



LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 52, No. 3

Fall 2018



REACHING OUT



"Reaching Out With Gregory Floyd" featured many guests, including Sonia Ossorio, President of the NYC Chapter of the National Organization of Women; Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts III of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem; NYS Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez.



Why and How We Do It

Teamsters Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** hosts a weekly radio show called "Reaching Out With Greg Floyd". It is broadcast on 970AM/The Answer on Saturday evenings at 7pm throughout the five boroughs, Long Island and Westchester. Discussion topics and guests are chosen based upon what President Floyd says is, *"Our desire to reach out and connect with our members. We want to give members as much information and insights as possible on issues that matter the most to them, so that they can make good choices for themselves and their families. It is also a goal of mine to enlighten the public-at-large as to the challenges and conditions faced by our members as they do their jobs. The public needs to know that our members have tough jobs but that they take pride in providing a job well-done."*

Radio is not the only way Greg Floyd tries to engage Local 237 members and inform the public. Recently, he appeared on FOX 5, "Street Soldiers" TV show, hosted by Lisa Evers. There, Greg made the case in a discussion with New York State Senator Jesse Hamilton and a parent of a New



FOX 5's "Street Soldiers", Lisa Evers, host, Gregory Floyd; Shekima Davis, parent of a New York City public school student and New York State Senator Jesse Hamilton.

York City public school student, Shekima Davis, that students — and School Safety Agents entrusted with their safety — must have every means possible, including metal detectors and security cameras, to help ensure that the school environment is safe and conducive to learning. A short time ago, Greg also appeared on another TV station, NY1, which held a Town Hall meeting, hosted by Errol Lewis, that focused on NYCHA. He was on a panel with New York City Council member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Chair of the Council's Public Housing Committee, and Deborah Goddard, NYCHA's Executive Vice Presi-



NY1's Town Hall meeting, hosted by Errol Lewis (right). Gregory Floyd; New York City Council member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Chair of the Council's Public Housing Committee, and Deborah Goddard, NYCHA's Executive Vice President for Capital Projects.

dent for Capital Projects. Greg directly addressed the live audience present, which included some frustrated tenants. NY1 reaches 750,000 viewers each week. This mass audience heard Greg say, *"Our members not only work in NYCHA buildings but many live there too, and they want to see needed repairs and capital improvements as much as anyone here tonight. Certainly, NYCHA has many problems but the often touted lack of federal funds is not the only problem. NYCHA has long suffered from policies and practices at the top management level which only add to the misery of tenants and workers alike."*

NYCHA needs to better prioritize its allocation of funds and streamline its bureaucracy so that what was once considered America's shining example of public housing, can shine again."

"Reach out and touch someone" may have been the slogan of an old advertisement, but the message is very much alive and well at Local 237. Radio, TV, our Facebook page (at Local237NY), Website, and a regular column in the Amsterdam News are just some of the ways we try to keep our members informed and the public in the know about the excellent work our members do to keep the City running smoothly. ▮

Local 237 Member Services

UNION HEADQUARTERS

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

LOCAL 237 DIVISIONS

CITYWIDE DIVISION, 2nd Fl.

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

HOUSING DIVISION, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Kevin Norman, Housing Director

LONG ISLAND DIVISION

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

RETIREE DIVISION, 8th Fl.

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Provides a variety of pre- and
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surance counseling to members.
(Pension counseling by appoint-
ment, Thursdays only). General
retirement counseling and
retirement planning series
during spring and fall.
Nancy B. True, Director

LOCAL 237 DEPARTMENTS

(Citywide and Housing)

SKILLED TRADES, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

HEALTH AND SAFETY, 2nd Fl.

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

MEMBERSHIP, 3rd Fl.

212-924-2000
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212-924-7220
The Fund administers the eligibil-
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and death benefits directly by the
Fund's in-house staff, as well as
prescription and dental programs
indirectly.

Mitchell Goldberg, Director

SOCIAL SERVICES, 3rd Fl.

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

LEGAL SERVICES, 4th Fl.

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

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212-924-2000
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PERSONNEL, 5th Fl.

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

POLITICAL ACTION & LEGISLATION, 5th Fl.

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

GRIEVANCES/DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS, 7th Fl.

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For grievances and job related
problems, first contact your
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representative. If they can't
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Mal Patterson, Director of
Grievances and Hearings
Diana Doss, Esq.,
Grievance Coordinator

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSN

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

COMMUNICATIONS, 5th Fl.

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

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

8th Fl.
212-807-0550
Provides a variety of training
and educational advancement
opportunities for members.
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USEFUL NUMBERS

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(New York City Employees Retirement System)

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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

Solidarity Must Be Forever

Even though Ralph Chaplin wrote the song "Solidarity Forever" in 1915 for the Industrial Workers of World War I, its refrain is as relevant and important today as it was more than 100 years ago: *"When the union's inspiration thru the worker's blood shall run, there can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun, yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one, but the union makes us strong. Solidarity forever, solidarity forever, solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong."* Members of Local 237 joined other unions to show their support of the sentiments expressed in the song when we celebrated Labor Day with a parade along Fifth Avenue on September 8th. As we marched, we keep in mind the words of other great advocates of labor unions, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President John F. Kennedy and even the Republican President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who said that America was better off because of unions. Dr. King told us that "The labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standard of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production. Those who attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them." President Kennedy said: "Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor." President Eisenhower commented that "Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice."

