



LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 59, No. 3

Fall 2025

Falling Leaves, Unions Rising

By Gregory Floyd

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

Fall marks the end of Summer and the beginning of a new season. For some of us, the change is met with a little sadness due in part to fewer day-light hours and warmer clothing moved to the front of the closet. While for others, Fall is greeted with relief: No more messy beach sand to contend with or stuck-on hamburgers to scrap off the grill. With Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas looming ahead, their fabulous colors, lights, family traditions and gatherings, make the holidays something many look forward to. Decorations will start to come out. The list of gifts to buy will be made and recipes dusted off – all life-affirming and fun.

But first, there's Labor Day. It's the time when we salute working men and women across our country and show our support by marching in a parade to honor their daily contributions. Labor Day is unique. It's not so easy to find a holiday that crosses all party affiliations, religious, racial, ethnic and gender lines. Your political party, if you're White Collar or Blue – matters little because what matters most is the respect we show for our workers that make this city and country great. For sure, it's not easy to find a holiday in which most Americans celebrate in similar ways—usually involving a hot dog or two and an ear of corn. Yes, Labor Day is a rarity: A holiday we can all agree upon and no Hallmark card is necessary.

The Labor Day Parade is held in New York City on the Saturday after the actual holiday. It's the largest and the oldest one in the nation, started by the Central Labor Council—in 1882, when 10,000 workers took off from their jobs in celebration of all workers, and marched from Union Square to City Hall. Even though Ralph Chaplin wrote the classic song associated with the holiday: "Solidarity Forever" in 1915 for the Industrial Workers of the World, its refrain is as relevant and important today as it was more than 100 years ago: "When the union's inspiration thru the worker's blood shall run, there can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun, yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one, but the union makes us strong. Solidarity forever, solidarity forever, solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong." The formal acknowledgment of the importance of workers came in 1894 when Congress created Labor Day by making the first Monday in September a national holiday. But sadly, it only did so in response to the death of 34 striking Pullman workers from the American Railway Union at the hands of U.S. Army soldiers and Marshals.

Unfortunately, union membership across the nation has declined from its peak of 35% in 1954 to just under 10% currently. New York, however, is still very much labor strong and a beacon of support for our workers. It's among the states with the largest number of union workers – nearly 21% – 65.5% of the union workforce is in the public sector—consistent with the national percentage of public sector union membership being approximately five times that of the private sector – with African Americans making up the largest component of that group.

But today, after a decades-old hiatus, union membership in both the public and private sectors is showing signs of being on the rise in defiance of endless union busting and union bashing efforts. And here's where labor unions shine the brightest, as in the remarkable win by Amazon workers in Staten Island to unionize. It was no small feat. Just a few years ago, this newly formed "Amazon Labor Union (ALU)" did not even exist. A Staten Island Amazon warehouse worker, Christian Smalls, led a walkout in protest of deplorable, Covid-related workplace conditions. Amazon general counsel's meeting notes said of Smalls: "He's not smart, or articulate, and to the extent to which the press wants to focus on him versus us, we will be in a much stronger PR position." WOW! They not only dismissed Smalls as insignificant but arrogantly disregarded the young Black man as unpolished, incapable of organizing and thought he would actually serve as a good anti-union advertising tool. Amazon fired him, but their strategy backfired, and the repercussions have been felt throughout the nation. Today, the ALU has proudly joined the Teamster family and in fact, recent surveys show that union membership is on the rise.

So, despite the hurdles, we are on the threshold of reprising our role in helping to build the middle class in America. We are both the ramrod and equalizer... and the bridge to the "American Dream". We fight for the rights of workers while helping to create a level playing field where the "American Dream" is not the sole property of the corporate 1%. Local 237 would like to thank our active members and retirees for their tireless efforts on behalf of so many New Yorkers, whose lives and livelihoods depend on municipal agencies operating seamlessly despite the challenges. As former President Barack Obama said: "When times are tough, we don't give up. We get up." That's precisely what public employees did and continue to do. Let's not forget that during the height of the pandemic, at a time of unimaginable grief, when a sudden, highly contagious virus rocked the entire globe and our own personal world, union members – our union members and thousands of other public sector workers—didn't give up; they got up and went to work. During a time that immersed us in dread and paralyzed so many with fear— an unnerving time that, for some, meant there would be no final hug, goodbye or sacraments to meet our



2025 NYC Labor Day Parade

Photos by: Ken Roper, Housing BA and Assistant to the President

maker—these essential municipal workers were on the job. Now, as we are trying to revive the City, the State and nation, public workers remain an essential ingredient in recovery and rebuilding.

That's why Labor Day is so important. Recognizing the efforts of workers – especially those in the public sector – is a well-deserved recognition. But it also serves in sending a message to our elected leaders, political wannabes, big business and to the public at-large: You can bash us. You can try to bust us. But you need us. And, when you see the words "Union Made", they also mean "Union Strong"—we're a movement not just a moment. ■



SEE THE CENTERFOLD FOR ADDITIONAL PHOTOS

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518-474-7736



Message from the President

Time to pay attention. And that time is now.

By Gregory Floyd

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

Even though remnants of the summer may not be totally gone—there's usually some beach-worthy days ahead and crowds are still enjoying outdoor dining, Fall isn't felt to be in full swing for many of us as yet. Despite the kids being back to school, we still haven't bought the Trick or Treat candies or even thought about turning the clock back. But rest assured. There's a new season rapidly approaching. It's not weather-related, and perhaps more turbulent: The November election season. No longer can candidates and voters think and act with less intensity, clinging to the mindset of waiting until "after Labor Day" to actively engage. Labor Day was here and gone. The November elections are on, with us a full-court press. Every detail counts. Time to pay attention. And that time is now.

Elections at all levels are subject to controversy, confusion and questions. Certainly, this November's elections involving candidates for offices from Congress to NYC Mayor, are no exception. And current frustrations in America's politics are not only about one individual, but about the collective identity of the American people: Our values, our traditions, things we thought mattered and the things we thought of as being our right, not as a privilege. Clearly, the devastating experience and impact of the coronavirus helped to rip away and expose our vulnerabilities and inequities as a nation. Raw and shattered became our sensitivities and trust. Yet, despite the injustices the pandemic revealed--its lack of preparedness and leadership--the American flag (albeit often at half-mast) still flew over every government building throughout the nation, "God-Bless America" was still sung at half-time and there was still Macy fireworks on the fourth of July.

There was a time, not long ago, when the Democratic Party was generally considered the political party of middle-class working families, and the Republican Party was associated more with big business and the wealthy corporate 1%. Yet lately, as many political pundits and historians have written, citing polling data for factual backing, there's been a change—which some would call a reversal of party ideology, identification and a shift in party affiliation by many voters, as well as recruitment success of new voters who might have previously aligned themselves much differently. The Republican Party has been trending toward a coalition of multi-racial, working-class, blue-collar, high school graduates, while the Democrats now have a larger share of followers among white college graduates and what many call: "the elite". And that's not all. Union support for Democratic political candidates is no longer 100% assured nor is a pro-Zionist stance 100% guaranteed. Times have clearly changed.

Many wonder what conclusions can be drawn and ask: "What do we do now?" "What's our next step?" Do we have an establishment progressive party and an anti-establishment conservative party? Some would point to radical fringes on both sides. The question begs an answer: With so many factions in both parties have their previous, mainstream core beliefs and fundamental values become too hard to define, or perhaps vanished all together? They have dwindled to the point of uncertainty. They seem blurred, vague and ever-changing---causing alarms to go off. Many ask: "What do we really stand for"? Is there no longer a middle road...only edges? Many worry: "Can obscurity be far behind"? Today, it's not easy to explain where some candidates stand on certain issues. Their stand can change... "evolve" is the phrase they use to describe a platform change, which is more likely the result of a new poll than enlightened ideology. Moreover, when elected and in place to legislate and govern, the practice of bi-party support on certain issues, seems to be a relic of the past. Unlike when President Clinton took the oath of office, waiting for him on his desk at the Oval Office was a letter from the outgoing President George H. W. Bush, which read in part:

"You will be our president when you read this note. I wish you well. I wish your family well. Your success now is our country's success. I am rooting hard for you. Good Luck, George." From a Republican president, to a Democratic one, one could ask, is this a gesture gone forever?

Also, large numbers of voters are no longer affiliated with either party. They're turned off by both — no surprise there! Many voters show interest in having a choice that includes third party candidates. And in the New York City Mayor's race, there were three candidates running on independent lines. Two of them, having very high-profile names — one of whom, Eric Adams, just dropped out. All of this makes for a very interesting 2025 election season...one that also presents unique opportunities for the candidates.

So many factors—from big to small—all backed by countless surveys, focus groups and consultants brimming with fresh ideas and nuance-savvy advice to guide every aspect of a candidate's life, whether a first-time contender or a seasoned politician working to keep the win column. From the candidate's appearance to how they express themselves — perhaps valued even more than what they say — will be researched, orchestrated, rehearsed and made spontaneity-free. The guidelines and guardrails will be installed. Stump speeches created, responses to reporters' questions memorized and the appropriate demeanor from somber to cheery will be practiced and ready to apply.

