

IMPACT

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LABOR DAY PARADE 2016 MEMBERS SHOW UNION PRIDE

Dozens of Local 246 members marched in this year's annual Labor Day parade on September 10, as the City paused to celebrate the contributions of working New Yorkers.

President Joe Colangelo said that working men and women throughout the metropolitan New York area gathered for the parade on Fifth Avenue, the largest gathering of labor in New York City.

"Labor Day gives us the opportunity to celebrate the contributions of working New Yorkers in building and growing our national and local economies," Colangelo said. "Every day we give to the City. We work hard. We are dedicated professional men and women who help keep New York City rolling."

Grand Marshal was IUOE General President James Callahan, and Parade Chair was District Council 37 AFSCME Executive Director Henry Garrido. "These men have proven to be true advocates on behalf of their members, and though the jobs they represent are as varied and diverse as our City's labor movement, they all play an integral role in supporting our union made city," said NYC Central Labor Council President Vincent Alvarez. "On the surface, the concept of 'union made' seems to only apply to



buildings and clothing. From our skyscrapers, to our subway and healthcare systems, union labor built our city, and we work hard day in and day out to maintain it."

Local 246 members displayed their pride in being the best Auto Mechanics and Machinists by driving their own unique vehicles in the parade. Mike Bilski (Auto Mechanic — San), Sandy Cestra (Ret. Auto Mechanic Diesel — San), Joe Natoli (Auto Mechanic — San), Joe Sartini (Ret. Auto Mechanic — San), Vice President Jim Grillo and Recording Secretary Anthony Reyes showcased their early 1930s Fords, 1966 Mercury Comet, 1968 and 1970 Chevilles, and more. For photos of the day's event, see pages 6-7.



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Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



The election of America's 45th president is weeks away and a large percentage of voters still have not made up their minds on who they want to see in the White House.

In fact, many voters have said their decisions won't be made until the final moment. For those who have, however, there is no point in trying to convince them otherwise. Studies have shown that those who are steadfast in their decisions won't make a switch.

If you identify yourself as a hardcore Democrat or a staunch Republican, then you have probably made up your mind as to who is the candidate of your voice. It's the undecided voters that both parties are after and the ones

that both are pitching to in the final countdown.

Most of us are concerned in this election about only what is important to us individually and to our families. If you are retired, it's most likely Social Security or the cost of prescription drugs. If you recently graduated college and are looking for a job, it's probably your student loan debt or your ability to find good-paying employment. If you're a young family with small children, it might be affording a mortgage, education and good schools, or planning for your retirement someday. There are many factors that voters take into account when deciding how to cast their vote.

For working families, this November's election is one of the most important. It's vital for every member — and every American in general — to determine which candidate has a vision that best suits the needs of the middle class. The future of our country and the role we play internationally are in the hands of the president. But more than that, our jobs, our paychecks, the labor movement, and our futures are at stake.

ELECTION DAY 2016 REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 14

In order to be eligible to vote in this year's November 8 General Election, registration applications must be postmarked no later than October 19. If you are not yet registered, you may do so by mail, or in person at your local board of elections or any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act. Notices of change of address from registered voters received by October 19 by a county board of elections must be processed and entered in the records in time for the General Election. This is a presidential election year. It's important for every member to get out and vote. If you are not yet registered, please do so immediately in order to have your vote counted.

That's why candidates need to have a working knowledge of the world around us and how the United States fits into the global picture. We cannot wall ourselves off from the rest of the world and succeed as a country. Just look at the appliances in your home, the clothing in your closets, the cell phones in your hands — more likely than not they are manufactured overseas. For those of us living in New York, the issue of security after 9/11 is vitally important. We need to know a presidential candidate has the ability to deal with terrorist organizations so the likes of 9/11 never repeat.

If you live in the industrial Midwest and you lost your job due to a plant closing, you most likely have an interest in what trade deals the presidential candidates support. If you're a union member, then maybe the candidate who supports unions gets your vote.

These are just some of the many reasons why voters choose a certain candidate. We all need to ask ourselves as we head to the polls if the person we intend to vote for is going to improve our lives and the lives of our loved ones. Tough question for sure and not easy to answer this year.

Voting is a right and not one to be taken lightly. Just as we have fought for our contracts, for better pay, and better benefits, so too have our forefathers fought for the right to vote for so many of us.

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution gave women the right to vote. Now, in the year 2016, 17 states will have new voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential election based on a Supreme Court decision regarding the Voting Right's Act. These new laws range from strict photo ID require-

ments to early voting cutbacks to registration restrictions. The repercussions of these voting restrictions will be far reaching for years to come. Some new restrictions have been overturned by the courts, but others are still in effect.