But we know that in this political climate, parades are not enough. I recently delivered that message as the keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Texas Teamster's Black Caucus. I told the audience this: *"Today, in America, union membership is an endangered species. But, unlike pandas or dolphins, union members still have opportunity and resources to fight back. I say this, standing in a state with union membership at only 4.7% and where, for 6 decades, the falsely named, 'Right to Work Law' has been in effect, making it one of the first in the nation. At least here, in New York, we're*

fortunate to have a Governor, Andrew Cuomo, who gets it. He knows that we are not the enemy, and he shows it in many ways. For example, when he took preemptive measures way back in April, before the Janus decision became a reality, and signed into law safeguards to lessen the blow from the Supreme Court's disastrous, anti-union vote. I'm a realist. I understand it's no coincidence that in the state with the highest percentage of union workers in the nation, unions are still a force to be reckoned with. I saw the sharp contrast in Texas and it makes you wonder, why is there such a difference in attitude toward unions, among the states? Here's what I came up with: Labor leaders in New York have made it crystal clear to our elected officials and candidates that unions built the middle class in America. We just want to make sure that there will be a place in it for our own children. You can't fault us for that! And, we use every opportunity to remind them that labor still has a powerful voice and millions of votes. That always gets their attention. And one more thing: In New York, there is a sense that whether you're in a public or private union that it doesn't matter, we're all in the same family. An assault on one is an assault on all of us. That same spirit was seen during the push to convene a Constitutional Convention. It would have had a devastating effect on public sector pensions and other benefits the Constitution guaranteed. But the proposal was overwhelmingly defeated because all unions got together to defeat it. We also sought and received the help of non-union groups who saw the push to lessen the role of labor unions for what it really is: An assault on democracy perpetrated by the special interests of the well-funded corporate 1%."

So, in the aftermath of the Labor Day celebration, my message for all of you is: Let's keep walking and talking on behalf of our union brothers and sisters. Let's do this with pride and purpose because if we don't, we'll suffer the fate of the once powerful dinosaur. And extinction is forever. But, if we remain united and focused, we can avoid becoming an old relic. Now is the time to stand our ground and fight the common enemy. Let's seize the opportunity, or we will wind up in the museum just like T-Rex. ■

"Maybe I'll see great grandpa in the Fossil Exhibit."



Extinction is forever. Don't let this be our future!

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:

Our members who work at NYCHA take great pride in their work. Here are several of them on a typical day on the job.



Seasonal workers **Aaron Favor**, (left) and **Mark Rosario** (right), along with **Carlos Maldonado**, Supervisor of Grounds, are hard at work to keep Campos Plaza looking good.



Stuyvesant Gardens: Caretaker J., **Alicia Irizarry**



Linden Houses: Caretakers J., **India Evans**, **Elisabeth Ferby**, **Roxy Perry**



Ocean Hill Houses: Caretakers J., **Danieka Mathieu**, **Roger Daniell**, **Shaquanna Moses**, **Curtis Southerland**.



Explorers Post 2015 of Port Richmond High School hosted a freshmen Open House in September to enlist new members. Pictured with the Explorers are team advisers **SSA3 Harold Wise**; **SSA Davis Perez**; **Nicole Franceschini**; **SSA Terence Elmore** and **SSA Dominick Barresi**.

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

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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
or call **Phyllis Shafran** at 646-638-8501

SURVEY: STATEN ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL FOURTH SAFEST IN NYS



The Department of Education recently released responses to its 12th annual NYC School Survey that shows how students, parents, teachers and families feel about their schools and the school system. The findings of the survey showed that Staten Island has the fourth safest school district in the state, and the safest one in the city. Staten Island students and parents seem to agree. Most of the students surveyed said they felt safe in several categories: Eighty percent said they feel safe outside and around their school; Eighty-two percent said they feel safe in the hallways, bathrooms, locker rooms and cafeteria; Eighty-five percent said they feel safe traveling between home and school; Ninety-one percent of students said they feel safe in their classes and ninety-four percent of Staten Island families responded that their child is safe at school. A hearty "thank you" to all School Safety Agents for the great job they do in helping students feel safe, and especially to the Staten Island SSAs, for their efforts in making schools in that borough among the safest in the city and state.

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:

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

In recognition of a Job Well Done

CHAMPIONS ALL!

In August, Brooklyn North Command hosted the 2nd Annual “Bridging the Gap-Back to School Madness” three-day elimination tournament at the Brooklyn Bridge Park. This event, which was founded by **SSA III Shaquanna Rasin** and NYPD POs Terome Parham and Leighton Barrett and received assistance by Commanding Officer Lavington and Captain Malcolm, was dedicated to improving relations between law enforcement officers, students from the area’s High Schools and Intermediate Schools, and the community in the vicinity of the 105th Police Precinct. The tournament, which consisted of co-ed teams of 150 students playing basketball, also included a delicious BBQ, book bags with school supplies, team teeshirts, a live DJ and dancers. The day gave students an opportunity to see another side of law enforcement, as the volunteer Uniform Task Force Officers worked the grills, distributed the giveaways and operated the competitions. The undefeated team representing Brooklyn North JHS won the 2018 Championship for the second year in a row and Queens South HS won the competition for its division.



The basketball tournament student competitors.



The founding committee of “Bridging the Gap Basketball Tournament.”



Dance performers from the “Hidden Treasure” Dance Camp, pictured with **Local 237 Law Enforcement Business Agent, Derek Short** (left) and **SSA Ashley Joseph**, (right, in white shirt) and dance group creator, **SSA III Shaquanna Rasin** (right in black shirt).



Winners of the Middle School Division.



Left to right: **Local 237 Law Enforcement Business Agent, Derek Short**, **SSA Benett**, **SSA Martin** and **SSAIII Moore**.



SSA Alvarez with one of the tournament’s referees.