With baby boomers and senior citizens, who until most recently served as the largest and politically savvy voting population starting to decline in number, and with the current push to entice younger, new voters to the polls, how to effectively reach voters has become the topic of the day. Surely, for such diverse voting populations and so many variables, a "one size fits all" solution will not work. But what medium to use? From TikTok and Instagram to over-size post cards in the mail, to drive-time 30 second radio ads, audience demographics will be analyzed, scrutinized, tested and tested again to help predict who, what or where are the best influencers?

Coincidentally, after years of declining numbers, union membership shows signs of making a comeback. Currently, there are many examples of workers in industries throughout the nation previously thought to be out of the possibility of unionizing. From Amazon to Starbucks to McDonalds — workers are slowly but surely signing-up. The method used to get them on board may be old-fashioned but tried and true... union workers talking to their fellow workers. They know the problems. They see the solutions. They wear the same uniforms. They are trusted as "one of us" and their co-workers listen. The same tactic can be used by political candidates. While the various social media platforms, catchy TV ads, high-profile interviews and lawn signs have proven to reach many voters, nothing beats talking directly to people — shaking their hands — coming face-to-face with them where they live, shop, worship and play. Gone are the "whistle-stop" campaigns. No more waving to candidates as they pass by. People want to talk to candidates—get a vibe—they want to see them. And, more importantly, people need to feel like they were seen too.

So, perhaps in this time of great change — this time of altered dictionary definitions and role reversals — the use of the "up close and personal" approach of unions, should become the template for political candidates as well. Knocking on doors, sitting at a voter's kitchen table and asking: "What's your biggest worry?"; making personal phone calls—not robo calls, taking selfies, and demonstrating in every way possible that you really "see" one another, has never gone out of style. People, young and old, still the value the "human touch". That has been the labor movement's secret weapon for recruiting and retaining members. It has helped to sustain us throughout the years despite the union bashers and busters. ■

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 the pictures and stories they want to share:

SSA Agents Recognized



(l-r) Deputy Inspector Hwan Kim, ASSS 1 Jackson, SSA Duval, and CO Torlone.



(l-r) Deputy Inspector Hwan Kim, Commanding Officer Moody, L3 Lorn Cadore, and CO Torlone.



(l-r) XO Sanders, SSA Tucker, Deputy Director Hill, ASSS 1 Jackson.

Congratulations to all of the Agents who've been recognized at the weekly Boro Stat meetings for their brave actions out in the field. Each stepped up in tough situations, showed courage under pressure, and put the safety of others before themselves. Leading by example and showing what it means to protect with heart, strength and integrity.

SSA Jerome Battye Averts a Tragedy



SSA 1 Jerome Battye's quick response helped to avert a tragedy at Forest Hills High School in Queens when two male students got into a fight in which one of them pulled a knife on the other. The Dean and additional units were contacted and the student with the knife was issued a Juvenile Report by the 112 Police Precinct where the weapon was vouchered.

Heroes at Lincoln Hospital



(l-r) Officer Ismael Batista and Officer Wildemir Guzman.

On Sunday morning 07/27/2025, two officers **PO Batista** and **PO Guzman** responded to the ER restroom, where a woman was unexpectedly giving birth. PO Batista swiftly rescued the newborn from the toilet, where the baby was submerged in water, covered in blood, and had the umbilical cord wrapped around its neck. Officer Batista carefully removed the cord and handed the baby to the mother. Both received immediate medical attention on 5A. PO Batista's quick actions saved the baby's life.

Safety Associate leads the way...



The label on the graffiti remover said not to use it indoors, but that is what some caretakers are told to use to get the job done. When a co-worker at Clermont Houses spoke with Safety Associate Taniqua Steele about her concern, Taniqua took action, called the union, and filed a Make it Safe. NYCHA's EHS Department is now reviewing the use of this product, and determining the safer way to get rid of graffiti in NYCHA buildings. Thanks, Taniqua for taking the lead on this issue!



I'm Part of a Data Breach... What Does That Mean?

We live in a digital age where our personal information is stored on many many different digital platforms and is subject to attack and theft by identity thieves and fraudsters.

In 2023 there was an estimated **72% increase** in US Data Breaches compared to 2021.

In the first half of 2024 there have already been over **700 Data Breach** compromises with over **1 billion victim records exposed!**



I Received A Data Breach Notification Letter... What Does it Mean? What Should I do?

There is NO Federal Data Breach Notification Law BUT all 50 States have laws covering responsibilities in the event of a breach. These include the time frame and ways victims should be notified and any remedial steps the affected entity must take to assist victims.

Many of us will have received Breach Notification Letters detailing the incident and the nature of the information compromised. Often times it's accompanied by free credit monitoring services for a period of time.

If you receive a letter, the first thing to do is to check that it is a **LEGITIMATE NOTIFICATION** and not a Phishing attempt! Check the Company's website for information and call them if necessary to check.

Being a victim of a data breach means that your personal information was exposed, **but it doesn't necessarily mean that your information has been fraudulently used.** A data breach occurs when unauthorized individuals access or steal data, which can include sensitive information like your name, address, Social Security number, credit card details, or other personal data.

After a data breach, there is a risk that your information could be used for fraudulent activities, such as identity theft, financial fraud, or phishing scams. However, it's important to note that just because your data was exposed doesn't mean it has been or will be misused.

Here are some steps you should consider taking to protect yourself:

- 1. Monitor Your Accounts:** Regularly check your bank and credit card statements for any suspicious activity. Report any unauthorized transactions immediately.
- 2. Change Passwords:** If the breach involved online accounts, change your passwords, especially if you reuse passwords across multiple sites.
- 3. Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** Add an extra layer of security to your accounts by enabling 2FA wherever possible.
- 4. Check Your Credit Reports:** Obtain free copies of your credit reports from the major credit bureaus (Experian, TransUnion, Equifax) and look for any unusual activity.
- 5. Consider a Credit Freeze:** A credit freeze prevents new credit accounts from being opened in your name.
- 6. Be Wary of Phishing Attempts:** Scammers might use your information to send convincing phishing emails or messages. Be cautious about clicking on links or providing further personal information.

Taking these precautions can help minimize the risk of your information being fraudulently used after a data breach.



www.idresolution.net

More Information? Call Us... 877 308 9169



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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 ensure that you continue receiving your newspaper.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Law Enforcement Division

So many of our members distinguish themselves by their professionalism on the job. Here are some of their pictures and stories.



First day at Curtis HS SSA 3 Cavalieri covering at the school for the day.



DCAS Officers Ahmed and Lt. Orr keeping Queens Borough Hall safe.



Detective Santapau, Bellevue Hospital providing a safe environment at the hospital.



Officers Khan and Ray, Bellevue Hospital. Providing a safe space for all hospital staff, patients, and visitors.



Congratulations to Lt. Osoria on his promotion to Lieutenant at Harlem Hospital.



FIO, L3 Whitehead at the first day of school.



Level III Douglas from the NYPD Recruitment Section handing out information about civilian careers with the NYPD.



First day of School at Curtis H.S. (l-r) L3 DiGioia, Local 237 Grievance Representative for Staten Island; Jeanette Taveras, Local 237 Executive Board Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent and Level I Meachum.



LI Gatta was at PS 26 on the first day of school greeting students and parents.



Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement (c) with Officers Arcino and Kensah. Shop Stewarts from Jacob Javits Center.



SSA1 Alston, Manhattan North Command Luncheon, celebrating 9 years of service as a MOS of the NYPD School Safety Unit.



Sergeant Roberts and Officer Magloire, Jamaica Clinic.

SI "WE STAY READY" FIRST DAY 2025



SSA 3 Agostini



CO Lightsey, SSS Holt-Pate, SSA Meachum, and NYPD Deputy Commissioner Kinsella.



SSS Stewart, SSA 3 Franceschini and XO Sanders.



XO Sanders, SSA 3 Varghese, and SSS Urban-Glessner.



Some of School Safety who participated in National Night Out.



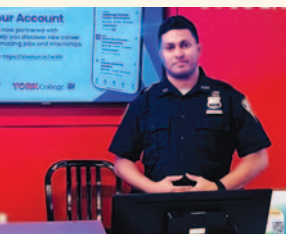
Staten Island outreach at the Evelyn King campus, PS 84, giving bookbags to needy school community. SSA Meachum and SSA Cataldo.



Manhattan North Command Luncheon for 8th graders MS 371 SEED School. SSA Shawnta Alston (r).



SSA 3 Cavalieri and SSA Tadrose were invited by students at PS 18 to join them at the end of camp Foam Party and as you can see they enjoyed it as much as kids.



Officer Shaha welcomes staff, visitors, faculty and students at York College.



SSA Smith from PS 78 assisted in backpack giveaway at his school.



