



LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 52, No. 2

Summer 2018

"TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY"

is not just child's play



Riley Banks, Samara DeLeon, Nyla Rohena, Madison Ramjattan, Leyla Ortega, Mason Rohena, Taylor Short, Gregory Floyd, Anthony Ortega, Laura Miranda, Jackie Wagner, Zaida Ali, Ayana Ali, Nia Norman, Matthew Corniel, Brianna Louison and Mason Ramjattan.

On Thursday, April 26, 2018, millions of workplaces across the nation celebrated the 24th year anniversary of the "Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day." Local 237 was no exception. The day is dedicated to enabling our children to see, first-hand, what their mommies and daddies do at work and help to demystify and explain the reasons why their parents leave home for several hours each day to go to their jobs. The day is part of a national program that encourages girls and boys to dream without gender limitations and to think imaginatively about the possibilities associated with a balanced work and family life. Children come to understand that family issues are not just a woman's issue and that there are family-friendly work environments, like the one at Local 237. And the facts bare out that having a supportive employer is mutually beneficial: A content employee is more productive on the job.

Among the activities for Local 237's special day was a visit with President **Gregory Floyd** in his office. Children also received gifts including an activity book written and illustrated by two School Safety Agents and purchased by Local 237 to distribute to public school children. In his dedication that appears in the book, President Floyd wrote: *"School Safety Agents work to make a safe and secure environment to enable New York City's nearly one million students to learn and mature. It's a tough job, with a great deal of responsibility and many challenges. But it's also a rewarding job — one that can positively change the course of a youngster's life forever. We know of many stories in which our School Safety Agents go above and beyond the call of duty to benefit students by applying their professional training, natural instincts and many talents. This fun-filled activity book written and designed by SSA Level III, Wanda Mirsky, is one excellent example of the caring, commitment and creativity of our Agents. Local 237 is providing this book to the City's public school children because we are very proud of our School Safety Agents and want to promote a greater understanding of the work they do. We hope you will enjoy it."*



Author, SSA III Wanda Mirsky; Gregory Floyd and Illustrator, SSA I Edwin Gonzalez

TWO MILLION WORKERS CAN'T BE WRONG

New York is the most unionized state in the nation with nearly two million union workers. Although private sector unions make up the largest number of those workers—17% compared to 6% nationwide—the real power of New York's organized labor comes from the public sector, where nearly 70% are union members.

Clearly, New York's unionized labor force gets it right: They know that membership has its advantages. In fact, last year, union membership actually grew by 75,000. They have found that wages of union members, on average, are \$11,000 more annually than their nonunion counterparts. Union members are also far more likely to have job-provided health insurance and guaranteed pensions. And, in the misleadingly named "Right to Work States" like Wisconsin, where required union membership is prohibited, workers' wages are 12% lower and poverty rates are 15.3% higher than in the non-right-to-work states.

It's no wonder that public approval of unions is also at its highest level since 2003, at 61%. This fact, however, is troubling to some people. Here's why: A strong unionized labor force means a strong voice for principles that are repulsive to right-wing conservatives, who view unions as enablers of Democratic Party candidates and the progressive causes they overwhelmingly support. Recently, conservatives on the Supreme Court, by a 5 to 4 vote, overturned a 40-year-old precedent by ruling that compelling a worker to pay collective bargaining fees was unconstitutional and a violation of the First Amendment right of the plaintiff, AFSCME

worker, Mark Janus. Justice Elena Kagan, writing on behalf of the dissenting Justices, said: "There's no sugarcoating today's opinion. The majority overthrows a decision entrenched in this nation's law...(and) prevents the American people...from making important choices about their workplace governance." She further criticized the ruling as "weaponizing the First Amendment". With this ruling, it would appear that free-loaders could now get all the services provided by unions without paying their fair share.

But wait, not so fast: In New York State, Governor Andrew Cuomo already took pre-emptive measures in April by signing into law safeguards to lessen the blow that the Janus decision could have to weaken unions. Among the features of the new law is that only dues-paying members are entitled to union representation in grievance hearings and disciplinary arbitration. Anyone considering opting out of union dues might think first of the cost of hiring legal counsel if they get into trouble or have a gripe with their employer. As Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** said when he attended the bill signing ceremony, *"Anyone who thinks that the 40-hour workweek, health benefits, vacation days and job safety requirements were always in place just doesn't know history. Unions fought for these benefits and continue the struggle for worker fairness and dignity. We built the middle class in America and now big money interest groups want to steal it from our children. Workers need to decide who they are with: Management or Labor. And we need to fight back."*

The signed bill and pen are proudly on display next to Mr. Floyd's office.



Governor Cuomo announcing his measures to safeguard union workers.



Gregory Floyd congratulates Governor Cuomo at the bill signing ceremony.

Local 237 Member Services

UNION HEADQUARTERS

212-924-2000
216 West 14th Street
New York, NY 10011-7296

LOCAL 237 DIVISIONS

CITYWIDE DIVISION, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director
Derek Jackson, Director,
Law Enforcement Division

HOUSING DIVISION, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Kevin Norman, Housing Director

LONG ISLAND DIVISION

631-851-9800
100 West Main Street, Babylon,
New York 11702
Benedict Carenza, Director
Long Island Welfare Fund:
For information on the various
funds call 800-962-1145

RETIREE DIVISION, 8th Fl.

212-807-0555
Provides a variety of pre- and
post-retirement services,
including pension and health in-
surance counseling to members.
(Pension counseling by appoint-
ment, Thursdays only). General
retirement counseling and
retirement planning series
during spring and fall.
Nancy B. True, Director

LOCAL 237 DEPARTMENTS

(Citywide and Housing)

SKILLED TRADES, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

HEALTH AND SAFETY, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director
Carl Giles, Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP, 3rd Fl.

212-924-2000
Provides membership services
and records, including address
changes.

WELFARE FUND, 3rd Fl.

212-924-7220
The Fund administers the eligibil-
ity, enrollment, disability, optical
and death benefits directly by the
Fund's in-house staff, as well as
prescription and dental programs
indirectly.
Mitchell Goldberg, Director

SOCIAL SERVICES, 3rd Fl.

212-924-7220 ext. 7562
Living and working in New York can
be challenging and our members
work extremely hard. Social work-
ers also work hard by connecting
people to much needed assistance
and resources. With this in mind,
Local 237 has introduced a new So-
cial Services Department featuring
free social work services that are
available to all members. The
union knows that its members
have tough jobs and that when en-
countering tough personal chal-
lenges, learning about possible
solutions to those challenges
would make things that much eas-
ier. Contact us to learn about the
many services we can provide.
Ayana Ali, Director

LEGAL SERVICES, 4th Fl.

212-924-1220
Lawyers advise and represent
members on covered personal
legal problems, including
domestic relations (family court
proceedings, divorce and separa-
tion), purchase and sale of a pri-
mary residence, wills, adoptions,
credit and consumer problems,
tenant rights and bankruptcies.
Office Hours:
Mon.- Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Mary Sheridan Esq., Director
Kenneth Perry Esq.,
Deputy Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 5th Fl.

212-924-2000
Gregory Floyd, President
Ruben Torres,
Vice President
Edmund Kane,
Secretary-Treasurer

PERSONNEL, 5th Fl.

212-924-2000
Edmund Kane, Director and
Chief Negotiator

POLITICAL ACTION & LEGISLATION, 5th Fl.

646-638-8501
Local 237 protects members' rights by helping to sponsor legislation that is important to members, and by opposing initiatives that would hurt members.
Phyllis S. Shafran, Coordinator

GRIEVANCES/DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS, 7th Fl.

212-924-2000
For grievances and job related problems, first contact your shop steward and/or grievance representative. If they can't resolve the issue, contact your business agent.
Mal Patterson, Director of Grievances and Hearings
Todd Rubinstein, Esq.
Grievance Coordinator

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSN

7th Fl., 212-675-0519
Saul Fishman, President
Aldona Vaiciunas,
Office Administrator and
Grievance Coordinator
Abbott Gorin, Esq.,
Business Representative
CSBA Welfare Fund
Alicare 866-647-4617

COMMUNICATIONS, 5th Fl.

