

LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 52, No. 1

Spring 2018

Members of the Team

"Individual commitment to a group effort — that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." Vince Lombardi



Local 237 members came together to strut their team colors with pride prior to the Super Bowl. The team "Captain", President **Gregory Floyd** (center, next to last row in blue Giants football jersey) said: *"We may be rooting for our individual favorites today, but we all know that win or lose the game, we're all part of the same team as members of this union. And membership has its advantages. We always try to give our members the confidence that we've got their backs and that we continue to provide them with extra services and programs to help improve the quality of life for them and their families."*

Valuable FREE Services

In addition to the assistance programs listed on this page, there are many other FREE services Local 237 also offers its members, including: financial

planning with **Stacy Braun**; legal counsel headed up by **Mary Sheridan** of the Legal Services Plan; benefit advice from **Mitch Goldberg**, Director

of the Welfare Fund and retirement planning, and cultural programs made available by the Retiree Division under the direction of **Nancy B. True**.

It is hoped that you will take full advantage of these free

services that Local 237 provides its members. We also urge you to read the professional advice columns written on topics that matter to you by our Legal, Welfare and Social Service Directors, which appear in each

Newsline edition. (Featured on page 13 in this edition).

And remember, as **Phil Jackson** once said: *"The strength of the team is each member. The strength of each member is the team."*

Retirement

Retirement Planning Seminar Schedule Spring 2018

College

Free College Benefit
Union members and their families can earn an Associates Degree with NO out-of-pocket cost.

MyNYCERS

Have You Signed Up for MyNYCERS?
If you have not yet signed up for your MyNYCERS, now is the time!

Disability Retirement

The Disability Retirement Process for Tier 4 Members

Stress Management

Do you need assistance with an issue in your life that is causing you stress?

See page 14 for more information on these FREE programs available to you.

Local 237 Member Services

UNION HEADQUARTERS

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

LOCAL 237 DIVISIONS

CITYWIDE DIVISION, 2nd Fl.

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

HOUSING DIVISION, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Kevin Norman, Housing Director

LONG ISLAND DIVISION

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

RETIREE DIVISION, 8th Fl.

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

LOCAL 237 DEPARTMENTS

(Citywide and Housing)

SKILLED TRADES, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

HEALTH AND SAFETY, 2nd Fl.

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

MEMBERSHIP, 3rd Fl.

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

WELFARE FUND, 3rd Fl.

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

LEGAL SERVICES, 4th Fl.

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 5th Fl.

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

PERSONNEL, 5th Fl.

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

POLITICAL ACTION &

LEGISLATION, 5th Fl.

212-924-2000
Local 237 protects members'
rights by helping to sponsor
legislation that is important
to members, and by opposing
initiatives that would hurt
members.
Patricia Stryker, Director

GRIEVANCES/DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS, 7th Fl.

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

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSN

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

COMMUNICATIONS, 5th Fl.

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

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

USEFUL NUMBERS

FOR PRE-RETIREES

NYCERS

(New York City Employees Retirement System)

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

NYCERS Internet

www.nyclink.org/html/nycers

NYC Department of Education Retirement System

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

Social Security Administration

800-772-1213

NY State and Local Retirement Systems

518-474-7736

A message from the President



By Gregory Floyd

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

Dr. King, A Legacy Constantly Challenged

Workers' rights and civil rights are one. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. knew this and ultimately died in the fight for equality and dignity in the workplace. As we remember that horrifying day when he was assassinated 50 years ago, what adds to our revulsion is to know that the fight must continue — it has not been won yet. The Janus case is a grave reminder of this. The fact that such a loathsome case could make it to the Supreme Court and that its supporters represent the worst instincts among a few, but powerful voices, means that we still have a lot of work to do toward making Dr. King's "Dream" an irreversible reality.

Especially for public sector employees, what's at stake in the Janus case is enormous. A loss could be catastrophic to us. Here's why: In 22 states, there are laws requiring public employees to pay "agency fees" to cover the collective-bargaining costs of unions that represent them, even if the employees are not members of the union, but still gain from collectively bargained salaries, pensions and other benefits that the union negotiated on their behalf. If the court voids those laws, public-sector unions and the politicians they support—who are largely Democrats—could suffer a huge financial blow and reverse 40 years of established labor law. This would place a tremendous financial strain on public sector unions. And, with union membership already falling by more than half from 1978 to 2017—26% to 10% nationwide—with public sector workers comprising the largest component, this might ultimately become the death knell for public unions. Democrats in particular, would pay an enormous price. The labor-supportive work that Democratic legislators have done over the years could be undermined, compromised and reversed. Republicans, of course, are rooting for opponents of agency fees.

The basis for the Janus constitutional claim is that these labor laws violate the First Amendment. It is argued that even if agency fees ostensibly fund only collective bargaining, it still can affect public policy. That amounts to forced adherence to a cause that is not necessarily your own. Mark Janus, a government employee in Illinois, doesn't agree with AFSCME's political positions and therefore contends that he should not be forced to pay union dues even though he has benefitted from collective bargaining, and, thanks to existing laws fought for by the union, he can get a refund from the union for any of his dues that are spent on political campaigns.

Recent trends at the Supreme Court suggest that it might indeed take this opportunity to impose a nationwide ban on mandatory dues in the public sector. A similar case ended in a 4-4 tie after Justice Antonin Scalia's death in 2016. With President Trump's appointee, Neil M. Gorsuch, replacing him, a 5-4 vote against the unions is possible.

The court could settle upon a middle-of-the-road decision: That union fees may be used to pay only for a union's collective-bargaining duties as narrowly defined by state law. This would still negatively impact union membership and the financial resources gained from members. Yet to some, this solution might seem acceptable. Lost, however, is perhaps the old fashioned sense that a union means unity... a sense that we're all in this together and everyone can benefit. Instead, there's a misunderstanding that the 40-hour work week, health benefits, pensions, paid vacation time and on the job safety guarantees, to name just a few—were always in place, a given right in every workplace. Nothing could be further from the truth! These were all hard fought by unions. Today, many workers don't know the history of unions in America. Some may just care to forget it or ignore it. Free-loaders get benefits anyway. But is that right? Is that what Dr. King fought and died for? As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of his assassination in Memphis, there to help striking sanitation workers, we must remember, workers' rights and civil rights are one. ■

UNION MEMBERSHIP



**Fighting the tough battles.
Winning the war.
Through strength in numbers.**

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

On the Job

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

EVIDENCE AND PROPERTY CONTROL



Evidence and property control specialists work for the NYPD in police precincts. Pictured are three EPCSs working in Staten Island: **EPCS Christina Schiavone**, **EPCS Brian Edwards** and **EPCS II Jerry Maniscalco** as Maniscalco shows Schiavone and Edwards how to intake property and put it away.

AT POMONOK HOUSES



Housing Director, **Kevin Norman** (plaid shirt) met with members working at Pomonok to discuss ways to work more safely and more efficiently. The first among other brainstorming sessions being planned helped produce ideas beneficial to workers and residents alike.