(l-r) Derek Jackson, SSA 3 Taquanna Spruill, her mother, SSA 3 Emma Spruill, Director Naomi Aice, and Derek Short, Law Enforcement Business Agent.



Hospital Police Citywide Barbecue hosted at Harlem Hospital.

(l-r) Officer Desir, Henry J. Carter Hospital; Kangel Moore, Assistant Director of Law Enforcement; Captain Sampson, Woodhull Hospital; Officer Rushin, Officer Smith-Williams, and Officer Allred, Harlem Hospital.



The Staten Island Sunshine Committee hosted a Back to the Future BBQ.



The Brooklyn North Annual BBQ was a great success.



Staten Island outreach SSA Meachum and SSA Robinson working hard recruiting for ASSA position.



Officers at Kingsborough Community College. (l-r) Campus Peace Officer Peterson, SGT Pezer, Kangel Moore, SGT Lopez, Corporal Calliste and CLP Desil.

Law Enforcement Division *Continued*



Norman Thomas HS. L3 Cadore, L1 Buska, L1 Pena, L1 Derkutch, L1 Booker, L1 Krajkowski and L1 Feliciano.



Graphics HS. **Jeanette Taveras** pictured with Agents and Level III's. L1 Mclean, L1 Daniel, L1 Sass, L1 Wright, L3 Hyland, L3 Edwards, SSS Rogers and Chief King, the newly appointed Chief for School Safety.



Susan Wagner HS Staten Island. L3 Dasilva, L1 Burke and L1 Carter.



Port Richmond HS. L3 Devalle Mota, L1 Denio, and L1 Abdul-Rahim.



SI Sunshine Committee doing their thing and fundraising and putting smiles on everyone's faces.



Congratulations to SSA Sayeh and her family on their new edition!

Assistant School Safety Agent Graduation



Derek Jackson (l), President Gregory Floyd (2nd from right) and Charlie Cotto (r) attended the graduation ceremony. *See page 14 for a list of graduates.*

School Safety Graduation Ceremony



President Gregory Floyd officiates at the graduation ceremony of School Safety Agents.



Derek Short congratulates newly graduated SSA Barnett.



See page 14 for a list of recent graduates.



Derek Jackson (r) with newly graduated class valedictorian SSA Goldberg with his parents.



(l-r) Kangela Moore, Supervisor House, and new graduate SSA Sen along with her husband who is also a School Safety Agent in Queens South Command.

Hospital Police Pinning Ceremony



SSA Salgado supporting former SSA Figueroa at her pinning ceremony as a Hospital Police Officer.



Kangela Moore celebrates Hospital Police Pinning Ceremony with Captain Whyte from Harlem Hospital.



Captain Whyte celebrates with her niece, HPO Alexander, during pinning ceremony.



SSA Artis supported Hospital Police Officer Johnson at her pinning.



Harlem Hospital Executive staff supports incoming officers to Harlem Hospital at their pinning.



South Brooklyn Health Medal Day



Congratulations to SSA Miller on her promotion to L3 (l-r) SSA 3 Chambliss, SSA Miller, and SSS Holt-Pate.



President Gregory Floyd and Director of Law Enforcement Derek Jackson congratulates the honor guards. (l-r) Sgt. Gallego, Sgt. Sotillio, Gregory Floyd, Sgt. Pancham, Officer Marrero and Derek Jackson.

Hospital Police Graduation



As of July 28, 2025 these Officers were promoted. (l-r) From Officer to Sgt, Mateo Meran; from Sgt to Lt, Christine Codero; Capt Manuel Kocher; from Officer to Sgt, Carlos Rivera, and Charlie Cotto, Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide.



June 25, 2025 Jacobi Hospital HHC Hospital Police graduation. *See page 14 for a list of graduates.*



ACS Award Ceremony. Cadet Jamil Ahmed, Sergeant Ta-Keya Baldwin, Officer Destiny Billingsley, Sergeant Devon Cadogan, Officer Ralph Deloach, Officer Jarel Desroches, Officer Ian Dominick, Sergeant Andre Godfrey, Officer James Jordon, Officer Andres Moreira, Officer Charles Myers, Officer Ronald Roswell, Officer Patrick Sejour, Sergeant Jasmine Spann, Cadet Darren Spencer, Captain Sherrod Stewart and Sergeant Giovanni Torres.



(l-r) Charlie Cotto; Kangela Moore; Kaz Daughtry, Deputy Mayor for public safety; and Derek Jackson were present at the Hospital Police graduation.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Public Housing Division

So many of our members distinguish themselves by their professionalism on the job. Here are some of their pictures and stories.



Jorge Cosco, Supervisor of Grounds, Sheepshead Nostrand Houses



Fernando Gutierrez, Caretaker J, Sheepshead Nostrand Houses



(l-r) Bayview Houses. **Courtney Cooper**, Shop Steward, **Linda Reed**, Safety Associate.



(l-r) Woodside Houses. **Charisma Allen**; **Stacie Gardner**, Local 237 Shop Steward and Caretaker; **Former Governor, Andrew Cuomo**; and **Jazmine Hall**, Caretaker.



Glenwood Houses. The John DeCarlo Memorial Award Runner Up Celebration was given to member **Mr. Dilworth Brooks**, Caretaker G. (l-r) **Shavelle Knox**, Assistant Director of Housing; **Mr. Dilworth Brooks**; **BA Ken Franco**, Housing Business Agent; **Jerry Burk**, Supervisor of Caretakers.



Sheepshead Nostrand Houses (l-r) **Antonio Corbin**, Caretaker X; **Courtney Bruce**, Caretaker G.



John Witcher, Caretaker P, Queens Borough believes in the safety program and ensuring he reports all safety issues. Remember Safety is First!



Saul E. Roman, Caretaker G, Smith Houses.



(l-r) **Ken Roper**, Housing Business Agent and Assistant to the President with **Mr. Faison**, Javits Center Cleaner.

2025 NYCHA SAFETY SYMPOSIUM



President Gregory Floyd addresses the audience at the 2025 NYCHA Safety Symposium.



President Gregory Floyd pictured with Local 237 members.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Citywide Division

So many of our members distinguish themselves by their professionalism on the job. Here are some of their pictures and stories.



Health & Hospitals: Food Service Supervisors; **Sarbjit Kaur** (l) and **Arielle Steadman** (r) assigned to Bellevue Hospital.



NYC Public Schools - The Office of Food & Nutrition Services: Food Service Manager, **Charles Dasilva** recognized for his exceptional commitment to sustainability efforts in NYC public schools.

George Wade Retires!

George Wade, Citywide Business Agent has retired after 16 years on the job at Teamsters Local 237. At a recent retirement party held in his honor, **President Gregory Floyd** may have said it best by describing George "as a man of integrity who says what he does and does what he says." As for what George plans for his retirement, he said he is simply "looking forward to enjoying his family and life in general—both made easier to achieve because of Teamsters Local 237."



Donald Arnold, Local 237 Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer and the Director of the Citywide Division; **Gregory Floyd**, President, Teamsters Local 237; **Bianca Jones**, Citywide Business Agent; **George Wade**, Retired Assistant Director of Citywide; **Curtis Scott**, Citywide Business Agent and Local 237 Executive Board Trustee; **Jeanette Taveras**, Local 237 Executive Board Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent; and **Cathy Rice**, Long Island Business Agent and Trustee on the Executive Board.

Added to the Roster of Retirees

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



John Kerrigan, Custodian, retired after 27 years. He was a dedicated union member and an asset to NYPD.



Specialist Rochester, CCNY College is retiring.



Lateste Thompson, Caretaker J, retired after 23 years of service.



Michael Williams, HH Cook at Coler Hospital retired after 27 years. He was an active Local 237 member who always stayed in contact with the union and shared information with the members.



(l-r) **Joe Upshur**, retired Exterminator with 40 years of service; and **Carl Giles**, Director of Housing.



Tracie Nicks, retired from Baruch College. She was an officer for 24 years. Pictured with **Jeanette Taveras** (l); and **Derek Jackson** (r).



(l-r) **Jeanette Taveras**, Local 237 Executive Board Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent; with **Keisha Macklin**, Retired School Safety Agent; and **Derek Jackson**, Director of Law Enforcement.



Noel Rodriguez (l) the first agent to be given a walk out at the School Safety Headquarters at Queens Plaza North. This honor is usually only given to the police and Supervisors of School Safety. Pictured with **Derek Jackson** (r).



(l-r) **Gregory Floyd**, President, Teamsters Local 237; **Sibawe Atibonbon**, Retired CUNY Officer; and **Donald Arnold**, Local 237 Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer and the Director of the Citywide Division.



Vernita Anthony, Manager, 250 Broadway retired after 37 years of service. Pictured with **Shavelle Knox** (l), Assistant Director of Housing; and **Ken Roper** (r), Housing Business Agent and Assistant to the President.