646-638-8501
Phyllis S. Shafran, Director
Local 237 Newsline and
Retiree News & Views, Editor
Website: www.local237.org

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

8th Fl.
212-807-0550
Provides a variety of training
and educational advancement
opportunities for members.
Bertha Aiken, Director

USEFUL NUMBERS

FOR PRE-RETIREEES

NYCERS

(New York City Employees Retirement System)

By Mail:
335 Adams St., Suite 2300,
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3751
In Person:
340 Jay Street, Mezzanine,
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Gen'l Information:
347-643-3000
Outside NYC toll-free:
877-6NYCERS

NYCERS Internet

www.nyclink.org/html/nycers

NYC Department of Education Retirement System

65 Court St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-935-5400

Social Security Administration

800-772-1213

NY State and Local Retirement Systems

518-474-7736

A message from the President



By Gregory Floyd

President,
Teamsters Local 237 and
Vice President-at-Large
on the General Board
of the International
Brotherhood of Teamsters

The Power of Hope

I recently attended a Teamsters conference. It was billed as "A Weekend With The Teamsters" focused on education and reflection. It was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Here I was, in Milwaukee—the birthplace of collective bargaining for public employees—now headed by a Governor, Scott Walker, who successfully fought to make this a "Right to Work" state by arguing that: "We can no longer live in a society where public employees are the 'haves' and the tax payers, who foot the bill, are the 'have nots'." This is a man with Presidential aspirations, who enthusiastically boasted to a billionaire supporter — and was captured on video — saying that Right to Work is just the beginning of his plan to destroy unions. According to Walker: "The first step is, we're going to deal with collective bargaining for all public-employees because you use divide and conquer." For his efforts, like-minded Rush Limbaugh said about Walker: "The Republican Party has a demonstrated, genuine hero and potential star in its ranks."

As president of Local 237, which is the largest public sector union in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I must admit that the irony of the moment did not escape me.

Now let's not forget that the whole concept of "Right to Work" has racist origins. William Ruggles, working as a reporter for The Dallas Morning News, was horrified by the rise in the number of union members. Spurred on by the New Deal and labor shortages caused by World War II, union membership quadrupled from 1935 to 1947. By the mid-1950's, more than one third of all workers belonged to a union. To help counter the growing strength of unions that accompanied the growth in membership, Ruggles wrote an editorial in 1941 proposing a constitutional amendment to prohibit workers from having to pay union dues to hold a job. The editorial caught the eye of Vance Muse, who offered to have his political organization, Christian American Association, advance the cause. Muse, an unapologetic racist, feared that unions fostered race-mixing. He said: "I am a Southerner and for white supremacy....white women and white men will be forced into organizations with black African apes, whom they will have to call 'brother' or lose their jobs."

Muse's efforts were successful, and by 1947, more than 10 Southern states had "Right to Work Laws".

This is the world of Scott Walker and so many other big money union bashers and union busters who worked hard to bring union membership to an all-time low of only 11 percent by 2014. Their special target is the public sector worker. We have been used as scapegoats for America's economic problems.

Trust me, we are not the 'haves'! Just ask the School Safety Agent, or the Police Officer working in a homeless shelter, or a NYCHA worker who also lives in public housing. The majority of them are African Americans and Latinos. Many live from paycheck to paycheck. Some are single moms and a few even live in homeless shelters here in a city of vast, unequal wealth, that has increasingly made them the 'have nots'.

Luckily, in New York, the state with the largest number of union workers nationwide, we have a Governor, Andrew Cuomo, who values the union worker. He recently signed into law safeguards that counter damages caused by the Janus Supreme Court decision. The new law makes it easier for unions to register public employees. It also allows unions to deny certain benefits to free-loaders, such as legal representation for job-related cases.

But more must be done. And that's where the theme of that Teamster weekend was so inspiring. The theme was "The Power of Hope." To my thinking, there is no question that hope makes good things happen. Without it, all is lost. But with hope, we find the way. We need to harness hope. We need to let hope become the catalyst for change. Among its many virtues, hope can energize the labor movement and propel a powerful message to elected leaders and to the public-at-large that we are not the enemy! Unions built the middle class in America. And the public sector worker is the one we all rely upon every day and in so many ways to help make government services work and our lives function better. We just want to make sure that our children will have a place in the America unions helped to create. We don't want them to be shut out. And we can do this as long as we stay united and draw inspiration from words Dr. King often said: "The impossible can happen, it just takes a little longer."

"Kids, the picture on the wall shows life for workers before unions."



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

On the Job

Local 237 is the lar gest Teamsters Local in the United S tates and Canada. Our members ar e dedicated municipal workers performing tough jobs in a wide range of titles for nearly every government agency in New York City and on Long Island. The quality of life for all of us is positively impacted by the hard work of 237 members. Meet some of those members:

FIFTH ANNUAL SAFETY SYMPOSIUM



President **Gregory Floyd** welcomed members to the safety symposium with these remarks: *“Welcome to the fifth annual safety symposium. Over the years, we have seen worker safety improve as a result of these meetings and that is why we will continue to meet in order to discuss ways to help ensure our members’ safety on the job. Your safety is not an option. It is not an occassional thing we worry about every so often. Your safety is our full-time commitment. We believe that coming home to your family at the end of work in the same condition as you started the day, is not just a privilege for some. No! It is a right of all our members. By trying to eliminate safety hazards in the workplace with, for example, improvements to personal protective equipment, we hope that our members are not only out of harm’s way, but that they are also happier and even more productive. And it’s a ‘win-win’ all around. In fact, puncture-proof gloves and sleeves may seem like a common sense precaution, but it took forums like these to help make them the norm. So, I officially welcome all of you here today and want you to know that we take your well-being very seriously. Being safe and not sorry is a priority of ours.”*

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE



Gregory Floyd taking a trip down memory lane, visited his old Public School 316, and met with **SSA Alysia Gonzalez**. Floyd was accompanied by Business Agent **Derek Short**.

SUPPORTING THEIR COLLEAGUES

Taking time to attend the Hospital Police graduation



Lt. Jose Semorile of Bellevue Hospital and **Sgt. Alcides Diaz** of Metropolitan Hospital.



Lt. Antonio Rosario, Kings County Hospital, **Lt. Jose Semorile**, Bellevue Hospital and **Adrian Melendez**, Metropolitan Hospital.

SHOP STEWARD TRAINING SESSIONS



Local 237
NEWSLINE

216 West 14th St., New York, NY 10011
646-638-8501
Website: www.local237.org
e-mail Newsline: pshafran@local237.org

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Executive Board

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Phyllis S. Shafran
Editor

Special thanks in the preparation of Newsline to:
Gisela (GiGi) Reyes, Executive Administrative Assistant

IF YOU MOVE – Please send your change of address in writing to **Membership** to insure that you continue receiving your newspaper.



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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

On the Job

TRYING TO FIX NYCHA



Members of Local 237 on hand to see Governor Cuomo sign an Executive Order declaring NYCHA in a "State of Emergency".



Governor Cuomo, surrounded by tenant and community leaders as he signs the Emergency Order

First, Gov. Andrew Cuomo declared a state of emergency for NYCHA in April, asserting that "the conditions of habitability at NYCHA-managed properties constitutes a public nuisance.... (and) a "disaster is imminent." Next, the federal government accused NYCHA of mass negligence over the safety violations of thousands of residents. In an 80-page civil complaint brought by tenants, the U.S. Attorney General for Southern New York, Geoffrey Berman, found NYCHA

liable for the dangerous lead exposure of hundreds of residents and children, systematic cover-ups of health violations and more. As a result, New York City reached a settlement with the federal government to spend over \$2 billion on NYCHA, with \$1 billion spent over the next four years, and \$200 million per year after that. The court will also oversee the appointment of a federal monitor. To generate revenue to help pay the huge costs of greatly-needed repairs, City proposals include plans to privatize some of NYCHA's properties. With approximately 8,000 of our members working for NYCHA, and with one third of them residents too, Local 237 has taken an active role in helping to ensure that fixing NYCHA has positive results for all.

DCAS



Stockworkers and Supervisors during a site visit at the Department of Citywide Administration Storehouse. They receive, store and distribute supplies to all city agencies. Far left is **Jason Brewster**, warehouse Supervisor/Manager. Citywide Business Agent **George Wade** on right.

