



LOCAL 237

NEWSLINE

Vol. 56, No. 1

Spring 2022

Spring has Sprung!

Remember! Rebuild! Rejoice!

"Nature's way of saying Let's Party"

"A season for the soul to regain its strength."



"Hope and Inspiration"

"New Beginnings"

THANK YOU SCHOOL SAFETY AGENTS!!!!

Local 237 Member Services

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

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HOUSING, 2nd Fl.

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Carl Giles, Housing Director

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100 West Main Street, Babylon,
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and resources. The union knows that
its members have tough jobs and
that when encountering tough per-
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Phyllis S. Shafran, Coordinator

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CSBA Welfare Fund
Alicare 866-647-4617

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Website: www.local237.org

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Brooklyn, NY 11201-3751

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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

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718-935-5400

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A message from the President

The Hope of Spring – Growth and Change –

By Gregory Floyd

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

Singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow memorably said about spring: “No matter how chaotic it is, wildflowers will still spring up in the middle of nowhere.” In our 2-year battle with Covid 19, her comment is most fitting. And both Mother Nature and human nature seem to agree since buds appear on the branches, daylight lasts a little longer, and we push our snow boots and earmuffs to the back of the closet. As the Covid chaos seems to be subsiding, allowing restrictions to ease, the feeling is that spring has sprung, ushering in new beginnings, a sense of hope and inspiration.

So much has been written about the season. Toni Morrison, the recipient of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature, wrote: “When spring comes to the City, people notice one another in the road; notice the strangers with whom they share aisles and tables... 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.” Even comedian Robin Williams had an opinion on spring, calling it, “Nature’s way of saying *Let’s Party*.”

It is 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. 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 holidays, festivals, nature, and history converge with a resounding message of hope. They 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 provided comfort to many who had lost faith in the gods of Rome. It spreads the message that the death of one has the capacity to save many. Passover summons Jews collectively into the world to repair it. Among its messages is that a tyrant-like Pharaoh could be overthrown. A nation as powerful as ancient 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 Jr. 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, 1968, to support sanitation workers protesting their meager wages of \$1.65 an hour and deplorable working conditions, contained the prophetic line: “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 narrow focus of his allies with: “We have moved into an era where we are called upon to raise certain basic questions about the whole society.”

We hope that the history of our nation continues to reflect the rebirth that is springtime and acknowledges Dr. King’s admonition that “change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle.” ■



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YOU ARE NEWSWORTHY!

We want to hear from you!

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special accomplishments, family news, etc.

Email pshafran@local237.org or call Phyllis Shafran at 646-638-8501

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Citiwide Division

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:

Cook Chill Workers



(l-r) Mr. Lee and Curtis Scott, Trustee and Business Agent.



(l-r) Business Agent George Wade and Ray Delvalle.



Remone Williams, Cook.



(l-r) Gary Tyler, George Wade and Carlton Chamberlain.



(l-r) Remone Williams, Erica Lemons, Cook and Curtis Scott.



(l-r) Masdelyn De la Cruz, Cook and Curtis Scott.

Metropolitan Hospital Maintenance Workers



(l-r) Curtis Scott, Michael Sokolowski, James Kemmler, Jose Cedeno, Andrew Gordon and Derrick James.

T-Shirts To Be Worn With Pride



Boneface Teshuo Tenkano, Radiographer and Shop Steward, Jacobi Hospital with George Wade (l).



Tino Amoroso (r) and Mark Sipzner (c) Shop Steward at NYPD Woodside Garage with George Wade (l).



NYPD's Forensic Labs, CI3 Jeron Reed, CI2 Lourdes Molina, CI1 Corrine Murphy, CI1 Regina Cook.



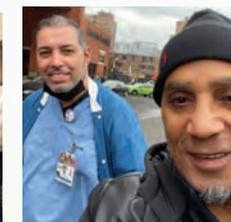
East New York Diagnostic Center: (l-r) Janae Johnson, Maintenance Worker; Dale Marino, Stockworker.



(l-r) James Young, Shop Steward and Patrick Linton, Radiology Techs at Kings County Hospital deliver shirts.



George Wade (l), Grace Igbokwe and Siaba Swaray, Ultrasound Techs.



George Wade (l) and Richard Pratts, Radiographer and Shop Steward at Lincoln Hospital.



George Wade (l) and Leroy Anderson, Supervisor Stockworker.



DCAS plasterer Johnny Figueroa.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Law Enforcement Division

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:

CUNY Clothing Drive



Bronx Community College and other CUNY Colleges organized a collection of clothing for those affected by the worst Bronx fire since 1911, at E. 181st Street in Fordham Heights.

Honoring Legends



Local 237 and Brooklyn South Command honored 3 individuals who collectively complete 143 years of service. (l-r) **Derek Jackson, Director, Law Enforcement Division, SSA Alcides Sharpe - 50 years, SSA Alberto Camacho - 42 years, SSA3 James Brown - 41 years** and **Business Agent Derek Short.**



Charlie Cotto, Business Agent (l) with Bronx Regional HS Principal **Colin Thomas.**



Bronx East at Lehman HS: SSA's were honored as agents of the month.



DOE Chancellor **David Banks (c)** at Julia Richman HS with SSA's.



(l-r) FJC Guard **Ronisha Morris, Special Officer Karen Marshall, Sgt. April Lewis, FJC Severna Fuddock.**

Community Outreach Project: Protecting and Connecting



P.O. **Woody (l)** of 120 Pct. Community Affairs teamed up with SSA's **David Perez (2nd from left)** and **Nicole Meachum (r)** of the Staten Island Task-force to speak to parents during a Town Hall meeting at PS/IS 25. Educational visionary and Site Coordinator, **Esrom Johnson**, invited them to speak about Social Media Awareness and Cyberbullying as well as youth programs.

SSAs and Mayor Adams



Look who PBSI/SSD/MTF ran into at IS 61 Staten Island while on patrol. (l-r) **SSA3 Chambliss, NYC Mayor Adams, SSA Meachum, SSA Robinson, SSA Carrington, PO Woody.**

"No One Eats Alone" Lunch

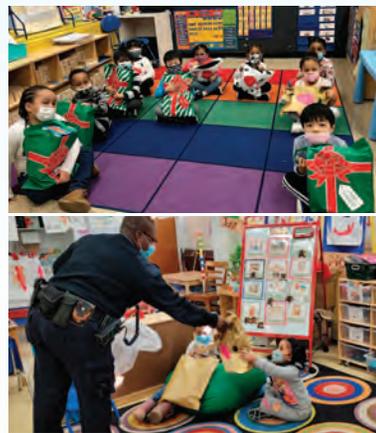


SSA/SCA Miller with help from **SSA Lightly** and **SSA3 Sims** coordinated a "No One Eats Alone" lunch for the kids of Port Richmond High School.