Congratulations to retiree **Dwayne Francis** for over 30 years of service with the Health and Hospital Corporation as a Sergeant in the Hospital Police Department. He is flanked by (l-r) **Derek Jackson**, Director of Law Enforcement Division; **President Gregory Floyd**; **Officer Johnson**, Gouvenior Hospital; **Kangel Moore**, Assistant Director of Law Enforcement; and **Donald Arnold**, Secretary Treasurer.



Thomas Young, Shop Steward and CUNY Maintenance Worker retired with 36 years of service. Pictured with **Ruben Torres** (l), Local 237 Executive Board Vice President; and **Donald Arnold** (r).

SHOP STEWARD SHOUTOUT

HOUSING

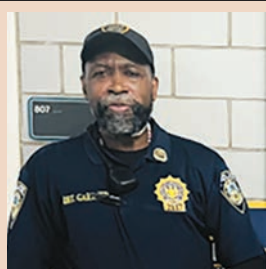


George Spence
Maintenance Worker
Community Plaza Houses
Always concerned about the well-being of our members and helping them with job-related issues.



Courtney Cooper
Caretaker X
Bayview Houses
Newly appointed Shop Steward, he is always asking and wanting to learn more about the union to help our members.

LAW ENFORCEMENT



Det. Pierre Gardner
Special Officer
Metropolitan Hospital
He has been a Shop Steward over three years. He informs the members to make informed decisions in the workplace.



Lt. Jeffery Miller
Office of Chief Medical Examiners
He has been a Shop Steward for over ten years, and continues to keep the members informed of union business.

CITYWIDE



Ramone Williams
Cook, Health and Hospital
A passionate cook who strives to bring that same energetic atmosphere into his work environment and a great help to the Union as a Shop Steward engaging in Labor Management meetings.



Mario Caruso
Maintenance Worker
Kingsborough Community College
A veteran Maintenance Worker with 24 years of experience and a proud Teamster and Shop Steward.



Labor Day 2025

It's not so easy to find a holiday that crosses so many boundaries: racial, religious, ethnic, generational and gender lines. Your political party, favorite color, married or single, home-owner or renter, blue collar or white collar workers, years of education, driving an SUV or compact car—all matter very little. For sure, it's not easy to find a holiday which most Americans celebrate in similar ways—usually involving a hot dog or two...whether it's all beef or tofu, yes, Labor Day is a rarity: A holiday we can agree upon.

Congress created Labor Day in 1894 by making the first Monday in September a national holiday. But it only did so in response to the death of 34 striking Pullman workers from the American Railway Union at the hands of U.S. Army soldiers and Marshals. And then there's the Labor Day Parade. It's not held on Labor Day. That's usually when so many of us are sad about the summer's end and reserve the day to get in those last rays of summer sun, a swim at the beach, flipping burgers on the BBQ, watching the US Open tennis match on TV or hunting for "Back to School" sales. Instead, the parade is held a week later.

New York City's Labor Day has some major distinctions: It's not only the largest one in the nation, but also the oldest.

The parade was organized by the New York City Central Labor Council in 1882, when an unheard of number of workers—10,000—took off from their jobs in celebration of worker solidarity and pride, and marched from Union Square to City Hall. Through the years, Labor Day and the parade have come to symbolize the long-lasting presence and indestructible power of the labor movement, despite the efforts by many in corporate America who decry unions as contributing to driving up production and service costs—and affecting their bottom line. They, and some others in power who fear the power of our unity, are simply trying to do us in. And it's working. Currently, union membership is at an all-time low of only around 9.9% nationwide (equaling one in 10 workers) as compared with peak years of the mid-1950s, when membership was 35% of all American workers (or four out of every ten workers). New York State leads the nation with the highest percentage of union workers, nearly 21%. Of that number, nearly 70% are public sector workers, with African-Americans making up the largest component of that group.

At Teamsters Local 237, we understand the value of unity. And our commitment to it is both practical and moral. We know, for example, that non-union workers

earn on average 20% less than union members. We know too, that the 40-hour work week, health benefits, paid vacation and family leave, and the \$17 an-hour minimum wage are just some of the hard fought—and won—battles. We also know that workers' rights and civil rights are unquestionably intertwined. Let's not forget that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, when he joined striking sanitation workers—men who made \$1.65 an-hour and were treated by their bosses like the garbage they collected. Dr. King believed that: "The labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standard of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production. Those who attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers."

This is why we march. We joined our union brothers and sisters in the Labor Day Parade to send a strong message to our elected leaders and to the public at-large: "You can bash us. You can try to bust us. We are not going away. Be our friend, not our foe. We have a voice and a vote. We're labor strong, celebrating our solidarity and pride on a day unlike any other." ■

Photos by: Ken Roper.





LONG ISLAND REPORT

New Contract for Commack Nurses



Commack Nurse **Christine Wright** (l) is retiring. She worked hard with Local 237, along with **Susannah Gulino** (r). Christine wanted to see all of the nurses get a great contract before she retired and she did. She was proud to hold her plaque and the new contract. Congrats!



(l-r) Commack Nurse **Christine Wright** with **Benny Carenza**, Director of the Long Island Division and Trustee on the Executive Board (r).



(Center, l-r) **Paul Salemi** and **Brenda L. Benizzi** are retiring from the North Babylon School District. Both are exemplary members always helping others. We wish them luck! Pictured with **Chris LoSardo**, Liaison (l) and **Benny Carenza** (r).

Local 237 Attends NYS Conference of Teamsters



(l-r) NYS Comptroller **Thomas P. DiNapoli** and **Benny Carenza** at the NYS Conference of Teamsters.



(l-r) **Benny Carenza** and IBT General Secretary **Treasurer Fred Zuckerman** at the NYS Conference of Teamsters.

Brentwood School District Picnic



Another great Brentwood School District Picnic. This has been a 50 plus year tradition and it's always a great time for all. Special thanks to the members who worked so hard to make it all happen. Thanks Britt for doing a great job!

POLICE SURGEONS CAR SHOW

Teamsters Local 237 participated in the annual Police Surgeons Car Show this year honoring SCPD Officer **Brendon Gallagher**. Local 237 raised \$2,400 and sold \$600 in shirts at the show, for a total of \$3,000 for Brendon. Thanks to **John Gallagher**, **Chris LoSardo**, **Scott Dimperio** and **Jamie Rivera** for all of the help to pull this off.



SCPD Officer **Brendon Gallagher** (center), with his mom and dad on his left and right; **John Gallagher**, Long Island Business Agent (l); and **Benny Carezza** (r).



Scott Dimperio and **Jamie Rivera** won trophies for their vehicles!



NYC antique cop cars on display at the show.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

CUOMO COMMITS TO HIRING MORE SSAs

At a recent press conference to discuss school safety, Mayoral candidate, Andrew Cuomo, committed to hiring additional school safety officers as part of the Governor's plan to restore public safety, the centerpiece of which is hiring and retaining 5,000 new police officers that will restore the ranks of the NYPD to the same headcount as the Dinkins/Giuliani eras. Flanked by members of Local 237's Executive Board and members of Law Enforcement and Citywide Division, Local 237 President Gregory Floyd welcomed the commitment from Cuomo and reiterated the union's support of him as Mayor. "With his historic anti-gun laws and his pledge to increase law enforcement on our streets and in our schools, he demonstrates that as a realistic elected official, and as a responsible parent, he gets it: Nothing is more important than protecting our families. Andrew Cuomo's commitment to restoring the number of school safety agents shows his dedication to keeping our children safe. And Andrew Cuomo will do just that! He has our support because he is the right person for these times and will get the job done as no one else can," said Gregory Floyd, President of Teamsters Local 237.



(l-r) Bianca Jones, Citywide Business Agent; Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement; Curtis Scott, Citywide Business Agent and Local 237 Executive Board Trustee; Ruben Torres, Local 237 Executive Board Vice President; Gregory Floyd, President, Teamsters Local 237; Jeanette Taveras, Local 237 Executive Board Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent; Kangela Moore, Assistant Director and Business Agent of Law Enforcement; Donald Arnold, Local 237 Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer and the Director of the Citywide Division; and Derek Short, Law Enforcement Business Agent.

President Floyd Convenes A General Membership Meeting

Teamsters Local 237 President, **Gregory Floyd** recently convened a meeting of the General Membership. Members were updated on upcoming events, such as the Labor Day Parade, and also received important information on the many programs and services provided to them by the union. In addition, members had the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers on-the-spot.



(l-r) Executive Board Trustees Cathy Rice and Curtis Scott; Recording Secretary Jeanette Taveras; President Floyd at the podium; Vice President Ruben Torres and Secretary Treasurer, Donald Arnold.