The event management team.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

In recognition of a Job Well Done

CLIMBING THE LADDER OF SUCCESS

Several NYCHA members received their "Shop Steward Certificates" upon successfully completing the shop steward training program. Congratulations to those members. They should feel very proud of their accomplishments.



Washington Houses' **John Crisano**, pictured with Local 237 Housing Business Agent, **Ken Roper**.



Karen Bishop, of Manhattanville Houses, with Local 237 Housing Business Agent, **Ken Roper**.



Amanda Coates, working at Clinton Houses.



Bayview Houses' **Suber Cephas**.



Eddie Legree of Stuyvesant Gardens.



Charles Robinson of Unity Plaza.



Linden Houses' **Kendall Baskerville**.



Karen Scott working at Kings Towers with Local 237 Housing Business Agent, **Ken Roper**.



SSA III Kangela Moore (left) recently received a Proclamation from NYC Council Member Donovan Richards for her outstanding work to revitalize Brookville Park. As President of the volunteer park association, Friends of Brookville Park, Kangela worked with the group to restore the park to its former status as a much-revered community oasis, after a decade of neglect and deterioration.



"My School Has Rhythm Not Violence" is dedicated to showcasing the multi-faceted artistic talent that public school students have, but which is often overlooked in the glare of headlines about school violence. Helping the project reach its full potential are community activists such as Rachid Niang, owner of Jacob's Restaurant, and Vy Higginsen, playwright, theatre producer, radio and TV personality, who were thanked for their efforts on behalf of the students by **SSA3 Terence Elmore** and **SSA Leslie Marshal**.

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



The Teamsters Motorcycle Club of the Housing Division, along with members of the Long Island Division, once again showed its support of Melissa's Wish, with the Dee Snider Run. Melissa's Wish, now in its 16th year, is named after the young motorcycle enthusiast and cancer victim, who succumbed to her illness after a six-year battle with the disease. It is the goal of this run to raise money and awareness... which is something Teamster bikers often do, with compassion and pride, including Local 237 **Housing Business Agent Norberto Luna** (right side, second row).



When little five year-old Neaveh Miles was seen by **SSA Harnell** wandering by herself on the street with no adult in sight, he suspected something was wrong. Along with **SSA3 Lewinson**, they brought the child into their school and sought assistance by calling 911. A happy ending was achieved when the youngster was reunited with her mother thanks to the quick actions of these School Safety Agents.



HHC Sergeant Gilbert Sang sprang to the rescue of a troubled resident with a history of severe personality disorder and suicide attempts, as he strode past the front desk toward the exit of his long-term care medical facility. Sgt. Sang calmly engaged the man in conversation thereby helping to de-escalate the situation until the NYPD and EMS arrived. Due to Sgt. Sang's quick thinking and expert communication skills, a possible crisis for the distressed man was averted.



The recent Global Citizens Festival in Central Park, with high profile performers such as Cardi B and Janet Jackson, did not go without a hitch when concertgoers mistakenly took loud noise for a disturbance. Fortunately, School Safety Agents from every command throughout the City were on hand. They had volunteered to assist the NYPD with scanning more than 2,000 attendees and also assisted in operating a Lost and Found where numerous items were left behind by several panicked audience members.



The Explorers Post of High School For Law Enforcement and Public Service provided the community service for the Fifth Annual Family Day hosted by City Councilman Daneek Miller. Pictured are the explorer advisors, left to right: **SSA3 Shawn Jones**; **SSA3 Terence Elmore**; **SSA3 Stephen Nemely** (leaning on tree); **SSA3 Terese Nemely** (in chair) and **SSA Davette Thompson** (sitting on tree).



School Safety Agents from Springfield Gardens High School paused on 9-11 outside of the school to pay their respects to the victims of the World Trade Center. Agents marked the solemn occasion with a moment of silence for those who lost their lives on that horrific day 17 years ago, including many First Responders who risked their own lives to save others.



Knowing how important it is to start the new school year off right, School Safety Agents from the Brooklyn North Community Outreach supplied free book bags for local students. Special thanks for helping to put smiles on the kids' faces and a show of appreciation from their parents go to **SSA3 Charles Harper** (Brooklyn North); **SSAs Yanela Arias and Brenda Floyd-Evans** (Brooklyn North); **SSA3 Terence Elmore** and **SSA Tanganika Riser** (CHQ Community Outreach) and **Sergeant Caggiano** (Community Affairs Bureau).



Public School 19, in Staten Island, along with the NYPD School Safety Division/Community Outreach Unit, hosted a special event for the students, staff and parents called **Hug 4 Luv**. The special good feelings generated by a hug was shared by all, including a four-legged participant, **McGruff the Crime Dog**.

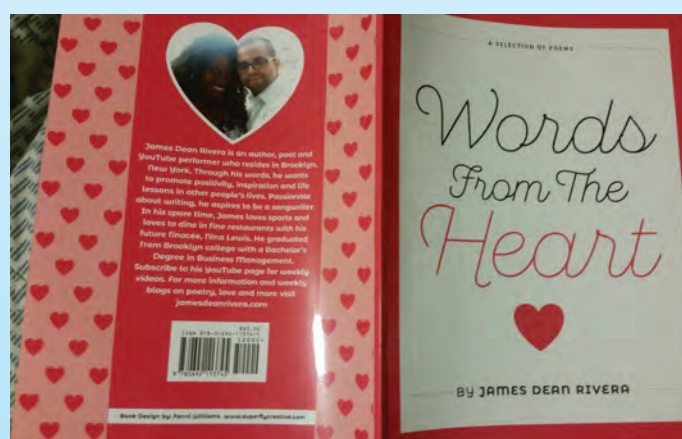
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Above and Beyond



Breast Bar Presentation ceremony recently took place for **School Safety Agents from the Bronx East Command**, who completed a training program and were certified as to work as **School Coordination Agents**. This new pilot program coordinates NYPD and SSA engagement with local residents and community groups, with the goal of achieving better understanding and cooperation that will lead to improved relations between law enforcement and the community.