SSA Toy Drives



LYFE Center at Independence. **SSA3 Brown, SSA1 Cruz, SSA1 Chatman, SSA1 McCrorey.**



SSA1 Whyte at P.S. 126.



SSA1 Garavino, Manhattan South Community Outreach Liaison, with P.S. 140 Pre-K class.

Baby Shower



Business Agent Kangela Moore (l) congratulates **CUNY Peace Officer Catherine Harris** on the upcoming arrival of her baby boy.

Our Everyday Hero!



On Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at approximately 5:10pm, **Campus Peace Officer, Sergeant Elaine Lopez** from Kingsborough Community College, responded to a student who attempted suicide. While attending to the student's self-inflicted injuries, Sgt. Lopez observed the student removing a blade from his pocket in an attempt to cause further injury. Sgt. Lopez was able to disarm the weapon without causing further harm to the student, herself and those near the incident. We are proud to say that Sgt. Elaine Lopez is our Everyday Hero!



President Gregory Floyd (Santa), SSA3 Charles Green, and Charlie Cotto.

SI Canned Donation



March 13, 2022: PSAL basketball playoffs at City College. (l-r) **Charlie Cotto, Chancellor David Banks, and SSA3 Terrence Elmore.**

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Law Enforcement Division

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:

Administration for Children's Services Police Officers salute Commissioner David Hansell on his final walkout



(l-r) Lt. Carlos Delarosa, PO Tanya Johnson, Sgt. Julian Martinez, Capt. Peter Femia, Sgt. Tremaine Hayward, PO Lisa Moore-Harris, Sgt. Tiffany Evans.



Supervising Special Officer SSAI, Denise Winn, of Elmhurst Hospital with Mayor Eric Adams during the Mayor's visit to the hospital facility.

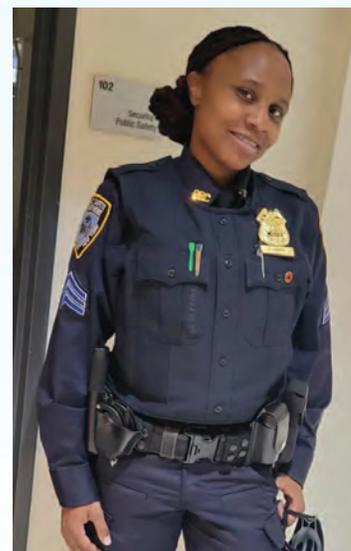
Campus Peace Officer Graduation Ceremony



Gregory Floyd addresses the graduates.



Local 237 President, Gregory Floyd, Instructor Thomas Rodriguez, University Director of CUNY Public Safety André Brown and Instructor Theresa Nichiporuk and Derek Jackson, Director Law Enforcement Division.



Shayolanda Lewis started at Baruch College Public Safety on February 9, 2012 after being a Contract Guard and becoming a Campus Security Assistant. Since starting at Baruch she has moved up the ladder to become a Campus Peace Officer, EMT, CPR Instructor, a Defensive Tactics & ASP Baton Instructor (only female in the class) most recently promoted to Sergeant.



At the Javits Center, David Cofield (l) and William Hislip (r) with Derek Jackson, Director, Law Enforcement Division.



New scooter at Jacobi Hospital. (l-r)Derek Jackson, Officer Cortijo, and Charlie Cotto.



On Feb 28, 2022 Lt. Edgardo Marrero (l) was promoted to Captain with Charlie Cotto, Business Agent Law Enforcement Division on hand.



On March 24, 2022, 157 new School Safety Agents graduated at One Police Plaza.

Local 237 NEWSLINE

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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.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

NYCHA Workers

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:



Claremont Houses staff gather together to welcome their new Safety Associate, **Taniqua Steele** (front row, 3rd from left).



Deshon Hopkins, Assistant Superintendent, Fulton Houses. "As an assistant superintendent, I try to empower my staff and encourage solidarity here at Fulton Houses."



Christopher Lloyd, Caretaker I, Fulton Houses. "It feels great working hand in hand with so many of my teamster brothers and sisters."



Newly appointed Assistant Manager, **Runey Francis** of MAR/Jackson Houses is proud to be a Teamster.



Carl Giles, Director of Housing (c) with Elevator Mechanic **Anathanael Sanchez** (l) and **Duley Hart** (r) at Highbridge House, proudly wearing their Teamster shirts.



Mill Brook Houses' staff was delighted to receive their Local 237 shirts.



Latisha Davis, Caretaker I, Wald Houses. "I wear my teamster shirt with pride."



(l-r) **Tatianna Henry Bean, Safety Associate** and **Eddie Mercado, Shop Steward, Wald Houses.** "We work together and with our union to create a peaceful and safe work environment for our co-workers."



New Housing Assistant **Christina Feliciano.**



SOC Linnette Maeztre (r) welcomes the new **SOG Daniel Perez** to Melrose Houses.



Maintenance Workers assigned to Pelham Parkway Houses, **Mr. Jose Rodriguez** (l) and **Mr. Jose Gomez** (r).



Housing Assistant, Ms. Joy Tynes, assigned to Castle Hill Houses, operating the switchboard providing customer service to NYCHA residents.



Heating Plant Technician, Renay Macklin was delighted to receive her Local 237 t-shirt.



Housing Assistant Ebony Wilson of Mitchell Houses.



Housing Assistants, Ms. Sheneia Mack (l) and **Ms. Carol Copeland** (r), retired effective 2/2022, from Fort Independence Houses, sharing #Teamstersunited smiles w/ **Business Agent Ms. Bianca Jones** (c).



Business Agent Norberto Luna honors recently made **Caretaker P, Larry Blanco** with a plaque for years of hard work and dedication as a Safety Associate.



Caretaker P, Jovonn Spivey assigned to the Bronx Borough.



Caretaker P, Ms. Monique Burrell assigned to the Bronx Borough receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from **Business Agent, Ms. Bianca Jones.**



Layla St. Hilaire, Housing Assistant, Wald Houses "I love being a teamster and helping serve my residents."



Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Juan Sierra assigned to Sackwern/ Clason Point Garden.



David Feliciano assigned to Sackwern / Clason Point Gardens.



Superintendent, Mr. Terrell Alderman assigned to Pelham Parkway House.

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:

Congratulations!



Local 237 Director of Housing Carl Giles (l) honors SOC Luther Gilletie of Castle Hill Houses (r) with a retirement plaque.



Maintenance Worker of 1010 Consolidated, Luis Jusino, who started in March 25, 1985, retired March 1, 2022.



Donald Arnold, Secretary-Treasurer on the Executive Board and Citywide Director, with retired Elevator Mechanic Billy O'Brien from DCAS.



Roxanne Denny, Retired 1/26/22.



Queens SSA3 Jewell Hudson, Retired, 1/21/2022, with President Gregory Floyd.



Business Agent Derek Short with Agent Sabrina Chandler-Jackson who has served the families of Brownsville, Brooklyn for 35 years at PS 155.



Sgt. Donna Woodfine from Lincoln Hospital is retiring on 12/31/21 after 36 years of service.



George Perry, Retired 11/16/2021.



Kaaron Hurley, School Food Training Manager, Retired 1/28/22, after nearly 50 years!



David Wilson, Retired 3/12/22.



School Safety Sergeant Peter Usher retired 3/4/22 after 33 years of service in Brooklyn North, honored by the agents of the 73rd Precinct.



(l-r) Jeannette Taveras, Recording Secretary of the Executive Board and Business Agent, SSA3 Neville and CO Lightsey.



(l-r) Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement, SSA Cuello, and SSA3 Neville, of Manhattan North Command.



Local 237 Liaison SSA3 Derek Nevelle of Manhattan South retired.

TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 237
 City Employees Union

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volunteers can help you score

every tax benefit you're due.

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Local 237 Spring Celebrations

Moving on with hope in our hearts

JANUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

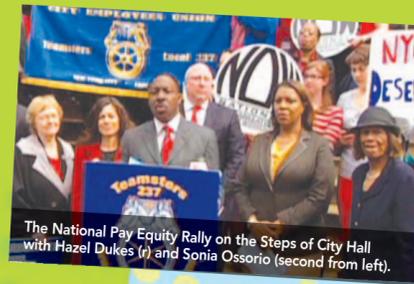
"YOU CAN KILL THE DREAMER BUT NOT THE DREAM."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR



FEBRUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
7	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	28					

Black History Month



The National Pay Equity Rally on the Steps of City Hall with Hazel Dukes (r) and Sonia Ossorio (second from left).



Left to right, the late Corinthians Andrews, Bernice Christopher and Patricia Williams.

MARCH						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
7	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	28	29	30	31		

Women's History Month



Marie Colvin - courageous in the face of danger.

Dr. King: Still Making The Impossible Happen

Around this time of year, many people pause to consider the true legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Some will conjure up his nearly endless wisdom-packed, insightful words as evidence of his greatness: "You can kill the dreamer but not the dream," "The impossible just takes a little longer," or perhaps the most prophetic of his words, uttered at the Mason Temple in Memphis 54 years ago, where he spoke on behalf of striking sanitation workers protesting their meager wages of \$1.65 an hour and deplorable working conditions. It was there that he said: "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.

Indeed, civil rights, voters rights and workers rights are intertwined. Dr. King knew this and ultimately died fighting for equality and dignity in the workplace. As we celebrate his birth and prepare for February Black History Month commemorations, we must consider the obvious question: How far have we really come in turning Dr. King's momentous 1963 "I have a dream" speech at the National Mall into a reality? Some would say the answer is just as obvious as the question — not far enough. One newspaper headline sums it all up: "MLK family asks for no celebration until lawmakers pass voting rights legislation" (Amsterdam News, January 11, 2022). And there have been many other telling insights. For example, during the April 3, 2018 commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King, an adorable little 9 year-old girl came to the mic, standing on a box to reach it. She was greeted with thunderous applause as an overflowing crowd waited to hear what she had to say. Little Yolanda King, standing in the very same spot her grandfather stood 54 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!" From the stage, she could see thousands of people, many of them not too much older than her. They carried signs reading "Enough Is Enough" and "Stop Killing Us". Yolanda then went on

to lead the crowd in the roaring chant: "Spread the word. Have you heard. All across the nation, we are going to be a great generation." Later, in an interview on CNN, Yolanda was asked what her grandfather would have thought about other current protest movements like "Black Lives Matter", "Me Too" and "DACA"? She said her grandfather would be so amazed to see all these people coming together.

It is interesting to note that with all three major TV networks at the time (ABC, CBS and NBC) airing Dr. King's speech, and although he was already a national figure by then, it was the first time many Americans — reportedly including President John F. Kennedy — had heard him deliver an entire speech. Kennedy was assassinated less than three months later, but his successor, Lyndon Johnson, would go on to sign into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, marking the most significant advances in civil rights legislation since Reconstruction.

With so many challenges confronting us today — some new, others lingering for decades, from Covid to gun violence to voting rights, an analysis of Dr. King's true legacy is made even more difficult to accurately define. But one theme seems to bind all his accomplishments together: An inspiration to ingrain in people the commitment to do what's right when you've been wronged, and to draw upon the best instincts of each generation. Dr. King still brings people together. Yolanda was right. He'd be amazed at how many people — from so many different backgrounds — are tuned in and turned on to trying to make the impossible happen.

Senator Chuck Schumer, the Senate majority leader, had set the deadline date of Monday, January 17, when the nation observes Dr. King's birthday, for the passage of the new voting rights protection legislation, The Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Advancement Act, both keys to fulfilling Dr. King's magnificent legacy. Sadly, that did not occur, but the effort is not over — the struggle continues — and we are confident that the impossible can still happen. ■

February: A Month To Grow

February has been described as the border between winter and spring. To former major league baseball player and manager, Whitey Herzog, the month of February had even greater importance. As Herzog put it: "You sweat the free agent thing in November, then you make the trades in December, then you struggle to sign the guys left in January, and in February, I get down to sewing all the new numbers on the uniforms." The takeaway is that, although February is the month with the fewest days, it's not short on significant days... days of fun and folly, and days of remembrance, reflection, and religious observance.