Recipients of IBT Scholarship Fund

Samiya Amrin Rubaiya College: Pitzer College
Daughter of Shirin Sultana, NYC Police Department

Wiktorja Czerkies College: Pace University
Daughter of Katarzyna Czerkies, NYCHA

Emily Walters College: Franklin and Marshall College
Daughter of Alicia Atkinson, NYC Lincoln Hospital

Danika Leidig College: St. Joseph's College-Long Island
Daughter of Joshua Leidig, Town of Babylon

Grace Ann Burleigh College: Fairfield University
Daughter of Noel Burleigh, NYCHA

Alexander Abi-Zeid College: University of Bridgeport
Son of Dawn Abi-Zeid, Commack School District

Alessandra Fiorenza College: NY Institute of Technology
Daughter of John Fiorenza, NYCHA

Annual Teamsters Womens Conference

This year's conference was held in Toronto, Canada on Sunday, August 24, through Wednesday, August 27, and attended by thousands of Teamster's Women nationwide including our very own.



(l-r) Shavell Knox, Assistant Director of Housing; Jeanette I. Taveras, Local 237 Executive Board Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent; Gisela Reyes, Executive Administrative Assistant; Sobeyda Rodriguez, Supervisor Bookkeeper; and Kangela Moore, Assistant Director and Business Agent of Law Enforcement Division.

James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Thomas Kelly, a relative of Local 237 Teamster member **Adrian Kelly** and Maureen Mellett, a relative of Local 237 Teamster member **Declan Mellett** have been awarded the James R. Hoffa Memorial 2025 academic scholarship for high school seniors.

National Teamsters Hispanic Caucus Bi-Annual Convention

This highly anticipated event, held every two years, was a huge success. It took place from June 17 to June 22 in San Diego, California.

Ruben Torres was elected by acclamation as Secretary-Treasurer of the National Teamster Hispanic Caucus for the sixth time.



Among the participants were members of Local 237, which included: Norberto Luna; Midersi Martinez; Gisela "GiGi" Reyes; Ana Reyes; Sobeyda Rodriguez; Jeanette Taveras and Ruben Torres.



(Fifth from left, l-r) Ruben Torres, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Teamster Hispanic Caucus and Local 237 Executive Board Vice President; Ashley Alvarado, Trustee of the National Teamster Hispanic Caucus and President of Teamster Local 856; Fred Zuckerman, IBT Vice President; and Sean O'Brien, IBT General President, pictured with participants of the National Teamster Hispanic Caucus Convention.



(l-r) Ray Torres, Vice-President of Teamsters Local 853 and IBT rep of the Warehouse Division with Ruben Torres.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS



Let's Stand Together and Be Vigilant!

By Saul Fishman

President, Civil Service Bar Association (CSBA)

We live in a world where change is inevitable, sometimes for better, sometimes for worse. Often, it's next to impossible to discern, at least at the beginning, whether we'll be happier down the road because of the change. Maybe it'll wind up virtually the same, six of one, a half dozen the other, albeit in different packaging.

We know with near certainty that we'll have a new Mayor come January 1. And there will likely be, also as of January 1st, a new five-year health insurer for us as active NYC employees, our dependents and for pre-Medicare retirees, administered by Emblem and UnitedHealthcare. I am not yet privy to all the details as I write this article on September 4 (the day before the Local 237 Newsline submission deadline), just that our coverage remains premium-free and that the provider network is supposedly being further expanded. All I can promise is to be vigilant,

gather as much information as possible, and to share it with you at our next General Membership Meeting on Wednesday October 29th.

We must ALL be vigilant on a bunch of fronts. Collective bargaining rights have been *summarily stripped away* from most Federal government workers. Just like us, they had collective bargaining agreements guaranteeing job protections and due process hearings. Whereas the battle isn't over, the situation has become very ugly very quickly. Don't kid yourself into thinking that there aren't targets on our backs!

Now is the time to appreciate the fact that we are in a real sense brothers and sisters. As imperfect as we may individually and collectively be, we as members of this union are our own best protection. As we know better than most, litigation against a powerful opponent is extremely expensive. Who could afford it alone? Stay involved. Keep us posted. We monitor csbainfo@local237.org multiple times per day.

Let's not fall for distractions or the old game of tearing each other down while management laughs and keeps most of the money for themselves. When they tell you that you have been put in for a promotion, thank them and promptly file an out-of-level grievance so you can get paid back to when you started the supervisory or more complex or responsible work rather than only from the shorter period of time from when OMB decides to relate your promotion back to. In the words of The Who (ask your parents), "We won't get fooled again!"

May you and yours enjoy a beautiful healthy autumn season, vote wisely and always keep your eyes on the prize.

Free Thyroid Screening was offered in Staten Island

Recent clinical findings show thyroid cancer as the fastest increasing cancer in the United States. Thyroid cancer is also one of the top five cancers contracted by 9/11 first responders. The screening was provided by HeartScan Services and Council Member Frank Morano. A special thank you to Catholic Charities of Staten Island for providing the space.



Council Member Frank Morano being scanned.



Support for Students Means Support for Local 237

By Vito R. Pitta, Esq.

The New York City Council and State Legislature have taken important steps in supporting the well-being of students. When students have the support they need, such as access to safe spaces, structured programs, and the tools to manage their well-being, then educators, counselors, and school staff are also better equipped to do their jobs. Stronger support for students create healthier school communities for everyone. In addition to these student safety efforts, Local 237 is also seeing progress and building momentum in other key areas that directly impact members.

Reducing Lockdown Drill Mandates

At the state level, lawmakers are weighing reforms aimed at balancing student safety with mental health. New York schools are currently required to hold four lockdown drills each year, a bill sponsored by Senator Andrew Gounardes, would cut that in half to two. Parents and advocates argue that the current number of lockdown drills are excessive, disruptive to learning, and harmful to students' mental health.

That bill has passed the Senate three years in a row with bipartisan support and has garnered backing from parents, mental health professionals, and education groups who say fewer, better run drills would reduce student stress without compromising safety.

However, the bill has repeatedly stalled in the Assembly, where Education Committee Chair Michael Benedetto has resisted moving it forward, arguing that drill requirements should be left to the state Education Department and New York City Department of Education. While the Education Department issued new guidance last year to make drills trauma-informed and age-appropriate, the four drill mandate remains. Supporters say reform is overdue and plan to renew their push in 2026.

Shifting Oversight of School Safety Agents

The NYPD has announced that school safety agents will now be overseen by First Deputy Commissioner Tania Kinsella, moving the division out of the Community Affairs Bureau. The department had briefly considered placing the division under Chief of Department John Chell, but the plan was scrapped after concerns were raised about bringing school safety under more aggressive policing leadership.

NYPD officials say the change is structural and meant to improve oversight, while critics warn it risks making schools feel less safe for students. The shift comes amid broader debates over how schools should be policed and whether school safety agents should remain under the NYPD at all.

Previous plans to transfer agents to the Department of Education were left unfinished under the de Blasio administration and later abandoned under Mayor Adams. For workers, the move highlights the ongoing tension between ensuring student safety, fostering supportive environments, and addressing the realities of how school communities are staffed and managed.

Expanding Youth Mental Health Supports

To address the city's growing youth mental health crisis, the City Council passed a package of bills to expand school-based resources. Notably, Intro 986-A, sponsored by Council Member Rita Joseph, creates a two-year pilot program that places mental health professional candidates into student wellness clubs in public middle and high schools. The schools will be encouraged to recruit mental health professional candidates, such as graduate students in social work, counseling, or psychology, for voluntary participation and develop partnerships with universities. These candidates will lead workshops and discussions on coping skills and well-being, providing safe spaces for students to share challenges and reduce stigma.

This legislation is part of a broader package that also establishes new peer-led wellness clubs, expands mental health literacy training, and improves coordination across city agencies to better respond to students impacted by trauma.

Ensuring Afterschool Access for Every Family

The Council also passed Intro 432-A, introduced by Council Member Pierina Sanchez, to ensure families have equal access to critical information about afterschool programs. Access to information about afterschool activities has often been inconsistent across schools, creating barriers for students trying to participate in these valuable programs.

Taken together, these local and state efforts show a growing recognition that supporting students means more than academics alone. Policymakers are acknowledging that students' well-being is central to a healthy school system. When students have the support they need, it also strengthens the educators, staff, and workers who serve them every day.

Unemployment Benefits Finally Catching Up in New York

Starting this October, the maximum Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit will rise from \$504 to \$869 per week. This long-overdue increase puts New York on par with other states and provides stronger support for job seekers.

The boost comes after Governor Kathy Hochul and the Legislature authorized repayment of New York's nearly \$7 billion federal UI Trust Fund loan, debt the state took on during the COVID-19 pandemic to cover the surge in claims. Without this action, benefits would have remained frozen until 2031.

By restoring the fund's solvency, the state is not only expediting higher benefits for workers, but also stabilizing the system for the future by changing the taxable wage base to build up reserves. This means a more reliable safety net in times of need.

School Cellphone Ban Now in Effect

As the 2025-2026 school year begins, New York's bell-to-bell cellphone ban is now in effect, and the results are already being felt. Educators and principals report fewer distractions in classrooms and more face-to-face interaction in cafeterias, with students themselves noting it's easier to focus. While some parents remain uneasy about communication, the safeguards Local 237 fought for, including emergency access and clear exemptions, are helping schools adjust. President Gregory Floyd's leadership in working with the Governor to make this policy a reality is now delivering real benefits for students, families, and school staff alike.

