



LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 57, No. 4

Winter 2023

This year, the big question Santa will ask is not "have you been naughty or nice?" but rather, "how have you and your loved ones fared with so many challenges, facing so many?" Unsettling world events and some catastrophic ones right here at home, have surely had their impact felt with a devastating blow to the body, soul and spirit. Yet, we at Local 237 have been on the frontline and fighting through it, bringing a sense of normalcy and peace of mind to the lives of all New Yorkers. As municipal workers, we're counted upon, and we delivered. You have given dignity and honor to the title: "Public Employee" and be assured, Santa has you on his list! Enjoy the holidays.

Gregory Floyd
President Teamsters Local 237



Local 237 Member Services

UNION HEADQUARTERS

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

LOCAL 237 DIVISIONS

CITYWIDE, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

LAW ENFORCEMENT, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Derek Jackson, Director

HOUSING, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Carl Giles, Housing Director

SPECIAL PROJECTS, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Debbie Coleman, Esq., Special Projects Director

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

RETIREE, 6th Fl.
212-807-0555
Provides a variety of pre- and post-
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pension and health insurance
counseling to members. (Pension
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days only). General retirement
counseling and retirement plan-
ning series during spring and fall.
Julie Kobi, Director

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Donald Arnold, Director

HEALTH AND SAFETY, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director
Susan McQuade, Coordinator

MEMBERS HEALTH, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Susan McQuade, Director
smcquade@local237.org

WELFARE FUND, 3rd Fl.
212-924-7220
The Fund administers the eligibility,
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in-house staff, as well as prescription
and dental programs indirectly.
Mitchell Goldberg, Director
Len Proctor, Deputy Director
Jennifer Jackson, Asst. Director

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The Local 237 Social Services Depart-
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people to much needed assistance
and resources. The union knows that
its members have tough jobs and
that when encountering tough per-
sonal challenges, learning about pos-
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would make things that much easier.
Contact us to learn about the many
service we can provide.
Karla Steinberg,
Membership Social Worker

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and separation), purchase and sale of
a primary residence, wills, adoptions,
credit and consumer problems, ten-
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Kenneth Perry, Esq., Deputy Director

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Ruben Torres,
Vice President
Donald Arnold,
Secretary-Treasurer
Jeanette Taveras,
Recording Secretary

PERSONNEL, 5th Fl.
212-924-2000
Donald Arnold,
Director Citywide Division
and Chief Negotiator

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LEGISLATION**, 5th Fl.
646-638-8501
Local 237 protects members'
rights by helping to sponsor
legislation that is important
to members, and by communicat-
ing with and supporting elected
officials serving our best interests.
Phyllis S. Shafran, Coordinator

**GRIEVANCES/DISCIPLINARY
PROBLEMS**, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
For grievances and job related
problems, first contact your
shop steward and/or grievance
representative. If they can't
resolve the issue, contact your
business agent.
Mal Patterson, Director of
Grievances and Hearings
Diana Doss, Esq.
Grievance Coordinator

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSOC.
6th Fl., 212-675-0519
Saul Fishman, President
Aldona Vaiciunas,
Office Administrator and
Grievance Coordinator
Lee Gordon, Esq.
Business Agent
CSBA Welfare Fund
Alicare 866-647-4617

COMMUNICATIONS, 5th Fl.
646-638-8501
Phyllis S. Shafran, Director &
Editor Local 237 Newsline and
Editor, Retiree News & Views

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
6th Fl., 212-807-0550
Provides a variety of training
and educational advancement
opportunities for members.
Shanell Grayson, Director

USEFUL NUMBERS FOR PRE-RETIREEES

NYCERS
(New York City Employees
Retirement System)
By Mail:
335 Adams St., Suite 2300,
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3751

In Person:
340 Jay Street, Mezzanine,
Brooklyn, NY 11201
General Information:
347-643-3000

Outside NYC toll-free:
877-6NYCERS

NYCERS Internet
www.nyclink.org/html/nycers

**NYC Department of
Education Retirement
System**
65 Court St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-935-5400

**Social Security
Administration**
800-772-1213

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Retirement Systems**
518-474-7736



By Gregory Floyd

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

Here we are. Facing a new year. We can't help but think about the year gone by... and the new one approaching. For some, there are feelings mixed with sadness, regrets and anxiety. For many others, a new year means a fresh start and a new beginning. It's a tradition to make a resolution, offer a wish or a prediction for the new year or lend advice on how best to navigate the new year. Topping the list: Lose weight, stop smoking, spend less money, become better organized, listen to your spouse, be nice. We know when we make resolutions, at best, they are wishful thinking that hold no penalties if they don't last, and most people won't mention them again once the holiday decorations are put away. For sure, resolutions are anything but resolute and binding...and although we may make them with sincerity and plan to keep them in earnest, there's the sense of relief that we can always make them again next year. In fact, 88% of New Year's resolutions fail—80% of them are over, forgotten or just abandoned by March of the new year.

But new year's resolutions can serve a purpose. Although perhaps uttered at a euphoric time, when we celebrate with noisy horns, silly hats and a glass of wine or two, they give insight into our real selves—who we are, what we'd like to be, what we'd like to do, and, most important, what we wish for others. For sure, for some, resolutions — even for the moment — reveal our better angels.

Of course there are always celebrities who weigh in with their new year's hopes, predictions, aspirations and advice. Maybe it's an opportunity to keep it real. For others, it may be just a way to add to their followers. *Oprah Winfrey famously said: "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."* Albert Einstein advised: *"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."* Maya Angelou noted: *"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."* Mark Twain suggested that: *"New Year's Day is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can*

A message from the President

Resolutions Are Anything But Resolute

begin paving hell with them as usual." Rita Moreno told her fans to *"Smell the roses. Smell the coffee. Whatever it is to make you happy."* Rev. Al Sharpton said: *"I have two resolutions. One, I am going to maintain my health regimen, working out every morning and keeping my vegetarian diet, and two, that I am going to try and pull the city together to equally deal with criminal justice reform and to stop gun violence."* John Lennon advised: *"Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears."* Michelle Obama encouraged youngsters to: *"Choose people in your life who lift you up."* Muhammed Ali gave this advice: *"I hated every minute of training. But I said, don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life a champion."* Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. counseled his followers to *"Take the first step in faith—you don't need to see the whole staircase, just the first step."* Frank Sinatra sang: *"The best is yet to come babe and won't it be fine. You think we've seen the sun but you ain't seen it shine."* Today show host Hoda Kotb gave some advice with her resolution saying: *"My New Year's resolution is to always be clear. Just to do everything with intention and clarity, so people know exactly what you mean when you say something."* And even Dr. Seuss chimed in with this philosophical thought: *"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."*

Three years of the Coronavirus and its variants; headlines blaring with examples of harm and hate throughout the world that were previously unimaginable or hopefully, never to be revisited again, have changed many things. There's a "new normal" that is anything but normal. The devastating and continuing impact on lives and livelihoods would probably be on everyone's list of "to end" and the wish to move on to a better time. Returning to traditions where predictions, resolutions and prayers have a place—even for a brief moment, gives us a much-needed respite from the chaos, and even a chance that they could last. **Resolutions are anything but resolute, but wouldn't it be great if they were?** ■



**You're not
in Newsline?
Why not?**

**YOU ARE
NEWSWORTHY!**

**We want to hear
from you!**

Send us your photos, stories and
ideas. We're interested in you:
On the job, special accomplishments,
family news, etc.

Email: pshafran@local237.org

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:

DCAS POs Find Missing 6-Year Old Girl



(l-r) PO Lamont Parker, Chief Escalera, Lt. Kevin McGovern and PO Shane Veira.

DCAS Police members, in collaboration with NYPD, assisted with search efforts of a 6-year-old child who went missing from her home in the Bronx. On the afternoon of September 23rd, DCAS Police personnel noticed the unsupervised youngster running past their Bergen Building. After a brief pursuit, DCAS Police and NYPD officers managed to secure the child, who appeared to be in mental distress, at a nearby restaurant. The child was escorted back to DCASPD Bronx Command and EMS was summoned to render assistance. After a rapid investigation, it appeared that the child had left the family home for unknown reasons. DCAS Police members were able to reunite the child with her mother who arrived shortly after. Our DCAS PO members went above and beyond the call of duty and were issued Distinguished Service Awards.

