

IMPACT

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JUNE 2016

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION LOCAL 246 ATTENDS SEIU GATHERING



Local 246 joined hundreds of other SEIU locals at this year's international convention where the focus was on launching an ambitious UNSTOPPABLE plan for the next four years that would find ways to build power for working people in the face of unprecedented attacks.

"Together, we have committed to building power for working people who find it harder and harder to make ends meet for their families in an economy and democracy that are rigged against them by greedy CEOs and special interests. We know that when we join together with our brothers and sisters in labor

we can grow our movement and win," International President Mary Kay Henry said in addressing the crowd.

Local 246 President Joe Colangelo, Recording Secretary Anthony Reyes, Treasurer Ray Schacor, and Business Agent Tom Graziano attended the convention.

"Our members, along with a great majority of Americans, are working harder and longer and still finding it impossible to make ends meet, even on dual incomes," Colangelo said. "Working Americans have found strength and power in numbers through their unions, which have given them a voice at work and a chance

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Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



As I sit to write my last president's message before our summer newsletter hiatus, thoughts of this past winter leave my mind and turn to the sunny, longer days. This is a time when most of us will enjoy some outdoor fun, whether it's at a barbeque, a vacation with family and friends, or just hanging around our backyards. Summer is a time to shake off the winter blues and have some fun.

Although our newsletter stops for the summer, work at the Union does not. We have already tackled so much during the first six months of the year, and we utilize the typically "slower" summer months to plan ahead for the balance of 2016.

The state legislative session is coming to a close, so things in Albany will be winding down. But that doesn't mean politics will stop. In fact, it's just the opposite. With the presidential race heating up, and local races kicking into high gear, political happenings will be front page news for months to come.

So far this political season has been quite interesting, and that would be an understatement. As we close out our first half of the year, I'd like to leave you with some things to think about, especially pertaining to the situation that working families face and union households are facing. With candidates from both major political parties facing each other this fall, it will require a lot of reading between the lines when they speak as none of them are particularly popular, regardless of who you prefer. That, of course, leaves the election a virtual toss-up.

While they don't agree on much, one topic talked about by both sides is their claim to wanting to help the middle class whether by trashing the Trans Pacific Trade deal, stopping the outsourcing of jobs, offering free college tuition for

220 TRADES CHARITY GOLF OUTING

This year, the 220 Trades Coalition is holding its 3rd Annual Charity Golf outing on Friday, September 23 at Split Rock Golf Course in the Bronx. Funds raised at the event will be used to support the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust. In the past two years, the Coalition has raised more than \$37,000 to support our veterans. With your help, we are hoping to surpass last year's amount of \$20,000.

Friday, September 23, 2016

7:00 a.m. Registration • 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast • 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

For more information or to sign up, contact either Bill Lacey at 212.366.3305 or Martin Lydon at 212.366.3396.

everyone at community colleges, or increasing the minimum wage. All these ideas have hit home with working people, the same people who get up and go to work each day to pay their bills, support their families, and contribute to the economy that keeps the country going.

At the recent SEIU International Convention, we heard some great speakers, met many new people who run their locals, and garnered a new perspective on some old issues, which came not from the convention itself per se, but from a Detroit Metro Police Officer we met while riding the tram on its 20 minute loop. Before boarding the tram, we had to first purchase our tokens. There wasn't a manned token booth; there was no actual person to ask questions; there was just a machine that took our 75 cents. We asked each other who would stop anyone from bypassing the turnstile and ride the tram for free. Then we noticed the surveillance cameras and figured maybe someone was watching.

When we boarded the tram, we met a young Detroit police officer who told us that if someone jumps the turnstile, he gets radioed and makes an arrest. We told him we were from New York and started talking about the Detroit system. He told us the trams are all automated and if someone gets hit, the tram would only stop if the person monitoring the cameras saw the incident and stopped it. He told us starting pay for Detroit police officers is \$15 an hour! That's right. A Detroit police officer earns \$15 an hour starting pay, although they do top out at a higher salary. He also told us that because Michigan is a right-to-work state, most police in the suburbs no longer receive pensions; they mostly have a 401K.

We proceeded to talk about the Ford assembly plant we toured and told him how amazing the factory line was. The plant produces 600 Ford F150s per shift. That's one truck every minute and with two shifts a day, 1200 trucks total. The police officer said his dad had worked at a plant and it was a good job, paying \$30 an hour, but now the new employees make \$17 an hour.