"Words From The Heart" is the name and the sentiments of a new book recently written by **School Safety Agent James Dean Rivera**. The poetry book by Rivera, who is also a YouTube performer, is about love and loss and the inspiring lessons of life that can be learned from both. For more information, visit: jamesrivera.com.



SSAs SAVE COMMUTER

Luckily for one bus rider, **SSA Polite-Parrish**; **SSS Young**; **SSA Bonds** and **SSA Patram** were working late on the Queens South Night Command Sector Adam. Concerned pedestrians flagged them down because a male passenger on the Q3 bus stopped between Merrick and Farmers Boulevards, had been slashed in the face, head and back. As reported, the 63 year-old man had accidentally bumped into a pregnant woman on the bus. She made a cell phone call and when the bus stopped at this location, an unknown male got on board and assaulted the man. Due to the quick thinking of the SSAs, the NYPD and EMS were able to rapidly respond and bring the victim to Jamaica Hospital for medical care.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to the Graduates

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

THE NYPD DIVISION OF SCHOOL SAFETY

The NYPD Division of School Safety welcomed new agents in a graduation ceremony at 1 Police Plaza, marking the end of their training to become School Safety Agents.



Members of the 2018 SSA graduation class.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES



The Department of Homeless Services held a graduation ceremony in recognition of the successful completion of DHS officer training. On hand to congratulate the new recruits were DHS Administrator, Joslyn Carter and Commissioner Steven Banks, pictured with class valedictorian Daniel Lisbon and **Local 237's Director of Law Enforcement, Derek Jackson** and **Business Agent, Charlie Cotto**.



Local 237's Director of Law Enforcement, Derek Jackson with rookie SSA Dellinger Juan and his proud dad, SSA Richard Juan.



Brimming with pride are parents of new SSA **Shamkeyla Thomas** with **Local 237 Law Enforcement Business Agent, Derek Short**.

Labor Day – A Day

By Gregory Floyd

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

For many, Labor Day is just a sad reminder of the end of summer and the beginning of school. It's usually the time to get in that last trip to the beach, the last BBQ and the last chance to sleep late during the week. But Labor Day is really about so much more. With 12-hour work days 7 days a week and children as young as 5 working in mills, mines and factories, Labor Day was conceived in the late 19th century by trade unionists as a way to recognize the contributions of workers and to serve as a show of force and catalyst for change. New York was the first state to push for it as an official holiday and New York City actually held the nation's first Labor Day Parade in 1882 when 10,000 workers took time off from their jobs to march from City Hall to Union Square. But, it was only after the death of 34 striking Pullman workers of the American Railway Union at the hands of US Army soldiers and Marshals that the first Monday in September became an official federal holiday in 1894.

Today, with union membership at an all-time low of only 10.7 % nationwide—as compared with peaks in the 1950s when 40% of American workers were union members—the Labor Day Parade takes on special meaning. Although New York leads the nation in union membership— at 24%, with public sector workers making up the vast majority of those workers and African-Americans the largest component—the City's parade, the biggest in the country, is viewed by some as a mere relic of the past. Quite the contrary, Labor Day and the parade to commemorate it should be looked at as a persevering symbol of the long-lasting presence and indestructible power of the labor movement despite the ever-increasing efforts to do us in—whether in the guise of a Constitutional Convention or the countless other moves by the union bashers, union busters and their big money campaigns to discredit, dishearten and diminish labor's importance.

At Teamsters Local 237, we understand the necessity of our unity and the power of its strength. Our commitment is both practical and moral. We know, for example, that non-union workers earn on average 20% less than union members. We also know that workers' rights are unquestionably intertwined with civil rights. We cannot have one without the other. That is why we join. That is why we march. Local 237 members recently joined over 50,000 other proud union workers from throughout New York City and Long Island in this year's Labor Day Parade, which is unlike any other parade in the City. It is not a protest rally or political demonstration. It is not cultural heritage on display. There are no turkeys or Rockettes either. Instead, this parade features men and women marchers from all races, religions and orientations who are united by one common denominator: We're all union workers. We march together because we know that unions give working families a strong voice... an unflinching advocate... and our children, hope. We march together to send a message to our elected officials and the public at-large: "Support unions. They count. You should count yourself in!"

Visit our website: www.local237.com to see our members who participated in this year's Labor Day parade. ■



/ Like None Other





LONG ISLAND REPORT



Town of Babylon Harbor Master and Shop Steward **Tim Taylor** with **Benny Carenza**.



Brentwood School District annual barbecue. Great event we have every year. Congrats to the committee who did a great job.



Brentwood Food Service workers, Joanne, Marta and Maria with **Benny Carenza**.



Town of Babylon member **Vinny Petrino** retires after 30 plus years of service.



Town of Babylon member **Mike Otte** retires after more than 30 years of service.



Virginia, Cindy and Keith from the North Babylon School District do a great job keeping the school clean and neat.



North Babylon Supervisor, a member for over 30 years, **Anthony Ferrandino**.



Benny Carenza with Jakes 58 Local 237 member **Anthony Russo** who does a great job as a floor attendant.



Port Jefferson School District contract negotiation committee. **Brian, Rich, Gary**, our attorney **Marty Glennon** and **Benny Carenza**.