Recognized for Heroic Action



School Safety Agent Battye

On September 11, 2023 in Newtown High School, a physical altercation broke out between two male students, resulting in one student getting slashed. The school was placed in a soft lockdown by principal Psoraes and a search was conducted for the offender. It was learned that the offending student left the building via an exit. Agent Battye, along with the principal, followed in pursuit. Agent Battye was notified that there was someone hiding in the backyard of a nearby house. He promptly apprehended the student who was placed in handcuffs by the NYPD of the 110 Police Precinct. Upon conducting a search of the student's backpack, the weapon used in commission of the crime was recovered. The victim was given first aid and transported to Elmhurst Hospital. Agent Battye is hereby recognized by Local 237 for this heroic act.

Hospital Police Save Two Lives



(l-r) Business Agent Kangela Moore, Hospital Police Officer Bonifacio, Sgt. Justino and CEO Floyd Long of Henry J. Carter. Officer Borno was absent that day. CEO Floyd Long of Henry J. Carter Hospital recognizes the heroic efforts of Hospital Police Officers Bonifacio, Borno and Sgt. Justino for saving the lives of two individuals in front of the hospital.

Local 237 NEWSLINE

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Executive Board

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Gregory Floyd President | Ruben Torres Vice President | Donald Arnold Secretary-Treasurer | Jeanette Taveras Recording Secretary |
| Curtis Scott Trustee | Benedict Carenza, Jr. Trustee | Catherine Rice Trustee | |

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 ensure that you continue receiving your newspaper.



Congratulations on a Great Event!

National Black Nurses Association Ad Hoc Committee
on Violence Reduction October Webinar

Promoting School Safety
presented by the
New York Black Nurses Association
Dr. Theresa Lundy, President
Presented by Dr. Rose Ellington-Murray,
Immediate Past President and Marcia
Skeete, Past President

October 28, 2023
11 am EST
10 am CST
8 am PST

Renata Valree

Yvonne Clark

Level III Clarke
participated in
this event as a
facilitator.

Congressman Maxwell Frost

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.

HHC Graduation



(l-r) Attended by **Charlie Cotto**, Deputy Director, Law Enforcement/City-wide Division; **Gregory Floyd**, President; **Derek Short**, Business Agent and **Derek Jackson**, Law Enforcement Director.

2023-02 GRADUATION CLASS:

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Akhmedov, Koirat | Laguerre, Sandy | Paulino, Rosalynn |
| Arias, Hennessey | Lhamo, Penpa | Robinson, Guyderrick |
| Arrington, Kiesha | Mark, Dylan | Rodriguez, Leonardo |
| Boucaud, Lesley-Ann | Means, Alexis | Santana, Edward |
| Cruz, Teresa | Mede, Morckendy | Sarowar, Najiat |
| Cummings, Stephen | Michel, Margaret | Scott, George |
| Diaz, David | Modeste, Michael | Slayton III, Freddie |
| Flowers, Raymond | Moreno, Victor | Taylor, Ja'lissa |
| Gutierrez, Hiran | Morgan, Desrian | Terry, Sydney |
| Harvey, Andrea | Olivera, Christopher | Thomas, Joshua |
| Islam, MD Samsul | Padilla, Gisselle | Tozin, Philippe |
| Johnson, Jerome | Parrish, Tyrek | |

HONORABLE MENTION:

PO Jessie Alonzo - remarkable police insights and superb strategic/tactical communications.
Sergeant Luis Rodriguez - innovative security ideator and exceptional investigator.
Sergeant Saira Flores - phenomenal communicator, keen eye for crime, courteous and respectful.

Staten Island SSA Participates in Hospital PO Pinning Ceremony



(l-r) **Director of Law Enforcement Division Derek Jackson** with **Freddie Slayton III**, a former School Safety Explorer (Graduated Curtis HS 2020 NYPD/SSD Explorer Post 2120/0105) who asked **SSA Roman** (r) to pin his new shield on October 12, 2023 Hospital PO Pinning Ceremony.

DHS Police Academy Graduation

C0-02-2023 & C0-03-2023

ACS GRADUATES

MATTHEW ACOSTA
WAKEESHA ARRINGTON
DORELL BERRY
LASCELLE BROWN
JOHANNA CARANGUI
DESHAUN EPPS
BRYANT FISHER
ELLISON JAMES
EVA MATHIS
MICHELLE MERCADO
TYZHANE MICHEL
JOSE MOLINA
RENE NAVARRETE
TIMOTHY PARKER-MIDDLEBROOKS
AMBISH REHMAN
FRANKLIN RODRIGUEZ
PATRICK SEJOUR
NICHOLAS THREADGILL
MARK WALKER
RALIK WALTER
JERVON WARLICK
ZAIRE WILDS
PAUL WILLIAMS

HRA GRADUATES

ALEXIS CHISOLM
ANGELINA DIAZ
NASYA GARRETT
ELIZABETH INGLOT
MICHAEL SMITH II

DHS GRADUATES

AJAYA ALLSOPP
BENJAMIN BLATT
SHAMEKA BRAXTON
KIM BRENT
CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL
THOMAS CHESTER
SHANEEDA COSTON
CHRISTINA DORSETTE
JASON DOWDY
MICHAEL DUNN JR.
RAEMONY DUNN
SARAI GARRIS
TAYAH GREEN
TYELICA HOWARD
ZENA JOHNSON
JAYDEN JOSEPH
SABRINA KANE
TEVANTA KERR
CHRISTOPHER LAGOS
AMARI LAIDLAW
EDISON LOPEZ
JASON LUGTU
RANAMAZE
OKEMINI MBA
CARLOS MILLER III
GREGORY NIN
NICOLE PARKER
BRIANNA RIVERA
RAYVON STUART
AALIY AH TYSON
CHRISTOPHER WATSON
CLIFTON WILLIAMS
DESTINY WILLIAMS
ALEXIS WRIGHT
JEEHAN ZAMAN

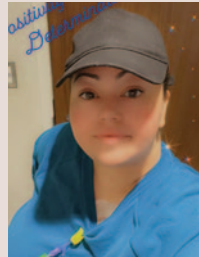
Cancer Luncheon Attended by Bronx SSAs



(left) **Jeanette Taveras**, Business Agent and Recording Secretary and (right) **Derek Jackson**, Law Enforcement Director with SSAs.



Jeanette Taveras (7th from left) and **Derek Jackson** (on right).



SSA Christine Concepcion.

The Staten Island command would like to honor two strong cancer warriors: **SSA Christine Concepcion** (pictured left) and **SSA Danielle Caserta** (pictured right). Not a day goes by that these ladies and many others like them fight cancer and still wear a smile on their faces.



SSA Caserta from Staten Island command is one of our breast cancer survivors. She celebrates each and every day.



CSA Castillo at LaGuardia Community College, an integral part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



School Safety agents from Lincoln HS.



The agents from Paul Robeson HS.



School Safety Agents from Franklin K Lane HS.



(l-r) **Level III Humphrey**, **Agent Williams** and retired former **Level III Ferris** at Campus Magnet High School, rocking their pink to bring attention to breast cancer.



Staten Island SSAs fight together.

Woodhull Hospital Peace Officer Kelly Walsh Memorial

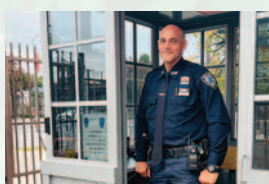
Ever since Officer Kelly Walsh joined our department 11 years ago in 2012, she always showed us the **COURAGE** to face and conquer her own fears. The **STRENGTH** of her spirit rang true every day she put on the uniform. Her **DEDICATION** to her job was to do it to the best of her ability while keeping her community safe. She showed constant **COMPASSION** and **CONCERN** for others, especially her fellow officers. Officer Walsh was our sister and our friend. May her soul rest in peace and her spirit live on.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Law Enforcement Division *Continued*



(l-r) CSA's Rahman and Rush are keeping visitors, students and faculty safe at the CUNY Graduate Center.



CUNY Specialist Merriero keeping York College safe as he monitors student, faculty and student entry from the outdoor booth.



(l-r) School Safety Agents Grimes and Reyes on patrol keeping our students safe.



(l-r) Director of Hospital Police Kevin Joseph, Sgt. Hicks and Director of Law Enforcement Division Derek Jackson. Sgt. Hicks is in-charge of Hospital Community policing a new initiative at Harlem Hospital



(l-r) Agent Safiya Taylor, Chancellor David Banks and Agent Sabina Quashie-Exilus at PS65.



