstein for another great job in organizing our participation in the event. For the past 10 years, they have really stepped up to the plate to make sure we had a prominent place in the parade.

The collaboration of labor's accomplishments is sometimes misunderstood by younger workers who now are benefitting from the sacrifices made by workers who previously suffered for the right to organize, to collectively bargain for better working conditions, better pay, better

benefits and vacation days. All of these benefits would not exist today if not for the struggles by workers yesterday.

Where did this all begin exactly? Public sector workers' rights to organize started in the mid 20th Century, with our Local receiving its charter on November 14, 1952. As the union movement began to rise in our country, so did the middle class. With that rise came the increase in household wages. Union membership remained high from the 1930s through the 1960s.

The growth in manufacturing also played a key role in labor's strength. Factory workers were easily organized in part by the ability to get information out to larger groups that when banded together, became a potent force in bargaining with management.

As the world economy started to evolve, however, it led to the slow and steady decline of manufacturing jobs in this country. This in turn, had a negative impact on the labor movement as factories were moved to locations where employees could

UP TO \$3,000 FOR WAIVING CITY HEALTH COVERAGE

Did you know that in 2016, you can receive **triple** the amount for participating in the Buy-Out Waiver Program? For employees with individual coverage, the amount was \$500 and it's now \$1,500. For employees with family coverage, the amount was \$1,000 and it's now \$3,000. Take advantage of the opportunity for this increased payment by waiving your City health coverage (you must have coverage through a non-City group health plan to be eligible). Contact NYCAPS Central or your Agency Human Resources Department to obtain enrollment forms. **FSA 2016 Open Enrollment Period is September 21 - October 30, 2015.** If you are already enrolled, you do not have to do anything. You will automatically receive the increased payment in 2016. For more information about the Buy-Out Waiver Program, visit nyc.gov/fsa

be paid less as unions were nonexistent. First the moves were to South America and then China; today the trend continues with manufactured goods coming from countries in the Pacific Rim.

With the onset of the anti-labor mentality, companies not only relocated their manufacturing processes, but also their office operations. Call center jobs, accounting jobs, and technical support jobs are the latest work categories to be transferred to overseas countries like India. The loss of both manufacturing and office jobs in the United States to foreign countries have had a negative effect on labor. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the combined rate of private- and public-sector union membership was 11.1% last year, down from 11.3% the prior year. Membership in the private sector fell to a rate of 6.6% in 2014, from 6.7%, while public-sector representation rose slightly to 35.7%, from 35.3%¹. The rise of the attacks on public sector unions and our rights is by no means accidental. It is a coordinated attack and is viewed by those who oppose unions as "winning".

These attacks on labor started many years ago with the early right-to-work laws that effectively eliminated most unions in the south and progressed to the latest move by anti-union forces on public sector unions. A case the Supreme Court will soon hear, titled "Friedrichs V. California," was filed by Rebecca Friedrichs and her co-plaintiffs asking the Court to review the constitutionality of compulsory union dues. The suit claims "agency shop" laws, which require public employees to pay union dues as a condition of employment, violate the principles of freedom of speech and association. While many teachers support the union, others do not and claim the state cannot constitutionally compel individuals to join and financially support an organization with which they disagree. The issue also involves a union's duty of fair representation (DFR) to all employees covered under the contract — an expense the union absorbs whether or not an employee chooses to join.

The right to collect dues was upheld in a case entitled "Abood v. Detroit Board of Education" in 1977. The courts in that case rejected the Constitutional argument. Although workers cannot be required to join a union or pay for political expenditures, they

are required to pay fair share of cost of representation. This case is being closely watched by those on both sides of the fight as a pivotal case in determining the status of dues collection by public employee unions. For just one example, we only need to look at Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker who cut off dues collection under the veiled promise of giving workers a right to choose. In essence what he did was more about silencing the voice of workers who fought to have that right in the first place by unionizing more than half a century ago.

We are less than one year away from electing our next U.S. President. While I don't think I need to remind anyone of just how important it is to vote and have your voice heard, I do want to touch on the numerous issues that our next president will have to face, such as reforming our tax code and immigration laws. This is why it's so important to pay attention to what the candidates say and choose wisely. The right to vote is a privilege and the only way to exercise that privilege is by voting.