February is also the month where we look to a groundhog to forecast our future... which recently turned out to be a most dangerous job for at least one groundhog who was dropped on his big day and is now a deceased weather prognosticator. February has many other special days, leaning more to lighthearted observances such as Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, Bubble Gum Day, and Margarita Day. Then there's Super Bowl Sunday, a national, all-inclusive "holiday" of sorts celebrated from coast to coast and where the commercials and halftime are sometimes talked about as much as the main event. From Oscar night to Valentine's Day, to Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, to two Presidents' birthdays celebrated in one day, to a two-week celebration of the Lunar New Year, to two weeks of Winter Olympics, to the once in four-years, add-a-day to the month, Leap Year, February has more than 30 different days on which someone, somewhere in our nation, observes a special occasion.

Then there's February, Black History Month. It's a time to celebrate and educate. It's a time to acknowledge the accomplishments, delight in a rich heritage and retell the history of a people too often forgotten, mistreated, and misunderstood. The originators of the idea for a Black history celebration were historians Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, and his associate, Jesse E. Moorland. They created the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, to promote black history and recognize achievements of African Americans. But they knew that was not enough. As Woodson

argued, "If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition; it is a negligible factor in the thoughts of the world and stands in danger of being exterminated." So, in 1926, they launched "Negro History Week", on the second week of February, because both President Abraham Lincoln's and abolitionist Frederick Douglass' birthdays coincided. But it took 50 years for the week to become a month when President Gerald Ford created Black History Month in 1976.

Today, Black History Month is not without controversy. To some critics, the argument goes that empowerment is not accomplished by one month of recognition. Some find it outdated, only symbolic, not necessary, and even separatist. For me, there is no controversy. Black History Month is not about validation, it's about involvement; it's about action. It's both a time of recognition and a call to duty. In labor unions, there's an important organizing principle used to increase our numbers, demonstrate power and harvest our next generation of unionists—which is applicable here. Especially in order to grow a cadre of potential leaders who will take us to the next plateau, we must inspire and excite young people. We must also remember and thank those who have led the way with words and actions that changed history. Surely, there is tremendous wisdom in the words of Winston Churchill, who said: "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." The celebration of February as Black History Month should not be about avoiding mistakes, but instead, about creating more accomplishments, breaking more barriers, and earning the respect of all people. Traditionally, February is the month for acknowledging "The Best" in many categories, so, let's use the occasion to honor our own list of "Best In Class" and work to add more names to it. For sure, the list is already long with many giants and "firsts" among them including Dr. King, President Obama, and (hopefully) the next Justice of the Supreme Court. But Black History Month—which remembers the past, celebrates the present and looks to the future—should also be a time that helps to motivate our next generation of champions in the struggle for equality and dignity. The list is never too long. ■

Thank you! Marie, Pat, Bernice, Corinthians, Hazel, Sonia and You

Across the nation, throughout the month of March, there will be various celebrations to mark the accomplishments of women in America. Due to Covid 19, some of those celebrations may be scaled back or done by means other than in-person events; but, nonetheless, the spirit and sentiment expressed will not be diminished. Local 237 also has a tradition of recognizing the contributions of women in our society, especially among our own members. Our last, pre-Covid event was extra-special because we paid tribute to a woman known by the world, who was also one of our own. Marie Colvin.

Marie Colvin was a war correspondent. She wrote about innocent women and children caught in the crossfire of civil war. Her bravery was legendary. A movie, "A Private War", told the real-life story of Marie Colvin, portrayed by Rosamund Pike, that depicted her life behind enemy lines covering stories of human suffering that many did not want told, in dangerous locations, where few would dare to go. It was actually a sentence in one of the movie's reviews that caused us to wonder about a possible link to Teamsters Local 237. Our research paid off because we discovered that fresh out of college, she was hired by Local 237 to write our newsletter. Marie Colvin was a Teamster! Her family told us that she wore our lapel pin proudly. One could easily imagine her today, condemning the bombing of a children's hospital in Ukraine—if she were still alive. Marie's journalistic diligence caused her to lose her eye at the hands of Sri Lankan terrorists in 2001, then her life, at age 56 in 2012, killed by a senior Syrian military officer to silence her.

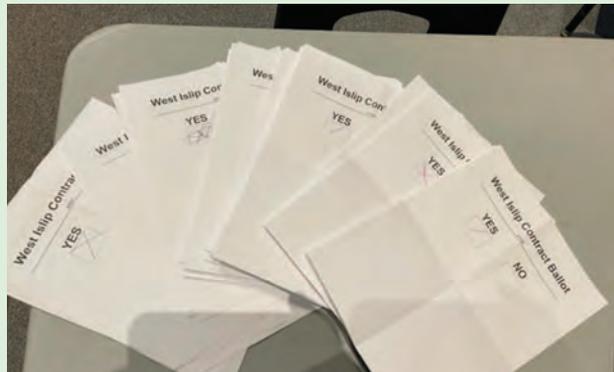
And as proud as we are of Marie, there are several other Teamster women who have done remarkable things on different battle grounds. For example: In March of 2010, Local 237 sued New York City on behalf of our 5,000 School Safety Agents, 70% of whom were women, mostly African-Americans and Latinas. Many were single mothers. Their annual salary was about \$7,000 less than their counterparts, with similar titles, working in other City agencies. Most of them were male. Some called this just a coincidence. I called it discrimination! School Safety Agents have a tough

job to do. They help to protect other peoples' children. All they wanted was to put bread on the table for their own children. So I called a meeting of School Safety Agents to tell them about my plan to sue the City. I told them that we needed some volunteers to sign the papers and be the official plaintiffs. Of the 25 women in the room, 22 left. But three remained: Patricia Williams, Bernice Christopher and the late Corinthians Andrews. And for four years, these three gave testimony after testimony. They refused any settlement that did not include retirees. They took days off from work. They took time away from being with their families. They came to our many rallies. And at those rallies, we felt pretty much alone. Yes, we did have support from several elected officials, but our constant allies who were always there for us boiled down to two people: Hazel Dukes, President of the NYS NAACP and Sonia Ossorio, President of the NYC Chapter of NOW. I remember the day of the judge's final ruling. Pat, Bernice and Corinthians came into the courthouse and knelt in prayer before they took their seats. Perhaps there was a little divine intervention, but with the help of Hazel and Sonia, an historic settlement was reached.