SSA ACTIVE SHOOTER AND TRIAGE TRAINING



These dedicated Agents are sharing life-saving information by way of training other School Safety Agents. Among the things this training teaches SSAs are how to apply a tourniquet in order to stop someone from bleeding out, wound packing and other life-saving techniques. This year, they have trained over 1000 members.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of Local 237 members and our members are very proud of the accomplishments of members of their own families. Here are some family achievements shared with us:

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

All in the Family

JESSICA FLOYD CHOSEN FOR POLITICO JOURNALISM HONOR

Only 13 university students were chosen nationwide. **Jessica Floyd** was one of them. For the last 5 years, POLITICO, in partnership with the American University of the Maynard Institute has offered a limited number of college students a three-month residency program in its own newsroom, designed to give them invaluable first-hand, behind the scene insights into professionally reporting the news. Jessica recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Hartford, where she studied Politics and Government and minored in Africana Studies, Communications and Sociology. She was a member of the National Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha. Jessica will continue her studies, working towards a Masters Degree in Journalism and National Security at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

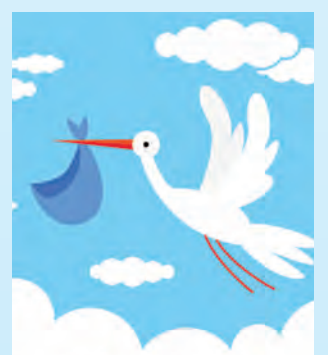


FOUNDERS DAY, A FAMILY DAY



Founders Day, an annual event of Local 237's Retiree Division, is always well attended. This year was no exception and among the many guests enjoying the day were **Madison Torres** and **Carmen Cruz**, who are the daughter and mother of **Ruben Torres**, Local 237's Vice President on the Executive Board.

WELCOME ABOARD!



EPCS Alexander Nunez, in the Office of the Medical Examiner, welcomed baby boy **Elias Alejandro Nunez** to the family in March. Elias weighed in at 7lbs, 4oz.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Above and Beyond

So many of our members go above and beyond the call of duty, performing acts of heroism, ingenuity, kindness and generosity that demonstrate their professionalism and heart. They were willing to go that extra mile, and by so doing, made a difference in someone's life. Here are some of their stories:

DANCE RECITAL



On Saturday April 28, 2018, **School Safety Agent Ashley Joseph**, assigned to P.S. 183 Riverdale Avenue Community School, located in Brooklyn, will be hosting her first dance recital. Hidden Treasures, the group she started in October 2017 with students of the school offers a free program. She currently has 18 girls in her dance class, ranging from the ages of 6-15 years-old. She teaches African, Hip Hop, Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Gospel and Reggae dance, every Monday and Saturday. The administration of the school is very involved and very thankful for Agent Joseph's dedication, and admires the free time she gives to the girls of her dance group. Agent Joseph has been dancing since she was 12 years-old, and is actively involved in her church, where her mother is a pastor. Agent Joseph also participates in her church's dance.

QUICK-THINKING AND FAST-FOOTED



A quick-thinking, fast-footed School Safety Agent in Queens South, **Theodore Ramersant** (center), chased down a convicted rapist with a long rap sheet who punched an elderly woman in the face and stole her purse. The woman's co-worker frantically flagged the Agent for help and with the assistance of **SSA Lopez** (on the right) the perp was placed under arrest and processed at the 114th Police Precinct. **SSA Pearson-Curry** also assisted in apprehending the criminal.

A SCHOOL EVACUATION HANDLED WITH SPECIAL CARE



An elevator motor fire prompted the evacuation of the Richard H. Hungerford School in Staten Island. Many of the children of this school required special treatment because they are wheelchair bound, bed bound and severely handicapped. School Safety Agents worked feverishly to help these disabled students by halting traffic a block away to ensure that each child could be delicately moved.

BOY SCOUTS SALUTE LABOR



The Greater New York Council, Boy Scouts of America held its annual Salute to Labor. **Gregory Floyd**, President of Teamsters Local 237, was the Chairman of this year's event. He congratulated the organization and its honorees by noting that "ordinary kids benefit in extraordinary ways due to scouting and those individuals who lend their support." Floyd is pictured with **Marcus Velazquez** from Troop 90 in Brooklyn, who spoke about his scouting experience.

HELPING KIDS "EXPLORE" THE RIGHT PATH



The NYPD's Explorer Program offers support and encouragement to youngsters interested in a career in law enforcement. School Safety Agents operate the program, serving as instructors, mentors and role models. Staten Island's SSAs **David Perez** (right) and **David Julian** (left) work with students on safety training and other essential tools for healthy living.

BIKERS AGAINST CHILDHOOD CANCER



This event is dedicated to raising money and awareness about childhood cancer. Pictured are the event's organizers and participants including Housing Business Agent, **Norberto Luna**.

SSA SAVES A LIFE



On Tuesday, May 29th, the First Annual Life Savers Event was held in the Tweed Courthouse in Lower Manhattan. The New York City Department of Education honored its employees and NYPD School Safety Agents whose acts are credited with saving the lives of students and faculty in moments of crisis.

One of the honorees was NYPD School Safety Agent **Latrice Smalls**, who works at Springfield Gardens High School in Queens. On October 10, 2017, School Safety Agent Smalls received a call for help from the school principal, Mr. Ammirati, who was suffering from a serious medical condition. While she was responding, Agent Smalls advised other school safety agents who were closer to the principal. When School Safety Agent Smalls and the other agents arrived, they quickly assessed the situation, called EMS, and assisted the school nurse in providing oxygen to the principal before he was taken to an area hospital.

NYPD SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER MAKES SWEET SAVE



NYPD School Safety Officer Tamara Jenkins now has a friend for life. The 21 year-old Brooklynite is being hailed as a hero after she stopped a 9 year-old girl from choking to death. "It feels good," Jenkins said, her Heimlich maneuver saved a life at Public School 241, the STEM Institute of Manhattan. "It was more instinct...I did it before with my little brother." Jenkins was monitoring the W. 113th St. school near Frederick Douglass Blvd. about 11:50 a.m. when she noticed a commotion at a table in the school lunch room. As she got closer, she noticed that a fourth grader, Layla, was choking on a small orange. "She just peeled it and put it in her mouth," Jenkins explained. "Everyone started screaming because she was choking. She was hunched over the table and a staff member was talking to her, but she couldn't speak. I knew it was serious." It only took Jenkins a few compressions to get the orange out. "Everyone was so excited and happy. The principal was in tears. They called me a life saver, but I was just doing my job," Jenkins said. Jenkins has been with the NYPD's School Safety Division for about a year.

The first-rate work of our members is often acknowledged with special honors to mark their achievements. Here are some members recently recognized for their professionalism and performing a job well-done:

A CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON



SSAs of the Bronx East brought home a victory trophy for its win over Brooklyn South. The team returned to the Bronx to the site where the 15 year-old Police Explorer **Lesandro Guzman-Feliz** that was stabbed to death, and dedicated the trophy to him.



School Safety Bowling League Championship goes to Queens North.

DOE HONORS SSAs



School Safety Agents honored by Department of Education.

JHS 258 SSAs HONORED BY COMMUNITY BOARD 3



Business Agent **Derek Short**; SSA **Mark Chan**, SSA **Amani Lockaway**, Brooklyn North Commanding Officer **Yamese Lavington**, SSA **Tywanda Woodberry**, Supervisor of School Security **James Siedio**, SSA3 **Larry Troupe**.

UFT HONORS SSAs



UFT honored School Safety Agents from the Bronx East and West Commands.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

In recognition of a Job Well Done

LOCAL 237 CELEBRATES NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week that date falls as National Police Week. Currently, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, D. C. to participate in a number of planned events which honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and to acknowledge with appreciation and pride, those who continue to make us feel safe in our communities. In New York City and on Long Island, members of Local 237 play a vital role in keeping the public safe. Our members work in some of the most challenging municipal agencies—including, for example, public schools and colleges, hospitals, homeless shelters, child service centers and, in the Town of Babylon, our members also work in the Fire Department and the harbor. Pictured are some of the commemoration ceremonies that took place in many of our municipal hospitals.



Sgt. David Sampson, Sgt. Terrance Rodney and Sgt. John Biagini.

WOODHULL HOSPITAL



NORTH CENTRAL HOSPITAL



NYPD GUARDIANS ASSOCIATION HONORS SSAs



SSA **Dashawn Jennings**, SSA **Antoinette Charles**, Honoree SSA3 **ShaQuanna Rasin**, Brooklyn North Commanding Officers **Yamese Lavington**, Business Agent **Derek Short**.

