

# IMPACT

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## DEP EMPLOYEE AWARDS ALWAYS CREATING EXCELLENCE (ACE)

**DEP is a City agency that delivers critical services to millions of New Yorkers daily. Those services are delivered by nearly 5,800 employees, many of whom are hardworking and dedicated members of Local 246.**

Three Local 246 members were honored at a DEP awards ceremony breakfast on January 27. The Always Creating Excellence (ACE) Employee Awards Program recognizes DEP staff members who have exhibited effort and gone above the call of duty.

"The Union is proud to say that Richard, Konstantin and Arturo are our members," said President Joe Colangelo. "They are true examples of how we excel at our jobs and help the City of New York every single day."

These Machinists work at the 26th Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant and recently performed a noteworthy repair on a degritter machine, which plays an integral role in the wastewater treatment process. The trio disassembled and inspected the machine, and then determined which parts could be refurbished and which needed to be fabricated from scratch. They also determined the type of alloy materials



best used to withstand the harsh wastewater environment. The team worked extended hours and rescheduled vacation and personal time in order to accommodate the repair schedule. In addition, they drew up blueprints and sketches of all the parts created and used to help reduce future repair timeframes. "We offer our sincerest thanks to Richard, Konstantin and Arturo for their resourcefulness in the face of a difficult situation," said the DEP newsletter.

Pictured are Richard Rodriguez, Konstantin Kolodka, and Arturo Ortiz, along with Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza and Deputy Commissioner for our Bureau of Wastewater Treatment Pam Elardo. — Photo courtesy of NYC DEP



Enjoying Retirement



A Lesson Learned



Learning on the Job

## 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](http://www.nyclocal246.org)

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DEP

Peter Tucci . . . . . 516.581.7139

DOT

Jason Vetter . . . . . 718.334.8977

San

### Office Staff

Rosemary Aragona, Pat Cruz, Antoinette Hamwi

NEWSLETTER DESIGN/PRODUCTION:

Marci Rosenblum ♦ RWD Group

845.364.0222 ♦ [marci@rwdgroup.com](mailto:marci@rwdgroup.com)

# Message from President JOSEPH A. COLANGELO



The new Administration in Washington is moving at a rapid pace. President Trump has signed a series of executive orders that have galvanized his base and infuriated his opposition.

There is a lot of focus on the bigger issues stemming from the new presidential administration. But the one that impacts labor the most is the proposed national Right to Work law. We all know what it is, and if not, then we've all definitely heard the term. The one I'll discuss is the bill that was introduced by two congressmen that would create a national "Right to work" law.

Earlier this month, two Congressmen introduced the bill that would institute Right to Work policies throughout the country and deliver a severe blow to labor unions of all sizes. For those who might not have heard the term, or understand what it means, here's the background. The words themselves imply that the law would give everyone a right to work. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The intention of the law dates back to the fight against unionization in the 1930s. The first right-to-work law gave states the ability to control union collective bargaining by allowing individuals the choice to not join a union even if the workplace had a union contract for its employees.

But the real intention was to stifle union organizing by cutting off dues income and allowing free riders, or individuals who reap all the benefits of a union but do not contribute. At first, unions have adequate resources to fight management on wages, benefits, and safety, but as more and more workers stop paying dues, the ability for unions to function optimally is diminished. Eventually there just aren't

## LAWRENCE KOMNICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

**Active Member** applications to apply for our brother Lawrence Komnick Memorial Scholarship Award are now available. The scholarship is named after Lawrence, an Auto Mechanic who worked at the Police Department and was tragically killed in the performance of a truck inspection. To receive an application for dependent children, active members should call the Union Office. The scholarship is a \$1,500 award and is a one-time only grant. There will be two drawings for scholarships.

**Applications must be completed and postmarked by April 28, 2017**, and include an official transcript of SAT scores that is signed and verified by the high school. Dependent children graduating high school in June 2017 are eligible to apply. The names of those with the top 10 highest SAT scores will be put into a raffle and two names will be chosen at random. Drawing for the scholarships will take place at the May 2017 General Membership Meeting.

enough funds to go around the adequately represent members, so unions go by the wayside. No unions? No benefits.

Without dues, labor unions will not have the resources to fight the fights we need in order to get our members what they need and deserve. We will still have to represent everyone equally, but we will have a smaller union staff to do so. Starting a grievance and seeing it through will take longer. We won't have the financial power to lobby legislators on our behalf. We won't have the means to answer phone calls as quickly, process benefit claims as expeditiously, or offer as many union-provided benefits. With Right to Work laws, you can be doing the same job as the guy working next to you with the same title, but only one of you is in the union.