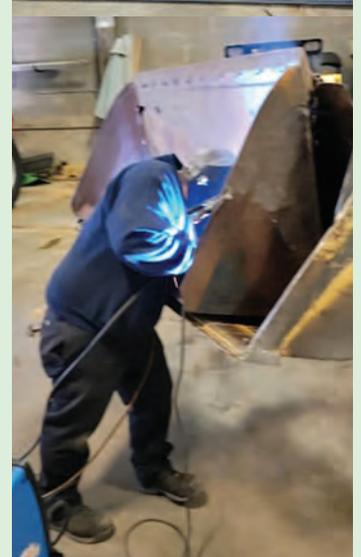
Clearly, throughout our nation, for Women's History Month, there is no shortage of extraordinary, trailblazing women to honor for their contributions and personal sacrifices that resulted in life-changing conditions benefitting all of us. Throughout the pandemic as well as the most recent effort to diminish the role of School Safety Agents in our public schools, so many of our women members were an integral part of our union's overall efforts to keep the City functioning and schools safe. For us, it is not difficult to identify women who should be honored during Women's History Month. We are especially blessed to have among our own members, and our friends, women who care about others and want everyone else to care too. That's who they are. That's their legacy. And we take pride in knowing them. Thank you, Marie, Pat, Bernice, Corinthians, Hazel, Sonia and so many others who are the personification of our better angels. ■



LONG ISLAND REPORT



West Islip Secretarial Unit ratifies its first Teamster contract. It was an overwhelming 100% yes vote. Special thanks to the committee members, **Luann Stein Dunne, Ruth, Annmarie and Michele. James Versocki**, our attorney, did a great job and we all appreciate that. Overall, it was a good experience and we are happy that we could attain things the members wanted. Liaison Luann Dunne always advocates for the members and it shows by all the happy faces. Thanks again and congrats on the contract!



West Islip members **Tom and Jon** rebuild a skid steer bucket. In-house talented Teamsters. Great job!



Congrats to new Local 237 member **Brandon Beatty**, who worked his way up from a sub, part timer to now permanent in Commack.



(l-r) Elwood Shop Steward **Joe Catarelli** and **James Stockman** enjoying hero for the upcoming holiday.

Retirement Congratulations



Seated is **John Sullivan**, carpenter for Town of Babylon DPW B&G Division, with 38 years of service, retired on 3/8/22, surrounded by fellow B&G workers.

Retirement Congratulations



(l-r) Sign Shop/Street Lighting workers **Kevin O'Shaughnessy, John Farrell, Michael Sollo, and Stephen Peacock** — holding plaque commemorating 37 years of service with the Town of Babylon Sign Shop, retired on 1/14/22. **John Wilson** and **Carmine Demeri** are pictured on right.



Great night celebrating **Jimmy McGarry's** retirement party with his Islip Resource Recovery co-workers and family. Congrats!



Guy Caputo, Sanitation Site Crew Leader for the Town of Babylon D.E.C. Landfill, with 39 years of service, retired on 1/7/22.



Town of Babylon DPW Highway Division **James Greco** (center with dark glasses and cap) surrounded by DPW Highway workers. James retired on 1/31/22 with over 34 years of service for the Highway Department.



George Gardella, recently retired from the Town of Babylon B&G Division, after more than 34 years, is surrounded (l-r) by **Louis Bernard, Kenneth McGowan** and **Steven Mikle**.



Business Agent **Scott Dimperio** presented **Joe Ramsharan** a retirement plaque after many years of service to the Brentwood School District. Congrats Joe!

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

Sean O'Brien and General Executive Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Begin Five-Year Term

Sean O'Brien became the 11th General President at a swearing-in ceremony held on March 22nd, 2022 at the Washington DC headquarters of the IBT. General Secretary-Treasurer **Fred Zuckerman** and the newly elected General Executive Board, including Local 237's own President, **Gregory Floyd** (first row, 3rd from left), who was elected as International Vice President At-Large, also took the oath of office. Following the swearing-in, O'Brien and his team went straight to work, holding their first board meeting to discuss the priorities of the new administration. ■



For Ourselves, Our Colleagues and Our Planet...

By **Saul Fishman**
CSBA President

As we move our clocks forward and “Spring ahead”(actually, most of our digital devices do this automatically), now is the perfect time to think about our work-life balance. Yes, we work hard, no matter the season. Whenever possible, we adhere to deadlines, despite the very full workloads burdening the vast majority of us. This often requires working overtime, sometimes paid in cash, sometimes via compensatory (“comp”) time, and sometimes (hopefully on rare occasion), not reported or compensated at all. If the later scenario is happening with any frequency, we definitely want to know about it and help address the situation.

No matter why we find ourselves spending more time working than we bargained for (and our titles are supposedly 35 hours per week), we're human, and need time for ourselves. Time to decompress, to literally and figuratively smell the roses. Time with our families and friends, engaging in the activities which make each of us unique and fulfilled.

Is this an impossibility? Asking too much? No, it is not. What we need is the intelligent use of our time, and an employer who recognizes that employees who achieve a healthy work-life balance are happier, more productive and easier to retain.

One important way that our employer can help us achieve this much needed work-life balance is to allow us to telework two or three days per week, also known as a “hybrid schedule”, based on the needs of the agency and unit that you are in. Depending upon your commute, working from home even two days per week can save you four to five or more hours of stressful, totally unproductive time, which can be better spent literally hundreds of ways. [And of course, it is the environmentally responsible thing to do for our planet, combatting global warming by reducing our carbon footprint.]

CSBA members, the Agency Attorneys, Attorney Internes and related titles in almost every city agency and authority, performed this work seamlessly and capably for eighteen months. We know how to appear on Zoom, Teams, Go-ToMeeting and similar platforms, and to dress and act professionally. Mayor Adams doesn't need to worry about us showing up to an online meeting or hearing in pajamas! That's not who we are or how we act.

We hope to work with this administration to amicably achieve this goal, and are ready, willing and able to commence collective bargaining on this crucial issue, as well as on several other longstanding demands. However, we are determined to achieve this essential ability whether through bargaining or via state or local legislation. Already our members have sent hundreds of emails to their State Assemblymembers and State Senators via our website, www.csbanyc.org, and more members and more unions are utilizing this new feature on our website each day. And many of us are determined to not spend any money on lunch or at other stores near the office until we obtain the right and the respect to telework part-time. Keep using those CSBA insulated lunch bags, folks!