JACOBI HOSPITAL



Law Enforcement Business Agent **Charlie Cotto**(l) attends Police Week at Jacobi Hospital.

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL PLAQUES TO FALLEN SSAs



SSA Level 3 **Ronald Foster**, Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd**, Capt. **Lavonda Wise** and Chief **Charles Rubin**

A LEADER



EPCS **Bryan Graves** earned the Leadership Award.



On Nov. 16, 1999, School Safety Agent **Orville Williams**, 25 of the 102 Precinct School Safety Unit, while breaking up a series of fights between students on different floors of the school, the two-year veteran fell unconscious, succumbing to a heart attack.



On Dec. 16, 2005, School Safety Agent **Vivian A. Samuels**, 56, of the 77 Precinct School Safety Unit, while attempting to escort a disorderly student from a dance, the twenty four-year veteran was punched and experienced shortness of breath, succumbing to a heart attack.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Members Promoted, Congratulations

We commend our members who have succeeded in achieving higher rank within their agencies. Here are some of those recently promoted:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

The following officers were recognized in the Health Police Ceremony for their new titles on April 13, 2018.

DEPUTY CHIEF:
Nancy Martinez
Melinda Rogers

INSTRUCTORS:
Sgt. Michael Arzouane
Sgt. Lester Lloyd
P.O. Dashaun Roberts
Sgt. Fabiola Urdina
Sgt. Carlos Basora
Sgt. Guy Donaldson
Sgt. Andres LaSalle
P.O. Tomasz Kowal

DETECTIVES:
P.O. Robert Scallop
P.O. Chainia Cammock
P.O. Sharelle Davis
P.O. Carey Washington

CADETS:
P.O. Giselle Batista
P.O. Jason Friedmn
P.O. Yolanda Jamison
P.O. Eric Kelly II
P.O. Charles Perkins
P.O. Mark Rojas, Jr.
P.O. Andrew Smith
P.O. Ivy Woodburn



Detective Chainia Cammock, promoted from P.O., left; Sergeant Fabiola Urdina promoted from Detective; Sergeant Andres LaSalle, background left; Deputy Chief Nancy Martinez, promoted from Captain, center and Detective Robert Scallop, promoted from Special Officer; Sergeant Carlos Basora, promoted from Detective, right.



Deputy Chief Melinda Rogers (l) promoted from Sergeant, Sergeant Fabiola Urdina (r) promoted from Detective.

SSA PROMOTION



SSA Bannister, pictured with NYPD Assistant Commissioner for School Safety, Ramon Garcia, was promoted to Level 3.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Added to the Roster of Retirees

Local 237 wants to thank the following members for their years of dedicated service, and wish them well in their retirement:



Nicholas Schiavone, Housing Manager who worked in the Central Office providing support for our members working in the field has retired. In acknowledgement of his many years of tireless service, Business Agent Teresa Valentina presented him with a plaque to mark the occasion.



George Jackson, was a Level 4 Custodian for HRA. After 35 years of devotion to the job, he has retired. On hand to wish George well are, left to right: Dwayne Montgomery, Director of Integrity; George Wade, Citywide Business Agent and Donald Arnold, Director of the Citywide Division.



Jacquelyn Layne was a hard-working Food Service Supervisor at Woodhull Medical Center. Now, after 39 years, she has retired. Thanking Jacqueline for her many years of service on behalf of Local 237 are George Wade, Citywide Business Agent (left) and Donald Arnold, Director of the Citywide Division. Jacqueline told them: "My plans are to continue serving the Lord and to continue looking out for the needy, the sick and the homeless."



Mary Roberts-Waller, after 27 years as a dedicated ESD Elevator Dispatcher, has retired. Pictured with Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer Edmund Kane to receive a plaque of appreciation. Mary said she plans to travel with her free time.



Robert Griffin, a NYCHA Caretaker for 14 years at Cypress Houses, has retired. He is pictured with his co-workers, who gathered to thank him for his dedicated service and friendship, and to wish him well in his retirement.

Viva! Puerto Rico

The annual celebration of Puerto Rican culture and history was on full display for this year's parade. Local 237 active members and retirees marched with pride along 5th Avenue from 47th Street to 79th Street alongside our colorful float with musicians skillfully playing Latin favorites. Thousands of spectators lined the streets waving Puerto Rican flags and showed not only their love for the island, but their spirit and resilience undeterred despite the devastating storms.







LONG ISLAND REPORT



Long Island Division Director **Benny Carenza** with IBT General President **Jimmy Hoffa** at the Unity Conference



Benny Carenza attended the NYCHA safety symposium.



Newest member from the town of Babylon **Jose** wants to be involved in the union. We welcome all new members to be involved as it makes us unstoppable.



Mark retires from Plainview Old Bethpage Schools after 35 years.



Plainview Aide **Karen Psillos** retires after a great career working with children and her union as a great Shop Steward.



Krystina Carenza receives employee of the month at Jakes 58 Casino. She is a Cage Cashier and Shop Steward.



Benny Carenza with **Adam** who is a security guard at Jakes 58. He does a very important job as do all members who work there. They are appreciated by Local 237.



Benny Carenza with **Kevin** and **Jimmy** who work in the Town of Babylon.



Brentwood school members after a union meeting. Great members who work hard for the district and the taxpayers.



James Murphy retires from Islip's resource recovery unit after 30 years on the job.



Brightwaters Village 237 members showing their support for the union.

"Celebrating Local 237's Everyday HERO'S"

Honorees

Long Island honorees for the hero's event recognizing members going above and beyond for their union and the members.



Puerto Rican Day Parade

Celebration

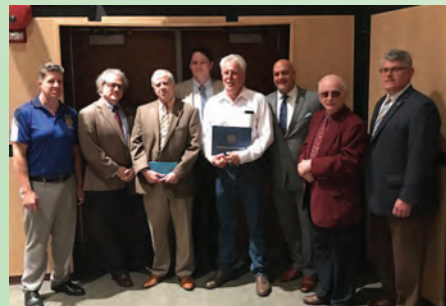
Long Island Division participates in Puerto Rican Day parade.



Union Training Class Graduates

Training

These are some of the members who graduated from the union training classes recently held over several months. All graduated and are more informed about the union, which is a great thing.



President Gregory Floyd and Congressman Peter King were on hand to congratulate the training class graduates.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

I AM 2018



Gregory Floyd honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On April 4, they came from across the nation to Memphis—thousands of people including labor leaders, politicians, clergy, teachers and sanitation workers—all waving signs reading: “I AM”. They were there to mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many expressed concern that Dr. King’s legacy had been either minimized, or sanitized or simply forgotten. The “I AM 2018” signs were an acknowledgment of the effective slogan that sanitation workers used when they were striking in 1968. Their “I AM A Man” cause was what brought Dr. King to Memphis where he was killed. Teamsters played a significant role in the Civil

Rights movement of the ‘60s, and many were on hand 50 years later to show support for a struggle that continues. Local 237 President Gregory Floyd joined the IBT’s General President Hoffa and other Teamsters to participate in a special program to highlight the occasion. Mr. Floyd addressed the audience by recalling a recent rally: *“When an adorable 9 year-old girl came to the mic, she had to stand on a box to reach it. From the stage, she could see thousands of people, most of them not too much older than her. They carried signs like: Enough is Enough” and Stop killing us.” She was greeted with thunderous applause as they waited to hear what she had to say. Little Yolanda King, standing in the very same spot her grandfather stood 55 years before, did not disappoint. Referring to her grandpa’s famous ‘I have a dream’ speech, she told the crowd that she had a dream of her own. She said: ‘This should be a gun-free world. Period!’ Yolanda then went on to lead the crowd in a roaring chant that went: ‘Spread the word, have you heard, all across the nation, we are going to be a great generation.’ Later, in an interview with CNN, she was asked what her grandfather would have thought of that day’s massive rally. This question really makes all of us wonder. What would Dr. King think about other protest movements like ‘Black Lives Matter’, ‘The Women’s March’, ‘Me Too’ and ‘DACA’? and what would he do? As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination, many people are asking that question. A discussion of his legacy can’t be just a history lesson. His legacy must live and grow. Surely, Dr. King’s work is needed as much today as ever before. Just look around you. Many people are hurting. The true legacy of Dr. King is that the commitment to do what’s right when you’ve been wronged is still alive and will stay alive because his inspiration is deep-seeded and draws upon the best instincts of each generation. He keeps bringing people together.”*

NYS AFL-CIO ENDORSES GOV FOR REELECTION



NYS AFL-CIO President Mario Ciento meets with the Executive Board calling for an endorsement vote for Governor Cuomo’s reelection.