(l-r) Sgt. Ojean, PO Tupe, CSA Issac making sure that the students at Hunter are safe during a rally outside of the main campus.

SSA Halloween Party DHS Path



(l-r) PO Shatadia Pratt, PO Teresa Williams (coordinator of the program) and Charlie Cotto, Deputy Director, Law Enforcement.



On Halloween 2023 at DHS Path, located in the Bronx, the officers held a trick or treat for kids. This Halloween party was staged by our DHS Path Officers at a shelter. (l-r) Lt. Demetrio Martinez, Sgt. Tanisha Alleyne, PO Stacey Ann Hammond, PO Lataisha Bennerman, Det. Ashley Molina, PO Tonya Simmons, PO Jewell White, PO Tanayja McClain, PO Niema Feliciano, PO Latisha Reed, Sgt. Tasha Diaz.

Staten Island SSAs Halloween Spirit



SSA Pineda and SSA Roman.



SSA Tabor and mini me.



Hospital Police at Henry J. Carter celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month (l-r) Capt. Alago; Sgt. Fernandez; Associate Executive Director Ms. Jenny Rosario; Sgt. Jusino and Sgt. Torres.



CSA Medina at Bronx Community College packaged Halloween candy treats for staff and students.



(l-r) Hospital Police Officer Gomes, Lt. Collins and Hospital Police Officer Sultana at Metropolitan Hospital.



Congratulations to Jacob Javits Convention Center Officers for their years of service. (l-r) Officers Joseph Cariffe and Hilary Ferreira celebrates 10 years of service and Officer Michael Marmolejos celebrates 15 years of service.

Officer of the Month Department of Mental Health and Hygiene



(l-r) Dep. Rogers and McBride.



(l-r) Dep. Martinez, McBride and Roberts.



(l-r) Det. McBride and Chief Castro



(l-r) Business Agent Kangela Moore with the hospital's namesake, Henry J. Carter, philanthropist and the CEO of Wheelchair Charities.



(l-r) Deputy Director of Law Enforcement and Citywide Division Charlie Cotto; Welfare Fund Deputy Director Len Proctor; Hospital Police Instructors Sgt. Davilar and Lt. Echevarria; and Director of Law Enforcement Division Derek Jackson.



At North Central Hospital in the Bronx, hospital police officers were recognized. (l-r) Charlie Cotto, Officer Tanisha Kirby (shop steward), Sgt. Luis Cruz Rodriguez, Sgt. Saira Flores, Officer Jessie Alonzo (award for heroism), Lt. Lorne Hargett and Vito Aleo Director of Hospital Police at North Central.

Putting Smiles on Children's Faces



Working in partnership with the Police and Fire Departments, drive-by events have been created for ill or sick children to put smiles on their faces as they go through tough times. Kids delight to drive-byes of fire trucks and police cars with blazing lights and blaring sirens just for them. In conjunction with Supervisor Morales, and Coordinator, Tyler, former SI TECH HS School Safety Agent Teresa McMillan's son, who has developed leukemia and has been in and out of hospitals for this past year, was able to enjoy a special day.



CSI/CUNY Public Safety Retiree John Garcia is still working with school kids to spruce up their school community. As the president of the Serpentine, Art & Nature Commons Inc., and the president of Roots of Peace Community Garden, he and his grandkids participated in the Hiking Club's beautification project. The kids and John had a great time.

DHS BAKE SALE



In September, at DHS Bedford Atlantic, the officers held a bake sale (l-r) Charlie Cotto, Sgt. Regina Griffin, Officer Krystal Nixon, Officer Ebony Edwards and Capt. Gregory Adams.

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.

LOCAL 237 EDUCATION AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to the 2023 "Fundamentals of Heating Plant Operations" class!

On December 7, 2023, a ceremony was held in honor of the 69 graduates of Local 237's "Fundamentals of Heating Plant Operations" course given by the Education and Training Department.

By completing this intense 9-month training, these candidates are now eligible to take the Heating Plant Technician civil service exam. They will eventually elevate to the title of Heating Plant Technician in the New York City Housing Authority.

President **Gregory Floyd**, Executive Board members, Housing Division staff, and NYCHA faculty offered touching words of encouragement to the group. In addition, President Floyd personally handed out awards to the top scoring students. After the ceremony, students enjoyed a lovely dinner, good music, photo props, and a big slice of cake. A great time was had by all!



HPT Graduates and Housing Business Agent **Jaleesa Moye** (front center).



Special Assistant to the President **Ken Roper** addressed the graduates.



(l-r) President **Gregory Floyd** with Valedictorian **Neville Mohabir**.



(l-r) HPT Course Instructors **Sean Blount**, **Theodore Haynes** and **Brian Harris**.



Salutatorians (l-r) **Mario Santiago**, **Lajuan Neal**, **Desanni Legrand** and **A'Trell Johnson**.



(l-r) Education Department Director **Shanell Grayson**, Trustee **Curtis Scott**, Graduate **Michelle Winston** and guest, President **Gregory Floyd** and Secretary Treasurer **Donald Arnold**.

NYCHA CONTRACT OVERWHELMINGLY RATIFIED

The Local 237 Housing Negotiation Committee has counted the votes and the NYCHA contract has been overwhelmingly ratified. The contract includes annual raises, a \$3,000 lump sum payment and maintains benefits with no additional costs to members. The contract also contains retro pay, as well as many differential and allowance increases.



(standing, l-r): **Brian Wynn**; **Curtis Scott**, Trustee; **Kenneth Franco**, Business Agent; **Vincent Lattimore**, Business Agent; **Cleveland Dunn**; **Cephas Suber**; **Gregory Floyd**, President, Local 237; **Jerry Burk**; **Donald Arnold**, Secretary Treasurer; and **Ken Roper**, Business Agent. (seated, l-r) **LyAsia Saunders**, **Kai-ea Robinson**, and **SueAnn Middleton**.



On November 2, 2023 staff throughout the Bronx Borough was issued certificates of Commendation for going up and beyond to assist NYCHA. Business Agent **Jaleesa Moye** (second front center) joins NYCHA's Neighborhood Administrator, **Ishmel Martinez** (bottom center) issued Sotomayor Houses Staff certificates of commendation.



Patrick Mciver, Caretaker J. Pink Houses, has been serving NYCHA residents for 30 years, as well as being a proud Local 237 Teamster member. Mr. Mciver is grateful for his time with Housing. He is planning and looking forward to his retirement next year.

Bushwick Houses



(l-r) Maintenance man **Kenrich Griffith** with President **Gregory Floyd**.



(l-r) President **Gregory Floyd** with Maintenance worker **Kaseen Robinson**.



President **Gregory Floyd** (fifth from left) visits Bushwick Houses.

Bay View Houses



President **Gregory Floyd** (fourth from right) visits Bay View Houses.

Javits Convention Center



Ken Roper, BA and Assistant to the President (6th from right) visited the Javits day, evening and overnight shifts.

Caretaker H Program Graduation Ceremony



A group photo of the Caretaker H program for our members who are also NYCHA residents. Participants work as caretakers 4 days a week and train to become Heating Plant Technicians. Attended by **Ken Roper** (not pictured).

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.

Plasterers and Roofers Ratify Contracts

By wide margins, Plasterers, and Roofers (including Supervisors) ratified contracts that provide annual raises, retro-pay and a signing bonus, as well as the protection of healthcare and supplemental union benefits. Horseshoers ratified their contract earlier. With the new contracts in place, Horseshoers and Plasterers now have the option of compensatory time in lieu of cash for overtime hours. The ratified skilled trades contracts cover workers in all City Agencies.



Plasterers: (l-r) **Anthony DeMeco**, BA **Norberto Luna**, **Donald DeLuca**, **Pasquale Calbarelli**, Citywide Director and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 237's Executive Board **Donald Arnold**, **Frank Spallino**, BA **Ken Franco**, BA **Bianca Jones** and BA and Board Trustee **Curtis Scott**.



Roofers: (l-r) Citywide Director and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 237's Executive Board **Donald Arnold**, **Anthony Vecchi** and **Arthur Ramsey**.



(l-r) **George Wade**, Assistant Director Citywide Division and **Danielle Russell** Radiologic Technologist Level 4, East New York Gotham.

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:



(l-r) **Director of Law Enforcement Division Derek Jackson** and **Hospital Police Officer Edward Farrow**. Congratulations to Hospital Police Officer **Edward Farrow** on his retirement from Henry J. Carter Hospital.