New Local 237 member **Marcus** who is a Bus Mechanic at the North Babylon School District.



Benny Carenza with OTB members **Cathy and Rita** at our union meeting.



Benny Carenza with Center Moriches School District members at their beginning of the year get together.



Brentwood School District Security Guards with **Benny Carenza**.



Benny Carenza with Islip Housing Authority Maintenance Crew. **Ken, Carlos, Brian and John.**



Shawn Dimperio, Electrician from the Brentwood School District working on the lighting systems.



Town of Babylon Building Department members with **Benny Carenza**.



Members of the Long Island Division marched in the Labor Day Parade along with **Gregory Floyd**, President Local 237.

Quick Thinking Saves The Day

A Teamster member from the Islip Resource Recovery unit saves a garbage truck and dumps a load of garbage on fire after an explosion caused by someone putting the gun powder in the garbage can. The gunpowder caused a huge explosion and the

truck caught fire in a residential neighborhood. The Driver, **Ken Ouwerkerk**, drove it on fire to a spot where there were no houses, dumped the load and the firefighters responded. Quick thinking saved the day.



POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

A Powerful Voice for Labor

City and State, the widely read news outlet, recently compiled a list of the 50 most powerful and influential labor leaders in New York City. Gregory Floyd, President of Local 237 and Vice-President at-Large on the General Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, was ranked number 18. In *City and State*'s commemorative magazine designed to mark the occasion, it was written: "Organized labor is facing an array of attacks. The U.S. Supreme Court's Janus ruling is threatening public sector unions. The building trades are struggling to keep major real estate developers from opting to go open shop. And conservatives and business interests are continuing to take aim at unions, hoping to weaken them both politically and financially. But in New York, the labor movement has mostly weathered the attacks... Behind it all is a roster of influential figures keeping the movement strong while adapting it to today's era." About Greg Floyd, it was written: "As the physical and fiscal state of NYCHA housing deteriorates, the de Blasio administration and the Teamsters leader have been



Accepting his honor by City and State, President Gregory Floyd told the audience that: "Now is the time for all of labor — public and private unions — to unite and stay focused on fighting our common enemies who want to destroy working families and the middle class that we built and want to keep for our children."

unable to work together on solutions. Floyd has fought proposed reforms to work rules and criticized the mayor's roadmap. The acrimony has spilled into other areas, with Floyd railing against the mayor's plan to remove metal detectors from some schools."



At the City and State awards ceremony to celebrate labor's most influential leaders in NYC, there were some members of Local 237 including: (left to right, back row) Derek Jackson, Kevin Noman, Curtis Scott, Donald Arnold, Lawrence Bosley; (left to right, first row) Debra Coleman, Gisela "GiGi" Reyes, Gregory Floyd, Diana Doss, Martha Bodhnarain and Phyllis Shafran.

Minnie Mouse Meets The Sisterhood

The annual Teamsters Women's Conference was held this year in Orlando, Florida. Against the backdrop of the world famous resort, members from Local 237 joined with women from locals throughout the nation and Canada to discuss important issues that affect working women, and to strategize on ways to meet the challenges ahead. ■



Local 237 members of the "Sisterhood" with James P. Hoffa, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.



Teresa Valentina, Jean Stokes, Cathy Rice, Martha Bodhnarain, Gisela "GiGi" Reyes, Diana Doss, Betsy Ramjattan, Ayana Ali, Bertha Aiken, Debbie Coleman and Jeanette Taveras.

NYS AFL-CIO COPE CONVENED

The New York State AFL-CIO held a convention of the 2018 Committee on Political Education in New York City to consider endorsements of those vying for elected office on the Federal and State levels. More than 1,000 representatives from throughout the state gave careful thought to all candidates in light of their record on issues that matter most to labor. Among the candidates endorsed, were members of the slate headed by Governor Andrew Cuomo that included Kathy Hochul for Lt. Governor and Letitia "Tish" James for Attorney General as well as US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Comptroller Tom DiNapoli. New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilentio said about these endorsements: "We proudly support candidates who are committed to fighting hard on issues important to working people."



The Governor told the enthusiastic crowd that although labor may be under attack in other states, that is not the case in New York — which boasts the largest number of union workers in the nation — and where unions are not considered the enemy.



Gregory Floyd, a Vice President on the Executive Board of the State's AFL-CIO, listening to the candidates as they make their pitch for labor's support.



Tish James thanks the delegates for their endorsement and pledges continued support for working men and women.



NYS AFL-CIO President Mario Cilentio encourages labor to support candidates who support labor.



Best Doctors — A Second Opinion for Cancer Diagnosis

By Mitch Goldberg *Director of the Welfare Fund*

Sometimes when I pick a topic for a column it's difficult to choose what to write about. Sometimes my topic hits me in the face, which is what prompted me to write about Best Doctors. Recently a good friend advised me that she had been diagnosed with cancer. I was at a loss as to what I should say or how to react as I was in a state of shock. Imagine if I were the one giving this news to my family, friends and colleagues. How would I deal with it? At a time when the support of everyone around you is paramount, dealing with your diagnosis can be overwhelming. Each month as Director of the Welfare Fund I attend joint meetings with the MLC Technical's Committee and OLR to discuss all city benefits. At the meeting I recently attended Best Doctors presented a report which made me think of my friend and her battle to beat her cancer.