Please join us and work with us, and together let's collectively do the right thing for ourselves, our colleagues and our planet. Let the new season serve as a reminder that change is inevitable and can bring renewed hope for a better and more balanced professional and personal life. ■



Teamsters Take on Amazon

By **Thomas Gesualdi**
President of Teamsters Joint Council 16

The growth of Amazon is a threat to Teamster members across our industries. The company has become the largest player in delivery and logistics by undercutting the wages and working standards that Teamsters members have established over generations. It has built new facilities at a breathtaking pace, often siphoning off subsidies from local governments that would otherwise go to schools, roads, and other public services. And Amazon's ever growing monopoly on e-commerce has smothered the local small businesses that give our city character.

At the International Brotherhood of Teamsters 2021 Convention, the delegates of our union voted overwhelmingly to make building worker power and supporting union organizing at Amazon a nationwide priority. It is a multi-front campaign that includes training member organizers, moving legislation, and opposing Amazon's expansion in our communities.

In Albany, we are working to pass the 21st Century Antitrust Act. The legislation would update and strengthen our state's anti-monopoly laws to deal with the rising threat of megacorporations like Amazon.

Amazon's dominance mirrors the trusts of the Gilded Age that we remember from high school history. Our original antitrust laws were written to break up and restrain the titans of industry who reaped massive profits by building monopolies in railroads, steel, and oil. Amazon has a similar stranglehold on online shopping. About half of all online sales happen on Amazon.com, leaving small businesses with little choice but to sell there, despite Amazon's unfair rules and high fees. Count the number of shuttered storefronts on any block of New York to see the result.

For Teamster members in the package delivery industry, Amazon is both the biggest customer as it ships millions of packages every week, and a low-wage competitor that has built its own massive network of subcontracted drivers. Amazon is driving down average wages in the industry, while demanding its drivers and Teamsters alike deliver more packages and work weekends.

The 21st Century Antitrust Act will give workers, businesses, and Attorney General Leticia James the power to take abusive corporations to court when they engage in anti-competitive practices. The AG would also be able to review corporate mergers and evaluate whether they will negatively affect workers.

I know what you are thinking. We are taking on the Goliath of American capitalism. How are we going to win? Well, we have some unexpected allies.

Small businesses and labor are often on opposite sides of many issues in the state capitol. But not here. Workers and small business owners alike have experienced the abusive practices of Amazon and similar corporations. We have united in the New Yorkers for a Fair Economy coalition to build support in the state legislature among pro-labor and pro-business elected officials alike. The legislation, sponsored by Senate Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris and Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, passed the Senate last year and we look forward to a vote in the Assembly this term.

There are 26 local unions across Joint Council 16, largest among them Local 237. We will be counting on each and every member to stand together and send a message to our state legislators in Albany that this is the year to outlaw corporate abuses in New York. ■



Keeping you in the know

Ready to Help You



By Karla Steinberg, LMSW

Membership Social Worker

Social Services at a Glance

Members participating in the Local 237 Welfare Fund can access free, professional social services. Our members have tough jobs and, from time to time, we all encounter tough personal challenges. Local 237 is committed to helping members find possible solutions to those challenges. As a Licensed Social Worker I am here to connect people to much needed assistance and community resources.

AREAS OF SUPPORT

- Caregiver and Respite Support
- Housing
- Mental Health
- Family Issues
- Health and Wellness
- Grief and Loss
- Substance and Alcohol Use/Abuse
- Work Life Balance and Stress Reduction
- Single Parenthood

If you are in need of social work support please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at 646-638-8608 or via email ksteinberg@local237.org |



The Excitement and Stress of Buying a Home

By Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.

Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan

Buying a home is most likely the biggest purchase any of us will make in our lives. It can be exciting to imagine your money is being spent on equity in your own home rather than paid to the landlord each month. It is, after all, the American Dream.

The news is full of articles about buying a home these days. Interest rates have been historically low for quite some time and are one factor leading to the crazy buying market we are experiencing. Another factor has been low inventory. The pandemic didn't help but this low inventory was happening even pre-pandemic. Our aging society is living longer and staying in houses longer than in the past. Also, the 30-somethings are a large group and looking to purchase first homes. All this has led to a highly competitive market and often stressful experience when trying to purchase a house.

Although interest rates are predicted to go up this year and possibly slow purchases a bit, the inventory of available homes won't change much, so odds are it won't get easier to buy any time soon. The Legal Services Plan has assisted hundreds of members buying a home during the pandemic. Anecdotal evidence has shown that most houses will go on the market and receive multiple offers, many times higher than the asking price. Because the market is so competitive, many buyers, anxious to purchase and afraid to lose out, make hasty offers or fail to get home inspections. This may lead to being in a house you don't love or maybe can't afford.

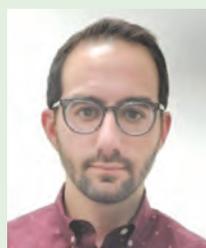
So, is it a "good" time to buy? The answer depends on your unique situation. If you plan on staying in the house for at least 5 to 7 years, the answer may be yes. However, because prices are high, you may want to rent instead if the plan is to relocate in under 5 years. Although most experts will tell you that thinking of your house as an investment isn't the best strategy, you do not want to be left having to sell and either losing money or coming close to breaking even.

Another consideration is what is available for your budget. If you are priced out of certain areas,

you may decide a 2-hour commute is worth it. But when the reality of the long commute settles in, you may want to sell but can't afford to do so. When buying a home, you must also factor in the purchase costs in addition to the purchase price. Typically, you can estimate closing costs in the New York area at 5% of the mortgage amount. For example, the closing costs on a \$400,000 mortgage may be approximately \$20,000. Further, owning a home means you are responsible for all the needed repairs and upkeep that occur with ownership. Your monthly mortgage payment will also include 1/12 of your real estate taxes, homeowner's insurance and possible mortgage insurance depending on the size of your loan. You will pay water and sewer charges, in addition to your monthly utility bills. And, of course, there are moving costs and possible new furniture costs to add to the initial expense.

If you are trying to decide if now is the time to buy a home, on-line calculators exist to help you decide whether to rent vs. buy. You should order your free annual credit report at annualcreditreport.com and be sure there are no errors on your report. Then, to be ready to make an offer, you will need to obtain a pre-approval or pre-qualification from a mortgage lender. This will show you are a serious, ready buyer and give you a good idea of what you can afford.