There's definitely no fairness to this!

As of now, more than two dozen states are considered Right to Work states, having already passed their own legislation. By most measures, quality of life has been proven to be worse in states with Right to Work laws on their books. Salaries are lower, workers are less likely to have health insurance, and poverty levels are higher.

The AFL-CIO reports that on average, workers in Right to Work states make 12.1 percent — or \$6,109 — less a year than those in other states. Median household income is \$8,174 less annually, and people under the age of 65 in these states are more likely to be uninsured.

**Right to Work laws are dangerous** for us all. Benefits that unions have fought so vigorously for in the past couple of decades will be seriously eroded if New York becomes a Right to Work state, or worse, if this federal legislation is passed. The number of states implementing Right to Work laws in the last few years alone has been staggering: Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and the latest, Kentucky.

We can only hope that both political parties can set aside their differences and do what's right for the working men and women of our country. We need our legislative friends to flex their political muscles and pull off a victory on our behalf. The problem

is though, that even if they can pull off a Tom Brady Super Bowl move and come from a serious deficit to stave off attempts to eradicate labor as we know it today, the Supreme Court may well do us in. We narrowly dodged a bullet last year with the unfortunate passing of Justice Antonin Scalia, a day we believe he was set to vote against labor in the Friedrich vs. California Teachers' Association case that argued workers in public sector unions should not be required to pay any union fees. The current Conservative nominee to fill that Court vacancy would surely vote against labor, virtually putting a nail in labor's coffin when combined with a national Right to Work law.

We CANNOT let this happen. Labor is uniting on all fronts to stop the attacks. We've worked hard for the rights and benefits we currently enjoy. We need to make sure they are not eroded now.

With the likes of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker heavily involved in the current presidential administration and Walker himself tapped to advise the administration on how to implement Right to Work laws for federal employees, labor has a fight on its hands. After all, not only did Walker go after public school unions, he eliminated collective bargaining, stripped civil service protections, and created a political spoils system that saw job protection fly out the window. His promise to not go after private sector unions was all a lie as he quickly reneged on that promise. The White House Press Secretary has admitted that the current administration is in favor of a person's right to choose whether to belong to a union.

Ask workers in any Right to Work state how they are faring under Right to Work, and the answers won't be shocking. **Right to Work laws hurt all workers.**

Why someone would not want to be in a union is an unfathomable question. We fight for your benefits, your salaries, your rights, and your safety on the job. But there is no free lunch. If you take away someone's lunch money, they will starve. That is what Right to Work laws do. They starve the unions and those who suffer are the members.

## SHOE VOUCHERS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

The Officers and Executive Board of Local 246 are pleased to announce that all Active Dues Paying Members may be reimbursed up to \$60 toward the expense incurred for one pair of work related shoes that you purchase AT ANY STORE.

**Reimbursement will apply only to shoes purchased between January 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017.** Claim must be submitted by June 15, 2017.

Shoe expense reimbursement claim forms were already sent to Active members in January. Only **original purchase receipts** will be accepted for reimbursement.

## NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY

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



## IN MEMORIAM

**Salvatore DeGaetano**  
Retired Machinist — BOE

**George Clamser**  
Retired Auto Mechanic — San

## NEW MEMBERS

**Manuel Angulo**  
Auto Mechanic — Fire

**Hector Asencio-Rivera**  
Auto Service Worker — Police

**Charles Boumousa**  
Auto Mechanic — Fire

**George Beshay**  
Auto Service Worker — Police

**Edgar Bowers**  
Auto Mechanic — Fire

**Joseph Dahdal**  
Auto Service Worker — Police

**Justin Deonarine**  
Auto Service Worker — Police

**Anthony Gershkowitz**  
Auto Service Worker — Housing

**Manuel Matos**  
Auto Electrician — San

**Tariq Mohammad**  
Auto Service Worker — Police

**Javon Peters**  
Auto Service Worker — Police

**Juan Ramirez**  
Auto Service Worker — Police

**Parshuran Ramlall**  
Auto Mechanic — DOC

**Mahadeo Sarjoo**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Chadnarain Singh**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**Luis Tejada**  
Auto Service Worker — Police

**Tyler Texier**  
Auto Service Worker — Police

# GOOD & WELFARE

## A BIKE FOR EVERY MONTH RETIREE SPERRAZZA ENJOYING LIFE



Retiree Dave Sperrazza (Auto Mechanic -- DOT) knows how to live the retired life. "I have been happily retired for a few years now. After retiring, I moved to Southwest Virginia with my wife and two children. I spend my days rebuilding my 12 Harley and Indian dirt bikes, one bike for every month, and beating the crap out of them on my 10 acres of land. I've been married for 30 years this March and still drive my 68 Mustang convertible daily, which I have owned since 1980. It was my first car and I've rebuilt it to run like new. My wife and I like to travel. My children are doing well. My daughter is a Special Education teacher and my son is a Biology major at a local college. I miss my friends and coworkers from DOT. Word of Advice: Be happy for what you have now because time has no repeat button."