BEACH 41 STREET HOUSES



Teamwork and hard at work are **Nathaniel Scott**, Caretaker X and **Victoria Hall**, Caretaker J at Beach 41 Street Houses.



CAREER FAIR

Local 237 recently participated in a career fair for High School students from throughout New York City. Working in partnership with the United Federation of Teachers and New York City Central Labor Council, **Kevin Norman** (left), Director of Housing and **Len Proctor**, Deputy Director of the Welfare Division, met with more than 500 students visiting Local 237's display. They discussed with the students the many options that they had, from attending college to immediately working for a City agency and becoming a member of the union. Kevin and Len distributed informational materials describing the services and programs offered by Local 237, and explained to the students why membership has its advantages.

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

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

All in the Family

Local 237
NEWSLINE

216 West 14th St., New York, NY 10011

646-638-8501

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e-mail Newsline: pshafran@local237.org

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Edmund Kane
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Patricia Stryker
Recording Secretary

Curtis Scott
Trustee

Jeanette Taveras
Trustee

Benedict Carenza, Jr.
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 insure that you continue receiving your newspaper.



MEET AVA DESIDERATO



Jim Desiderato, a former School Safety Agent working on the Task Force in Staten Island, has a daughter Ava, who like many 9 year old girls, likes to dance, sing, and play basketball. She even likes to write. And, Ava is proud of the fact that she is pretty good at it

all. But unlike most girls her age, those achievements have been harder to come by because Ava has been living with an incurable disease which affects her entire body. 22q Deletion Syndrome, a difficult to detect genetic disorder, which causes the deletion of the 22nd chromosome that results in problems with most of the body's major organs. The first tell-tale sign of the disease was that upon birth, she did not cry. But, after several surgeries and with much family and community support, Ava continues to meet her challenges, providing inspiration to everyone who meets her.

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

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Above and Beyond

SI SSAs SPREAD XMAS CHEER



To a youngster, what's Christmas without toys? That's what troubled a group of Staten Island School Safety Agents (pictured). Not to worry! They sprung into action and collected toys for needy children in their community.

AGENT OF THE MONTH



School Safety Agent I **Jerry Roman** noticed an elderly woman in the street wearing a night gown, a slipper on one foot and a boot on the other, carrying English muffins and paper toweling that she said were for her 6 year-old son who attends the school. She could not remember her name or address. The woman was brought inside the school for safety and warmth as they waited for EMS to arrive. Her home care attendant and son were eventually located and the woman was taken to Staten Island University Hospital, where although she suffers from Alzheimer's Disease and dementia, it was determined that she was fine. For his quick action and compassion, Roman was made Agent of the Month by the NYPD, School Safety Division, PBSI.

SSA SAVES A CHOKING CHILD



Third grade student Jensi Douglas was choking. Her school, within the 43rd Police Precinct of the Bronx East Command, called EMS, but **SSA1 Catala**, responding to a Code Blue, saved the day. She performed the Heimlich maneuver and stabilized the student. Catala is pictured with the student and her grateful mother, Andrea Douglas when she returned back to school after the horrifying incident.

THE MANY FACES OF SANTA: CUNY OFFICERS

Toys were donated by staff and students of Kingsborough Community College.



Spcl. Ramirez, Sgt. Lopez and Spcl. Chung with their van loaded with Christmas toys.



Sgt. Lopez, Spcl. Chung and Spcl. Ramirez with staff members of Maimonides Children Center.

AUTISTIC CHILD SAVED BY SSA



When an autistic student ran out of a school building in the 81st Police Precinct, **SSA Thompson** was not far behind. She ran 6 blocks to reach the child and return him safely to the school and the grateful arms of his thankful parents.

PANICKED PARENTS, STUDENTS CALMED BY SSAs



In light of the tragic shootings in Parkland, Florida, parents were especially on edge when there were reports of a gun being found at Susan Wagner High School on Staten Island. Many raced to the school in a panic. Despite the fact that the NYPD, which had placed the school in lock down, determined after a thorough, 2-hour search that the report was totally unfounded, School Safety Agents—including both on and some-off duty, worked tirelessly to calm terrified parents, students and school personnel. Demonstrating authority mixed with compassion, the Agents (several pictured) helped to defuse misinformation and restore confidence that the school was safe.

COACH RUEB

In the Brentwood School District where he has worked for 14 years, **John Rueb's** actual title may be "Head Custodian"



but, to many, he is known as Coach. Rueb, of Brentwood, has been coaching basketball for the past 18 years. He created the Brentwood Developmental Basketball League for boys and girls up to the age of 14, which integrates youngsters with developmental challenges into a mainstream basketball team. Coach Rueb believes that getting children onto the basketball court may save some from a judicial court of law. Brentwood has been plagued by MS-13 violence, allegedly responsible for the death of two former female players. As Rueb said: "Kids learning life lessons through sports and smiling is the most rewarding thing."

NYPD SCHOOL SAFETY DIVISION COMMUNITY OUTREACH UNIT

MY SCHOOL HAS RHYTHM NOT VIOLENCE

FINALE 2018!

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

FREDRICK DOUGLAS ACADEMY I
A.P. RANDOLPH
GEORGE WASHINGTON CAMPUS
NORMAN THOMAS CAMPUS

Music Produced by:
Uninamise

FEATURED TALENT:
HSA
HARLEM SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
THE HERB ALPERT CENTER

MARCH 29, 2018

DOORS OPEN 5PM SHOWTIME: 6PM

LOCATION: PARK WEST HIGH SCHOOL
525 W. 50TH STREET. NEW YORK, NY10019

Sponsored by:

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

In recognition of a Job Well Done

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

GO GATORS!



The Gators of Manhattan North are victorious, winning the SSDAL Basketball finals. Pictured with the team and their fans are Commanding Officer **Eric Johnson** (white shirt, near podium center) who help train them and, to his right, is **Jeanette Taveras**, Local 237 Law Enforcement Business Agent and Executive Board Trustee, who helped cheer them on.

THE WINNING TEAM				
KIMBALL	GREEN	HEAD COACH	MTF	
ARTHUR	CASH	GUARD	MLK CAMPUS	23
JOHN	CANNON	FORWARD	MN FIO	0
MIGUEL	NEGRON	CENTER	PS 101	12
CLINTON	POWELL	GUARD	JHS 45	32
RAVITA	LYNCH	GUARD	MN COMMAND	9
TWANNA	BASSET	GUARD	WADLEIGH HS	2
CARLTON	GRIMES	FORWARD	MTF	7
SHAKEYA	GARRETT	GUARD	MANH CENTER	20
SHAREESA	ABDUL-ALI	GUARD	PS 102	4
KIMANI	DAVID	CENTER	PS 194	15
KAWAN	GREGGS	GUARD	GEORGE WASH CAMPUS	11
SHAKIM	DAWKINS	CENTER	LIFE SCIENCE	24
PAUL	COLLINS	GUARD	MLK CAMPUS	21
GOLDEN	THOMAS	GUARD	COMMUNITY HEALTH	3
CHAVEZ	MITCHELL	GUARD	WESTSIDE HS	8

HANDBALL
HALL OF FAME



Raul Fantauzzi, a School Safety Agent for more than 30 years, was inducted into the Handball Hall of Fame. Pictured with his father at the awards ceremony in which Raul dedicated his award to his recently deceased brother, the fierce competitor earned more than 40 titles in the sport during the 30 years that he played. There were 1,000 handball enthusiasts vying to be chosen for the honor—only 10 were selected and Raul was one of them.