Best Doctors offers a second opinion to those members covered under the GHI-CBP plan. Even though our city offers some of the best hospitals and doctors in the country who diagnose and provide treatment, these doctors and hospitals may be unaware of treatments or clinical trials that may offer a

different treatment that may provide better results or gentler on your body. While Best Doctors may provide an alternative to your physician's treatment they may also concur with your treatment, thereby giving you peace of mind that you are receiving the best possible treatment, based on your diagnosis. Best Doctors does not replace your physician; they only provide recommendations which you can share with your physician.

At a time when you need all of the support you can muster, perhaps Best Doctors can offer you peace of mind that the treatment you are receiving is the best possible. If you, a family member or colleague has been diagnosed with cancer, you may want to consider the Best Doctors program, which is FREE to those who have the GHI-CBP plan. While this is a difficult topic to deal with, if one life can be saved it is all worth it. If you know someone in need, get the word out. Maybe Best Doctors can help. You don't know what is possible unless you try.

Best Doctors can be reached at (844) 282-4994 or bestdoctors.com/NYC.



There are "Pills for That" and Other Myths about Psychiatric Medications

By Ayana Ali
Director Local 237- Social Services

For the past two columns, I have talked to you about mental illness, treatment, and suicide risk. Today, I want to speak to you about psychiatric medication and try to dispel some of the widely believed myths about it.

Why is psychiatric medication important? Because psychiatric medication has been proven to be very effective in many cases. There are many breakthroughs in the discoveries of effective therapies and they help people to live better and more stable lives. But often people do not take their prescribed medication because they believe what they hear about it.

"There's a pill for that." This is something often uttered sarcastically about out of the ordinary behavior or when trying to call someone crazy. It's not helpful to people battling mental illness that taking medication is often stigmatized and made fun of. What's even more problematic is that many people believe what is said in jest about medications.

Some commonly held myths about medication are:

1.False: It's the easy way out.

True: Finding the right medication requires a commitment and effort. It often takes trial and error to get things just right. Working alongside your clinician calls for honesty and consistency; this is no easy task, but it is a valuable one.

2.False: It's a crutch.

True: No one tells people who take medication for diabetes or high blood pressure that they are using the medication as a crutch. In fact, diabetics are typically urged to take their medications regularly. When the body doesn't make enough insulin, people take insulin to regulate their system. Some people take psychiatric medications when their body doesn't make enough dopamine or serotonin to regulate their system.

3.False: I will become reliant on it.

True: Most psychotropic medications are not addictive in nature; however, some may be when they are abused. Taking a medication as prescribed by a doctor at the times that it is prescribed is the best way to prevent addiction to the few medications that can result in addiction when misused.

A failure to take necessary psychotropic medication often does result in a return of symptoms that the medication is designed to combat. Once the body gets used to something, it becomes a part of its makeup.

4. False: It's a sign of weakness.

True: Taking steps towards becoming healthier is a sign of strength. It means that you've resolved to commit to a process of self-care and determination. It's easy to do nothing about a problem, it's harder and courageous to face it head on.

5.False: It changes you as a person.

True: Medication often helps people to "get back to who they truly are." Depression can blunt a person's affect or emotional appearance. At times depressed people wear blank expressions; they're numb. An increase in happiness can help people to smile and laugh again. Hallucinations experienced by persons suffering from psychotic disorders such as Schizophrenia can make the brain perceive things that others do not; they hear, see, taste, feel and smell what people in their environment do not. This can be frustrating and scary. Medication can help to eliminate or reduce those symptoms so the person can feel normal again.

I am hopeful that if you have been urged to take medication for a psychiatric condition and have been allowing false information and stigma to keep you from adhering to a regimen, that you would review these points and consider making a change in your life for the better.

If you want to talk about your situation and are not sure where to start or what to ask, please contact me and I'd be happy to help you try to sort through things. ■



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Tax Reform and Alimony

By Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.

Director Local 237-Legal Services Plan

The new Tax Cuts and Jobs Act made a drastic change in how alimony (in New York alimony is called maintenance) is treated by the IRS. Maintenance will no longer be a tax deduction for the payor nor will it be income to the payee. This has the potential to cost both sides in a divorce action a lot of money. It certainly means potentially longer fights and more difficulty in settling divorces.

The tax change commences on January 1, 2019. Any divorces settled or decided by December 31, 2018 will not be affected by this change. However, future modifications on

settled agreements may seek to apply the new tax law.

Currently, for maintenance to be tax deductible to the payor and income to the payee, certain conditions must be met:

1. The spouses do not file joint tax returns;
2. Payment is cash, which includes by check or money order;
3. Payment is made pursuant to a divorce or separation;
4. The payment is not child support or a property settlement;
5. The obligation to pay the maintenance ceases upon payee's death.

This all changes after December 31, 2018. At first glance, one may think the tax change is good for the less-monied spouse. This is not necessarily true. For many people receiving alimony, treating it as income does not mean a huge tax bill, since the receiving spouse is generally in a lower tax bracket. For the payor, who is usually in a higher tax bracket, it has been an important tax deduction. The government is the winner with this tax change because more taxes will be paid under the new law. Further, without the tax deduction, the paying spouse is not likely to settle for a higher alimony payment.

The Legal Service Plan can be reached at (212)924-1220. ■

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

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Law Enforcement Business Agent, **Derek Short** did the honors. On behalf of **Local 237 President Gregory Floyd** and the one million students in New York City’s public school system, he presented three School Safety Agents with *Certificates of Appreciation* as they retired after many years of dedicated service. With their help, the City’s school children were provided with a safe environment that is conducive to learning and maturation.



Betty Willis-Harris.