Bills Aim to Expand Access to Civil Service Jobs

The City Council is advancing three bills that would make it easier for New Yorkers to pursue civil service careers, helping build the next generation of union members. Int. 0212 would require the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services to provide exams in plain, simple language. Int. 0828 would ensure that CUNY students and graduates get clear information on how to start a career in civil service. Int. 0829 would require a citywide advertising campaign to raise awareness of civil service exams, opening the door for more working people to secure good, stable union jobs. At the time of writing this, the bills are currently laid over in committee, and Local 237's leadership looks forward to their passage soon.

Victories and ongoing efforts demonstrate the power of unions in shaping policies that matter. Whether it's securing safer schools, ensuring a fairer unemployment system, or expanding access to civil service careers, President Gregory Floyd and Local 237 continue to deliver results.

Vito R. Pitta is a partner at Pitta LLP, a firm whose practice consists primarily of traditional union-side labor law, employment law, employee benefits law, and campaign finance compliance law. The firm counts more than forty local and international labor unions as its clients. Mr. Pitta's practice consists of counseling the firm's clients on traditional labor and employment matters, as well as advising the firm's political campaign and political action committee clients with respect to federal, state, and local campaign finance laws. Mr. Pitta is also a Partner in Pitta LLP's affiliated personal injury firm, Pitta & Baione LLP, which represents victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks; and a member of Pitta LLP's affiliated lobbying firm, Pitta Bishop & Del Giomo LLC.





Keeping you in the know



Fifty Years of Local 237 Legal Services

By Jennifer Hudson, Esq.
Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan

We all know that working people can thank the Labor Movement for improving our quality of life by giving us things, such as: the weekend, the 40-hour workweek, and overtime pay. Teamsters Local 237 Union Members can also thank their union for being one of the first Union Legal Service Plans, providing Local 237 members with free legal services for many of the common personal legal issues that people face.

In 1972, New York State Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz issued a report in which he found "...[I]t is a sad and ironic fact of our society today that large segments of the middle income class cannot afford necessary legal services to protect their basic rights and privileges... [and that]... the average moderate wage earner... too often finds himself in a position where his income exceeds maximum levels which would entitle him to free legal aid but is insufficient for him to retain private counsel to represent him."

Within three years of this report being issued, Teamsters Local 237 Trustees, in a groundbreaking move to fill this need,

created the Teamsters Local 237 Legal Services Plan. In the papers that established the Plan in 1975, the Trustees noted that "access to such [legal] services will contribute to the peace of mind and well-being of Eligible Members and their families."

In the fifty years since the Teamsters Local 237 Trustees created the Legal Services Plan (LSP), the LSP attorneys, along with the Legal Secretaries, Receptionists and other administrative staff, have assisted Active Members with over 140,000 cases and Retirees with over 150,000 cases, in eight practice areas. Local 237 Members and Retirees have been able to stay in their apartments, purchase their homes, fight for custody of their children, prepare their wills, make sure they get what they are entitled to in a divorce, and get a fresh start by filing for bankruptcy, among other things, all without having to pay attorney's fees for their lawyer.

This Union was on the vanguard of Legal Services in 1975 and remains at the forefront of this important mission today, as one of only three Unions in the city to provide their members with their own law firm. Workers who do not belong to Local 237, or the other two unions that provide legal services, are still in the same position that AG Lefkowitz bemoaned more than fifty years ago.

Teamsters Local 237 Legal Services Plan is proud to have played a part in "contributing to the peace of mind and well-being" of Union Members for the last half-century and looks forward to continuing to fight for the Members of Local 237. ■



The Importance of Naming a Beneficiary, Your Life Insurance

By Diana Nappi
Director of the Welfare Fund

You think you have everything under control. You work hard, pay your bills on time, invest wisely and have life insurance. What if you passed away tomorrow? Do you know who would inherit your assets?

While not pleasant to consider, should the unthinkable happen, it is critical you are prepared. Part of that preparation is naming a beneficiary for your life insurance.

The Welfare Fund provides a Group Term Policy with Met Life. This benefit is paid to your designated beneficiary at the time of your death. The beneficiary may be any person of your choice. Regular review and updates to beneficiary information are crucial to reflect current intentions, especially after significant life changes, such as divorce, death of original beneficiary or birth of a new child.

You can name a beneficiary by registering on the MetLife website at www.metlife.com/mybenefits 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.

To be in effect, your designation must be on file in the Fund office or with Met Life. 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 Met Life before payment can be made.

If you are unsure of who is listed as your beneficiary, we suggest you complete a new enrollment form or register on the Met Life website.

The current benefit provided under our Group Term Policy is \$15,000 should you the member die. The spousal benefit is \$5,000 if your spouse passes before you. The dependent benefit is \$5,000.

Met Life also offers Voluntary Benefits by payroll deduction. If you are interested in any of these Voluntary benefits please register on the Met Life website at www.metlife.com/mybenefits.

If you require further information or clarification regarding this article, please call the Fund at (212) 924-7220. The Welfare Fund Office is here to help Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm. ■

Continued from page 5

School Safety Agent Graduation

Company 25-01 <u>OCI: SSA-3 L Vereen</u> Fatawu Amuda Abdul Iris Ali Oluwatosin Awoleke Janaya Bennett Jacqueline Bonilla Adashee Conway Stephanie David-Cayetano Mishty Dey Chazzy Escobar Leticia Fraser Janasia Green Kevonna Hercules Jasmine Jones Gurinder Kular Piedad Marcos Timya Miles Delano Patterson Yancarlos Perez Anastasia Pollard Willie Ramos Kingsley Rodgers Dillard Siedah Sanders Dipti Sen Alexus Stephens Starasia Thomas Mekhi Walters Elizabeth Zahuantitla	Juliana Padilla Jadea Pettigrew Sm Rahman Brandan Reid Hrshikesh Roy Javane Sharpe Tishuan Stevenson Tanzania Tisdale Janelle Ward Company 25-03 <u>OCI: SSA-3 J. Watkins</u> Khaled Adi Ummay Zahan Amina Adriana Barnett Josanne Bertrand Robert Brown Robert Cruz Quatasha Davis Kiana Dixon Dominique Fairnot Krystal Garcia Lanasia Green Shimayne Harrington Amandy Lendelborg Michael Mendoza Christian Mitchell Maira Palaguachi Daequan Phillip Bijay Rai Mayara Robinson Keyana Royer Latoy Scott Jennifer Siguenza Armando Stokes Lindsay Todd	Deshaun Harris Fotini Kakouras Sadiq Lewis Briana Merritt Elijah Muhammad David Park Yahiri Peralta-Carmona Iceland Pierre Dezhanae Rainey Quashawn Robinson Aileen Saeteros Natassia Scott-Aillson Austin Simpson Tyquon Stokes Zariah Ukaj Major Dakota Washington Anene Weems Company 25-05 <u>OCI: SSA-3 S. Espejo</u> Yasmine Ajayi Sheila Avila Nermin Baslous Brittany Blackwell Chandrani Chowdhury Damari Dash Julie Derkatch Tatianna Ellis Aniyah Foreman Andy Gomez Virginia Hennegan Zebadiah Isaac Toniann Jenkins-Miles Gurmeet Kaur Theopia Mantack Lee Abrar Miah Edward Olea Nicole Parker Steven Perez Daisy Pilamunga Cesar Ramirez Taquia Robinson Safia Selby Ryan Slowley Laniya Walker Adnie Williams Gayle
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Assistant School Safety Graduation

Gabriel Acevedo Isajah Acevedo Jailene Acosta Cindy Alexander Elaine Antoine Leiann Antoine Mamadou Barry Tiara Burley Dario Caballero Joel Calder Kailey Castillo Jahmir Davidson Jan De la Cruz Salas Ismael Diaz Jeremiah Evans Nykai Falade Kayla Familia Kamayah Forrester Gonzalez Shamah Francis, Jr. Ariel Garcia Gabriel Garcia John Garcia	Amadis Geliga Jason Giron Omar Gondola Daylin Green Manuel Guzman Janae Hall Dave Hill Caron Hudson Jayden Ingram Katherine Jaimas Isun James Aly Kouyate Angelysse Lopez Justin Lopez Caceres Rafael Martinez Kai McClain Ke'Marley McFarlane Daijah McIntosh Destiny McKelvery Cameron McPherson Abigail Mignott Dante Mills	Noel Minaya Nason Palmer Jyqual Parker Brandon Pereyra Kaylan Peters Martin Phillip Jailene Pizarro Wilson Portorreal Raimundo Punnett Keyra Rodriguez Anferni Rosa Haroly Santiago Latrell Smillie Diego St. Catherine Donald Stewart Jalen Tannis Maleyah Taylor Mariah Thomas Jada Trinidad Corinthian Vanhuele Josmar Vicente Isaiah Williams
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Hospital Police Recruit Shield Ceremony