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

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to the Graduates

CONGRATS! CAMPUS PEACE OFFICERS



Gregory Floyd, with a proud CUNY grad (center) and **Jeanette Taveras**.

Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** was on hand to personally extend his congratulations and best wishes to the graduating class of CUNY Peace Officers, at a ceremony recently held at York College. Joining President Floyd was **Jeanette Taveras**, Law Enforcement Business Agent and Executive Board Trustee.



Gregory Floyd (lower left) with the entire graduating class of CUNY Peace Officers for February 2018. On display is a plaque the graduates presented to their instructors in gratitude for helping them to succeed.

NEW CLASS OF EPCS



In March, a new class of graduates was deployed to the NYPD Evidence and Property Control Offices of various NYPD precincts. The graduates completed their training and received the title: Evidence and Property Control Specialists. Pictured are graduates at the Police Academy in Queens. **George Wade**, Citywide Business Agent, (first row, second from the right) was present to congratulate the new grads on their accomplishments.

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

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Added to the Roster of Retirees

A LETTER FROM RICHIE



CITY EMPLOYEES UNION LOCAL 237
 AFFILIATED WITH THE
 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
 216 WEST 14TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011-7296
 212-924-2000 • www.local237.org



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 Vice President

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GREGORY FLOYD
 President
 PATRICIA STRYKER
 Recording Secretary

EDMUND KANE
 CURTIS SCOTT
 JEANETTE TAVERAS
 Trustees

Richard Hendershot
 Vice President, Executive Board, Teamsters Local 237
 216 West 14 Street
 New York, NY 10011

November 14, 2017

Executive Board, Teamsters Local 237
 216 West 14 Street
 New York, NY 10011

Dear President Floyd and Members of the Executive Board:

I never thought it would be so difficult to find the words to say good bye. I have been a Teamster for 46 years; 36 of those years working for Teamsters Local 237 and having various union positions on Long Island, and 18 years as the Vice President on the Executive Board. This wasn't just a job to me; it defined who I am; it was the frame of reference when I entered a room. Teamsters were my friends; Teamsters were my colleagues; it was what I talked about in the office and at home. I never felt like I was going to work. Instead, I looked at each day at work as just doing things I enjoyed doing. Keeping in mind an old saying: "Choose a work that you love and you won't have to work another day," I guess I can say, I've been blessed with 46 years of professional satisfaction and happiness that never felt like a job.

But, there is another old saying: "All good things must come to an end", which sums up my bittersweet decision—which is the right decision for me and my family at this time—to tender this letter of retirement from Teamsters Local 237 Executive Board, effective December 31, 2017.

It's often hard for me to think that I started off as a young man over 4 decades ago never dreaming that I would have the honor of becoming the Vice President of Local 237's Executive Board, with all the fabulous opportunities it afforded me to meet people and make decisions that impacted the lives of so many. Yet a dream became a reality, made extra special because of the support and comradery all of you extended to me. While I look forward to retirement, I will miss being part of our team.

If I can be of any assistance prior to my departure and afterwards, please let me know. I'd be glad to help out.

In solidarity,

Richard Hendershot,
 Vice President, Executive Board, Teamsters Local 237



Supervisor of Housekeeping at Coney Island Hospital, **Raul DeCosta** has retired after 30 years working for HHC. Pictured with **George Wade**, Business Agent, Citywide, DeCosta says that he has no plans on moving and looks forward to enjoying the City. He may do some traveling too.



Det. Lixandro Colon, who worked at Queens Hospital Center for 28 years and was known for his professionalism and pride in achieving a job well-done.



With the Director of Hospital Police **Vito Aleo** (left) and **Charlie Cotto**, a Law Enforcement Business Agent for Local 237 at her side, **Capt. Audrey Anthony Lopez** accepted a certificate of appreciation at her retirement party to commemorate her many years of exemplary work.



Capt. Perry (right), 34 years working at Queens Hospital Center, pictured with the hospital's Executive Director and CEO, **Christopher Roker**, who was on hand to wish Perry well and to commend him for his many years of dedicated service.



Special Officer **Bobby Maldonado** (left) with **Randy Klein**, Deputy Director, Citywide Division. The well-liked Maldonado worked at Elmhurst Hospital for 31 years.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Members Promoted, Congratulations

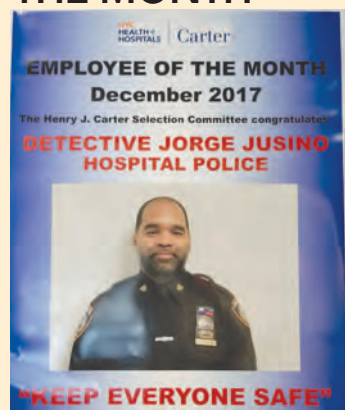
We commend our members who have succeeded in achieving higher rank within their agencies. Here are some of those recently promoted:

SSA DEGUZMAN GETS HIS SHIELD



At a graduation ceremony, **SSA Chris DeGuzman** was promoted to the rank of SSA, Level I. He is pictured here receiving his shield from **Chief Brian Conroy**. DeGuzman is assigned to Murray Bergtraum High School.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



In December, for keeping "everyone safe," **Det. Jorge Justino** was named Employee of the Month by Carter Hospital.

TLC SHIELD AND AWARDS CEREMONY



Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** (seated first row, right, next to First Deputy Chief of Training Academy, **Eric Finkelstein**) was on hand for the TLC Uniformed Services Bureau's Shield and Awards Ceremony held in its Woodside facility. The ceremony marked the switching of titles from Inspector to Officer, as a more recognizable symbol of law enforcement. In addition to distributing shields, the event also featured several promotions to the rank of Supervisor.

Condolences

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



To the family of **Chris Maisano**, former Deputy Director of the Housing Division, who was a much liked, well respected and hard-working member of Local 237.

Local 237's Three Women Who Helped Make History

On March 5, 2010, Teamsters Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd**, (pictured below with **George Geller**, Special Assistant to the President), signed the gender-based lawsuit seeking pay equity for more than 5,000 School Safety Agents—70% of whom are women, most of them African Americans and Latinas—with other peace officer titles, 70% of whom are male.

Through relentless negotiations and persistent rallies with many renowned supporters, including women's rights activists **Lily Ledbetter**; **Sonia Ossorio**, President of the New York City Chapter of NOW; and **Hazel Dukes**, President of the New York State Chapter of the NAACP, the City finally agreed to an historic settlement.