## RETIRING MEMBERS

**John Amendola**  
Auto Mechanic — San

**John Armstrong**  
Auto Mechanic — DOC

**Anthony Carrube**  
Rubber Tire Repairer — San

## IN MEMORIAM FAMILY

**Anthony Ibelli, Jr.** (Wife)  
Auto Mechanic Diesel — San

**Frank Yost** (Sister)  
Auto Mechanic — San

# NEWS & NOTES

**PRACTICAL EXAM SCHEDULE** — The practical exam for the Auto Mechanic (Open Competitive Exam #6012 & Open Competitive Exam #6013 (CUNY) & Pro. Exam #6509), and Auto Mechanic-Diesel (Open Competitive Exam #6014 & Pro. Exam #6510) are tentatively scheduled to start at the end of February and run through the month of March.

**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.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR BREAST AND PROSTATE CANCER SCREENINGS** — City of New York employees are entitled to excused leave to undertake a screening for breast or prostate cancer. Two laws were enacted last year permitting employees to take a paid leave of absence for a sufficient period of time, not to exceed four hours, on an annual basis to undertake either of these screenings. The entire period of leave is excused leave, not to be charged against any other leave that the employee is entitled to receive.

**RETIREES IN APPROVED HMOs** — NYC Local 246 is preparing reimbursement payments for July-December 2016. In order for us to send out reimbursement checks to retirees enrolled in the City's approved HMOs with a drug rider, you must forward copies of your pension stubs to: Local 246, 217 Broadway, Suite 501, New York, NY 10007.

**FULFILL YOUR COLLEGE GOALS WITH SEIU 2016-2017 SCHOLARSHIP** — SEIU is awarding 51 scholarships this year. Only members of SEIU and their children are eligible to apply. Application information is available at [www.seiu.org/](http://www.seiu.org/)

mbe/scholarships or by contacting the Scholarship Program at the SEIU Scholarship Programs, c/o Scholarship Program Administrators Inc., P.O. Box 23737, Nashville, TN 37202-3737. You may also call 615.320.3149.

**RETIREE DUES** — Retirees' annual dues for 2017 are now past due. Please send your check or money order payable to NYC Local 246, 217 Broadway Suite 501, New York, NY 10007 in the amount of \$60. The amount is nominal and just covers the per capita and dues mailings.

**SUPERVISOR OF MECHANICS PROMOTION LIST** — The Department of Citywide Administrative Services has extended the promotion list for Supervisor of Mechanics (Mechanical Equipment) Exam 2506 for the agencies through 2018. The list had been set to expire on Feb. 27, 2017. That is all the information we have at this time.

**COLLEGE LETTERS DUE BY FEBRUARY 15 FOR SPRING SEMESTER** — 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 depen-

dents that letters have expired will not be honored. They will be terminated.

**LOCATE POSSIBLE UNCLAIMED FUNDS** — To see if you have unclaimed funds in New York State, go to the following link and type in your name — <https://ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/>. Banks, insurance companies, corporations and the courts are among the many organizations required by law to report dormant accounts to the State Comptroller. These organizations must attempt to notify you by mail and publish the information in newspapers. Despite these efforts, many funds remain unclaimed and are turned over to the Office of the State Comptroller. In 2016, unclaimed funds returned totalled \$347,852,611. It only takes a few minutes to find out if you have money sitting with the state.

**IMPORTANT FOR 2017: UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY CARD** — It's important for our office and for you that we have the correct information for each member on beneficiary cards. Please call the Union Office at 212.233.0616 to advise us of any changes so we can send you a change of beneficiary card. Unfortunately, there have been too many instances when deaths have occurred and there was inaccurate and outdated beneficiary information on file. Don't let this happen to you and your loved ones.