New York State AFL-CIO, representing 2.5 million members, retirees and their families from 3,000 local unions, has endorsed Governor Andrew Cuomo for reelection to his third term in office. At a recent Executive Board meeting, President Mario Ciento (pictured standing with the Governor seated to his left) said: “When it comes to fighting for organized labor and the middle class, Andrew Cuomo has set the standard for every elected official in this country. Working men and women have no greater champion for their cause.” **Gregory Floyd**, Local 237 President and Vice President on the Executive Board, agreed, saying: *“The Governor has been on the correct side of issues that matter most to our members. He knows that public sector workers are not the enemy. Whether it’s the Janus decision or NYCHA, he’s been there for us.”*

TEAMSTERS UNITED



Members of the General Board are introduced to the audience of more than 2,000 Teamsters. Local 237 President and Vice President-at Large on the General Board Gregory Floyd, is third from the right.

Teamsters from Across North America met at the 2018 Unity conference in May to discuss building the union, political challenges and national organizing campaigns. “Every election year they say, this is the most important election in our lifetime,” said General President **James P. Hoffa** (seen at the podium). “Well guess what: In regards to the upcoming midterms, it’s actually the truth. We’ve got to go to the polls and vote like never before.”



Also present from Local 237 were Benny Carenza, Director of the Long Island Division and Board Trustee; Jeanette Taveras, Law Enforcement Business Agent and Recording Secretary and Ruben Torres, Vice President of 237’s Executive Board.

Fishman Re-elected CSBA President



Saul Fishman asks Gregory Floyd to address his members.

The Civil Service Bar Association (CSBA) is an independent affiliate of Teamsters Local 237, representing approximately 1,000 city government Attorneys-at-Law, Agency Attorneys, Agency Attorney Interns and Student Legal Assistants who work in dozens of municipal agencies and authorities. **Saul Fishman** was re-elected to another three-year term as President. He was unopposed. Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** addressed a recent meeting of the CSBA to congratulate Saul and other members of the Executive Board who were also elected, and to tell the members: *“I want to say ‘thank you’ to all CSBA members. The work you do is often not adequately acknowledged for the help it provides for so many New Yorkers. As attorneys, you understand the need to give a voice to the voiceless. That’s what you do.”*

REACHING OUT WITH GREGORY FLOYD



Daily News journalist Greg Smith with Gregory Floyd.



Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul with Gregory Floyd.

Greg’s weekly radio program on 970AM/The Answer, features lively conversation on issues that matter to us the most. The prestigious roster of guests include leaders in government, labor, media and the community. Appearing recently were the Lt. Governor of New York State, **Kathy Hochul** and award-winning investigative reporter for the Daily News, **Greg Smith**. Tune in on Saturday evenings at 7pm.



The Legal Services Plan Helps Members Prevent Eviction

By Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.

Director Local 237-Legal Services Plan

The vast majority of tenants do not have a lawyer in Housing Court while the vast majority of landlords do. Your Legal Services Plan can represent you, at no cost to you, if your landlord is trying to evict you from your home, unless you live in a New York City Housing Authority apartment. We represent members in two types of landlord-tenant proceedings – Holdovers and Nonpayments.

A Holdover Proceeding is one where the landlord wants possession of the apartment. Even if you have paid all your rent to the landlord, the landlord is stating it wants you out of the apartment.

A Nonpayment Proceeding is one where the landlord states you owe back rent and if you pay, you can stay.

Do not ignore any court papers you may receive from the landlord even if you believe you have not been properly served. Call your Legal Services Plan and we will screen your case and if eligible, set you up for an appointment.

Many times we have members call after receiving a City Marshal's Notice of Eviction. You must never ignore a Marshal's Notice of Eviction! Even if your landlord tells you not to worry about it, you need to act.

A Marshal's Notice of Eviction means your landlord has a judgment of possession against you, and the Marshal will come back to remove you from the premises. The Notice of Eviction will usually appear on or under your apartment door and through the mail, or someone may give it to you or another occupant in person. A landlord cannot have you removed from the apartment unless you have received this notice. You have **6 business days** from the date on the Notice to go to court and stop the eviction. If you think you are about to be evicted, you can call the phone number on the Notice to find out if the Marshal is slated to evict you that day. You can also call the **Legal Services Plan (212) 924-1220** to get emergency advice and an emergency appointment.

Don't panic! Go to the court indicated on the Notice, see the clerk, and file an Order to Show Cause to vacate the judgment of possession and stay (put off) the eviction until you have a chance to be heard. You should file an Order to Show Cause even if you agreed to have a judgment against you, and even if you did not follow an agreement with your landlord. If you owe money to your landlord, the judge should sign your Order to Show Cause if you bring money, proof you can get the money, or proof of payment to court. You should tell the clerk any circumstances the judge should know, including:

- You were not served properly with any court papers.
- You did not know that a judgment was entered against you.
- You don't owe any money to your landlord.
- You made payments to your landlord according to an agreement, and have proof you paid.
- You have the ability to pay whatever amount is due.
- You are approved for a loan/ one shot deal/ grant and have the approval letter.
- Your landlord is retaliating against you for complaining about bad conditions in the building.
- You have young children, disabled, military, or elderly people with you in the apartment.

When the judge signs the Order to Show cause, they will give you a court date. Your court date is usually a week or less from when you filed the Order to Show Cause. If you have contacted the Legal Services Plan and we can represent you, you must call us immediately with the court date so we can set up an appointment before then.

New York City recently passed a right to counsel law for tenants in housing court, however, currently only certain zip codes are covered. Your Union was at the forefront when creating a Legal Services Plan providing free lawyers for working people. **Contact your Legal Services Plan at (212) 924-1220.**



Suicide Prevention

By Ayana Ali

Director Local 237- Social Services

Suicide is a topic that no one wants to think about, but lately, seems to be on many people's minds. Although it is common to occasionally hear about the death of a person due to suicide, whether a celebrity or someone that we know in everyday life, recently the gravity of the suicide epidemic was brought to light by the unexpected deaths of popular handbag designer, Kate Spade, and renowned chef and television star, Anthony Bourdain. The suicides of these two popular individuals demonstrated how prevalent this phenomenon is and how many people suffer in silence, often without the knowledge of family and friends.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

- **Suicide** is defined as death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with intent to die as a result of the behavior.
- A **suicide attempt** is a non-fatal, self-directed, potentially injurious behavior with intent to die as a result of the behavior. A suicide attempt might not result in injury.
- **Suicidal ideation** refers to thinking about, considering, or planning suicide.

Although it is not common knowledge, according to the NIMH, suicide is a leading cause of death in the US. In 2016, suicide was the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34, and the fourth leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 35 and 54. Additionally, in 2016, there were more than twice as many suicides (44,965) in the United States as there were homicides (19,362).

These numbers are surprising, but they demonstrate that suicide is more common than most people realize. While there is no one factor that can lead to suicidal feelings and behavior, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), conditions such as depression, anxiety and drug and alcohol abuse, particularly when not addressed through treatment, increase the risk of suicide exponentially. The Center for Disease Control indicates that ANY involvement with bullying behavior, whether as the victim or aggressor, is one stressor which may significantly contribute to feelings of helplessness and hopelessness that raise the risk of suicide in young people. Some may read this and think, "but everyone gets depressed or anxious at times and most kids experience bullying at some point, no?" This may be true however, countless mental health studies prove that life stressors and health circumstances affect everyone differently and that for some, high levels of stress can lead to hopelessness and despondency. Feelings of despair and an inability to imagine that difficult circumstances will improve are almost always precursors to suicidal feelings and/or actions. They can be dangerous.

How then can we help people who are suffering with the desire to hurt themselves? Moreover, how can we prevent suicide?

While there is no foolproof method for preventing suicide, there are things that can help people to get better and to remain safe.

1. **Reach Out-** If you are concerned that someone you know and care about is

suicidal, don't ignore it. Ask them about it. **Important-** Asking someone if he or she is considering hurting his or herself will not encourage or inspire them to do so. In fact, engaging people about their feelings and showing concern for their sadness is often the first step in helping them to get treatment and to achieve overall improved mental health.