We all need to vote. It's not just the president who will be on the ballot. It's also our state Senators and Assembly members. It's local officials and judges. If we don't vote, we have no right to complain. And if you think your one vote doesn't make a difference, history proves otherwise. Quite a few elections have been won or lost by just one vote.

This summer has been busy for the Union. In mid-July, we held talks for the MGO & Tractor Operators contract. I'm happy to report that these members voted and approved a new contract. We have been notified that they are scheduled to receive their back pay and raises in the November 4th payroll.

Also this summer, the Welfare Funds' trustees met to review the financial reserves and focus on prescription drug spending. Currently, the Active Fund is spending more than \$1.5 million a year just on prescription drugs, with the Retiree drug fund spending similar. The Affordable Care Act has challenged us, as it has with all other unions, but we continue to provide our members and their families this vital benefit by working hard to control costs wherever and whenever possible. I want to thank all the Trustees of both Funds for their commitment and hard work. It's not always an easy job, but it is rewarding when we find ways to continue to provide our members and their families with the prescription benefits they need.

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

Thursday, **OCTOBER 20, 2016**

6:00 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Church

61-17 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

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

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Santangelo

Ret. Auto Electrician — San

IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

Gerhard Hach (Mother)

Auto Mechanic — San

NEW MEMBERS

Nelson Ciaccia

Auto Service Worker — Fire

Luigi DelleCamelie

Auto Mechanic — DOT

Saikou Jabbi Dukureh

Auto Mechanic — San

Freddy Fernandez

Auto Mechanic — DOT

Dindial Persaud

Machinist — BOE

Peter Pizzonia

Auto Service Worker — Police

Joseph Weyershausen

Motor Grader Operator — DOT

RETIRING MEMBERS

Ezekiel Brandon

Senior Auto Service Worker — Fire

Virnya Dayal

Auto Mechanic — San

Peter Donato

Auto Mechanic — DEP

Michael Masihdas

Auto Mechanic — San

Irving Sandyford

Upholsterer — San

Deryck Thomassian

Auto Mechanic Diesel — San

William Wallace

Machinist — San

NEW BORN CHILDREN

Joey Djelevic (Girl)

Auto Mechanic — San

Christopher Paone (Boy)

Rubber Tire Repairer — San

GOOD & WELFARE

CONGRATULATIONS TO TRUSTEE WAYNE ESPOSITO

Congratulations to **Wayne Esposito** in his new position as Supervisor of Mechanics. For the last 12 years, Wayne has served as a Trustee of the Union, both the Active and Retiree Welfare Funds, and the Annuity Fund. He was a Negotiating Committee member during numerous contract discussions, and most importantly, a dedicated union member and strong advocate for the membership. "I not only had the honor to work with Wayne, I also had the privilege to call him my friend," said Union President Joe Colangelo. "We wish him well and also know that in his new position, our members will be treated fairly and with respect."

9/11 MEMORIAL AT FDNY LOCAL 246 MEMBER ADDED TO WALL

President Joe Colangelo and Recording Secretary Anthony Reyes attended a somber plaque dedication on September 6 at FDNY headquarters where names of those who died from 9/11-related illnesses were added to the Memorial Wall.

Reyes said 17 FDNY heroes' names were added, including that of Raffaele E. Scarpitti, a Local 246 Auto Machinist (Fleet Services) who died on April 24, 2014.

"This event coincided with the 15th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001," Reyes said. "So many thousands of lives were lost on that horrific day, and unfortunately, so many thousands of others became sick with life-threatening illnesses as a result of their rescue, recovery and clean-up efforts. Raffaele was one of those. This dedication gave us a chance to remember one of our own and the contributions he made to the Fire Department and this city."

In addition to Colangelo and Reyes, other Fleet Services members who attended were Richard Mazze (FDNY Shop Steward), Joseph Zerbo, Raymond Toborg, Joe Dellaveccia, Bernie Catrone, Brian Wilsen, Anthony Nardone, Ziggy Blechschmidt, Kenneth Clark, and Assistant Commissioner Mark Aronberg.



NEWS & NOTES

GIFT CARD WINNER — Congratulations to the following members who held the winning tickets for gift cards at the September General Membership Meeting: **Ronald Saborowski** (Auto Mechanic — DOT), **Steve Rodriguez** (Auto Mechanic — Fire), **Henry Meckl** (Retired Auto Mechanic — San), **John Yau** (Auto Mechanic — San), and **Alex Soutanis** (Sign Painter — DOT).