On an entirely different subject matter, I want to thank those who participated in and raised funds for the recent golf outing to benefit The Wounded Warriors



Project, a charity and veterans service organization that offers a variety of programs, services, and events for wounded veterans of the military actions following the events of September 11, 2001. Last year we raised more than \$15,000 and this year are on track to meet that goal. The Union, Sanitation CRS 4th Floor, and Sanitation Brooklyn/Cioffe Area were all tee sponsors of this special event.

See you at the October General Membership Meeting.

¹WSJ By Melanie Trottman, Jan. 23, 2015

2016 EXAM SCHEDULE

Filing dates for our titles. Please refer to www.nyc.gov/dcas for the monthly schedule:

Auto Mechanic 6012
10/7/2015 - 10/27/2015

Auto Mechanic (CUNY) 6013
10/7/2015 - 10/27/2015

Auto Mechanic (Diesel) 6014
10/7/2015 - 10/27/2015

Auto Mechanic (Prom) 6509
10/7/2015 - 10/27/2015

Auto Mechanic (Diesel) (Prom) 6510
10/7/2015 - 10/27/2015

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, **OCTOBER 15, 2015**

6:00 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Church

61-17 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

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

NEW MEMBERS

Karl Armstrong

Auto Service Worker — San

Steve Coric

Auto Mechanic — San

Raphel Chunillall

Auto Service Worker — San

Danny Dargan Jr.

Auto Mechanic Diesel — San

Joshua Feldman

Auto Service Worker — San

Eduard Holtslag

Auto Mechanic — Fire

Patrick Mammes

Auto Mechanic — Police

Andre Napier

Auto Mechanic Diesel — San

Luis Rodriguez

Auto Service Worker — Police

Ryan Seepaul

Auto Service Worker — Parks

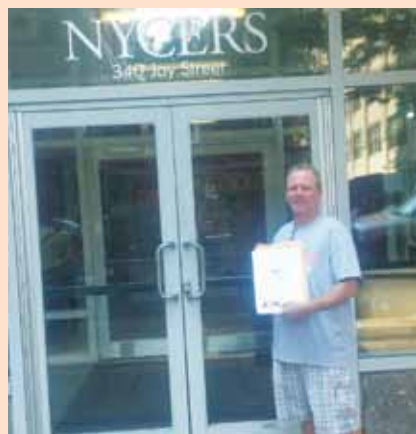
Omkar Shivnauth

Auto Service Worker — Housing

Michael Yianginis

Auto Mechanic — Police

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Anthony Colore (Auto Mechanic — San), who retired on October 1, 2015, after 28 years of service with the City. "Congratulations on your retirement. Keep in touch. You've always been a good supporter of Local 246 so we're counting on seeing you as a retiree at our meetings," said President Joe Colangelo.



GOOD & WELFARE

IN MEMORIAM MEMBERS

Robert Albizu

Ret. Auto Mechanic — San

Albert Newbeck

Ret. Machinist — M&A

IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

Salvatore Realmuto (Mother-in-Law & Father-in-Law)

Former Auto Electrician — San

Murray Rosenthal (Son)

Ret. Auto Mechanic — San

RETIRING MEMBERS

Giuseppe Barrile

Auto Mechanic — San

Luis Carty

Auto Mechanic — Police

Anthony Colore

Auto Mechanic — San

Thomas Hoins

Machinist — BOE

Dennis Mayes

Tractor Operator — DEP

Paul Szvanka

Auto Mechanic — San

GIFT CARD WINNERS

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

Shirley MacQueen

Machinist Helper — BOE

Justin Primiano

Auto Service Worker — Fire

Kandiah Manoranjithan

Retired Auto Mechanic — Police

Marvin Morrison

Auto Service Worker — DOT

Dennis Bove

Auto Mechanic — San

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Dr. Bheeshaam Dayal who obtained a MD degree in internal medicine from University of Antigua College of Medicine. Dr. Bheeshaam is a son of **Virdya Dayal**, Auto Mechanic at the 26th Street Manhattan Borough Shop, where he has been for 25 years.