Mark Reid, retired NYCHA Supervisor of Grounds, received his retirement plaque after 33 years of service. Mark said, "It's been a beautiful ride."



On November 30, at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, Hospital Police honored three officers who retired. (l-r) **Charlie Cotto**; **Det. Donald Wilson**, retired; **Capt. Elvis Cruz**, retired; **Officer Robert Crispin**; and **Capt. Edgardo Marrero**. Not in photo was **Officer Joanna Harris**.

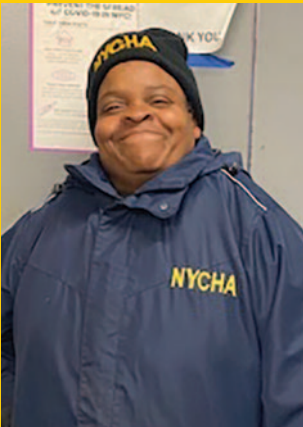
Shop Steward Shoutout



(l-r) Newly elected Shop Stewards **CUNY Peace Officer Banks** and **Sgt. Lopez** from Kingsborough Community College.



Dashawn Hightower, Shop Steward and Safety Associate at Clermont Houses, identified rat issues affecting the residents in a particular building. His efforts helped to get the tenants into a temporary location. Safety is a big issue of concern for many members at NYCHA, and Dashawn's proactive stance to address problems helps lead to safe conditions for residents and members alike.



Cynthia Taylor Caretaker J. is a proud union member and enjoys being a Shop Steward. She is very thankful to be a Teamster and play a roll in servicing our members. She is looking forward to this upcoming year to continue to make a difference.



(l-r) **Business Agent Kangel Moore** with Shop Steward from CUNY, Queens College, **CSA Beckford**.



Newly elected Shop Steward **CUNY Specialist Gustavo Bermudez** from New York City Technical College.



New Years Reflections by Gregory Floyd

The recent article in the New York Times entitled: "55 Years Ago, Tragedy in Memphis Transformed Labor Movement " by Kurtis Lee, was a real eye opener. It discussed the sanitation workers' strike in Memphis, Tennessee, in which Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had embarked on his "Poor People's Campaign", joined the strikers, and was assassinated. As Lee noted: "The tragedy was a culmination of slow-burning indignities for the Black sanitation workers of Memphis. They earned low wages to lug heavy, open tubs of refuse to their trucks. Rotting garbage seeped into their skin and clothes. Their white colleagues, who were often drivers, showered at the depot at the end of shifts. But the Black collectors were forced to ride the bus or walk home in their dank clothes covered in flecks of trash and maggots."

Much has improved over the years in terms of workers' rights and fairness on the job. Yet, union membership is at its lowest rate—approximately 10% nationwide—with Black workers having the highest union membership of any racial or ethnic group. Sadly, there have been many obstacles to union membership retention and growth. The Supreme Court's Janus Decision and the "Right to Work Law" adopted in 28 states have presented the biggest hurdles. Too many workers lack the understanding that the labor movement has been fighting for them for decades and made a difference in the lives of many. Just ask the families of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire that caused the deaths of 146 garment workers, including 123 immigrant women and girls, unable to safely escape their sweatshop because the doors had been chained shut by their employer. They wished there had been union presence and protections back then. But, just like the striking sanitation workers of Memphis and the killing of Dr. King as he joined them in solidarity, out of great tragedy can come positive change. And during these last few years, with inroads made and successes achieved for workers of Amazon, Starbucks, Uber and SAG-AFTRA, the labor movement appears to be on the verge of a revival. Dr. King's eldest son, Martin Luther King III, seems to agree. He reported that he's hopeful, saying that "the labor movement felt more energized over the past year than at any other moment in my lifetime."

My wish. My prayer for 2024...is that he is right.

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

What a Wonderful World

Want some good advice for the New Year? Jazz great, Louis Armstrong perhaps said it best in his popular rendition of "What a Wonderful World." The lyrics tell us to not miss the beauty of our surroundings, which are so easily overlooked in the hassle and hustle of our daily lives. The song also urges us to pause and enjoy the simple things like a baby's cry. While the suggestion is to enjoy these things right away because they end too soon, the lyrics also provides a hopeful message that there's more to come with the words..."watch them grow." The lyrics also point to hidden meanings in such ordinary acts as shaking hands and saying, "How do you do?"— which the song suggests really conveys, "I love you."

As we enter 2024, we asked what were the some of the hopes and predictions of our Teamster Brothers and Sisters, including Local 237 President Gregory Floyd and IBT General President Sean O'Brien. While none may wind up as lyrics to a top selling song, the sentiments are just as meaningful. Each in their own way, describes what a wonderful world to have, to hold and to hope for.

Lyrics to **What a Wonderful World** Sung by Louis Armstrong

*I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom
For me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world
I see skies of blue
And clouds of white
The bright blessed day
The dark sacred night*

*And I think to myself
What a wonderful world
The colors of the rainbow
So pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces
Of people going by
I see friends shaking hands
Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying
I love you*

*I hear babies cry
I watch them grow
They'll learn much more
Than I'll ever know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world
Yes, I think to myself
What a wonderful world
Ooh, yes!*

Songwriters: George David Weiss
and Robert Thiele



Reflections On The New Year By Phyllis Shafran

New Years is a tough time for many people. Thoughts of what we did right; what we did wrong, what was lost and what was gained—with the latter category never being enough—consume many of us. Facing the unknown of 2024 can just add to the stress, anxiety, even depression for some. Guess I'm lucky – no blessed – to have two antidotes to feeling this way that no doctor could prescribe. Grandsons Mason, almost 8, and Teddy, turning 3 soon. As is our tradition, we kicked off the season by going to see the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall, something which we did with our son, Austin, when he was their age, and which I went to (incredibly, the show is 90 years old) with my own grandma who could not speak, read or write English yet somehow navigated the long train ride from Brooklyn to the theatre and then to the Horn and Hardarts next door, where she handed me her little change purse with some quarters to buy us dinner. That was the greatest time and has stayed with me forever, only topped now by seeing the amazement in the eyes and joy on the faces of the two little ones sitting next to us.

When I was a kid, the show didn't have 3-D glasses, drone butterflies and 1000s of high-tech Santas projected on a screen...plus, the ticket prices were something even an immigrant sweatshop worker, like my grandma, could afford. But today, with so much changed, and in a world where many are suffering from harm and hate, hearing one of the production's songs: "We Need A Little Christmas Now" seems more like a call to action than just a random line in a holiday favorite. And having Mason and Teddy happily sing along gives me hope that its message: Act with Christmas kindness, take a pause from the hustle and enjoy life's blessings, will be continued in the next generation. And for me, the song's next lines ring true: "For I've grown a little leaner, grown a little colder. Grown a little sadder, grown a little older. And I need a little angel sitting on my shoulder. We need a little Christmas now."

In 2024, I'll be looking for that angel.

Phyllis Shafran
Director of Communications and Political Coordinator



Holidays and stay Healthy!

Ben Carenza
Director of the Long Island Division for Local 237 and Trustee on the Executive Board

My New Year's resolution for 2024 would be first and foremost health and happiness in the coming year and helping and engaging more members. Our goal is to help members be happier at the job as we all spend a tremendous amount of time at the job. Encourage and guide the bosses on how to properly treat and respect all, as without workers being on a team, nothing will get done. All of us have to work to support our families, so why not make it as pleasurable as it can be. Treat each other with kindness and respect every day. That's what I want to see more of in 2024! Enjoy the

For a change, don't add new things in your life as a new year's resolution. Instead, do more of what's already working for you and stop doing things that are time-waste. New Year is a new morning and a new morning is a new opportunity and a new opportunity is a new path and finally a new path is a new richness!

Donald Arnold
Local 237 Executive Board Secretary/ Treasurer
and Director of the Citywide Division



It's that time again when we bid farewell to the old year and welcome in 2024! Wishing health and happiness to you and your family in 2024. Let's be grateful for what we have, and here's to making more memories in 2024!

Gisela Reyes
Local 237 Executive
Administrative Assistant



Health, Happiness,
Eat better.

Charlie Cotto
Local 237 Business
Agent, Law
Enforcement Division

Wishing all a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and blessed new year and throughout 2024.

Christopher Taylor
Director of Human Resources



Building a Better Union for 2024 and Beyond

As your General President, I am thrilled to report that 2023 set a new benchmark for our union, illustrating that when we stand united, we're unstoppable.