**LOCAL 246  
SOCIAL MEDIA**

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SEIU Local 246

 Follow us on Twitter  
@nyclocal246

**FLU VACCINE PROGRAM  
NYC WORKERS**

In an attempt to provide the best protection against the flu to as many employees and their family members as possible, NYC is once again offering its free flu vaccine program. For more information about this campaign, visit [www.nyc.gov/workwellnyc](http://www.nyc.gov/workwellnyc) or contact Marissa Frieder, WorkWell NYC Program Coordinator, at [workwell@olr.nyc.gov](mailto:workwell@olr.nyc.gov) or 212.306.7609.

# A LESSON LEARNED HELPING HAND ON THE JOB



Senior Auto Body Worker Joy Garrett teaches one of our young Auto Service Workers, Diego Peña, a lesson in auto body repair. Garrett started with the City in 2002, and Peña began in May 2016. Both work in the Department of Correction. "This is a true example of our members working hand in hand to get the job done," said President Joe Colangelo. "We are the best in our field because our more experienced members are always willing to teach newer members the tricks of the trade."

## UNION ROUNDUP

**DEP has opened a new automotive repair facility** upstate near the Ashokan Reservoir in Kingston, NY at the Police Facility. One of the Union's upstate members will be doing a walkthrough of the new shop, and once it's fully operational, there will probably be additional hires to meet staffing needs. Since there is no longer a downstate repair facility, DEP recognized the need to have an additional repair facility for upstate vehicles, which is welcome news for Local 246 members.

**The 220 Trades Coalition** met to discuss our 25/50 pension vesting problem and will be working with IUOE Local 30 whose members also are in this pension plan to correct the vesting language. We also spoke about HHC and the concerns with funding, especially if the Affordable Care Act is repealed. Public hospitals can expect to lose a substantial amount of funding that will jeopardize their finances.

**Reminder to members about Facebook and other social media usage** — Management in each City agency and department monitor social media outlets on a regular basis. If you identify yourself as an employee of a city agency, there is a good chance it will be detected and your posting could be flagged for possible violation of your department's code of conduct. This could lead to disciplinary charges. Please be careful what you post on social media.

## LOCAL 246 INCOME TAX BENEFIT

Members who wish to take advantage of Local 246's income tax benefit must do so by April 15, 2017. The benefit is administered by the accounting firm of Wendel-Walowitz Associates, Inc. and is available to both active and retired members who pay dues. Members will be able to file their returns electronically; those who do so will receive their refunds in about half the time of paper returns.

### Long Island

68 South Service Road, Suite 100  
Melville, NY 11747

### Queens

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

To facilitate the preparation of your tax returns please remember to make an appointment for all locations by calling 212.682.6003, ext. 1, and identifying yourself as a Local 246 member. Bring a copy of your 2015 Income Tax return if it was not prepared by our office. If you are claiming new dependents, please bring their social security number.

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

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

- Saturday, Feb. 18, Thursday, Feb. 23
- Saturday, March 4, Wednesday, March 8, Friday, March 17
- Saturday, April 1

### Queens:

- Saturday, February 11, 25
- Saturday, March 11, 25

Tax returns must be filed electronically when available. If you choose not to file electronically, there will be a \$50 fee to cover the penalty imposed to our firm by New York State.



# ON THE JOB STUDENTS GET REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE



In a cooperative effort between Automotive High School and the City, students participate in work experience internships that allow them firsthand knowledge of the real world. This program gives students the opportunity to be mentored by our members — the best in the field.

In visiting various shops at the end of last year, President Joe Colangelo met with the students mentoring at the FDNY Ambulance Shop and hear about their experiences.

"This program is a great chance for them to take their classroom knowledge and apply it to real situations," he said.

Pictured from left are President Colangelo, Automotive High School Student Sual Lopez, Auto Mechanic Seukumar (Harry) Gandharry, and Automotive High School Student Jonathan Delvalle.

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# IMPACT

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**REMEMBER OUR TROOPS & PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY**

## MEETING AT THE WORKPLACE NYPD SHOP 9 GETS UNION VISIT

President Joe Colangelo made his rounds recently with a stop at the NYPD Shop 9 to talk to members in a smaller setting about how things are going at work.

"While we definitely encourage members to attend our monthly meetings to hear the latest on important news impacting our union and labor in general, I find it equally as important to talk to members in smaller group settings and one on one to allow for more indepth discussions," Colangelo said. "It also gives me a chance to talk to individual members about situations they might be facing on the job and how the union can help address them."

This shop was formerly a DOT facility that was turned over to the NYPD during the fleet consolidation. Since that time, the NYPD has expanded utilization of the shop, although the primary focus is still on repairing and maintaining its own vehicles.