2. **Encourage** - There is positive information about the efficacy of treatment for suicidal thinking and behavior. People can and do get better. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for suicide attempters and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) for people with borderline personality disorder and recurrent suicidal ideation and behaviors have proven to be very helpful in reducing suicidality. Additionally, there have been strides in the development of mood stabilizing and anti-psychotic medications to treat mental illnesses linked to suicide. Encouraging your loved one to seek treatment could be the start to their recovery.

3. **Destigmatize-** People who think about suicide often do not speak about it with others for fear of being judged. Many people moralize when it comes to suicide; they feel that suicide is a sin or a sign of weakness. When people worry that their family and friends will judge them versus show concern for them, they are less likely to be honest about their struggles.

4. **Empathize-** Let people who you know are dealing with suicidal feelings that you do not think that they are crazy and that you understand that things have been tough for them. Realizing that anyone can find him or herself in this position, communicating that empathy and withholding judgment may make someone comfortable enough to open up to you honestly.

5. **Intervene** - Connect people to helpful resources during a crisis. If you know that someone is in crisis, talk to them about calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) or texting TALK to 741741 to talk with a crisis counselor. If you know that someone is in immediate danger and has a plan to hurt him or herself, call 911 in order that a mental health evaluation can be completed. The Emergency Room is often the place that treatment begins for people suffering from depression and suicidal ideation.

6. **Support-** Letting someone who is suicidal know that they are not alone can often be a needed lifeline.

Remember there is no shame in seeking help. By destigmatizing and removing shame, people can get the help that they need. If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal ideation and you are not sure what to do or where to start, feel free to contact **Ayana Ali, LCSW at 212-924-7220 ext 7562** to discuss the necessary steps to seeking treatment. ■



The Importance of Naming a Beneficiary, Your Life Insurance

By Mitch Goldberg Director of the Welfare Fund

There are certain important topics that people feel uncomfortable discussing. At the top of this list is Life Insurance. The Welfare Fund provides for a Group Term Policy with Colonial Life (Paul Revere Life Insurance in New York). This benefit is paid to your designated beneficiary at the time of your death. The beneficiary may be any person of your choice. You can name a beneficiary by contacting Colonial Life (347) 647-9307 or by contacting the Fund office (212) 924-7220 and requesting a new enrollment form and completing the beneficiary designation portion of the enrollment form. In order to be in effect, your designation must be on file in the Fund office or with Colonial. If there is no designated beneficiary living at the time of your death, the Death Benefit will be paid to your estate. This creates a delay in payment and can be time consuming for the executor of your estate who must go to Surrogates Court to obtain the proper papers needed by Colonial Life before payment can be made.

Life sometimes brings unexpected changes. Your personal situation may have changed due to divorce, death of your original beneficiary or you may simply want to name a new beneficiary. If you are unsure of who is listed as your beneficiary, we suggest you complete a new enrollment form or call Colonial.

The current benefit provided under our Group Term Policy is \$11,000 should you the member die. The spousal benefit is \$5,000 if your spouse passes before you. The dependent benefit is \$1,000.

Colonial also offers Voluntary Benefits by payroll deduction. These include: Accident Insurance, Disease Insurance, Disability Insurance and additional Term Life Insurance. If you are interested in any of these Voluntary benefits please call the Colonial dedicated customer service number (347) 647-9307.

If you require further information or clarification regarding this article, please call the **Fund at (212) 924-7220**. We are here to help. ■

We are very proud of the accomplishments of our members striving to achieve new educational and professional heights. Meet the new graduates:

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to the Graduates

EPCS GRADS



EPCS Bryan Graves and EPCS Jourdan Ivanhoe. Evidence and Property Control Specialists from the Office of the Chief.

SCHOOL SAFETY AGENTS APRIL GRADUATION CLASS



Pictured with new graduates are Law Enforcement Business Agents **Dereck Short** (l), **Jeanette Taveras** (c) and **Charlie Cotto** (r).

HOSPITAL POLICE ACADEMY



On April 24, 2018, at Lincoln Hospital, a graduation ceremony took place for a new class of Special Officers.

A MESSAGE FROM NYCERS

World Trade Center (WTC) Disability Retirement Process

Have you submitted your Notice of Participation for WTC benefits? The deadline is fast approaching.

This article explains the WTC disability process and additional benefits that may be available to individuals who have experienced WTC-related health conditions.

Members who participated in WTC Rescue, Recovery or Clean-Up Operations may file for disability retirement under current provisions of the WTC Law. A retiree or a vested member who participated in Rescue, Recovery or Clean-Up Operations may also apply to be reclassified as a WTC disability retiree.

To be eligible to apply for a disability retirement or for reclassification under the WTC Law, you must have filed a Notice of Participation in WTC Rescue, Recovery or Clean-Up Operations with NYCERS (Form #622, available on NYCERS' website at www.nycers.org). Your agency must verify your participation in rescue, recovery or clean-up operations at a WTC site.

The current deadline to file Form #622, Notice of Participation in WTC Rescue, Recovery or Clean-Up Operations, is September 11, 2018.

WTC FILING REQUIREMENTS

For all WTC disability retirements under the WTC Law (except for reclassification for retirees or vestees), you, a person acting on your behalf, or your agency head must file an application for disability retirement either: (1) while you are active on City payroll; (2) within 3 months after you were last paid by your employer; or (3) within 12 months after you receive notice that your employment was terminated for medical reasons if you were on an approved medical leave of absence prior to termination.

WTC RECLASSIFICATION

Individuals who are already retired for service or for a non-WTC disability benefit can submit an application for reclassification under WTC Law. If an applicant's participation is verified, the Medical Board finds that the member is disabled from a qualifying WTC condition, and the NYCERS Board of Trustees finds that the WTC Law presumption is not rebutted, then the applicant will be approved for a tax-free WTC benefit that is payable from the date the NYCERS Board of Trustees votes to award the applicant a WTC disability pension.

ADDITIONAL WTC BENEFITS AND INFORMATION

Individuals who have experienced WTC-related health conditions (except for psychological conditions) can apply for additional benefits through the provision of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). To determine what benefits may be available, in addition to NYCERS WTC disability retirement or death benefits, go to the VCF website at <https://www.vcf.gov/index.html> or call the VCF at 1-855-885-1555.

Visit www.nycers.org/wtc for more information on WTC benefits and filing requirements. You may also sign up for MyNYCERS, the secure online portal to your NYCERS account. MyNYCERS is not required for the WTC disability process, but it will enable you to log in any time to view your account information, change your address, and file certain forms online.

A letter from Mrs. Montgomery

Dear Nancy,

First, I want to thank you for your presence [and retiree **Kenneth Fox**] at the Street Co-Naming Ceremony in memory of Dabney on Saturday, April 21 and reading President Floyd's letter addressed to me for the occasion. It meant so much and I felt so honored. I am also happy that you were able to get pictures from Michelle Winfield for the publication.

Second, thank you for sending copies of the News & Views publication featuring, "Dr. Dabney N. Montgomery — A Remarkable Man." I can't begin to tell you how it touched me when I received it. I will, of course, share copies with the family.

Last, but not least, I thank **President Floyd**, you, and the members of **Local 237, International Brotherhood of Teamsters** for the love extended to me and to the memory of Dabney and the continuation of his legacy. In a speech I heard Ambassador Andrew Young deliver at the 50th Anniversary commemorating the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he said, "You are dead when people stop calling your name." Well, Dabney will live on for a very long time.

God bless you and the members of Local 237, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, always.

Best wishes, Amelia Montgomery

Condolences

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of the following members of Local 237 or members of their family. They will be sorely missed.



To the family of **Mamie Ruth Milton-Eaddy**. Ruth passed away on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Ruthie worked for Local 237 for 41 years. 32 of those years as the Executive Secretary for the last three presidents of the Local 237. She knew this union inside out. Gregory Floyd delivered the eulogy saying that: "Everyone knew Ruthie. She was an encyclopedia of information about our union. She knew it all and could give advice with the best of them. She offered me guidance from her many years of experience that no textbook could ever contain. She was my mentor and my friend. Ruthie kept it real. She knew what was important. She paid attention to details. She was a one-of-a-kind. An original. When you met her, you just knew she was special. And, for those of us who had the privilege of knowing and loving her, she made our lives richer. Her legacy is her loyalty to family and friends. Ruthie will be greatly missed."