Visit
www.nyclocal246.org

for the most
up-to-date information
on what's happening
within the Union

**TURN BACK YOUR
CLOCKS ON
NOVEMBER 1, 2015**

NEWS & NOTES

HEALTH PLAN TRANSFER FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS OCTOBER 1-31

— During this period, members may transfer from their present health plan into another City health plan and add or drop optional rider coverage to their present plan. This annual transfer period is your only opportunity to elect changes in your health insurance coverage.

ANNUAL SANITATION DINNER — The Annual Sanitation Retirement Dinner is on Monday, November 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Please note the new location: Villa Russo, 118-16 101st Avenue, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419. You are invited to join us in fellowship and hope we can count on your participation. Tickets are \$65/person. Each table seats 10. For tickets and table reservations, please contact Jim Grillo at 212.233.0616.

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH — This is a great time 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. Many people make it a practice to change their smoke alarm batteries at the same time they turn back their clocks for Daylight Savings Time, which this year is November 1. Make sure to test the alarms after putting in the new batteries to make sure they are working properly. Another important fall safety tip is to change the batteries in your emergency flashlights at the same time.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH 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. Members have provided positive feedback to date about how useful these social media outlets have been in helping keep everyone up to date. It's one of the

best ways to get the most updated news from and about your union. Don't be left out in the cold. On Facebook: SEIU Local 246. On Twitter: @nyclocal246

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS FOR UPDATES

— Local 246 has been collecting email addresses voluntarily from members during the past several months for the Union's new e-mail blast system. By creating this database of personal member e-mails, Local 246 will be able to disseminate important information and event reminders in a very timely fashion. **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.

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

— You may enroll 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.

COLLEGE LETTERS NOW DUE FOR RETIREES' DEPENDENTS — 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.

UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY 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.

ONLY 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 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, 2015.

COPE RAFFLE WINNER — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for September 2015 was **Anthony Napolitano** (Machinist Helper — DEP).

LABOR DAY PARADE



AWARD CEREMONY FOR LONGEVITY



The Police Department issued Longevity Awards on June 19, 2015, for those who have successfully achieved 30 years of service with the Department. The ceremony, at One Police Plaza, honored two Local 246 members. Pictured above in left photo, from left: Deputy Commissioner Robert Martinez, Auto Mechanics Richard Chase and Nazeem Ali, and Local 246 Vice President Jim Grillo. Also honored, but for 35 years of service, was Auto Mechanic Gene Windisch, pictured with his daughter Olivia. "These members' decades of service are true examples of the dedication we have to our jobs and the determination we all have to help keep New York City rolling," Grillo said.



DSNY RAFFLE WINNER



Local 246 Vice President Jim Grillo congratulates Vincent Arroyo (Auto Mechanic — Sanitation) on winning the DSNY Community Fund Raffle that raises money for various community programs. He won a 46" smart television. "This raffle is a great way to give back to the community," Grillo said. "Congrats to the lucky winner on a nice prize, too."

SEND US YOUR NEWS

If you have news you'd like to share, send it to the Union Office for publication in this newsletter. Birthdays. Graduations. Trips. Honors. Community Service. New babies. It's all good news to share. Be sure to include photos, as well as daytime and evening phone numbers where you can be reached if we should have any questions.

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

IMPACT

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REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

QUEENS NORTH TRANSFER STATION MEMBERS PROVIDE INPUT ON CONSTRUCTION

DSNY Commissioner Kathryn Garcia visited the Queens North Transfer Station on September 11 to speak about future transfer stations and ask for Local 246 member's input on construction. Pictured from left: Vito DiVittorio (Auto Mechanic — Diesel), Chief John D'Angelo, Auto Mechanics — Diesel Rick Ferrante and Ronnie Kalstek, Auto Mechanics Anthony Berardi, Dimitrios Bletsas, Kin Huang, and Sean Kemmett, Commissioner Garcia, Supervisor Anthony Mason, and Local 246 Vice President Jim Grillo.

"This was a great opportunity for our members to talk to the Commissioner and let her hear advice from those on the front lines every day," Grillo said.