The most notable victory for our union was at UPS. Through months of organizing, strategizing, mobilizing and, above all, fighting, we were able to win a landmark collective bargaining agreement that included major improvements on air conditioning, invasive technology, ending forced overtime, securing record wage increases for all part- and full-time workers, and abolishing the two-tier wage system.

In addition to our work at UPS, we also secured industry-leading national agreements at ABF Freight, United Airlines, and T-Force.

Teamsters in the public sector have been following the example set by Teamsters Local 237 by organizing new members and fighting for better contracts across the country. In 2023, Teamsters ratified some of our best-ever contracts at the University of Minnesota, Mount Diablo Unified School District in Contra Costa County, Calif., and the Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission in Washington, D.C.

Local 237 has many members in law enforcement and, over the course of 2023, our union added many police, corrections, and other public safety officers to our ranks. This included Stanford University hospital security guards and Belknap County Corrections Officers, Grafton County Sheriffs and the Dover Police Department in New Hampshire. Expanding our density in this profession will enable the Teamsters to bargain better contracts for our law enforcement members everywhere.

Our union has made incredible progress this year on pro-worker legislation in Albany. Thanks to the Teamsters, Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a bill to increase penalties for public-sector entities that withhold information from labor unions. This will directly benefit Local 237 with its full membership in the public sector. The Teamsters backed another successful bill that added wage theft as a new category for what can be legally considered "grand larceny" under New York State criminal law.

Critically for the New York labor movement, the Teamsters led the way on the passage of worker free speech bills S.4982 and A.6604. The legislation bans mandatory attendance at "captive audience" meetings – employer-held, closed-door gatherings where workers are forced under threat of termination to listen to deceptive misinformation to dissuade them from organizing. Now that workers can no longer be subjected to bullying and propaganda from their bosses, labor in New York should see thousands more join unions over the next few years.

Let us embrace these victories as a catalyst for future triumphs. We are securing strong contracts and creating a future where fairness, equity, and respect are the cornerstones of our work environment. Do not forget our strength when we stand together. In 2024, the Teamsters will continue to grow bigger, faster, and stronger by breaking barriers and setting new standards for worker rights, wages, and benefits.

Sean M. O'Brien
General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters





LONG ISLAND REPORT

HALF HOLLOW HILLS UNION MEETING



Awesome union meeting at Half Hollow Hills School District! Big turnout with lots of info for all.

NORTH BABYLON



Paul Salemi (middle) doing a great job at North Babylon schools. Liaison Chris LoSardo (right) also working hard for the members. Pictured with Benny Carenza, Local 237 Trustee and Director of Long Island Division.

COMMACK



Commack School District's finest, Head Groundsman John Sanders (left) and Groundsman John Cooke keeping the playgrounds safe for the students. Great job Teamsters!

LOCAL 237 MEMBER TRAINING



Local 237 member training held on Saturdays. Thanks to all who attended for the union training to help members on the job. Thanks also to the Federal Mediators for the training!



BRENTWOOD FOOD SERVICE AND CUSTODIANS



Brentwood Food Service and Custodians work hard every day for the students and staff.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

Teamsters General Executive Board Wraps up Final Meeting of the Year



The Teamsters General Executive Board met to close out the final meeting of 2023. Pictured at the meeting is Local 237 President Gregory Floyd, who is Vice President-at Large on the Board.

Boy Scouts of America, Greater New York Councils, 38th Annual Salute to Labor Luncheon

In recognition of the support that organized labor has always shown the Boys Scouts of America, an annual luncheon is held to express thanks and pay a special tribute to labor leaders who exemplify the mission of scouting: “To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.” The Oath, which was administered to luncheon attendees, includes the pledge: “On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country...” The Scout Law, also administered at the luncheon, requires the Scouts to personify such values as being: Trustworthy, Loyal, Brave and Kind. The honorees and Boy Scout Board members all have demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the mission, oath and law that have helped countless boys become well-prepared and productive men. ■



Presenter Michael Pena, Business Agent, Utility Workers of America Local 1-2; Master of Ceremonies Gregory Floyd, Teamsters President Local 237; Good Scout Award recipients Richard Davis, President Transport Workers Union Local 100 and James Shillito, President, UWUA 1-2; George Meany Award recipient Dan Gleason, UFCW Local 1500 Executive Board Vice President; presenter Vincent Alvarez, President, New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO and presenter Robert Newell, President UFCW Local 1500.



(l-r) Curtis Scott, Local Citywide Business Agent & Trustee; brother Antonio Ryan Crispin; Gregory Floyd, Local 237 President; TJ Crispin; mother Adriana Galara and father Robert Crispin-who is a 237 member Lincoln Hospital PO and 237 Grievance Rep; and Donald Arnold, Citywide Director and Local 237 Executive Board Secretary/Treasurer.



Boys Scouts Speaker TJ Crispin, Troop 662, Manhattan

Mayor Adams Signed Into Law The City’s Goal of Transitioning its Automobile Fleet to All Electric by 2038

At a ceremony held at Ravenswood House in Astoria, Mayor Adams signed into law new legislation that cements New York City’s status as a national leader in promoting sustainability across areas of city government operations and will save nearly \$90 million in taxpayer funds over four years. This law will also especially benefit communities of color long plagued by poor air quality and escalating rates of respiratory disease. At the bill signing, it was also announced that



Mayor Adams signs into law City’s fleet to become all electric, and unveils first charging station at Ravenswood Houses.

working with the City’s Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) Commissioner Dawn M. Pinnock, four solar carports will be brought to New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) public housing parking lots throughout the city. The carports — canopies with solar panels to generate renewable energy — feature a storm-resilient design and are the first of their kind on NYCHA properties. The program will also include an electric vehicle car-sharing for NYCHA staff through an online reservation system. Together, the solar carports and car-sharing program will yield lower emissions and provide clean, renewable energy for NYCHA vehicles.

The newly installed solar carports will charge vehicles with renewable solar energy and provide a resilient charging design with the battery elevated above the ground to protect against flooding. The addition of green energy infrastructure reflects the city’s commitment to resiliency and preparation for the full electrification of the city fleet by 2035. In addition to Ravenswood House, the new solar carports were installed located at:

- Bronx:** Sotomayor Houses, 1090 Rosedale Avenue, Bronx
Brooklyn: Cypress Hills Houses, 1260 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn
Manhattan: Lexington Houses



Electric car bill signing event with Local 237 NYCHA BA Shavelle Knox and Mayor Adams.

Gregory Floyd, President, Teamsters Local 237; and Vice President at-Large, General Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters which represents NYCHA workers said: “By working with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) and partnering with NYCHA, the city has developed a plan that’s a win-win for all: a renewable energy source that helps reduce emissions. Electric vehicle charging stations located in NYCHA parking lots and an electric vehicle sharing program for NYCHA staff are much needed improvements which will also help provide City residents with cleaner air. I thank Mayor Adams for signing Intro 279-A into law, Councilmember Keith Powers for sponsoring this important initiative and DCAS Commissioner Pinnock for partnering with the City, and Ben Jealous, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, for helping to bring to fruition this forward thinking and innovative legislation that offers so many New Yorkers access to cutting edge technology and better health.” ■



We’re Climbing the Mountain and Have High Hopes for 2024!

By Saul Fishman
CSBA President

It’s been a good year for members of the Civil Service Bar Association. We have achieved a new collective bargaining agreement, retroactive to April 2021 and extending through October 2026, that provided us with backpay, salary increases (which total 15.25% even before compounding), enhanced Recurring Increment Payments (“RIPs”) which add to our compensation each year based on length of service, a \$3,000 ratification bonus and up to two days of remote work. None of this came easily, particularly the remote work, which finally is starting after one of the biggest drives in CSBA history.

As of the December 1 deadline for this article, we are pressing agencies for their remote work start date for us and doing our best to make sure that we are all eligible to participate. “Prior review” by a committee comprised of DCAS, Corporation Counsel and OLR has been the City’s excuse for delay up until now, but more and more launch dates are being announced every few days.

We look forward to improved work-life balance in 2024, as well as completing the final negotiation required under the 2021-2026 Agreement: Equity Funding. Although not nearly as substantial an amount is at stake as the already-negotiated salary increases, every bit of attainable compensation is important to all of us, and we will make sure to deliver every potential financial benefit available pursuant to the contract. For example, this may result in a recurring annual bonus in the hundreds of dollars (maybe even \$1,000 in a couple of years) for each of us!