While there are many stresses involved in buying a home, it is also one of the most exciting times for many people. Ideally you will weigh all the considerations before making an offer. Finally, you have a team of Local 237 Legal Services Plan lawyers available to represent you buying a coop, condo, one- or two-family primary residence in 11 counties of New York State. If you have questions or need a lawyer, please do not hesitate to call us at (212) 924-1220. |



How Vulnerable is My Wireless Network?

By Anthony Morano

Chief Information Officer

In almost all households today, you will find at least a handful or more devices that are wirelessly connected to a home Wi-Fi network. Some of these devices are laptops and smartphones while other items are thermostats or appliances. As we continue to connect smart devices to our network, we need to be cognizant of the security over our wireless network. Items such as appliances, thermostats, smart plugs, and smart light bulbs do not always offer the same security as your laptop or smartphones. These items that encompass the Internet of Things (IoT), can really open a person to security issues within their home network. There are things you can do to minimize the chances of a hack or data breach:

1. Use a strong password for your Wi-Fi. Is your password easy to guess? Does it have your name or address in it? Is it your dog's name? Passwords need to be complex, so hackers are turned off from trying to hack you after a few attempts. Use passwords that are long, sentences work great, and they should include a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols.
 - a. For example: #1W0rked4Loc@!237in2022
2. Check your router, via the web browser interface, to see all the devices that are connected to the network. Most router manufacturers, including those from Spectrum, Verizon, and etc., all offer the ability to login to the router to see an overview of your network. Learn how to do that. Make yourself more cognizant of what is going on. Being able to have this visibility will make you more proactive to question things and potentially identify suspicious activity on your network before it is too late.
3. When making purchases of new appliances or other electronics, ask yourself, do you really need it to be able to connect to the Internet? Do you really need your coffee machine to be Wi-Fi enabled? Does your refrigerator really need to tell you the weather? Although all these technological advancements sound great, how practical are they and is it worth adding them onto your network and being a potential vulnerability. Be practical, buy items that you really need to have Wi-Fi access, try not to buy into the gimmick of the idea. In the end, it could really hurt you. |





Forever In Our Hearts

On behalf of President Gregory Floyd,
the Executive Board and Staff,

We offer sincere condolences to the families of
our members who have passed away and
thank them for sharing their loved ones with us.



Keeping you in the know



Treat Every Case As the Most Important!

By Matthew Cooper

Retired Justice, New York State Supreme Court

Matthew Cooper, the Director of the Local 237 Legal Services Plan from 1988 to 2000, retired at the beginning of this year as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, our state's highest trial court. Judge Cooper's retirement marked the end of a 21-year career on the bench.

Judge Cooper began his judicial career when he was elected to the New York City Civil Court in 2000. Local 237 played a key role in his election, and he was one of the first judges in New York to come from a union legal services background.

In 2010, Judge Cooper was elected to the Supreme Court. According to Cooper, "I could never have been elevated to that Court without the support of my long-time friend President Gregory Floyd. When Greg called political leaders on behalf of my candidacy, believe me, they listened." Cooper adds that it was a particularly proud moment for him when President Floyd spoke at his induction ceremony held in the grand rotunda at the County Courthouse.

As a Supreme Court Justice, Cooper devoted most of his time presiding over a matrimonial part. There, he handled many high-profile divorces, including those of such big-name stars as Richard Gere, Tom Cruise, Uma Thurman, and Robert DeNiro.

Cooper says that although the high-profile cases could be exciting, "I tried to never forget my pledge to treat every case as the most important, no matter who the litigants might be. Whether rich, middle class, or poor, everybody got the same time, attention, and consideration in my court." He credits this outlook to his union background and the many years he spent representing working people in the courts.

"At the Teamsters Local 237 Legal Services Plan, and before that at DC 37 Legal Services, I learned how essential it was for municipal employees to have the same type of legal representation that other litigants could afford." He goes on to say that his later perspective from the bench only reinforced that view.

Cooper recounts that "one of the highlights of my being a judge was having the attorneys from the Local 237 Legal Services Plan appear before me and getting to witness how expertly they represented the members." Many of these were lawyers who came to Local 237 as new attorneys when Cooper was the Director. He adds that it "was a thrill for me to see how young lawyers like Mary Sheridan (who took over from me as Director), Sara Wagner, Ken Perry, and Israel Levin became such skilled, forceful advocates."

While Judge Cooper looks forward to the break from the pressures and daily grind of being on the bench, he doesn't plan to fully exit the arena. He has been in touch with Director Sheridan about volunteering his services as a mediator in cases involving 237 members and retirees, as well as doing some trial training sessions for the lawyers.

"My more than a decade on the bench was what many lawyers can only dream of," Cooper says. "But I know that it could never have happened without Greg, the Legal Plan, and all of Teamsters Local 237. It would be honor for me to give back something for all that was done for me." ■



How to get your new baby's Social Security number

By Thomas McMahon

District Manager, Social Security in Downtown Manhattan

Welcoming a baby to your family is an exciting time. Doing paperwork, even for something as important as a Social Security number for your newborn, is probably one of the last things you want to do. We've made it easy. If your child is born in a hospital, the most convenient way to apply for a Social Security number is at that hospital before you leave.

When you give information for your child's birth certificate at the hospital, you'll be asked whether you want to apply for a Social Security number for your child. If you answer "yes," you will be asked to provide both parents' Social Security numbers. Even if you don't know both parents' Social Security numbers, you can still apply for a number for your child.

There are many reasons why your child should have a Social Security number. You need a Social Security number to claim your child as a dependent on your income tax return. You may also need a number for your child if you plan to do the following for your child:

- Open a bank account.
- Buy savings bonds.
- Get medical coverage.
- Apply for government services.

You can find more information by reading Social Security Numbers for Children at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10023.pdf.

Please share this information with people who are having a baby. Applying for a Social Security number at the hospital will save them time and let them focus on their new bundle of joy. ■



Veterans Message

By Lynn Johnson

Marine Corps Veteran, VA Outreach
Specialist-Minority Veteran Coordinator

Spring 2022: IBT Local 237 Veterans and their Families are still navigating the effects of COVID and attempting to return to a semblance of normalcy.