President Floyd said: "In March 2010, I met with 25 School Safety Agents to tell them about my plan to sue the City for pay discrimination. We needed lead plaintiffs to sign the documents and become the faces of the lawsuit. 22 agents walked out of the door, only three remained, **Corinthians Andrews**, **Bernice Christopher** and **Patricia Williams**. Over the years of ex-



Left to right, are the three lead plaintiffs in the lawsuit: the late **Corinthians Andrews**, **Bernice Christopher** and **Patricia Williams**.

hausting legal wrangling, having to take time from their jobs, and from their families, these three gave testimony again and again. In intense discussions, they even fought to ensure that retirees were part of any settlement. And, on the day in August 2014, when the judge was to make his final ruling, **Corinthians**, **Bernice** and **Patricia** went to the courtroom and knelt in prayer.

March is Women's History Month, and these three women helped make history for Local 237. ■



President **Gregory Floyd** with **George Geller**, Special Assistant to the President.

Black H Mo Celeb



Pamela Boylan sings "Lift Every Voice and Sing"



Honoree Celeste Morrison with Gregory Floyd



Shannell Grayson sings the Star Spangled Banner



Honoree Warren Chiles with Gregory Floyd



NYPD Dep Com for School Safety Ramon Garcia; Gregory Floyd; Derek Jackson, Law Enforcement Director for Local 237 and Dwayne Montgomery, Integrity Director for Local 237



Kevin Norman, daughter Nia, Doreen Spicer-Dannelly and Gregory Floyd



Honoree Beverly Cunningham with Gregory Floyd

On February 26, Local 237 celebrated African Americans. Among the highlights was an awards ceremony to acknowledge the achievements of our own members of African American descent. The event kicked off with a moving rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by Pamela Boylan, Supervisor of Houses, followed by the Star Spangled Banner performed by Shannell Grayson, Assistant Director of Houses. The spirit of the event was captured in the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing":

"Sing a song full of the faith that's true
Sing a song full of the hope that is
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on tiptoe when the sun is new"

Throughout the evening, Local 237 members reiterated the theme of history and tradition. Local 237 Housing Director, also reinforced in the song. Doreen Spicer-Dannelly, the renowned author of the Disney Channel and author of the book "The Dutch League" on board to lend extra enjoyment to the evening with an enthusiastic, fun-filled demonstration of the Dutch League.



History nth ration

...rated the history and culture of
...highlights of the evening, was an
...the many accomplishments of our
...an descent. The event was kicked-
...“Lift Every Voice and Sing” sung
...of Grounds at the Harlem River
...ngled Banner beautifully sung by
...ctor of the Education Department.
...ured in the words of “Lift Every

...at the dark past has taught us,
...the present has brought us,
...of our new day begun
...ll victory is won.”

...237 President **Gregory Floyd**
...hope, which MC **Kevin Norman**,
...n his remarks during the festivities.
...owned writer/ producer/director
...r of Love Double Dutch was also
...o the proceedings, which included
...stration by the National Double



Honoree Jamel Thomas with Benny Carenza, Director of the Long Island Division



Members dancing to the music of DJ RIMARKABLE



Honoree Yvonne Spalding with family and friends present to cheer her on



MC Kevin Norman and his daughter Nia Norman



Noelia Quinones, Retiree Division Secretary and Hector Cotto, Deputy Director of the Retiree Division



Honoree Sharon Partee with Gregory Floyd



Honoree Courtney Daniels and her new edition to the Teamsters.



Nancy B. True, Director of the Retiree Division and Local 237 President Gregory Floyd enjoying the festivities





LONG ISLAND REPORT



Guy and Rich who are Chief and Head Custodians at Harbor Fields School District with **Benny Carenza**. These guys do a great job.



Brentwood members from the Brentwood School District, Custodial and Maintenance crew.



Plainview Old Bethpage Schools Liaison **John Hammer** (left) and member **Vinny Beneduce** present **Jack McCann** with a retirement plaque for 20 years of service. Congrats and happy retirement Jack!



Brentwood nurses contract committee with **Benny Carenza** after our contract negotiation session. We are working hard to get a contract the nurses deserve.



North Babylon schools Custodial crew with **Benny Carenza**. These members do great work on a daily basis to keep the schools in great shape.



Brentwood's Oak Park School Custodial and Food Service crew. They all work hard and do a great job!



Town of Islip Housing Authority Crew with **Benny Carenza**. They keep the Housing Authority running for the residents and all do a fantastic job!



North Babylon night Custodial crew with **Benny Carenza** at the high school.



Town of Babylon members **Bob Verch**, **Ron Oppedisano** and **Charles Good** retire with over 30 years of service each! Congrats guys!



Brentwood School District's Custodian **Edwin** (Shop Steward) and Security Guard **Tony** doing a great job. Pictured with **Benny Carenza**.



Syosset Library's **Barney Leventino** (Shop Steward) with **Benny Carenza** at our union meeting.



Demetra Tietjen and **Benny Carenza** at the North Babylon School District. Demetra is the new Liaison for the Bus Drivers at the North Babylon School District. She is very involved and supports Local 237 and the members 100%.



Lawrence School members and retirees at a meeting with **Benny Carenza** to advocate to the school board about a contract and other issues.



Brentwood's Food Service crew with **Benny Carenza**.



Brentwood Custodial Crew **Colin** and **Rudy** doing a great job. Pictured with **Benny Carenza**.



Town of Babylon members with **Benny Carenza** at our union meeting. We collected for a member and raised \$1,400 dollars with the Teamster helping Teamster raffle.



Town of Islip Housing Maintenance Crew that repair apartments for the residents.



Brentwood School's Oak Park Custodial Night Crew with **Benny Carenza**. Like all 237 members they really care for the schools and it shows.



237's celebration of Black History Month included awards to some of our African American members doing exemplary work. A Long Island Division Security Guard, **Jamel Thomas** (left) was among them, pictured with President **Gregory Floyd**.



Great OTB members posing for a picture.

WHAT'S NEW ON LI?

LOCAL 237 SEEKS FAIR NEW CONTRACT IN THE LAWRENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Lawrence Board of Education agreed to a new contract in principle with the Educational Secretaries Association as the trustees approved the memorandum of agreement with the union on Feb. 12. The ESA had ratified the agreement three days earlier.

That leaves two district unions without a new contract. The Lawrence Teachers Association that represents nearly 280 members, including librarians, speech therapists and social workers, and Local 237, that represents roughly 140 employees such as aides, audio-visual, bus attendants, claims auditors, cleaners, information techs, maintainers, mail people, nurses, and

teacher assistants. Without a new agreement for nearly seven years, the LTA and district have gone toe-to-toe on more than a few issues. The latest battle is over the July 2017 fact-finder's report. The union endorsed the recommendation, the board rejected it. Negotiations remain at an impasse, and the LTA filed an improper practice with the Public Employees Review Board against the BOE in January. Since the city of Buffalo settled with its teachers in 2016 after 12 years, Lawrence is now the longest running contract negotiation in the state. The next step could be super conciliation — mediation. But it is not mandatory.

Salary increases for the length of a contract is what Ben Carenza, the Long Island area Director for Local 237 said he is aiming for. The most recent agreement went into effect in 2007 and expired last year. Carenza spoke on Feb. 12 and demonstrated that he was upset that his members were not being taken care of by the District. "All the administrators here got raises, we got nothing, it's not fair," he said, also pointing to raises received by administrators in the Brentwood School District. "We are looking for a fair and equitable raise based on the Consumer Price Index. A one-shot deal doesn't help."