As always, we want to know what’s happening in your agency and work location. Whereas we are not your employer, we do reach out to agencies to be fair, reasonable, follow the contract and provide a safe working environment. When management knows that we are in contact with members in their agency, good things often happen. The best way to reach out to us is via csbainfo@local237.org. One of us will almost certainly reach out to you by the end of the next business day. If you have a question about welfare fund benefits, please reach out directly to saguair@amalgamatedbenefits.com.

On behalf of the CSBA staff, officers, directors and trustees, here’s to a Healthy and Happy New Year for you and yours, and indeed for all of our family, friends and colleagues! ■

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

On the Legislative Front:

By Vito R. Pitta, Esq. Member, Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno, LLC and Steven Pierre Ilek Communications Specialist, Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno, LLC

City Legislation:
As The New York City Council marches towards its close at the end of the legislative session, the Council will consider the passage of several pieces of legislation before the end of the year. The following bills to monitor that may have an impact on the lives of our members and their families:

| Yr | Bill No. | Type | Status | Committee | Prime Sponsor (current) | "Name" |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| 2022 | Int 0003 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Education | Ayala, Diana I. | Police department's response to students in emotional crisis in public schools. |
| 2022 | Int 0115 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Housing and Buildings | Hudson, Crystal | Minimum temperatures required to be maintained in dwellings. |
| 2022 | Int 0276 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | General Welfare | Ossé, Chi A. | De-escalation and trauma-informed training for dept of homeless services employees. |
| 2022 | Int 0293 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Transportation and Infrastructure | Stevens, Althea V. | DOT to establish a program to allow community centers, schools, arts and cultural institutions and religious institutions to use adjacent outdoor spaces. |
| 2022 | Int 0301 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Oversight and Investigations | Won, Julie | Establishment of standards and procedures to determine the existence of conflicts of interest and other misconduct concerning city contracts. |
| 2022 | Int 0422 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Civil and Human Rights | Restler, Lincoln | Requiring covered entities to maintain a record of requests from persons requesting a reasonable accommodation. |
| 2022 | Int 0453 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Oversight and Investigations | Powers, Keith | Requiring officers and employees of city contractors to report corruption and to cooperate with the DOI. |
| 2022 | Int 0467 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Civil Service and Labor | De La Rosa, Carmen N. | NYC agencies polices regarding work-related communications during non-work hours. |
| 2022 | Int 0508 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Health | Schulman, Lynn C. | Requiring family building benefits for city employees. |
| 2022 | Int 0554 | Preconsidered Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | General Welfare | Rivera, Carlina | Child protective caseloads and workloads action plan. |
| 2022 | Int 0555 | Preconsidered Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Transportation and Infrastructure | Rivera, Carlina | Installing safety signs near schools. |
| 2022 | Int 0617 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Civil Service and Labor | Hanif, Shahana K. | Earned Safe and Sick Time Act |
| 2022 | Int 0641 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | General Welfare | Williams, Nantasha M. | Maximizing efficiency at department of social services/ human resources administration centers. |
| 2022 | Int 0864 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Civil and Human Rights | Restler, Lincoln | Forbidding agreements to shorten the period in which claims and complaints of unlawful discriminatory practices, harassment or violence may be filed and in which civil actions may be commenced. |
| 2023 | Int 0874 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Civil Service and Labor | De La Rosa, Carmen N. | Health insurance coverage for city employees, city retirees, and their dependents. |
| 2023 | Int 0946 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Mental Health, Disabilities, and Addiction | Hudson, Crystal | Creating a mental health coordinator to inform city employees about mental health support and services. |
| 2023 | Int 1118 | Introduction | Laid Over in Committee | Civil and Human Rights | Williams, Nantasha M. | Anti-racism and anti-racial discrimination trainings for employees, interns, independent contractors, and volunteers of city agencies. |
| 2022 | Res 0190 | Resolution | Laid Over in Committee | Public Housing | Avilés, Alexa | NYS Legislature and Governor to provide their share of the additional three billion dollars annually, that must be reinvested into NYCHA in order to address capital needs resulting from decades of disinvestment in its building stock. |
| 2022 | Res 0257 | Resolution | Laid Over in Committee | Civil Service and Labor | Cabán, Tiffany | Expressing solidarity with unionization drives across New York City's workforce and affirming the right to have union elections free from anti-democratic union-busting practices. |
| 2022 | Res 0304 | Resolution | Laid Over in Committee | Public Housing | Avilés, Alexa | Authorizing the NYC Council to oversee the activities of the NYC Housing Authority. (A.9414/S.5806) |

BILL STATUS:
Committee – This bill has been officially introduced and assigned to a committee, which has not yet held a hearing.
Laid Over in Committee - The assigned committee has held a hearing on the bill, taking testimony and feedback from the relevant city agencies as well as other government entities and members of the public who may be affected by the bill.

Adams Administration Cuts School Safety Agent Class:
In late October, Mayor Eric Adams elected to cancel an incoming class of 250 school safety agents. Mayor Adams attributed this perilous decision to the escalating expenditure on the migrant crisis and the subsequent reduction in vital services across city agencies.
As proud members of Teamsters Local 237, we understand the critical role school safety agents play in ensuring the security of students, teachers, and faculty. While Mayor Adams pointed to the fact that NYC schools have not had any mass shootings, the timing of this cancellation is worrying for families and students, especially in times of increased global tensions. This sentiment was also shared by several elected officials.
Following the cancellation of the class, a bipartisan group of elected officials on Staten Island, gathered by Assemblymember Michael Tannousis, publicly rejected the Adams decision. Congresswoman Malliotakis voiced concerns about the rise in serious felony crimes in public schools, with violent incidents often occurring during dismissal, precisely where our dedicated safety agents are stationed. Tannousis noted that cuts personnel that ensure our children's safety could not have come at a worse time.
Currently, there are approximately 3,900 school safety agents in the city's public schools, a 25% decrease from pre-pandemic levels. Our union and members are actively advocating for the reinstatement of the canceled class to address this alarming shortage.

The City Council Welcomes Four New Members:
Following what was an eventful election year for the City Council, the body will be welcoming four freshman council members as it enters its next legislative session at the top of the year. **Chris Banks**, who secured his position as Councilmember-elect of the 42nd Council District after unseating Charles Barron in the Democratic primary back in June, and **Dr. Yusef Salaam**, who successfully ran in a crowded primary in the 9th Council District after incumbent Kristen Richardson-Jordan opted out of running for reelection, were spared from a busy general election day.

Conversely, **Susan Zhuang** declared victory in a competitive race over opponents Ying Tan and Vito LaBella for the seat in District 43, New York City's first Asian-majority district. In the Bronx, **Kristy Marmorato** defeated incumbent Marjorie Velazquez in District 13, flipping the seat to Republican from Democrat for the first time in two decades.

These four new faces will look to represent diverse perspectives and provide fresh contributions to the City Council in the upcoming legislative session.

NYCHA Gets New Federal Monitor:
In February 2024, Bart Schwartz, the independent federally appointed monitor for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), will be replaced by international law firm, Jenner & Block.

Schwartz was appointed in 2019 to help NYCHA address issues of neglect and mismanagement as it pertains to its properties and tenants. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) opted to extend NYCHA's monitorship, despite trepidation over unmet milestones on the improvement of apartment living conditions. On Monday, December 4, HUD, the Manhattan U.S. Attorney, and the city Law Department announced that they would be moving on from Schwartz.

Jenner & Block will have two partners oversee NYCHA's monitorship at no cost to NYCHA, but the firm will charge the city for its services and any additional consultants they may hire. Along with continuing Schwartz work in increasing the speed lead and mold remediation, they will also have to contend with NYCHA's ballooning repair request backlog.

This change in monitorship also comes as the residents of the Nostrand Houses in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn were poised for a critical vote to either accept or reject the NYCHA Preservation Trust - a state-created public entity that can access more private and public funding to make much-needed capital repairs as well as retain its public employees. Retired NYCHA member, Pamela Campbell was appointed to the NYCHA Trust Board earlier in the year. Residents had the opportunity to vote for or against the Trust plan. Following the closing of the 30-day voting period on December 7, the Nostrand Houses, and its 2,000 tenants, became the first of NYCHA's development to vote in favor of the Trust. ■



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 Giorno LLC.