OPTICAL UPDATES — Members no longer need to obtain an optical voucher from the Fund Office. In order to receive your optical benefits from a participating provider, simply call the provider to make an appointment. Participating providers will have the paperwork in their offices. The benefit provider is GVS (General Vision Services, Vision Screening, or CPS Comprehensive Professional Services. To find a location, please log onto our website.

ANNUAL SANITATION RETIREMENT DINNER AND REUNION — The Annual Sanitation Dinner is on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Villa Russo, 118-16 101st Avenue, South Richmond. 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 for more information and to purchase tickets.

HEALTH PLAN TRANSFER PERIOD FOR ACTIVE & RETIRED MEMBERS — The annual health insurance coverage transfer period for ACTIVE MEMBERS is October 1-31, 2016, and for RETIRED MEMBERS is November 1-30, 2016. During this period, members may transfer from their present health plan into another City health plan and add or drop optional rider coverage to your present plan. This annual transfer period is your only opportunity to elect changes in your health insurance coverage. Changes are effective January 1, 2017. **Non-Medicare retirees will not**

have the option of switching for another two years. Watch your mail for information about the plans and how to switch to a different one if you choose.

COLLEGE LETTERS NOW DUE — **Retired** 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.

JOB OPENINGS — Check the Local 246 website News Page on a regular basis for job openings within the City of New York. As we find out about available positions, we are providing the information on our website and posting on Facebook.

UNION WEBSITE — The Union's website contains numerous downloadable forms for members' use, and has various links to useful information. Please visit the site at www.nyclocal246.org regularly for important updates. Please call the Union office if you don't know your username and password.

FUNDS EXTEND COVERAGE TO ACTIVE MEMBERS' CHILDREN UP TO AGE 26 — You may enroll dependent children at the time they are becoming 19 years old, or at the time they lose benefits from their own or spouse's coverage. 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.

OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH — Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are only as good as the batteries in place to operate them. October is Fire Prevention Month and a good time to change the batteries in all detectors. Fire experts throughout the na-

tion recommend changing the batteries every year, even if the alarms have never been triggered. The cost of new batteries is far less than the cost of a life. It's also important to test all alarms after the batteries have been changed. And while you are replacing batteries, it's also a good time to check the ones in your flashlights. As we head into the fall and winter, power outages increase.

ONLY MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES ENROLLED IN APPROVED HMOS — Local 246 will prepare the first half of 2016'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, 2016.

COBRA APPLICATIONS — If you are no longer in active pay status you may not be eligible for health benefits and/or welfare benefits. To 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.

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 September 2016 was **John Sucich** (Auto Mechanic — DOT).

2016 LABOR DAY PARADE





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



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

REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY

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DEADLINE EXTENDED TO REGISTER FOR WTC DISABILITY LAW BENEFITS

Gov. Cuomo has signed into law a bill to amend both the Workers' Compensation and the Retirement and Social Security laws permitting those who have yet to file their Notice of Participation registration forms to now do so with both systems.

The new deadline gives workers and volunteers seeking lost wages and medical benefits as a result of their involvement in the September 11th rescue, recovery, and clean-up operations another two years to file.

September 11, 2018 is the new deadline to file a WTC-12 form with the Workers Compensation system and a Notice of Participation form with the applicable retirement system.

"Despite our past great efforts, I can tell you from first-hand knowledge that there are still many workers and union members who have not filed these forms," said Local 246 Workers' Compensation Counsel Jordan Ziegler.

President Joe Colangelo said the new law gives everyone another chance to file, and allows members to take advantage of the presumptions that come along with the filing of those claims.

"Too often I hear about people say they are feeling fine and aren't sick so they aren't going to file. First Responders and others have said that if they do file, it feels like they will be succumbing to what could be down the road," Colangelo said. "I can't stress enough the importance of filing 'just in case'. New York has lost too many lives already due to these tragic events. If we can just save one life from this new law, then it's worth it but you have to register."

Right after the collapse of the Twin Towers, First Responders were joined by workers and volunteers to assist in removing tons of steel, concrete, and other debris. Local 246 members spent months cleaning up and fixing the hundreds of vehicles that were damaged on September 11 and during the

clean-up that followed. Colangelo said that while vehicles were washed before being repaired, any time a panel or door from a vehicle was removed there was toxic debris and dust that surfaced.

Additionally, the James L. Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act signed into law on January 22, 2011 and set to expire on October 3, 2016, was extended and allows individuals to submit their claims until **December 18, 2020**.

"Local 246 has already lost one member from 9/11-related illnesses. If you are questioning at all whether to file, please just do it. You have nothing to lose by filling out the papers," Colangelo said.