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

NEW CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER VISITS JC 16



JC 16 President George Miranda introduces Corey Johnson to the Delegates

The newly elected Speaker of the City Council, Corey Johnson, visited Joint Council 16, one of his first stops after securing his new position. He told the delegates that his father had been a Teamster and that they could feel confident that they will always have a friend at City Hall. Corey recounted that when he moved to New York from his native Massachusetts as a young man he faced many personal challenges, but he found union members gave him a much-needed sense of family that he will never forget. ■



Speaker Johnson at the podium addressing the Delegates.



Corey Johnson (right) with members of the Joint Council Executive Board, Demos Demopoulos, Secretary Treasurer; Harry Nespoli, Vice President and Gregory Floyd, Recording Secretary.

Local 3 Reaches out on "Reaching out with Gregory Floyd"



Local 3 IBEW's **Chris Erikson**, Business Manager, (left) and **Derek Jordan**, Business Rep for the Local's Electronic Technicians appeared on "Reaching Out With Gregory Floyd," a weekly radio broadcast on 970AM/The Answer. Their union has been on strike against Charter/Spectrum for more than one year. Without a contract since 2013, Erikson said: "They told us that until we agreed to fully contribute to our pension and health plans, they won't even talk to us... but guess what? With the holidays approaching, we basically met most of their demands and still no deal! What they really want is to bust the union. With 1,700 jobs—most held by minority members—at stake, management is playing games while our members suffer". **Greg Floyd**, the program's host responded to the union's plight by saying: "You've told us that Spectrum's CEO has a salary of \$98 million. He makes Scrooge look good!" ■

LOCAL 237 DEFENDS MEMBERS, SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT



Newspaper headlines glared with startling stories of freezing residents and lead paint exposure at NYCHA developments. That prompted the New York City Council to hold hearings to address these chronic issues. On February 6th, Local 237's **Kevin Norman**, Housing Director and **Bertha Aiken**, Director of Education and Training, gave testimony in front of the City Council about the critical role that 237's NYCHA workers have played—and want to continue playing—to improve the conditions in which public housing residents live and members work, despite the challenges they encounter along the way.

Kevin Norman testified, "This summer they [NYCHA] made their intentions clear, telling us that privatizing 69 boiler plants was the answer. We reviewed the request and the industry standard and responded that we could do it at half the cost internally, including new hires and advanced training to stay current with incoming systems." Bertha Aiken went on to explain to Council Members, "We already have the program, the curriculum's set up and we're going to start in March. I went ahead and decided to start the training without any further input from them because they were dragging their feet."

At the hearing, also attended by Local 237 Secretary-Treasurer **Ruben Torres** and Local 237 Recording Secretary and Political Director **Patricia Stryker**, 237 representatives were there to set the record straight: "We work hard to help insure that residents live in a place they are happy to call home. We just wish that NYCHA would do more to help us help them." ■

Personal Notes

Ruben Torres has been appointed the new Vice President of Teamsters Local 237 IBT. His new salary will be \$2,416.00 per week (\$125,632.00 per year) effective February 1, 2018.

Edmund Kane has been appointed the new Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 237 IBT. His new salary will be \$2,138.00 per week (\$111,176.00 per year) effective January 1, 2018.

Demetra Tietjen has been appointed the new LI Grievance Representative. She will receive a monthly expense check of \$220.00 per week (\$2,640 per year) effective March 1, 2018.



When a debt collector calls, know your rights

By Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.

Director Local 237-Legal Services Plan

Time and again I see clients whose first instincts are to hide from debt collector calls. They are not alone. The problem is that by ignoring calls, the situation can get worse. A debt will not necessarily disappear and can come back to haunt you many years later.

It is important to know that the Legal Services Plan is here to help you with your consumer legal problems. A large part of our work involves representing clients in consumer lawsuits and bankruptcies. You should also know your rights when dealing with a debt collector.

First, you should make sure the debt collector is legitimate. Ask the name of the person who is calling you, the company he or she works for and the name of the creditor. If they refuse to give this information, demand it in writing if possible. Next, you should ask how you can dispute or verify the debt and that it is yours. There are many unscrupulous debt collectors out there and many instances where they attempt to collect from the wrong person. You also can ask for written verification of the debt.

If the debt is not yours, you should write the debt collector stating it is not yours and demanding they cease contacting you. Keep a copy of any correspon-

dence you send or receive. In the event they continue to contact you, there may be a Federal Debt Collection Practices Act violation on which you could sue.

We have seen many instances where debt collectors are attempting to collect on very old debts. There are statute of limitations laws prohibiting lawsuits based on debts after a certain passage of time. Beware of making a payment or agreeing to do so for a debt that is old. By making a payment, you may have legally allowed them to collect on that debt for which they otherwise would not have been able to sue you.

Remember, your Legal Services Plan is here to help. Please feel free to call us at (212) 924-1220 with your questions. |



Help for Mental Illness

By Ayana Ali

Director Local 237- Social Services

I am a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years' experience in social and mental health service delivery. A former 237 member and employee recently returned to the union after 9 years away, I am back home working at the local to service the active membership. Under my guidance, the Social Services Department will bring important information about supports in your communities, the city and greater New York area to your fingertips.

Today, I want to talk to you about mental illness. When you hear the term mental illness, you may tend to think of the negative images seen in the news about troubled individuals resorting to violence. Or you may think about homeless persons who you may sometimes encounter on the street or on public transportation who behave in emotionally unstable and disruptive manners. But the truth is, the average person dealing with a mental illness is neither violent nor unruly and many more people live with mental illness in this country than you may think. The face of mental illness is the face of everyday Americans like you and me.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), in 2016, there were an estimated 44.7 million adults aged 18 or older in the U.S., living with a mental illness of varying severity. That means that approximately 18% or nearly 1 in 5 adults in this country have had a diagnosed mental health condition. However, only 10.4 million of those adults had been diagnosed with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) statistics show that 20% of adolescents in the U.S. ages 13- 18 have a mental health diagnosis and the great majority of them are either mood or behavioral conditions. That means that many Americans, youths and adults, are living with a mental illness and that conditions such as depression, anxiety, panic attacks and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder often referred to as ADD or ADHD, are also mental illnesses. While these numbers are staggering, even more amazing are the statistics that show that only 40% of Americans suffering from a mental illness had received treatment in the previous year. These conditions undoubtedly affect the quality of people's lives.

Thankfully, there is good news. Mental illness does not have to stop you from having a good and rewarding life. While the numbers above let us know that mental illness is prevalent and that many people struggle, statistics also show that there is hope for

treatment. Certain types of treatment such as cognitive behavioral therapy has shown efficacy rates of 70% for conditions such as panic disorder and over 50% for conditions such as obsessive compulsive disorder. Similarly, the NIMH reports that even for severe mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, strides in the development of medication and talk therapy modalities have made these conditions considerably easier to live with for many persons. Lastly, significant progress had been made in the treatment of depression and studies show that the combination of a medication and any type of talk therapy regimen can effectively help most people to improve their mood and overall well-being.