Steven Ilek is the Communications Specialist at Pitta Bishop and Del Giorno LLC, where here he aids the firm and its clients in producing essential written correspondence such as speeches, public testimony, and talking points for press events. He assists clients in all forms of public relations, media relations, and social media efforts.



Promise of a New Beginning

By Karla Steinberg, LMSW
Membership Social Worker

The days between November 1st and December 31st leave many of us feeling stressed. According to NAMI, the National Alliance of Mental Illness, 3 in 5 adults report higher than normal levels of stress during this timeframe. All to say, you are not alone if you feel this way. Despite the many of us that feel tired, exhausted, and stressed at this time of year, there is still the potential of something better. Regardless, the uptick in expenses, expectations, time spent with loved ones, and the general hustle-bustle of holiday prep can take some of the joy out of the season. January 1st might feel like a beacon of light at an otherwise tricky time; a perfect opportunity to turn it all around.

When reflecting on the year, it helps to see what worked and what didn't, and most important, *why*. It's easy to look back on a situation with all the information you have now and see what went wrong. Looking back can offer important lessons for future goal or resolution setting. Perhaps you underestimated how long something would take, or how many people, organizations, leg work, and red tape would be involved. Whether at work or in personal relationships, success and disappointments might be determined by patience (or lack thereof), clear communication, or planning. They might also be determined by finances or setting appropriate expectations for the time frame. Looking back on what worked well and what didn't will hopefully shape how you choose to move forward in the future. With practice, you may be able to improve your rate of success.

Resolutions can be a divisive topic; "What if I miss a day or start later than January first?" for example. My hope for us all is that we can shift our perspectives on our present and future shortcomings. Yes, shortcomings. With resolutions and the hope of turning things around, we often forget that little devil in the details; *expectations*. Expectations are wishes that haven't yet failed us. It sounds harsh, I know. When we set out to accomplish dreams, goals, wishes, we often forget that progress doesn't usually occur in a straight, upwards motion. Rather, we encounter the jagged lines of progress and setbacks, gains and losses, planned routes and re-routing. If you can mentally prepare for the potential good (easy) and the likelihood of some setbacks (more challenging), you'll have laid out *realistic* expectations, with a mental and emotional cushion for when things don't work out perfectly (they never do). In short, if it all goes perfectly, great. If not, and you accounted for it, you may have even been more prepared for the unexpected, and that feels pretty good too! As one year comes to an end and another one is laid out before us, I hope we can all try our best to set (realistic) goals, be patient with ourselves, expect the unexpected, and persevere regardless. Happy Holidays to all. ▮



Winter Blues

By Edith Johnston, LCSW
Deputy Director, Retiree Division

Lots of people suffer from "the winter blues". The medical name for this winter depression is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). If the short, dark days are getting you down, what can you do to feel like yourself again and enjoy the holidays with family and friends?

Even though millions of us say we have suffered a winter-related low mood, it can feel as though the winter blues is just a myth. But there's sound scientific evidence to support the idea that the season can affect our moods.

Most scientists believe that the problem is related to the way the body responds to daylight. Alison Kerry, from the mental health charity MIND, says: "With SAD, one theory is that light entering the eye causes changes in hormone levels in the body. In our bodies, light functions to stop the production of the sleep hormone melatonin, making us wake up. It is thought that SAD sufferers are affected by shorter daylight hours in the winter. They produce higher melatonin, causing lethargy and symptoms of depression."

If you are going through a bout of winter blues, lack of daylight is playing a part. I would like to recommend a few things that you can do to make yourself feel better.

Get more light. Go outside as often as you can when the sun is bright. People tend to stay home when it is cold, but going out helps even when it is cold. If you can't go out, sit by a window when the sun is shining. If you have the resources, take a vacation to a warmer place.

Eat good food. It's important to eat well during the winter. Winter blues can make you crave sugary foods, like candy and carbohydrates, but it is important to eat fruits and vegetables.

Get active to beat the winter blues. If you're physically able to exercise, do it. Numerous studies have shown that 30 minutes of exercise three times per week is effective against depression. I always recommend that you check with your doctor before starting any type of exercise routine.

My wish for you this holiday season is that you enjoy this magical time of the year. If you are experiencing any of the above symptoms, act to be able to enjoy the holidays to the fullest. ▮



Resolve to Make 2024 a Year for Resolution

By David Bonington, CFP®
Financial Planner, Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.

It's that time of year again where I have an opportunity to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy Holiday Season! My hope is that the balance of December will be a time for joy, relaxation, celebration, and grateful acknowledgement of those things that are right. And for those things which are not, my wish is that 2024 will present an opportunity to address troubling or stressful matters with renewed energy, strengthened resolve, and fresh hope.

January is usually a month for resolutions. A surprising percentage of the resolutions I've been hearing for 2024 revolve around personal health and well-being: I will lose some weight. I will go to bed earlier. When awake, I will get more fresh air and exercise. I will not risk a fall by running for buses or trains. I will eat more heart-healthy food (even kale!).

From a financial standpoint, one extremely healthy resolution would be to make 2024 the year in which you take complete advantage of the free financial counseling benefit offered by Stacey Braun Associates. The benefit includes up to six (6) hours of individual consultation time on almost any financial topic: Debt Management. Budgeting. Saving Effectively. Investing Wisely. Buying a Home. Or - if none of the above - Financial Topic of Your Choice. All meetings are strictly confidential, and because nothing is sold there is never any sales pressure. Sessions can be devoted to whatever topic or topics are of greatest interest (or distress) to you.

Living with something confusing or anxiety-producing is taxing. If something of a financial nature is complex, stressful, or getting worse, what could be better than a meeting to address it - especially if helpful information, ideas, and constructive suggestions can be obtained. An approach to even complicated and difficult matters might be developed in a session or two.

There are sometimes general answers to financial planning questions, but the very best and sharpest advice is always developed in the context of a client's own personal and unique circumstances. A meeting can bring important facts and details into focus, and help a planner help you make progress toward - what else? - *resolution* of pressing financial issues.

But my immediate advice, at this moment, is not financial at all: Embrace the spirit of the season. Relax. Enjoy. Celebrate. Be thankful. Renew and recharge. Cherish every moment. But don't forget to resolve to meet with a Stacey Braun planner in 2024, or (better yet) get a head start on the new year by scheduling a meeting today. My colleagues and I hope to see many of you in the year ahead! ▮

Free, confidential sessions with a Stacey Braun planner are available to all active and retired Local 237 members. They can be arranged by calling 1-888-949-1925. No financial products are sold and there is never sales pressure.



Social Security Benefits Increase in 2024

By Thomas McMahon
District Manager, Social Security in Downtown Manhattan

More than 71 million Americans will see a 3.2% increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in 2024. On average, Social Security retirement benefits will increase by more than \$50 per month starting in January.

Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are higher. The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) helps to offset these costs.

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. But if you want to know your new benefit amount sooner, you can securely obtain your Social Security COLA notice online using the Message Center in your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. You can access this information in early December, prior to receiving the mailed notice. Benefit amounts will not be available before December. Since you will receive the COLA notice online or in the mail, you don't need to contact us to get your new benefit amount.

If you prefer to access your COLA notice online and not receive the mailed notice, you can log in to your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to opt out by changing your preferences in the Message Center. You can update your preferences to opt out of the mailed COLA notice, and any other notices that are available online.

"Social Security and SSI benefits will increase in 2024, and this will help millions of people keep up with expenses," said Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security.

Beginning January 2024 other changes will happen based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2024 will be higher. The retirement earnings test exempt amount will also change. Learn more at www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2024.pdf.

Be among the first to know! Sign up for or log in to your personal my Social Security account today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Choose email or text under "Message Center Preferences" to receive courtesy notifications.

You can find more information about the 2024 COLA at www.ssa.gov/cola. ▮

Resumen En Español

Este año, la gran pregunta que Santa hará no es: "¿has sido bueno o travieso?", sino más bien: "¿cómo les ha ido a ti y a tus seres queridos con tantos desafíos, enfrentando tantas cosas?" Los eventos inquietantes mundiales y algunos atrozícos aquí en nuestra casa, seguramente han tenido su impacto como un golpe devastador en nuestro cuerpo, alma y espíritu. Sin embargo, en Local 237 hemos estado en la primera línea, luchando desde ella, trayendo un sentido de normalidad y tranquilidad a las vidas de todos los neoyorquinos. Como trabajadores municipales, han contado con nosotros y hemos cumplido. Ustedes han dignificado y han honrado el título de "empleado público", y tengan la seguridad de que Santa los tiene en su lista. ¡Disfruten de las fiestas!