VA is here for IBT Local 237 Veterans and Families to offer guidance.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is available with resources to assist with quality-of-life issues such as housing, home health aide, mental health, moral-spiritual injury, deployment related exposures, senior resources, Women's Veterans Program, dental care, and family and dependent benefits, and more.

If you served in the United States Military in wartime or in peacetime and possess an honorable or general under honorable DD-214 or DD-215 Discharge papers, let the US Department of Veteran Affairs recognize your service by offering you consultation at VA, either in-person or via virtual platform, to help you apply for benefits and services.

Services you've earned may include VA Healthcare, Home Loan Certificate, GIBILL Educational Benefits, Military Injury-Compensation, Burial Benefits for the Veteran and Spouse, Homeless Services, Mental Health Benefits, Justice-Involved Support, Caregiver Program, and a host of ancillary services.

Interested in finding out if you qualify for VA benefits as a Local 237 Veteran?

Contact your local NYC VA Outreach Specialist Lyn.Johnson2@va.gov or call (212) 686-7500 ext. 4218 to speak directly with Mr. Johnson. ■

Personal Notes

Effective January 10, 2022, **Kangela Moore** has a new title, Business Agent Law-Enforcement. Her new salary will be \$1557.00 per week (\$80,964 per year). She will receive an auto allowance of \$860.00 per month (\$10,320 per year).

Resumen En Español

La Primavera ha Brotado!

Recordar! ¡Reconstruir! ¡Alegrarse!

“La forma en que la naturaleza dice Vamos de fiesta”

“Una temporada para que el alma recupere su fuerza”



“Esperanza e Inspiración”

“Nuevos Comienzos”

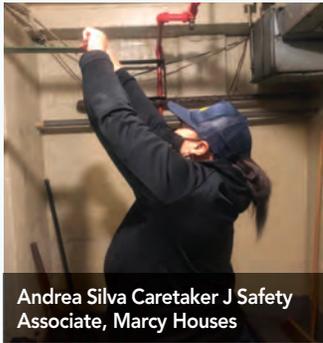
THANK YOU SCHOOL SAFETY AGENTS!!!!

NYCHA WORKERS *continued from page 6*

Marcy Houses Tackles Compactor Safety Gates: Teamwork Brings Positive Results

Caretakers spend a good amount of their day removing trash from compactors. Every day, staff must clean the nose of the compactor – that’s the area that gets dirty quickly due to crushing large amounts of garbage together into smaller pieces. To safely clean the machine, all compactors are equipped with a safety shut-off gate, so when the caretaker has to do that task, they can push the gate closed, and that stops any garbage from coming from the chute into the nose area.

Since many of the compactors are old, and gunk starts to build up on the machines, the metal can bend, preventing shut-off gates from closing, which can be dangerous to the person servicing the machine. This is an issue at many developments of NYCHA, and the union is working with NYCHA’s Environmental Health and Safety unit and management at the developments to address it. “One of our caretakers brought this issue to a meeting and the union followed up on it. Staff members know when something is not safe, and they know to speak up if they feel they are doing a task that is dangerous,” noted **Andrea Silvia, Development’s Safety Associate** at Marcy Houses in Brooklyn.



Andrea Silvia, Caretaker J Safety Associate, Marcy Houses

Most of the 70 compactors did not have working safety shutoff gates. The union brought this to the attention of management, as well as to NYCHA’s Environmental Health and Safety Department. An assessment of all the compactors was completed, and a vendor was called in to clean the machines, and address any other issues to ensure that the gates could open and close. **Manuel Quezada, Health and Safety Oversight Specialist**, worked closely

with the management team to see the project through to completion. “The combined efforts of property management, Teamsters Local 237 and EHS made this possible. Safety is paramount, I am very glad to be able to work in collaboration to make sure our employees are working in safe conditions.”

Tyrone Grant, Development’s Superintendent, worked to have all the machines’ gates working. “Sometimes big jobs like this come up, but we knew we had to address the problem since it’s a big safety concern.” Grant worked with his staff and with **Karen Moye, the Neighborhood Administrator**, who provided her support to secure the vendor contract quickly. “Putting staff’s safety at risk is not an option; when there’s an issue that has a solution, I work with staff to make sure the problem is resolved.”



Tyrone Grant, Superintendent Marcy Houses



Karen Moye Neighborhood Administrator

Regular visits by the union to the development were conducted to monitor progress on the project. “My experience has taught me that to get complicated issues addressed, it often takes many return trips and calls,” noted **Vincent Lattimore, Local 237 Business Agent** for the development.

As the gates were fixed, **Lyasia Saunders**, and **Eric Burton, the Supervisors of Caretakers**, were instrumental in re-training staff

on the need to shut the gates, as well as the importance of keeping the machines and the area as clean as possible to avoid future problems. “As a long-time safety person, I know that working safely is something to always bring to their attention”, stated Saunders. If something is dangerous, we work together as a team to fix the problem, and that usually brings the best results,” said Mr. Burton.

However, another issue remains that the union will continue to address. As these compactors were designed many years ago, the handles to close the chute are often too high for shorter caretakers to reach them, and standing on the compactor rollers to close the gate is unsafe. The union will continue to work with the agency to tackle this concern. Marcy’s efforts to make this task safer is a success story that can be a model for other developments.

“Making work safer for our members is an ongoing process, and often takes time and the energy of many to ensure those safe working conditions,” notes **Carl Giles, Local 237’s Housing Division Director**... “The union’s commitment to safety remains strong, and with willing and able partners from NYCHA management, we make progress, and will continue to focus on our members’ safety to make sure they go home safe and healthy at the end of their workday.”



Lyasia Saunders, Supervisor of Caretaker Marcy Houses



Eric Burton, Supervisor of Caretaker Marcy Houses

LEADERS IN SAFETY



“I have been a Safety Associate for many years, and as I get ready to retire, I have educated and trained my co-workers to take over when I am gone. Health and safety will always be a part of the job, and we need to stay on top of these issues to make jobs safer.”

John Taylor, Safety Associate, Queensbridge South



Tazsmehi Jones with Ken Roper, Local 237 Business Agent

“I voluntarily took the Safety Associate position to educate co-workers in solving safety concerns with reports and conversation. I make them aware that follow-ups need to be logged in a timely manner to assure all safety priorities are addressed. Solving issues that need to be fixed shows me that our roles as a team can be handled by working safe and smart.”

Tazsmehi Jones, Safety Associate, Lincoln Houses

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