Recruit Class 2025-01 Danalyah Alexander Jalen Almonor Reyna Amaya Mervin Acherley Erick Barahona Lacillia Battle Tiniece Brewster Zayquan Brown-Stancil Dylan Campbell Dalton Campbell Tiffany Castro Diego Cordoba Ramos Jonathan DaSilva Christian Darby Juan Dolores Curtis Edwards Chloe Epps	Joseph Feliciano Elizabeth Figueroa Jose Flores Tahlia Garner Donna Gittens Tanvir Hasan Michael Haz Woody Jasne Tyree Johnson Kiggs Johnson Tayesean Jones Levon Kirkpatrick Devian Laine Trevor Laine Claude Lake Mia Matta Andrew Mendez Donte Mobley	Alannah Morris Tamara Murray Thierry Neptune Frankell Perez Damien Pitters Tesaia Ransom Michael Realini Hector Rodriguez Candice Rushin Letrell Scott Chorae Simmonds Chyna Smith-Williams James Sobers Joseph Stanley Patrice Thieba Sean Wallace Princess Wilder Reion Williams
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CUNY graduates — Class of 01-25

- Luis Ventura, Baruch College
- Efrain Mejia-Napolitano, Borough of Manhattan CC
- Melissa Morales, Bronx Community College
- Kiana Smith-Lyons, City College of New York
- Joel Severino, City College of New York
- Marc Vera, CUNY Graduate Center
- Andres Andagana, CUNY School of Law
- Wilmer Henao, Guttman Community College
- Giuseppe Arcidiacono Morano, Hostos Community College
- Enam Hasan, John Jay College
- Patrice Francis, Kingsborough Community College
- Elaina Johnson, Medgar Evers College
- Adalina Quinones, NYC College of Technology
- Alex Clarke, NYC College of Technology
- Brian Boffill, Queens College
- Subrata Shaha, York College



Social Security Adds 13 Conditions to Compassionate Allowances List Expedites Decisions for People with Severe Disabilities

The Social Security Administration (SSA) today announced the addition of 13 new conditions to the agency's Compassionate Allowances (CAL) list. The CAL initiative accelerates the disability application process for individuals with the most serious diseases and medical conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security's statutory standard for disability benefits.

THE NEWLY ADDED CONDITIONS ARE:

- Au-Kline Syndrome
- Bilateral Anophthalmia
- Carey-Fineman-Ziter Syndrome
- Harlequin Ichthyosis – Child
- Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation
- LMNA-related Congenital Muscular Dystrophy
- Progressive Muscular Atrophy
- Pulmonary Amyloidosis – AL Type
- Rasmussen Encephalitis
- Thymic Carcinoma
- Turnpenny-Fry Syndrome
- WHO Grade III Meningiomas
- Zhu-Tokita-Takenouchi-Kim Syndrome

With the inclusion of these 13 conditions, the CAL list now includes 300 conditions in total. Since the CAL initiative began, over 1.1 million people with severe disabilities have been approved through this accelerated disability process that is fully policy-compliant.

"We are constantly looking for ways to improve our disability programs and serve the public more effectively," said SSA Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano. "By adding these 13 conditions to the Compassionate Allowances list, we are helping more people with devastating diagnoses to quickly receive the support they need. This is part of our broader commitment to making the disability determination process as responsive and compassionate as possible."

When a person applies for disability benefits, Social Security must obtain medical records to make an accurate determination. The agency uses advanced technology to identify potential CAL conditions and expedite claims processing. Although not available in every claim, through the Health IT program, Social Security securely receives electronic medical records, allowing for adjudicators to make faster and more accurate decisions.

For more information about the initiative, including a list of all CAL conditions, please visit www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances.

To learn more about Social Security's Health IT program, please visit www.ssa.gov/hit.

People may apply online for disability benefits by visiting www.ssa.gov.

For more Social Security news, follow the agency on X @SocialSecurity.

Hojas de Otoño, el Ascenso de los Sindicatos

Por Gregory Floyd

El Presidente, Teamsters Local 237 y Vicepresidente General en la Junta General de la Hermandad Internacional de Teamsters

El otoño marca el final del verano y el comienzo de una nueva temporada. Para algunos de nosotros, el cambio viene con un poco de tristeza, debido en parte a contar con menos horas de luz natural y tener a mano nuestra ropa de abrigo en la puerta del closet. Mientras que para otros se recibe al otoño con alivio: no más arena de playa molesta con la que lidiar, ni restos de hamburguesa que raspar de la parrilla. Con Halloween, Día de Acción de Gracias y Navidad asonando en el horizonte, sus fabulosos colores, luces, tradiciones familiares y reuniones hacen de estas festividades algo que muchos esperan con ansias. Comenzarán a montarse las decoraciones, se prepararán las listas de regalos y se desempolvarán las recetas de cocina. Todas tradiciones emocionantes y divertidas.

Pero primero, está el Día del Trabajador. Es el momento en que saludamos a los trabajadores y trabajadoras de todo el país, y les demostramos nuestro apoyo marchando en un desfile para honrar su aporte diario. El Día del Trabajador es único. No es fácil encontrar un feriado en el que confluyan todas las visiones políticas, religiones, razas, etnias y géneros. Tu partido político (seas de izquierda o de derecha) importará poco, ya que lo que más importa es el respeto que le mostramos a nuestros trabajadores, quienes engrandecen a esta ciudad y al país. Por supuesto que no es fácil encontrar un feriado en el que la mayoría de los estadounidenses celebren de manera similar: comiendo un perro caliente o dos, con una mazorca de maíz. Sí, el Día del Trabajador es una rareza: un feriado en el que todos nos podemos poner de acuerdo y para el que no es necesario recibir una invitación.

El Desfile del Día del Trabajador tiene lugar en la Ciudad de Nueva York, el sábado posterior al feriado mismo. Es el desfile más grande y antiguo del país. Lo empezó a celebrar el Consejo Central del Trabajo en 1882, cuando 10.000 trabajadores abandonaron sus puestos de trabajo para celebrar a todos los trabajadores, y marcharon desde el Ayuntamiento de Union Square. Si bien Ralph Chaplin compuso en 1915 el clásico "Solidarity Forever", canción asociada al feriado, para los trabajadores industriales del mundo, su estribillo es tan relevante e importante hoy como lo fue hace 100 años: "Cuando la sangre inspirada de los trabajadores deba correr a través de la unión, no podrá haber poder más grande bajo el sol en la reunión. ¿Por ahora cuál es la fuerza más débil en la tierra que el vigor débil de un individuo solo? Sólo el sindicato nos podrá dar el vigor. Solidaridad para siempre es lo que nos dará la fuerza del honor". El reconocimiento formal de la importancia de los trabajadores llegó en 1894, cuando el Congreso creó el Día del Trabajador, convirtiendo en feriado nacional al primer lunes de cada septiembre. Pero tristemente, lo hizo en respuesta a la muerte de 34 trabajadores huelguistas del Sindicato de Ferroviarios Estadounidenses, a manos de soldados y oficiales del Ejército Estadounidense.

Lamentablemente, la cantidad de afiliados sindicales a nivel nacional ha disminuido desde su pico del 35% en 1954, a poco menos del 10% en la actualidad. Nueva York, no obstante, sigue siendo una potencia del mundo laboral y un modelo de apoyo para nuestros trabajadores. Se encuentra entre los estados con mayor número de trabajadores sindicalizados (cerca del 21%), es decir 65.5% de la mano de obra sindicalizada trabaja en el sector público. Esto es consistente con el hecho de que el porcentaje nacional de afiliación sindical en el sector público es aproximadamente cinco veces mayor que en el sector privado. La población afroamericana constituye la mayor porción de ese grupo.

Pero en la actualidad, tras un descanso de décadas, la afiliación sindical tanto en el sector público y el privado está mostrando signos de recuperación, para desafiar los intentos de atacar y hacer fracasar a los sindicatos. Y es aquí donde las uniones sindicales brillan en su máxima expresión, como en la destacada victoria de los trabajadores de Amazon en Staten Island, quienes buscaban sindicalizarse. No fue un logro menor. Hace apenas algunos años, la recientemente conformada Unión de Trabajadores de Amazon (ALU) ni siquiera existía. Christian Smalls, quien trabaja como operador de almacén en Amazon Staten Island, lideró huelga para protestar contra las deplorables condiciones del lugar de trabajo en los cuidados de COVID-19. En sus anotaciones, el equipo de abogados de Amazon describió a Smalls como: "Alguien que no es inteligente ni articulado. En la medida en que la prensa lo pinte como un enfrenamiento entre él y nosotros, nosotros tendremos mucha mejor publicidad". ¡Wow!, no sólo despreciaron la causa Smalls como algo insignificante, sino que tildaron de manera arrogante a este joven afroamericano de bruto e incapaz de organizar. Además, pensaron que realmente podían utilizarlo como un recurso publicitario antisindical. Amazon lo despidió, pero su estrategia se les volvió en contra, ya que las repercusiones se han sentido por toda la nación. Hoy, la Unión de Trabajadores de Amazon se ha unido con orgullo a la familia de Camioneros. De hecho, las encuestas recientes muestran que la afiliación sindical se está incrementando.