We asked him more questions about the City of Detroit, known for its depressed economic status. He told us that the Michael

and Marian Ilitch family own the Detroit Tigers baseball team, the Red Wings Hockey team, Motor City Casino hotels, and Little Caesars Pizza. The husband and wife team are buying up all the property on the north side. This is another perfect example of how this country is broken. One couple has enough wealth that they own two sport teams and major amount of real estate, yet the police earn \$15 an hour and can most likely barely afford their mortgages, if they even own a home. Our country's economic system is terribly flawed and unless we pay attention, we are all going to be fooled.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the Verizon strike has ended, at least on paper. Verizon reached a series of tentative agreements with unions representing nearly 40,000 striking workers over the holiday weekend, retreating on some of the major points of contention, including pension cuts and greater flexibility to outsource work. The Verizon strike was about keeping good paying jobs in the communities where workers live and they won.

At a recent Central Labor Council meeting, a representative of Communication Workers of America told a story of a group of strikers that they sent to the Philippines where Verizon wanted to move its call centers. The workers there receive \$1.25 a day and all female employees are given a pregnancy test once a month and if there found to be pregnant, they are fired. This is what unions are all about — making sure these types of atrocities do not happen in America.

The world we live in is becoming more complicated every day. Be thankful New York is a strong union state and helps those who can't help themselves.

I share those stories with you so that when you vote, you'll vote for what's in the best interest of our families and not for what's best for the billionaires. Let's stand up for the 99% and we will be unstoppable.

BENEFITS NOTICE FOR VISION & DENTAL

Please note that you may opt out of the Vision and Dental benefits provided by the Active and Retirees Funds. If you wish to opt out, please let the Fund Office know in writing by December 1 and your opt-out will be effective January 1 of the following year. This information has also been provided on our website at www.nylocal246.org, in the Members Only Section, where you can get detailed information on these and other benefits.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & BBQ

Thursday, **JUNE 16**, 2016

6:00 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Church

61-17 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

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

IN MEMORIAM MEMBERS

Andrew Dana

Ret. Sheet Metal Worker — HRA

Charles Kingly

Ret. Auto Service Worker — Parks

Gary Nicholls

Auto Mechanic — San

Solomon Rosenblatt

Ret. Auto Mechanic — Police

Joseph Silvaggio

Ret. Door Stop Maintainer — BOE

RETIRING MEMBERS

Jeffrey Kaplan

Auto Mechanic — Fire

Thomas Patrick

Sheet Metal Worker — DOC

Michael Patti

Auto Mechanic — San

NEW BORN CHILDREN

Michael Olsen (Girl)

Auto Mechanic — San

MAY GIFT CARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following members who were winners of the gift card raffle at the May membership meeting:

John Bertorelli

Auto Mechanic — DOT

Ernest Caplanson

Auto Mechanic — Police

John Sucich

Auto Mechanic — DOT

James Sullivan

Auto Mechanic — Fire

Andrzej Zukowski

Auto Mechanic — Fire

GOOD & WELFARE



NEW MEMBERS

Jerry Casalduc

Auto Service Worker — DOT

Nicholas Driscoll

Auto Service Worker — DOT

Oscar Flores

Auto Service Worker — Pol

Michael Giacometti

Auto Mechanic — Fire

Michael Guarracino

Auto Service Worker — DOT

Michael Lazzari

Machinist — San

Jason Maiorano

Auto Mechanic — San

Roberto Munoz

Machinist — San

James Robinson

Auto Mechanic — DOT

Henry Sarmiento

Auto Electrician — San

Thomas Skarren

Auto Mechanic — Fire

Govinda Tribhowan

Auto Mechanic — San

BACK FOR A VISIT

Former Local 246 Vice President Charles Pastorelli (center) reports that he is keeping busy in retirement but likes to come back for a visit. Pictured at right, Pastorelli visits the Speed Shop with current Union Trustee Stanley Pirpinias (right) and Auto Mechanic Nick Koloniaris.

"It's nice to come back and visit with some of the guys," Pastorelli said. "It's a chance to catch up and see how things are going on the job."



IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

Charles Vasquez (Father)
Ret. Machinist Helper — San

Roberto Verardi (Father)
Auto Mechanic — DOT

Andrew Weinstein (Nephew)
Ret. Auto Mechanic — Parks

NEWS & NOTES

NO SUMMER MEETINGS — General Membership meetings for July and August will be suspended, as is our newsletter. In the event that a special meeting is necessary, we will inform the membership.