To **Mal Patterson**, our Director of Hearings and Grievances on the passing of his cherished wife, **Alice Patterson**. Alice passed away on Saturday, May 12, 2018

To the family of **Samuel (Sam) Nesmith**, our former Security personnel. Sam passed away on Saturday, March 17, 2018

To **Ira Major**, our Network Administrator on the passing of his most loved mother, **Laura S. Major**. Laura passed away on Tuesday, June 19, 2018

To the family of **Walter Fernandes**, our retired Law Enforcement Business Agent. Walter passed away on Thursday, April 19, 2018

To **Teresa Valentina**, our Housing Business Agent on the passing of her greatly loved daughter, **Cristina Tyler Valentin**. Cristina passed away on Monday, April 2, 2018

To **Mary Sheridan**, Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan. Mary lost her beloved mother, **Jude Sheridan**, on June 8, 2018. Jude was known for her love of family, friendship and community. She is survived by her husband of nearly 67 years, Christopher Sheridan, Sr., her eight children, including Mary, 17 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Personal Notes

John Gallagher has been appointed the new LI Liaison. He will receive a monthly compensation of \$1,000.00 (\$12,000 per year). He will also be entitled to receive mileage reimbursement for work related matters at the IRS annual rate. Effective June 1, 2018.

Catherine Rice has been appointed a new union Trustee of Teamsters Local 237 IBT. She will receive an increase in salary. Her new salary will be \$511.00 per week (\$26,572.00 per year). Effective May 14, 2018.

Jeanette Taveras has been appointed the new Recording-Secretary of Teamsters Local 237 IBT. Her new salary will be \$2,698.00 per week (\$140,296.00 per year). Effective May 14, 2018.

Phyllis Shafran has been appointed the Political Liaison of Teamsters Local 237 IBT in addition to her role as Director of Communications. Her new salary will be \$3,045.00 per week (\$158,340.00 per year). Effective May 14, 2018.

Robert Kissane, Local 237's Controller, has received a \$10,000 salary increase. His new salary will be \$3,204.00 per week (\$166,608.00 per year). Effective May 14, 2018.

Saul Fishman, Civil Service Bar Association President, has received a salary increase. His new salary will be \$1,005.00 per week (\$52,260.00 per year) with a monthly car allowance of \$900.00 per month (\$10,800.00 per year). Effective April 9, 2018

"TRAER A NUESTRAS HIJAS E HIJOS AL TRABAJO"

No es solo un juego de niños



Riley Banks, Samara DeLeon, Nyla Rohena, Madison Ramjattan, Leyla Ortega, Mason Rohena, Taylor Short, Gregory Floyd, Anthony Ortega, Laura Miranda, Jackie Wagner, Zaida Ali, Ayana Ali, Nia Norman, Matthew Corniel, Brianna Louison and Mason Ramjattan.

El jueves 26 de abril de 2018, millones de lugares de trabajo en todo el país celebraron el aniversario número 24 del "Día de llevar a nuestras hijas e hijos al trabajo". El Local 237 no fue la excepción. El día está dedicado a permitirles a nuestros niños ver, de primera mano, cuál es su Las mamás y los papás trabajan y ayudan a desmitificar y explicar las razones por las cuales sus padres se van de su casa por varias horas cada día para ir a sus trabajos. El día es parte de un programa nacional que alienta a niñas y niños a soñar sin limitaciones de género y a pensar con imaginación sobre las posibilidades asociadas con un trabajo equilibrado y la vida familiar. Los niños comprenden que los problemas familiares no son solo un problema de la mujer y que existen entornos de trabajo favorables a la familia, como el del Local 237. Y los hechos revelan que tener un empleador que brinde apoyo es beneficioso para ambas partes: un empleado con contenido es más productivo en el trabajo.

Entre las actividades para el día especial del Local 237 se encontraba una visita al presidente Gregory Floyd en su oficina. Los niños también recibieron obsequios, incluido un libro de actividades escrito e ilustrado por dos Agentes de Seguridad Escolar y comprado por el Local 237 para distribuir a los niños de las escuelas públicas. En su dedicación que aparece en el libro, el presidente Floyd escribió: *"Los agentes de seguridad escolar trabajan para crear un entorno seguro que permita a los casi un millón de estudiantes de la ciudad de Nueva York aprender y madurar. Es un trabajo difícil, con una gran responsabilidad y muchos desafíos. Pero también es un trabajo gratificante, uno que puede cambiar positivamente el curso de la vida de un joven para siempre. Sabemos de muchas historias en las que nuestros agentes de seguridad escolar van más allá del deber para beneficiar a los estudiantes mediante la aplicación de su formación profesional, instintos naturales y muchos talentos. Este libro de actividades lleno de diversión, escrito y diseñado por SSA Level III, Wanda Mirsky, es un excelente ejemplo del cuidado, compromiso y creatividad de nuestros Agentes. El Local 237 está entregando este libro a los niños de escuelas públicas de la Ciudad porque estamos muy orgullosos de nuestros Agentes de Seguridad Escolar y queremos promover una mayor comprensión del trabajo que hacen. Esperamos que lo disfruten."*



Autor, SSA III Wanda Mirsky; Gregory Floyd e ilustrador, SSA I Edwin Gonzalez

DOS MILLONES DE TRABAJADORES NO PUEDEN ESTAR EQUIVOCADOS

Nueva York es la más sindicalizada estado en la nación con casi dos millones de trabajadores sindicalizados. Aunque los sindicatos del sector privado constituyen el mayor número de esos trabajadores, el 17% en comparación con el 6% en todo el país, el poder real del trabajo organizado de Nueva York proviene del sector público, donde casi el 70% son miembros del sindicato.

Claramente, la fuerza de trabajo sindicalizada de Nueva York lo hace bien: saben que la membresía tiene sus ventajas. De hecho, el año pasado, la membresía sindical en realidad creció en 75,000. Han descubierto que los salarios de los miembros del sindicato, en promedio, son \$ 11,000 más anuales que sus contrapartes no sindicalizados. Los miembros del sindicato también son mucho más propensos a tener un seguro de salud provisto por el trabajo y pensiones garantizadas. Y, en el engañosamente llamado "Derecho al Trabajo" como Wisconsin, donde está prohibida la afiliación sindical, los salarios de los trabajadores son 12% más bajos y las tasas de pobreza son 15.3% más altas que en Estados Unidos. los estados que no son de derecho a trabajar.

No es de extrañar que la aprobación pública de los sindicatos también esté en su nivel más alto desde 2003, en un 61%. Este hecho, sin embargo, es preocupante para algunas personas. He aquí el porqué: una fuerza laboral fuerte y sindicalizada significa una voz fuerte para principios que son repulsivos para los conservadores de derecha, que ven a los sindicatos como facilitadores de los candidatos del Partido Demócrata y las causas progresivas que apoyan abrumadoramente. Recientemente, los conservadores del Tribunal Supremo, por 5 votos contra 4, anularon un precedente de hace 40 años al decidir que obligar a un trabajador a pagar los aranceles de negociación colectiva era inconstitucional y una violación del derecho de la Primera Enmienda. del demandante, trabajadores de AFSCME, Mark

Janus. Justicia Elena Kagan, escribiendo en nombre de los jueces disidentes, dijo: "No hay una versión azucarada de la opinión de hoy. La mayoría derroca una decisión arraigada en la ley de esta nación... (y) evita que el pueblo estadounidense ... tome decisiones importantes sobre la gobernanza de su lugar de trabajo ". Criticó aún más el fallo como "armamentista la Primera Enmienda". Con esta decisión, parecería que los cargadores gratuitos ahora pueden obtener todos los servicios prestados por los sindicatos sin pagar su parte justa.