Por ende, a pesar de los obstáculos, estamos en el umbral de retomar nuestra misión de ayudar a construir la clase media de los Estados Unidos. Somos tanto la baqueta como la pistola. Somos el puente hacia el Sueño Americano. Luchamos por los derechos de los trabajadores mientras los ayudamos a crear un pie de igualdad, en el que el Sueño Americano no sea exclusiva propiedad del 1% empresario. La Local 237 agradecemos a nuestros miembros activos y jubilados por los esfuerzos incansables que destinan en nombre de tantos neoyorquinos, cuyas vidas y seguridad financiera dependen de que los organismos municipales operen continuamente pese a los desafíos. Como dijo el expresidente Barack Obama: "Cuando los tiempos son duros, no nos rendimos. Nos levantamos". Eso es precisamente lo que los empleados públicos hicieron y continúan haciendo. No olvidemos que durante el pico de la pandemia, en una época de dolor incommensurable, cunado un virus inesperado y altamente contagioso conmocionó al mundo entero y a los miembros de nuestro sindicato, fueron éstos y otros miles de trabajadores del sector público quienes no se rindieron. Se levantaron y fueron a trabajar. Durante esta época en que nos vimos inmersos en terror y muchos nos paralizamos de miedo, y que para algunos significó perderse el abrazo final, el adiós o los sacramentos para ir con Dios, estos trabajadores municipales esenciales ocu-



Desfile del Día del Trabajo de la Ciudad de Nueva York - 2025

Fotografías tomadas por: Ken Roper, Agente de la Local 237 y Auxiliar del Presidente

paban sus puestos de trabajo. En la actualidad, mientras siguen nuestros esfuerzos revivir la Ciudad, el Estado y la nación, los trabajadores públicos continúan siendo un componente esencial de la recuperación y la reconstrucción.

Es por eso que el Día del Trabajador es tan importante. Reconocer los esfuerzos de los trabajadores (especialmente los del sector público), es una satisfacción bien merecida. Pero también sirve para enviar un mensaje a nuestros líderes electos, a candidatos políticos, a las grandes empresas y al público general: Pueden atacarnos. Pueden intentar arruinarlos. Pero nos necesitan. Y cuando ven las palabras "Hecho por Trabajadores de la Unión", también significan "La Unión es Fuerte". Somos un movimiento, no tan solo un momento. ■



VER FOTOGRAFÍAS ADICIONALES EN LA PÁGINA DESPLEGABLE

Keeping you in the know



Labor Values & Personal Values

By Karla Steinberg, MSW

Membership Social Worker

The earliest known labor unions began in England, in the 18th century. In the United States, the first recorded strike was in 1768, in New York, in protest of wage reductions for “journeymen tailors.” You may already know the purpose of the Labor movement was to ensure better wages, improve work conditions, and ensure fair treatment, in addition to “power in numbers” through collective bargaining. A lot of these values also carry over into social work.

Much of the work I do with members is around boundary setting, and I often describe boundary setting as an acknowledgement or “knowing your worth,” or to carry on the labor theme, “better wages.” People often conflate “boundaries” with “walls.” It is more accurate to think of a boundary as a door. While walls are impenetrable, doors can let people in or see them on their way. Boundary setting is a way to establish and retain your self-worth (how you expect to be treated, spoken to, etc.) from others, in exchange for a relationship with you, and how you will in turn, treat others.

Connecting the theme of “self-worth” into the value of “improved conditions,” is easy. These go hand in hand. If boundaries are the “how” of initiating the respect and standards, then “improving conditions” is the “why.” When we accept accountability, we are modeling how to acknowledge how we have gone wrong, with or without intention, and own up to it. These humbling moments are opportunities for growth and exemplify maturity, and our humanity. Not one of us is perfect, and all of us know that. Accountability is simply acknowledging that, and saying, “I’m sorry that happened; I’m going to work on that.” Accountability can go a long way both in personal and professional life.

You are likely to be treated fairly, in accordance with your own appropriate and realistic boundaries in place. Everyone wants to be treated fairly, and it can be injurious when it doesn’t happen, especially in relationships. This is why we need boundaries!

Take the following example. Person A says to person B, “I’m having a party this Saturday at 5. I’d love it if you came.” Person B responds, “sure, can I bring my dog? I hate to leave her alone, and she’ll be well behaved.” Person A has a choice to make. Option 1: “Sure, thing. No problem.” 2. “She can come, but please make sure she stays off the furniture and doesn’t use my kitchen floor as her bathroom!” 3. She can come if she stays off the furniture and is potty trained, but if she can’t, I will need to ask you to leave.” (Or “she’ll not be allowed back” or another consequence). 4. “No, that doesn’t work for me.” The first option offers no input. The second is a request. Option 3 is a boundary, and 4 is a flat no (which is a full sentence), but not a clearly defined boundary, per se. We have more control over our experiences than we realize, and boundaries are an excellent way achieve that balance.

¹ Biscontini, T. (2022). “Strike Action”: <https://ebSCO.com/research-starters/social-sciences-and-humanities/strike-action>



To the families of Local 237 members who are no longer with us, and to our members who have suffered a loss, please know that we share your sorrow and hope that fond memories will offer you peace and comfort. – President Gregory Floyd, the Executive Board and Staff



Civil Service Exams: 101

By Shanell Grayson

Director of Training and Education

DCAS has just announced its yearly civil service exam schedule. Although more than 80% of city workers must take a civil service exam, preventable mistakes have cost our loyal members money, time, and sometimes even their jobs.

If an exam you plan to take has been announced, please read these helpful facts carefully **before** paying for or applying for an exam.

1. Always read the Notice of Exam (NOE) in its entirety, as well as any listed qualifications. If you are not qualified, DCAS will not issue a refund, and your name will not be added to the civil service list.
2. Provisional employees must become civil service to retain their title. Keep taking any relevant civil service exams, even if you’re still waiting on another list. You are not guaranteed a permanent position until you are offered one.
3. You can request an accommodation if you have a disability or need an alternate test date. Approved reasons include religious observance, temporary illness, or a physical or learning disability. Detailed instructions can be found on DCAS’ website.
4. Triple check that you are applying for the correct exam. Exam types include open and competitive, promotional, and qualified incumbent. A title may also have an exam for only a specific agency such as CUNY or HHC.
5. When in doubt, ask for help. **Before** paying for an exam, you should seek assistance at any of DCAS’ testing centers or by contacting the Education Department.

As always, we look forward to serving you!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH... IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Gregory Barnes - Caretaker X

I’ve been with NYCHA since 2018. I have attended several classes offered by Local 237’s Education Department. One of which was Defensive Driving. I learned that pedestrians have a lot of right of way rights! I also learned how to make non-emotional decisions to avoid road rage. The other classes that I have attended were: Basic and Advanced computer classes; CPR; Mental Health Seminars; Stair Climbing and How to deal with difficult people, just to name a few. The Union offers classes to help keep the members focused on work and how to be safe on the job. The Union introduces you to various skill sets, and challenges beyond the limits of a laborer.



Sandrine Quedraogo - Housing Assistant

It is truly an honor to be selected as Student of the Month, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Local 237’s Education Team for this recognition. Local 237’s classes were excellent and highly beneficial. The training covered a range of topics, including written expression and attention to detail, math review, quantitative analysis and interpretation, business writing, critical thinking, and customer service skills. I learned a great deal from these courses, and the knowledge that I have gained, played an important role in helping me achieve a strong score on the housing exam!

Education Department’s FREE Courses

CIVIL SERVICE EXAM PREP CLASSES

- Housing Manager (September)
 - Associate School Food Service Manager (October)
 - Elevator Mechanic (October)
 - Stock Worker (November)
 - Plasterer (December)
- Visit nyc.gov/examsforjobs for details.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- Defensive Driving NY (October)
 - > 10% off insurance
 - > 4 points off license

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Teamsters International Scholarship
 - > High School Seniors
 - > JRHMSF.org
- Union Plus Scholarship
 - > Members and their families
 - > Unionplus.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- Advanced Computer Skills (October)
- Shop Steward Training #3 (November) (For Current Shop Stewards ONLY)

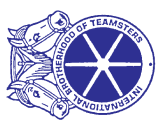
Scan the QR Code to register now.



Email: training@local237.org

COURSES AT PARTICIPATING UNIONS

- GED Prep
 - > 1199: (212) 894-4362
 - > UAW: (212) 228-0041
- English and Spanish Courses
 - > 1199: (212) 494-0525



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FALL 2025

DATED MATERIAL

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