People diagnosed with mental illness can lead meaningful, successful and happy lives and make great contributions to society. There are many examples of successful people living and coping with mental illness. A few are: Janet Jackson (clinical depression), Jennifer Lewis (bipolar disorder), Will Smith (ADHD), and Demi Lovato (bipolar disorder). Having a mental illness doesn't mean that you are crazy or disturbed, it just means that you may need to develop different coping mechanisms or consider a medication regimen supervised by a psychiatrist or nurse practitioner. There is no reason to let fear, shame and stigma prevent you from embracing recovery and wellness.

How do you know if you or someone that you care for are possibly suffering from a mental illness? Do you struggle with persistent feelings of sadness or worry? Does someone who you know seem unable to manage his or her emotions, having frequent outbursts or disruptive episodes? Are you unable to focus on tasks at hand, often becoming distracted or overwhelmed by intrusive thoughts? Does someone that you care for appear out of touch with reality or unable to function properly with his or her day to day tasks and responsibilities? If so, this may be signs of a possible mental illness. The best way to determine if treatment is warranted is to meet with a professional such as a mental health counselor, social worker, psychologist or psychiatrist.

If you are concerned about yourself or someone that you care about and need assistance with finding proper treatment or learning how to access that treatment via health insurance benefits, contact me, Ayana Ali, LCSW at 212-924-7220 or aali@local237.org. There is nothing embarrassing about taking steps toward getting better.



Short Term Disability Benefits

By Mitch Goldberg Director of the Welfare Fund

If you become disabled and cannot work because of an injury or illness that is not job-related or is not covered by no-fault auto insurance, you are eligible to receive short term disability benefits. There is a 14 day waiting period for benefits to begin. A physician must examine you within 3 days of your disability for these days to be included in the waiting period; otherwise the 14 day waiting period begins only when you are examined.

You will lose your right to this benefit if the Fund requests that you have an examination by a physician and the examination does not take place within two weeks of the Fund's request. If you are being treated for substance abuse, your treatment at a particular center or institute is required, in writing, by the physician who certifies that you are disabled. In addition, if the treatment continues for more than two weeks, the treatment center or institute must have a licensed physician on duty who can provide certification of your continued disability.

The amount of the benefit is 50% of your weekly salary up to a maximum benefit of \$300 a week. Benefits begin on the 15th day of your disability, unless you are hospitalized; in that case, benefits are paid from the first day you are confined to the hospital. In any event, you must miss a day of work due to your covered disability for disability benefits to start.

You will be entitled to receive no more than 52 weeks of disability benefit payments during any 104-week period regardless of how many separate disabilities or recurrences you experience during that period. If you return to work before you use up your 52 weeks of disability benefit payments and you are again disabled, you will be entitled to receive benefit payments only for the remainder of the 52 weeks of eligibility you have left during the 104-week period.

In order to receive these disability benefits, you must obtain a claim form from the Fund Office. There are three sections to this form; you should complete the employee section, your doctor should complete the "Attending Physi-

cian's Section," and your supervisor should complete the employer section.

Return the completed claim form to the Fund Office within 30 days from the first day of your disability. If you cannot submit a claim form within that time period, you must send a letter explaining the reason for the delay and the details of your disability. If the Fund Director determines that the delay in submitting the form was not for good cause, your claim for benefits may be completely or partially disallowed.

In general, the Fund's short-term disability benefits are not payable for the following injuries or illnesses:

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS. If you are injured as a result of an automobile accident that is covered by no-fault insurance, you are not entitled to receive the Fund's short-term disability benefits. Automobile accidents that are covered by no-fault insurance include accidents involving cars, vans, SUVs, taxicabs, private car service vehicles and buses. If you are injured in such an accident, you should contact the insurance carrier covering the vehicle involved in the accident and apply for no-fault insurance benefits, as the Fund will not provide benefits in such cases.

JOB-RELATED INJURIES OR ILLNESSES. If your injury or illness is job-related, the Fund's short-term disability benefit would not be payable and you would need to file a workers' compensation claim for benefits. If the Fund receives a notice (Workers' Compensation Form C-7) that the claim is controverted by your employer, then the Fund will pay its benefit, pending the resolution of your workers' compensation claim. In such case, the Fund will have a lien on the workers' compensation benefits awarded to you (if any). This means that, if you are paid by the Fund and you are later awarded workers' compensation benefits for the same illness or injury and time period, the Fund is entitled to recover the amount it paid to you, out of your worker's compensation benefits, so that you are not paid twice for the same illness or injury. |

Valuable FREE Local 237 Services

Retirement Planning Seminar Schedule Spring 2018

Introduction to Retirement Procedures & Benefits

Wednesday, April 25 - 5:30pm - City Wide Div.

Thursday, April 26 - 5:30pm - Housing Div.

Representatives from NYCERS (NYC Employees Retirement System) will provide an overview of pension plans/tiers, retirement procedures and pension benefits for Local 237 members who belong to New York City retirement systems.

Health Insurance & Retiree Benefit Fund Coverage

Thursday, May 3 - 5:30pm

Representatives from the health insurance plans on the City Contract (GHI, HIP, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Aetna) and the Union's Retirees' Benefit Fund will provide in-depth explanations of health insurance coverage and union benefits for retired members and their eligible dependents.

Financial Planning, Social Security & Legal Services

Thursday, May 10 - 5:30pm

Money Management Experts will discuss budgets, debt reduction, savings and investment strategies for retirement. Social Security information will be provided. An Attorney will address legal concerns, services and Legal Services Plan benefits for retired members.

Making the Transition from Work to Retirement

Wednesday, May 16 - 5:30pm

A Geriatric Physician will discuss successful aging strategies, with an emphasis on prevention. Successful retirement requires an understanding of its impact on personal relationships, time management, and planning for the "What If's..." in life. Family members, spouses, domestic partners and significant others are cordially invited to attend this final session.

Have You Signed Up for MyNYCERS?

If you are a member of the New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS) and have not yet signed up for your MyNYCERS, now is the time!

MyNYCERS is the secure online portal to your NYCERS pension account. With MyNYCERS you can view your account balances and file forms online any time at your own convenience.

And starting this spring, as part of NYCERS' ongoing Green Initiatives, NYCERS will no longer mail Annual Disclosure Statements (ADS) to active members. The ADS will be available only online in MyNYCERS — all the more reason to sign up now.

Here's How:

Step 1 — Activate Your Account

Have your Member or Pension Number handy. Go to www.nycers.org and click on the Log In/Activate link. Follow the instructions to validate your identity. You will also need to create a User Name, Password, and Security Question and Answer in this step. Be sure to write them down and keep them in a safe place. (Note: if you joined NYCERS recently, do not take Step 1 until you receive your Member Number and first paycheck after filing your membership application.)

When you activate your account, choose either text message or email to receive a PIN (Personal Identification Number). The PIN will be sent within 2 minutes; you will need it to complete your registration.

Step 2 — Register the PIN

Watch your cellphone or e-mail for your PIN and follow the online instructions to register it immediately. Once you've registered the PIN, you're all set — you will have full access to MyNYCERS.