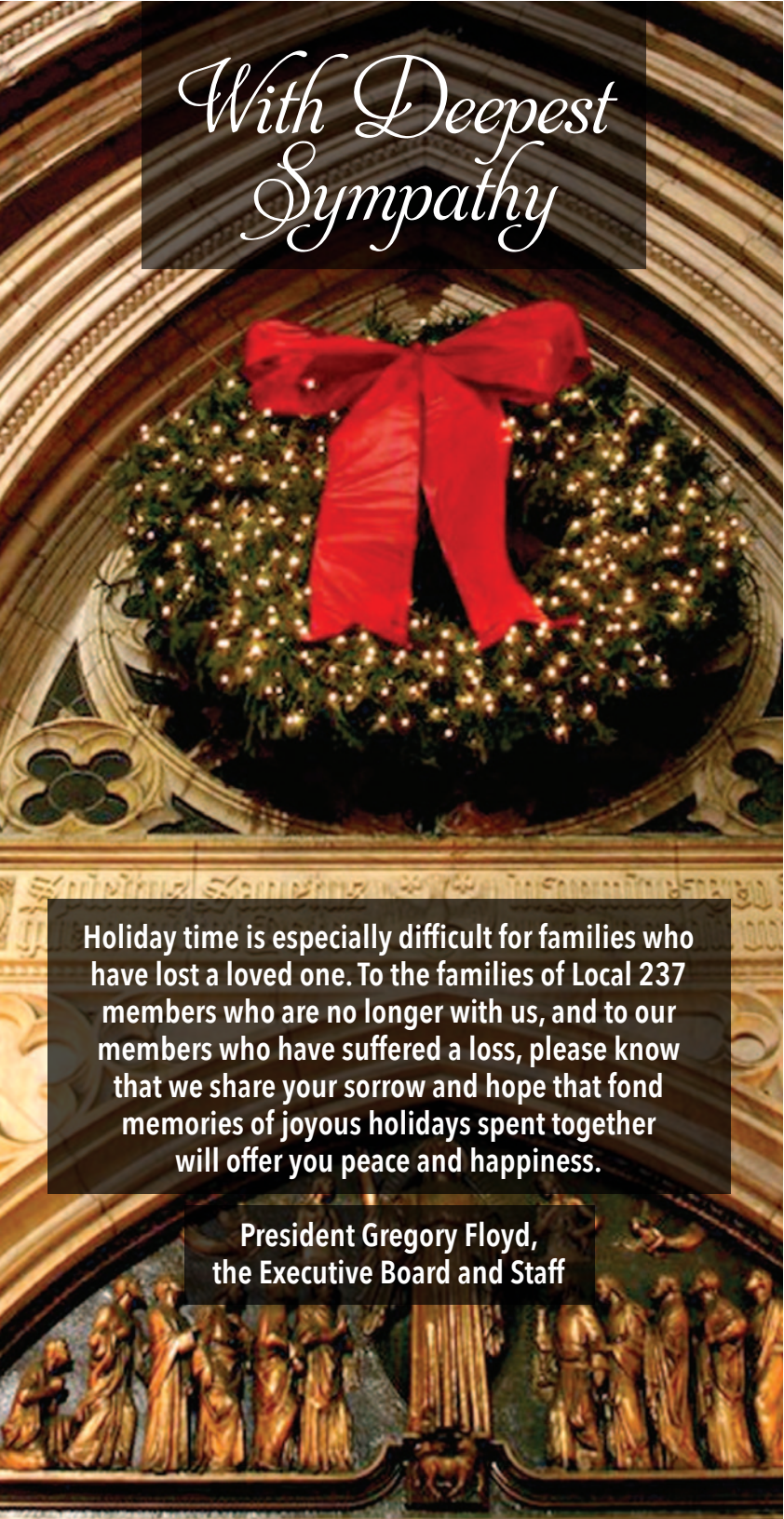
Gregory Floyd
Presidente de Teamsters Local 237




With Deepest Sympathy

Holiday time is especially difficult for families who have lost a loved one. 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 of joyous holidays spent together will offer you peace and happiness.

President Gregory Floyd,
the Executive Board and Staff



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New York, NY 10011

WINTER 2023

DATED MATERIAL

Are you moving?

To change your address, fill in the form below, cut it out, and mail it back to Newsline at the above address.

Name

New Address

City

State

Zip

The Education and Training Department would like to say THANK YOU!

By Shanell Grayson

Director of Training and Education

The holiday season is upon us. This is the time of year when family and friends are near, sweet treats are in abundance, and the cool of the air carries a kind of warmth that brings peace to the soul. 2023 has come and gone and we will soon make way for a new year with new joys and challenges.


This past year has been such a blessing for everyone here at the Education and Training Department. Countless members have taken advantage of our courses for their personal and professional development. They have conquered last year's goals and are ready for next year's challenge. We want to congratulate and thank those who have invested in themselves through Local 237's Education Fund as well as all the students who have excitedly shared their success stories in the Education Department article every edition.

To our Shop Stewards, thank you for advocating for our members' well-being and work conditions. I hope to see every one of you at our first Shop Steward training in January. We would also like to thank our entire membership for your often excellent work done out in the field. If you have not yet taken one of the union's free education courses, I encourage you to check our calendar below. Taking an educational course would be a great addition to one's 2024 resolution!

Lastly, I would personally like to thank the incredible team of individuals who work in or with the Education Department to provide exceptional service to our members. Katie, Gerry and Milagros, thank you for your kindness and hard work in the office every week! Jean, Devin, Troy and Nakeema, thank you for providing outstanding IT and student support! To our instructors, thank you for your knowledge and dedication! To NYC Lab School safety agents and staff, thank you for accommodating and welcoming our students into your facility! Thank you to our new neighbors on the 6th floor for being such a pleasure to work with! Phyllis, thank you for helping us build our very first Newsline article! Thank you, Denise, for your knowledge, for upkeeping our webpage, and the awesome remodel!


And to our union colleagues, business agents, executive board, and President Gregory Floyd, thank you for believing in us, supporting our needs, and communicating with the members about our programs.

As always, *we look forward to serving you!* See you in 2024.




(l-r) Shanell Grayson, Director; Geraldine Carpentier, Education Coordinator; and Katie Grate, Assistant Director.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Angelina McCall – Caretaker X

Teamsters Local 237's Education Department has afforded me the opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to become a Heating Plant Technician. I am grateful for the time, effort, skills, and knowledge the instructors and education department have empowered me with. I hope to keep working with the education department to continue learning, growing, and developing the skills I need to advance within my field.



Isaiah Pride – Special Officer (HRA)

Hello fellow union members. My name is Isaiah Pride and I am a Peace Officer with the HRA Police. I have more than 5 years of paid and volunteer law enforcement experience, an Associate's Degree in Public Justice, a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement Leadership, and I'm pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration. My education is very important to me.

So, when I found out that the Education Department was offering a class for the Special Officer exam, I took advantage of it. The tutorial has aided me in scoring higher than when I took the exam previously and resulted in a passing grade. I would encourage all union members to take advantage of the resources and courses available to us through the union. Although we may feel like we do not need them, you deserve to reap the benefits from such a valuable resource. Thank you to Local 237 and the Education Department for providing this class.

Interested in any of the Education Department's FREE Courses?

Email: training@local237.org • Call: 212-807-0550

CIVIL SERVICE EXAM PREP CLASSES

- Supervisor of Stock Worker (December)
- Resident Building Superintendent (Dec)
- Associate Taxi & Limousine Inspector (Jan)
- Heating Plant Technician (January)
- Bricklayer (February)
- Supervisor of Housing Groundskeeper (Feb)
- Housing Manager (April)

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Teamsters International Scholarship
 - > High School Seniors
 - > \$10,000 Award
 - > Deadline: March 1, 2024
 - > JRHMS.org
- Union Plus Scholarship
 - > Members and their families
 - > Unionplus.org

COURSES AT PARTICIPATING UNIONS

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- Shop Steward Training #1 (January) (For current Shop Stewards)
- Beginning Computer Skills (February)
- Fundamentals of Heating Plant Operations Course (March)
- Shop Steward Training #2 (March) (For current Shop Stewards)
- Advanced Computer Skills (April)

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

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

Scan the QR Code to register now.