Deborah Fields



Annette Richardson

TODD WAS ON THEIR SIDE

Todd Rubinstein, Esq., Grievance Coordinator, worked for Local 237 for more than 20 years. During that time, as noted by **President Gregory Floyd** at Todd’s retirement party, *“Countless 237 members live better lives today, because they had Todd by their side. He fought for them and he won for them.”* Among Todd’s most notable victories, was the gender-based pay discrimination law suit brought by Local 237 on behalf of School Safety Agents, the majority of whom are women who earned an average of \$7,000 less than their male counterparts with similar titles working for other agencies. The historic settlement Todd helped to achieve took years of diligence and perseverance —Todd’s standard work ethic—which he applied to all of his cases, both big and small.



Todd receives a token of our appreciation.



“Countless members live better lives today because they had Todd on their side.”




A little something to kick off a sweet retirement.



Not everyone was impressed with Grandpa’s speech.

Condolences

It is with great sorrow that we announce the following passing of a family member. He will be sorely missed.



To **Dwayne Montgomery**, Local 237’s **Director of Integrity** and his son **Brandon Montgomery**, **3rd Floor Receptionist**, on the passing of their beloved father and grandfather, **Lonzell Montgomery Sr.** A devoted family man, Lonzell’s legacy lives on through his fourteen children, thirty-six grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, two great great grandchildren, three siblings and a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Personal Notes

Lawrence Bosley has been appointed the new Staff Counsel. His salary will be \$2,885.00 per week (\$150,000 per year) with a monthly car allowance of \$860.00 per month (\$10,320.00 per year). Effective August 27, 2018.

Martha Bodhnarain has been appointed the new Staff Counsel. Her salary will be \$2,885.00 per week (\$150,000 per year) with a monthly car allowance of \$860.00 per month (\$10,320.00 per year). Effective August 1, 2018.

Diana Doss has been appointed the new Grievance Coordinator Citywide. Her salary will be \$2,286.00 per week (\$118,872.00 per year) with a monthly car allowance of \$860.00 per month (\$10,320.00 per year). Effective July 30, 2018.

Resumen En Español



REACHING OUT





"Reaching Out con Gregory Floyd" contó con muchos invitados, entre ellos Sonia Ossorio, Presidenta del Capítulo de la Organización Nacional de Mujeres de la Ciudad de Nueva York; El Reverendo Dr. Calvin O. Butts III de la Iglesia Bautista Abisinia en Harlem; La senadora por el estado de Nueva York, Andrea Stewart-Cousins y el fiscal del distrito de Brooklyn, Eric González.



Por qué y cómo lo hacemos

El presidente de Teamsters Local 237, Gregory Floyd, presenta un programa de radio semanal llamado "Reaching Out With Greg Floyd". Se emite en 970AM / The Answer los sábados por la noche a las 7 pm en los cinco condados, Long Island y Westchester. Los temas de discusión y los invitados se eligen de acuerdo con lo que dice el presidente Floyd: *"Nuestro deseo de llegar y conectar con nuestros miembros. Queremos darles a los miembros la mayor cantidad de información y perspectivas posibles sobre los temas que más importan a ellos, para que puedan tomar buenas decisiones para ellos y sus familias. También es uno de mis objetivos iluminar al público en general sobre los desafíos y las condiciones que enfrentan nuestros miembros cuando hacen su trabajo. El público necesita saber que nuestros miembros tienen trabajos difíciles pero que se enorgullecen de proporcionar un trabajo bien hecho"*.

La radio no es la única manera en que Greg Floyd intenta involucrar a los miembros de la Local 237 e informar al público. Recientemente, apareció en FOX 5, el programa de televisión "Street Soldiers", presentado por Lisa Evers. Ahí, Greg hizo el caso en una discusión con el senador del estado de Nueva York Jesse Hamilton y un padre de un estudiante de una escuela pública de la ciudad de Nueva York, Shekima Davis, que los estudiantes, y los



"Street Soldiers" de FOX 5, Lisa Evers, presentadora, Gregory Floyd; Shekima Davis, madre de un estudiante de una escuela pública de la ciudad de Nueva York y el senador del estado de Nueva York Jesse Hamilton.

agentes de seguridad escolar encargados de su seguridad, deben tener todos los medios posibles, incluidos detectores de metal y cámaras de seguridad, para ayudar a garantizar que el entorno escolar sea seguro y propicio para el aprendizaje. Hace poco tiempo, Greg también apareció en otra estación de televisión, NY1, que celebró una reunión en el Ayuntamiento, organizada por Errol Lewis, que se centró en NYCHA. Participó en un panel con la miembro del Consejo de la Ciudad de Nueva York, Alicka Amprey-Samuel, Presidenta del Comité de Vivienda Pública del Consejo, y Deborah Goddard, Vicepresidenta Ejecutiva de NYCHA para Proyectos de Capital. Greg se dirigió directamente a

la audiencia en vivo presente, que incluyó a algunos inquilinos frustrados. NY1 llega a 750,000 espectadores cada semana. Esta audiencia masiva escuchó a Greg decir: *"Nuestros miembros no solo trabajan en los edificios de la NYCHA, sino que muchos viven allí también, y quieren ver las reparaciones necesarias y las mejoras de capital tanto como cualquier persona aquí esta noche. Ciertamente, NYCHA tiene muchos problemas, pero la falta a menudo mencionada de fondos federales no es el único problema. NYCHA ha sufrido durante mucho tiempo las políticas y prácticas en el nivel de alta gerencia que solo aumentan la miseria de inquilinos y trabajadores por igual, NYCHA necesita pri-*



La reunión municipal de NY1, organizada por Errol Lewis (derecha). Gregory Floyd; Alicka Amprey-Samuel, miembro del Consejo de la Ciudad de Nueva York, Presidenta del Comité de Vivienda Pública del Consejo, y Deborah Goddard, Vicepresidenta Ejecutiva de Proyectos de Capital de NYCHA.

orizar mejor su asignación de fondos y racionalizar su burocracia para que lo que una vez fue considerado el brillante ejemplo de vivienda pública de Estados Unidos, pueda brillar nuevamente."