What's Available in MyNYCERS?

Active Members:

- See an estimate of your retirement benefit, and your projected retirement date
- Apply for a loan online
- Estimate buyback cost and apply online
- See your Service Summary
- Access your Annual Disclosure Statement

The Disability Retirement Process for Tier 4 Members

If you are no longer able to perform the duties of your title because of an illness or work-related injury, but are not yet eligible to receive a service retirement benefit, you may apply for a disability retirement benefit.

This article provides a brief overview of the disability retirement process for Tier 4 members filing a disability retirement or World Trade Center (WTC) application with the New York City Employee's Retirement System (NYCERS).

The process begins when a disability retirement application is filled with NYCERS, together with all required documentation in support of the application. If you are eligible, you will be scheduled for an interview and examination with NYCERS' Medical Board. The Medical Board consists of three (3) physicians, one appointed by the NYCERS Board of Trustees, one by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), and one by the Department of Health.

TYPES OF DISABILITY RETIREMENT

You may apply for Ordinary or Accident Disability Retirement, depending on your years of credited service with NYCERS.

Ordinary Disability Retirement

If you are unable to perform the duties of your title for any reason and you have accrued at least 10 years of credited service, you may apply for an Ordinary Disability Retirement.

Disability Retirement due to an Accident

If you have accrued less than 10 years of credited service, you may apply for an Accident Disability Retirement if you were injured as a result of a service-related accident while in performance of your duties. Information in the accident report plays an important role when your application is being considered. Therefore, it is important that you and any eyewitnesses complete a detailed Accident or Incident Report with your agency immediately following the incident while the details are still fresh in your minds.

Note: The courts have defined the term "accident" as a "sudden, fortuitous mischance, unexpected, out of the ordinary, and injurious in impact." Not every line-of-duty injury is determined to be an accident and, therefore, not all work-related injuries are granted an Accident Disability Retirement benefit.

World Trade Center (WTC) Disability

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

To be eligible to apply for a disability retirement under the WTC Law, you must have filed a Notice of Participation in WTC Rescue, Recovery or Clean-Up Operations with NYCERS (Form #662, available on NYCERS' website at www.nycers.org). Your agency must also verify your participation. In the event your agency is unable to provide such verification, you may present an appeal before a special WTC Review Committee.

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

FILING REQUIREMENTS

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

Forms to submit to NYCERS

The following forms must be submitted to NYCERS (available on NYCERS' website at www.nycers.org):

- A completed Disability Retirement – Form #604
- Applicant's Report of Personal Disability – Form #605
- Physician's Report of Disability – Form #606
- General Authorization for Medical Info – Form #608
- Questionnaire to be Completed by Applicant for Disability Retirement – Form #609

Before you file, please read the instructions on NYCERS Form #801. Brochure #922 also provides in-depth information about the disability process. Both are also available on NYCERS' website at www.nycers.org.

THE DISABILITY PROCESS

Upon receipt of your application, NYCERS will determine your eligibility. The Medical Board reviews all the medical evidence you submitted to determine whether there is sufficient documentation regarding your condition or conditions for you to be scheduled for an interview and examination. NYCERS will request any required additional documentation needed to support your claim or claims. Your application will not be processed until all required information is submitted. Missing information will delay the processing of your application.

The Medical Board may recommend approval or denial of your disability application or may defer making a recommendation on your application if they need additional information. NYCERS will notify you of the Medical Board's recommendation and whether additional information is needed.

- A member whose application has been approved will receive advance payments until his or her pension is finalized.
- A member whose application has been denied will be notified of the appropriate appeal process.
- A member whose application has been deferred will receive a letter about additional information that is required before a final recommendation can be made.

NYCERS recommends that you visit www.nycers.org and sign up for MyNYCERS, the secure online portal to your NYCERS account. MyNYCERS is not required for the disability process, but it will enable you to log in any time to view your account information, change your address, and file certain forms online.

FREE COLLEGE BENEFIT

Union members and their families can earn an Associates Degree with NO out-of-pocket cost.

Free College Benefit for You and Your Family

The Union Plus Free College Benefit offers working families an accessible, debt-free and convenient higher education opportunity. You, your spouse, children, financial dependents and grandchildren, can all take advantage of this exciting opportunity.

Zero Out-of-Pocket Cost

Members and their families can earn an Associates Degree online, with no out-of-pocket costs. A last-dollar scholarship covers the difference between any Federal grants and your tuition, fees and e-books at EGCC.

Eastern Gateway Credits are Transferable

Eastern Gateway Community College is a public, non-profit school in the University System of Ohio and is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Credits you earn can transfer to other schools, potentially saving you thousands of dollars.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN JUST 4 STEPS



APPLY to Eastern Gateway

Go to unionplusfreecollege.org, select the "Get Started" button and complete the request information form with your contact and union information (for membership verification)



COMPLETE the free FAFSA

Complete the form online: FAFSA.ed.gov Eastern Gateway Community College school code: **007275** The FAFSA application is a requirement. If it's determined that you are not eligible for federal or state financial aid, a "last-dollar" scholarship will be applied to your remaining balance for tuition, fees and e-books.

Your FAFSA may be chosen for additional verification by the Dept. of Education. Compliance is required to receive the scholarship. Your enrollment advisor can help you with the process.



SUBMIT your transcripts

Submit your high school transcript or GED test score as proof of high school completion. Official transcripts must be sent directly from the school to:

Email: online@egcc.edu (Subject: UnionPlus)

Mail: EGCC Admissions

Attn: UnionPlus

101 Federal Plaza East

Youngstown, OH 44503

Fax: 330-480-0817 (Attn: UnionPlus)

If you have completed any college coursework, have the transcript sent to EGCC. Applicable college credits will be transferred to the new program.



ENROLL in classes

Work with an enrollment advisor to enroll in classes.

1-888-590-9009
unionplusfreecollege.org

Do you need assistance with an issue in your life that is causing you stress?

LOCAL 237 CAN HELP.

Do you know what type of help you need, but you aren't sure where or how to get it?

If, so consider meeting with the union's Social Services Department to help point you in the right direction.

Ayana Ali, LCSW is the Director of the Social Services Department. She can help to connect you with the right resources such as:

- Information & Referrals to Mental Health Services
- Referrals to Organizations helping People Care for Sick, Disabled or Elderly Family Members
- Referrals to your Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Information about Substance & Alcohol Abuse Treatment
- Marital and Family Counseling Referrals
- Information Adult Protective Services
- Housing Resources, Advocacy and Information
- Assistance with Applications for Public Benefits (when eligible)

AND THE GOOD NEWS IS, THESE SERVICES ARE ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE!