SUMMER RAFFLE AND PARTY — Come join us for the customary June meeting and summer celebration that includes food and refreshments. We will also 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!

2016 LABOR DAY PARADE — Local 246 is marching in this year's Labor Day Parade on Saturday, September 10, 2016. Please 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. Bring your antique cars and motorcycles. We will begin assembling at 9 a.m. with the parade to kick off at 10 a.m. Call the Union office in August for the exact location or watch our website for updated information. Mark your calendars now so you don't forget.

OPTICAL UPDATES — Members no longer need a voucher for in-network optical vendors — GVS, Vision Screening, and Comprehensive. Just make an appointment; they have all your information on file. A letter will be going out shortly to members on the Optical Benefit Changes.

KOMNICK SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS — Congratulations to our two \$1,500 Lawrence Komnick Scholarship Award winners: Peter DeSantis, son of Thomas (Auto Mechanic Diesel, San) and his wife Jane; and William Thomas, son of David (Auto Mechanic, Police) and his wife Cheryl. They will be receiving their scholarships at the June membership meeting.

ORDER YOUR UNION JACKET NOW — The Local 246 Union jackets featuring a large-scale color version of the Local 246 logo on the back. The cost of the jacket is \$92. If you want a second line of type for your title or shop, the cost is \$94. If you need a size 2X, add \$3 to the total cost. If you need a 3X, add \$4.50. Jackets can either be picked up at the Union office or at a general membership meeting. Anyone with questions should call the Union office.

ONLY MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES ENROLLED IN APPROVED HMOS

— Local 246 will prepare the second 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 July 1-Dec. 31, 2015.

UPDATE YOUR DUES CARD — Members who change title or transfer to another agency are required to fill out a new dues authorization card. Ask your Shop Steward for a new card to fill out or call the Union at 212.233.0616. Please return completed cards to the Union office.

COPE RAFFLE WINNER — Winner of the 50/50 Cope Raffle for May 2016 was **Michael Antonette** (Auto Electrician — Sanitation).

BIG WIN FOR AUTO SERVICE WORKER

Auto Service Worker Ricky Davis (Police) just received some good news in the form of a rather large check.

Local 246 had filed a grievance on Davis' behalf when it was discovered that the work he was being assigned was that of an Auto Mechanic, but he was receiving the salary of an Auto Service Worker.

President Joe Colangelo said the Union filed the grievance to get him the salary differential because the work he was doing was out of title. "It was a long time before we went to arbitration with this grievance, but the arbitrator agreed with the union and the Agency had to pay Mr. Davis the difference in com-

ensation between the two titles dating back to when we initially filed the grievance."

Davis said the total he received from the NYPD was \$67,891.67.

"I humbly thank you and our union team, along with the great lawyers, for your professionalism in handling my case. Without all of your diligence and time spent, it would not have been as successful as it was. Looking forward to supplying you with more good news in the near future. God bless," Davis said in a thank you to the Union.

Local 246 currently has two other similar grievances pending.



PS/MS 43 ANNUAL CAREER DAY

John Matthews Jr. (Auto Electrician — DOT) once again arranged for Local 246 to participate in the Annual Career Day at PS/MS 43Q in Far Rockaway, Queens. The event is a chance for students at the school to hear about the type of work Local 246 members do and ask questions about career opportunities.

Matthews' children and grandchildren attended this school. He is very involved in both the PTA and Career Day (he is on the Career Day Committee), where he's played an active role for more than a decade.

"I always look forward to this Career Day as the students are so respectful and attentive to our presentation. This is a chance for students to hear about possible career opportunities in the automotive industry," Colangelo said. "I am always so impressed by the challenging questions the students ask. Being able to reach out to different schools is one of giving back to the communities where our members live and work."

Colangelo said he is glad that Matthews arranges for Local 246 to partake in this event. "It's something I look forward to from one year to the next," Colangelo said. Pictured with Colangelo and Matthews are Vice President Jim Grillo and four of the student chaperones for the day.



MEMBER WORKSHOP ON PENSION OPTIONS

Local 246 will be holding a member workshop on "What pension option choice is right for you and the long-term financial risks" at the June membership meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2016. The workshop will be held prior to the meeting from 5:00 p.m. – 5:40 p.m. with the meeting starting at 6:00 p.m.

Topics to be discussed include longevity, mortality, inflation, spousal dependency, timing and insurance. The presentation will be made by Family Financial New York's Joseph Soricelli who has attended many of the Union's recent membership meetings and has already met many members.