Pero espere, no tan rápido: en el estado de Nueva York, el gobernador Andrew Cuomo ya tomó medidas preventivas en abril mediante la firma de salvaguardas legales para disminuir el golpe que la decisión de Janus podría tener para debilitar a los sindicatos. Una de las características de la nueva ley es que solo los miembros que pagan sus cuotas tienen derecho a representación sindical en las audiencias de quejas y el arbitraje disciplinario. Cualquiera que considere optar por no pagar las cuotas sindicales podría pensar primero en el costo de contratar asesores legales si se meten en problemas o tienen una queja con su empleador. Como Gregory Floyd, presidente de Local 237, dijo cuando asistió a la ceremonia de firma de la factura: *"Cualquiera que crea que la semana de trabajo de 40 horas, los beneficios de salud, los días de vacaciones y los requisitos de seguridad laboral siempre estuvieron vigentes simplemente no conoce la historia. Los sindicatos lucharon por estos beneficios y continúan la lucha por la equidad y la dignidad de los trabajadores. Construimos la clase media en Estados Unidos y ahora los grandes grupos de interés del dinero quieren robársela a nuestros hijos. Los trabajadores deben decidir quiénes son: Gerencia o Trabajo. Y tenemos que luchar"*.

La cuenta firmada y la pluma están orgullosamente en exhibición junto a la oficina del Sr. Floyd. ■



El Gobernador Cuomo anuncia sus medidas para proteger a los trabajadores sindicalizados.



Gregory Floyd felicita al Gobernador Cuomo en la ceremonia de firma de la factura.

A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT



Local 237 colleagues Bertha Aiken; Gisela Reyes; Sara Wager; Jeanette Taveras; President Gregory Floyd; NASP's Event Chair, Liz Smith and NASP's Chair, Cheryl Marrow with Pat Stryker and Local 237's Mary Sheridan; Derek Jackson; Debbie Coleman and Nancy True.

Patricia Stryker, the recently retired Director of Political Action and Legislation for Local 237, who also served as the Recording Secretary on the Executive Board, was honored by New York NASP Foundation with the Lifetime Achievement Award. NASP supports the development of training programs in the Securities Industry that will prepare significant numbers of African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and women for management, ownership, supervisory, administrative, clerical, sales, and technical positions in all business activities. The organization's mission statement indicates that it seeks "to promote professional excellence, facilitate new business opportunities, and encourage economic empowerment for people of color and women on Wall Street and for our community. We seek to connect members to industry leaders and business opportunities; advocate for policies that create equal representation and inclusion; provide educational opportunities; and work to build awareness about the value of ensuring that people of color and women are included in all aspects of the financial services industry." NASP Chair, **Cheryl Marrow**, told the audience that Pat was selected to be honored because she personifies the foundation's goal. **Gregory Floyd**, President of Teamsters Local 237, presented Pat with the award, and thanked her for her many years of tireless work dedicated to public service.

NASP also honored **Daniel D. Miller**, Deputy Director of DOE's Retirement System, with its Rising Star Award. Daniel is pictured with his proud parents, **Barbara Terrelonge**, Director of the Organizing Department of DC37, and his father, one of Teamsters Local 237's very own, **Warren Chiles**, a Cement Mason in the Citywide Division, who was recently honored at our Black History Month celebration.



Daniel D. Miller with parents, Barbara Terrelonge and Warren Chiles.

LOCAL 237, A REAL WINNER



2 RETIREE news & views



by Gregory Floyd

President, Teamsters Local 237 and Vice President-at-Large on the General Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Toni Morrison, the renowned writer and recipient of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature, once wrote: "When spring comes to the City people notice one another in the road; notice the strangers with whom they share aisles and tables and the space.... It's the time of year when the City urges contradiction most, encouraging you to buy street food when you have no appetite at all; giving you a taste for a single room occupied by you alone as well as a craving to share it with someone you passed in the street. Really there is no contradiction—rather it's a condition." The Ghanaian founder of Smart Youth Volunteer Foundation, Lailah Gifty Akita calls spring: "A season for the soul to regain its strength." And Reba McEntire, the country western performer, summed up her feeling on the season, saying: "It's a second chance."

It's no coincidence that Easter and Passover are spring holidays. The renewal of nature that comes with spring amplifies the promise of redemption embedded in the historical events being commemorated by both religions.

a message from the president

The impossible can happen, it just takes a little longer

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and His victory over death. Around the same time—and often overlapping—Jewish people celebrate Passover, the holiday commemorating the Hebrews' exodus from slavery in Egypt. In both festivals, nature and history converge with a resounding message of hope. Both holidays are about delivery from a state of despair. Easter assures the individual that life is eternal. It offers a way out of a world beyond repair. It celebrates a religion that provides comfort to those who had lost faith in the gods of Rome. It spreads the message that the death of one has the capacity to save many and the resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate affirmation of life. Passover summons Jews collectively into the world to repair it. The message of Passover is that a tyrant-like Pharaoh could be overthrown. A nation as powerful as Egypt could be defeated. Slaves could become free men. The oppressed could break the shackles of their captivity. Anything is possible, if only we dare to dream the impossible dream. It was the biblical record of the Exodus from Egypt that enabled the spirit of optimism to prevail for the followers of Martin Luther King in their quest for equal rights, because they were stirred by the vision of Moses leading his people to the Promised Land. In fact, the historic speech that King delivered at the Mason Temple in Memphis

where he went on April 3 in 1968 to support sanitation workers protesting their meager wages of \$1.65 an hour and deplorable working conditions, had the prophetic line in it: "I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land." He was assassinated the next day.

It was ironic that many of King's supporters, aides and confidants had urged him against expanding their focus and leaving their comfort zone to take on new causes, such as the Poor People's Campaign which he was pushing. King would have none of it. Instead he urged the sanitation workers to go on strike telling them: "You have to escalate the struggle a bit." And he countered the containment argument of his allies with: "We have moved into an era where we are called upon to raise certain basic questions about the whole society."

The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is similar to the lessons of Spring. Without hope all will be lost. Even the history of America's official seal, suggested by Benjamin Franklin in August 1776, echoed this belief with the dramatic scene described in Exodus where Moses divided waters of the Red Sea. The history of our nation has a message that is clear: The impossible can happen, it just takes longer.

GREGORY FLOYD PRESIDENT, TEAMSTERS LOCAL 237 and the EXECUTIVE BOARD

INVITE YOU TO THE LABOR DAY PARADE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

**PARADE KICKS-OFF @ 10 am
44TH ST. BETWEEN 6TH & 7TH AVES**

**TEAMSTERS STEP-OFF TIME AND
EXACT LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**JOIN YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO MARCH IN SOLIDARITY AND PRIDE
FREE SHIRTS AND REFRESHMENTS / BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**

RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINAR SCHEDULE FALL 2018

INTRODUCTION TO RETIREMENT PROCEDURES & BENEFITS

Citi-Wide Division — Wed., Oct. 3 at 5:30pm
Housing Division — Thurs., Oct. 4 at 5:30pm

HEALTH INSURANCE & RETIREE BENEFIT FUND COVERAGE

Thurs., Oct. 11 at 5:30pm

FINANCIAL PLANNING, SOCIAL SECURITY & LEGAL SERVICES

Wed., Oct. 17 at 5:30pm

MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM WORK TO RETIREMENT

Thurs., Oct. 25 at 5:30pm

MEETING NOTICES

All meetings will take place at Local 237 Headquarters, 216 West 14 Street, NYC, in the first floor conference room.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Shop Stewards – Tues., Sept. 4 at 6 pm
Housing Assistants – Wed., Sept. 5 at 6 pm
Caretakers – Mon., Sept. 17 at 6pm
Managers – Wed., Sept. 26 at 6pm
Assistant Managers – Wed., Oct. 3 at 6pm
Supv. Elevator Mech Elevator Mech & Helpers – Tues., Oct. 9 at 6pm
Stores – Wed., Oct. 10 at 6pm
Supv. Plasterers & Plasterers – Mon., Oct. 15 at 6pm
Superintendents – Tues., Oct. 16 at 6pm
Supv. of Grounds – Mon., Oct. 22 at 6pm
Assistant Superintendents – Tues., Oct. 23 at 6pm
Shop Steward – Mon., Oct. 29 at 6pm
Supv. Roofers & Roofers – Tues., Oct. 30 at 6pm
Caretaker P's – Wed., Nov. 7 at 6pm
Maint. Worker (Traditional) – Wed., Nov. 13 at 6pm
Supv. Bricklayers Bricklayer/Mason Helpers – Mon., Nov. 19 at 6pm
Heating Plant Tech. & Maint. Worker (Heating) – Tues., Nov. 20 at 6pm
Supv. of Caretakers – Mon., Nov. 26 at 6pm
Exterminators – Tues., Nov. 27 at 6pm

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SUMMER 2018

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