212-924-7220 ext. 7562

Resumen En Español

Miembros del Equipo

"Compromiso individual con un esfuerzo grupal: eso es lo que hace que un equipo trabaje, una empresa funcione, una sociedad trabaje, una civilización funcione". Vince Lombardi



Los miembros del Local 237 se unieron para lucir los colores de su equipo con orgullo antes del Super Bowl. El equipo "Capitán, presidente **Gregory Floyd** (centro, al lado de la última fila en la camiseta de fútbol azul de los Giants) dijo: *"Hoy podremos alentar a nuestros favoritos individualmente, pero todos sabemos que ganen o pierdan el juego, todos somos parte del mismo equipo como miembros de esta unión. Y la membresía tiene sus ventajas. Siempre tratamos de brindarles a nuestros miembros la confianza de que no les damos la espalda y de que continuamos brindándoles servicios y programas adicionales para ayudarles a mejorar la calidad de vida para ellos y sus familias"*.

Valiosos Servicios GRATUITOS

Además de los programas de asistencia detallados en esta página, hay muchos otros servicios GRATUITOS que Local 237 también ofrece a sus miembros, incluidos:

planificación financiera con **Stacy Braun**; asesor legal encabezado por **Mary Sheridan** del Plan de Servicios Legales; asesoramiento de beneficios de **Mitch Goldberg**, Director del

Fondo de Bienestar y planificación cultural y programas culturales puestos a disposición por la División de Jubilados bajo la dirección de **Nancy B. True**.

Se espera que aproveche al máximo estos servicios gratuitos que el Local 237 ofrece a sus miembros. También le pedimos que lea las columnas de consejos profesionales escritas sobre temas que le incumben por nuestros Directores de Servicios Legales, Bienestar y Ser-

vicios Sociales, que aparecen en cada edición de Newsline. (Presentado en la página 13 en esta edición).

Y recuerde, como dijo una vez Phil Jackson: *"La fuerza del equipo es cada miembro. La fuerza de cada miembro es el equipo"*.

Jubilación

Calendario de Seminarios de Planificación de Retiro Primavera 2018

Universidad

Beneficio de la universidad gratis

Los miembros del sindicato y sus familias pueden obtener un título de asociado sin costo de desembolso personal.

MyNYCERS

¿Se ha registrado en MyNYCERS?

Si aún no se ha registrado para sus MyNYCERS, ¡ahora es el momento!

Retiro por discapacidad

El proceso de jubilación por discapacidad para los miembros del nivel 4

Manejo del estrés

¿Necesitas ayuda con un problema en tu vida que te está causando estrés?

Consulte la página 14 para obtener más información sobre estos programas GRATUITOS disponibles para usted.

"Reaching Out..." Reaches 200



Christine Quinn, former Speaker of the New York City Council, and currently the CEO of WIN, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping homeless families. Quinn noted that in New York City, homelessness is at an all-time high with 70% of the homeless being families headed by single women of color. She discussed how, in her view, NYCHA should represent the appropriate alternative to homelessness, but that this former "holy grail" of public housing is itself in a deteriorated condition.



Frank Morano, (left) radio host and the Executive Producer of the Joe Piscopo Show with Greg and Joe, who hosts his own daily morning show. Morano toasted Greg as a "man of integrity" and Piscopo noted Greg's significant role in fighting for working people in New York City.



Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez (left) and Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance. DA Vance said that "we need to rethink the criminal justice systems" especially for low level crimes and DA Gonzalez agreed with the sentiment, noting that the length of time for due process for many New Yorkers is excessive, "especially among black and brown people, they become criminalized when nothing comes of the cases."



Public Advocate Letitia James and Vincent Alvarez, President of the New York City Central Labor Council. Mario Cilito, President of the New York State AFL-CIO, also participated in the conversation on the phone from Albany. In a discussion on the Janus case, which went to the US Supreme Court on that day, the Public Advocate said that "Congress was being hijacked by special interests." Alvarez, however, felt that the tide was changing, citing a "recent study showing that labor unions now have 61% support" with the general public. Cilito made the point that this case was not just about public sector workers, but actually "an attack on all union members."



Public Advocate Letitia James and Ritchie Torres, New York City Council Member. Council member Torres discussed the huge number of residents that live in NYCHA buildings, 80% of whom have suffered without heat or hot water during the winter months. He called them members of a "forgotten city." Public Advocate James said that she was very displeased with NYCHA's treatment of its residents and demanded a "leadership change" at the top.



New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. Greg asked the Comptroller about the day's headline regarding a move to divest state pension funds from Wynn Resorts, because its CEO was accused of sexual harassment. The Comptroller said that as the Trustee of these funds, he must protect public workers against "corporations that have not been good corporate citizens...they must be held accountable."



Conversations with Senator Chuck Schumer and Congressman Peter King calling from Washington DC and New York State Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul on the phone from Buffalo. Among the topics they spoke about were:

— Senator Schumer discussed the recent shooting at Parkland High School and said that as the original author of the Brady Law, he feels passionately about the need to curb gun violence and among the measures he is calling for, are "universal background checks for people wanting to buy guns."

— Congressman King spoke about the brutal gang violence taking place on Long Island at the hands of MS 13, noting

that immigrants are being "butchered by their own people."

— Lt. Governor Hochul talked about the state's reaction to the new federal tax laws which the Governor and she view as "an assault on New York residents".

MEETING NOTICES

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

CITYWIDE/LAW ENFORCEMENT

Wed., March 28, 5:30 p.m. – CUNY Public Safety Officers / Jeanette Taveras

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Tues., April 10, 6 p.m. – Housing Assistants
 Mon., April 16, 6 p.m. – Caretakers
 Tues., April 17, 6 p.m. – Managers
 Mon., April 23, 6 p.m. – Supv. Elevator Mech., Elevator Mech. & Helpers
 Mon., April 30, 6 p.m. – Stores
 Tues., May 1, 6 p.m. – Supv. Plasterers & Plasterers
 Mon., May 7, 6 p.m. – Superintendents
 Tues., May 8, 6 p.m. – Supv. of Grounds
 Tues., May 15, 6 p.m. – Assistant Superintendents
 Wed., May 22, 6 p.m. – Supv. Roofers & Roofers
 Tues., May 29, 6 p.m. – Caretaker P's
 Mon., June 4, 6 p.m. – Shop Steward
 Tues., June 5, 6 p.m. – Maint. Worker (Traditional)
 Mon., June 11, 6 p.m. – Supv. Bricklayers, Bricklayer/Mason Helpers
 Tues., June 12, 6 p.m. – Heating Plant Technician & Maint. Worker (Heating)
 Tues., June 19, 6 p.m. – Supv. of Caretakers
 Tues., June 26, 6 p.m. – Exterminators

CITYWIDE DIVISION

Mon., April 2, 5 p.m. – Roofers (Small Room)
 Wed., April 4, 5 p.m. – Hostlers and Horseshoers (Small room)
 Mon., April 9, 5 p.m. – Plasterers and Supervisors (Small room)
 Wed., April 11, 5 p.m. – Associate Water Use Inspectors (Small room)
 Tues., April 17, 5 p.m. – Cement Mason Bricklayers (Small room)
 Wed., April 18, 5 p.m. – Photographers (Small room)
 Mon., April 23, 5 p.m. – Maintenance Workers (Big room)
 Tues., April 24, 5 p.m. – Bridges (Small room)
 Mon., April 30, 5 p.m. – Public Health Educator (Big room)

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