"Alcanzar y tocar a alguien" puede haber sido el eslogan de un anuncio antiguo, pero el mensaje está muy vivo y en buen estado en el Local 237. Radio, TV, nuestra página de Facebook (en el número 237NY), sitio web y una columna en Amsterdam News son solo algunas de las maneras en que tratamos de mantener a nuestros miembros informados y al público al tanto del excelente trabajo que realizan nuestros miembros para mantener a la Ciudad funcionando sin problemas. ▮



Keeping you in the know

Emblem revamps plans for city workers

EmblemHealth has created new health plans for city employees that eliminate out-of-pocket costs when members use Hospital for Special Surgery and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for specialty care.

The plan also offers a designated customer service team that a member can reach to help find doctors, make appointments and resolve billing issues.

“As a centerpiece of this new model, we are proud to partner with two nationally-recognized health institutions equally committed to investing in the health and wellness of city workers and their families,” Karen Ignagni, Emblem’s president and CEO said in a statement.

Emblem is also deploying its affiliate Care Management Solutions to ensure members get age-appropriate screenings and manage their chronic conditions.

Emblem will begin offering the revamped plan for HMP members on Jan. 1 and roll out to PPO members by July 1. The base HMO Preferred Plan starts at \$0 a month.

City workers, including the unionized workforce, are a key constituency for Emblem as it continues to work on a financial turnaround. Last year, Emblem lost \$165 million, which represented a \$119 million improvement in its underwriting performance from the previous year. The insurer is a partner to the city as it works toward lowering its health benefit cost by \$1.1 billion through fiscal 2021.

Local 237 **President Gregory Floyd** is a member of the Executive Board of Emblem Health. In her presentation to municipal labor leaders on the details of this new offering, Ms. Ignagni thanked Mr. Floyd for his input on behalf of public sector employees. ■

Governor Cuomo Signs 9-11 Worker Comp and Retirement Extender Bill

Passed by both Houses of the New York State legislature, Governor Cuomo signed into law a bill that would extend 9-11 certain benefits for eligible workers until September 11, 2022. The new law amends the Workers Compensation Law and Retirement and Social Security Law to extend recovery and cleanup of September 11, 2001. The original law established periods and processes for disability retirement presumptions and workers’s compensation claims enacted in 2005 and 2006

respectively. Those laws created two registries and two different open periods. Subsequent legislation has continued the inconsistencies with respect to registration deadlines. This law opens filing periods for both registries through 2022. This bill not only provides appropriate benefits for the heroes who served during and after 9-11, but also recognizes that many of the ill effects they suffered do not manifest themselves until many years after that horrific occasion. ■



Did you serve in the United States Military?

By Lynn Johnson
US Department of Veterans Affairs VA NY Harbor Healthcare System Outreach Specialist, VA Work Study Supervisor and the VA NY Harbor Minority Veteran Coordinator.

If the answer is yes, the US Department of Veterans Affairs may have benefits you can access as an IBT Local 237 Retiree.

Veterans of the United States armed forces may be eligible for a broad range of benefits and services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

General eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor, the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Dishonorable and bad conduct discharges issued by general courts-martial may bar VA benefits.

Eligibility starts with a Veteran’s DD-214 or DD-215 service discharge papers. If you do not have a copy of your DD-214, standard form SF-180 can be used to request a copy of your discharge papers from the National Archives. If you need assistance with completing the application, visit a local VA Medical Center or Regional Office for help.

Minimum duty requirements for Veter-

ans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans discharged for hardship, early out or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

VA benefits may include full-range healthcare, such as hearing aids, eyeglasses, aid and attendance for housebound Veterans, caregiver program, nursing home, LGBT services, mental health, substance abuse services, wartime pension, women’s health, pharmacy services, inpatient services, extended care services, agent orange registry, Persian Gulf registry, home loan program, burial benefits, educational benefits, justice reentry outreach program, homeless services, and a host of ancillary services.

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

Contact your local NYC VA Outreach Program at www.outreachnyhhs@va.gov or call (212) 686-7500 Ext 4263 to meet with a VA Specialist. ■

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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

Thurs., October 18, 5 p.m. – Water Use Inspectors (Small Rm) **Donald Arnold**
Mon., October 22, 5 p.m. – EPCS, **George Wade**
Tues., October 23, 5 p.m. – Bridges (Small Rm) **Donald Arnold**
Mon., October 29, 5 p.m. – Stores, **George Wade**
Thurs., November 8, 5 p.m. – Cement Mason (Small Rm) **Donald Arnold**

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mon., Oct. 22, 6 p.m. – Supv. of Grounds
Tues., Oct. 23, 6 p.m. – Assistant Superintendents
Mon., Oct. 29, 6 p.m. – Shop Steward
Tues., Oct. 30, 6 p.m. – Supv. Roofers & Roofers
Wed., Nov. 7, 6 p.m. – Caretaker P’s
Tues., Nov. 13, 6 p.m. – Maint. Worker (Traditional)
Mon., Nov. 19, 6 p.m. – Supv. Bricklayers, Bricklayer/Mason Helpers
Tues., Nov. 20, 6 p.m. – Heating Plant Technician & Maint. Worker (Heating)
Mon., Nov. 26, 6 p.m. – Supv. of Caretakers
Tues., Nov. 27, 6 p.m. – Exterminators