"Members have already been asking a lot of questions at the meetings, which is how this presentation came about," said Local 246 President Joe Colangelo. "We thought it would be beneficial to answer questions in a group setting where members can hear each other's questions and gain knowledge from the answers. Members are highly encouraged to attend this workshop in hopes of learning about various pension options that are available to them."

Anyone with questions about the workshop in general should contact their Shop Steward or Joseph Soricelli directly at joe@familyfinancialny.com or call him at 914.468.0186.

LOCAL 246 SOCIAL MEDIA



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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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to fight back against a democracy heavily stacked in favor of the 1 percent who control 99 percent of the wealth in this country."

At this year's convention, SEIU and AFSCME joined forces to find ways of building power for workers in a time of mounting attacks. The two groups assigned a joint committee to explore ways to unify to build a better future.

Efforts have centered on exploring new forms of partnership at the state and local level. "We want to build on our common purpose and the shared experiences of our members to improve working peoples' lives," Henry said.

The joint committee is tasked with looking to grow the partnership and collaboration by finding ways to:

- Innovate within the current model of unionism, including finding ways to innovate in collective bargaining;
- Lead and participate in the wider social-economic justice movement;

- Explore the creation of new forms of self-sustaining democratic worker organizations beyond the traditional collective bargaining model; and

- Expand organizing of new members in our common areas and assist whenever possible in private sector organizing, both within and outside our unions.

"The basis of unions is that there is strength in numbers and by having SEIU and AFSCME work together, our numbers will carry more weight," Colangelo said. "Unions are rooted in the belief that when working people join together, there is nothing we can't achieve."

Colangelo pointed out that SEIU and AFSCME members live and work in the same communities, and both have tremendous strongholds in the City of New York.

"By banding together, both internationals believe we can expand and strengthen our ability to unite workers and our better focus on our ability to face challenges of the rapidly growing inequality in our economy," Colangelo said.

UNION ROUNDUP

At the end of April, Union officials attended a CUNY labor management meeting and confirmed the May 22 pay date for Senior Colleges back pay and raises. Members working for CUNY should have received their money and if not, should contact the Agency payroll department.

President Joe Colangelo and Shop Steward Mark Bardes met with Health & Hospitals management to discuss the current staffing levels and to stress the need for additional Sheet Metal Workers. We presented management with numerous examples of work performed by outside contractors that didn't meet the standards of our members or other trades.

In early May there was a meeting at City Hall to discuss the budget problems faced by Health & Hospitals Corp. The funding shortfall is created by the Affordable Care Act because it decreases funding to the Public Hospital system under the assumption that more people will have health insurance. Therefore, the funding the federal government allocates for public hospitals for the uninsured will decrease. The City still provides services to uninsured and undocumented individual, so as federal funds decrease, costs for services will not be made up by federal dollars. Health & Hospitals estimates the budget deficit would be equivalent to the loss of 5,500 jobs. Unions argue every time there is a budget shortfall that jobs are lost and workers pay the price.

The Union's Trust audit was held in mid May and all checks and receipts were in order. The Union remains in good financial shape.

The Union recently held contract talks for MGO & Tractor Operators and can report that we are closer to a contract. Once we meet with our respective membership to explain the details of the contract proposal, we will be able to continue moving forward.

RETIREMENT DINNER



Auto Body Worker **Patrick McGreevy** (Police) started his retirement with a bang as the Department honored him and other retirees at the Fleet Retirement Dinner. McGreevy is leaving after 25 years of service. Part of his job was the estimating on body work. His wife's only request before his retiring was that their son get a job, and he did. Patrick McGreevy is an Auto Service Worker with the Police Department. Pictured at the retirement dinner with McGreevy are his Local 246 coworkers and friends.

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

IMPACT

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REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Recording Secretary Anthony Reyes attended this year's FDNY Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony where several union members were honored. The event took place on May 13, 2016 at the FDNY Headquarters.

This annual event is an opportunity for Local 246 members to receive recognition for just some of the contributions they make every day to help keep New York City rolling. Reyes said that too often, members' work is taken for granted and these recognition ceremonies, no matter what department they are in, pay homage to those who have shown their allegiance to the City.

"Those honored by the FDNY are a true example of the dedication and commitment they show every day on the job," Reyes said. "They have truly made Local 246 proud."

Pictured with Reyes is Robert Ross (Auto Mechanic) — who was recognized for 25 years of service

Also honored but not pictured were Auto Mechanics Nick Allegritti — 30 years; Bernard Schelchere — 25 years; and Kerry Dillon — 20 years.

