



# LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 53, No. 1

Spring 2019

## Teamsters Local 237

### Celebrates

# Women's History Month 2019

Across the nation, throughout the month of March, there were award luncheons, essay contests, and parades to mark the accomplishments of women in America. But, it's safe to say that few surpassed the amount of pride, gratitude and awe of Local 237's celebration because it paid tribute to an extra special woman, **Marie Colvin**. Ms. Colvin is an assassinated war correspondent who started her career as the writer of the union newspaper. Marie Colvin was a Teamster. As Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** told the overflowing crowd assembled for the occasion: *"Marie once walked the halls of this building. She rode in these elevators and she ate donuts from the shop across the street. She worked here. And although none of us could ever wear her shoes, at least for a while, she walked among us. She even shared a laugh or two with some of the people in this room."*

Marie was murdered in Syria to silence her. She wrote about innocent women and children caught in the crossfire of civil war. She wanted the world to care as much as she did. She lost her life trying to do this.

Marie was reporting from a country that did not want the true story of suffering to come out. As Floyd noted: *"This was a country that called the media, 'the enemy of the people'. Lately, we've been hearing a lot of that right here, in our own country. Many try to hide their hatred as a call for nationalism. Hate mongers have spewed this poison for ages, and in some unexpected places. For example, a crowd of 20,000 rallied in Madison Square Garden in February of 1939 to denounce the press and labor unions as controlled by the Jews... and we all know where that went! Journalists, like Marie Colvin tried to set the record straight. They try to do the right thing for people they don't even know.*

*All too often, they paid with their lives."*

In Marie's memory, Local 237 honored several women who were instrumental in helping others simply because it was the right thing to do. The late **Corinthians Andrews**, **Bernice Christopher** and **Patricia Williams**, were School Safety Agents who volunteered to sign as the lead plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit President Floyd brought against the City, in March of 2010, on behalf of our 5,000 School Safety Agents. These peace officers, 70% of whom were women, who were paid \$7,000 less than their counterparts, with similar titles, working in other City agencies, most of whom were male. As Floyd told the audience: *"Some called this just a coincidence. I called it discrimination!"*

The festivities also acknowledged two other women who played a role in helping Local 237 win an historic settlement with the City: **Hazel Dukes**, President of the New York Chapter of the NAACP and **Sonia Ossorio**, President of the New York City Chapter of NOW. Describing the 4-year long battle with the City and the countless rallies it entailed, Floyd said: *"I have to mention something about those rallies. At times, we felt pretty much alone. Yes, we did have support from several elected officials, but our allies who were always there for us boiled down to two people—Hazel Dukes, and Sonia Ossorio, That's why we're also honoring them today."* Floyd concluded by saying: *"Clearly, Local 237 can boast of having many members whose actions are a testament to the best instincts of humanity. So for us, it was easy to identify honorees for Women's History Month. We are especially blessed to have among our own members and our friends, women who care about others and want everyone else to care too. That's who they are. That's their legacy. And we take pride in knowing them."*



Gregory Floyd unveils photo of Marie Colvin.



Gregory Floyd unveils photo of SSA Corinthians Andrews, SSA Bernice Christopher and SSA Patricia Williams.



NYC Comptroller, Scott Stringer.



NYS Lt. Governor, Kathy Hochul.



Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer.



Marie's sister, Cathleen 'Cat' Colvin and Consortium for Worker's Education President, Joe Mc Dermott.



Destiny Andrews on behalf of her mother, the late Corinthians Andrews.



Shanell Grayson sings.



Hazel Dukes and Gregory Floyd



Jean Bucaria and Gregory Floyd.

Photos by Ken Roper

See more on Womens History — page 16

## 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 Carena, 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, in-  
cluding pension and health insur-  
ance counseling to members.  
(Pension counseling by appoint-  
ment, Thursdays only). General re-  
tirement 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 eligibil-  
ity, 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

#### 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 service we can provide.  
Ayana Ali, 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 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

#### 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.

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.

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

#### CIVIL SERVICE BAR 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.  
Bertha Aiken, Director

#### USEFUL NUMBERS

##### FOR PRE-RETIRES

##### 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

## Thank you

## Marie and Pat, Bernice, Corinthians, Hazel and Sonia



By Gregory Floyd

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

A recent movie, "A Private War," told the real life story of Marie Colvin, portrayed by Rosamund Pike in a powerful performance. Marie covered stories many did not want told, in dangerous locations, where few would dare to go.

She lost her eye and, eventually, her life at age 56.

Her bravery was legendary. She stayed behind enemy lines during the Iraq War in 1991; in 1999, she remained in East Timor to document refugees under attack by government-backed militias at a U.N. compound; in 2001 she was blinded in one eye by the blast of a Sri Lankan army rocket-propelled grenade, and fearlessly wore an eye patch as a symbol that she would not stop telling the story of civilians who she said: "Endure far more than I ever will" and cannot escape to the comforts of London, where she lived at the time. In 2012, Colvin was in Syria, where she was deliberately targeted and killed by artillery fire at the direction of a senior Syrian military officer, who sought to silence her reporting on civilian casualties in the besieged city of Homs as part of a media campaign to keep the world in the dark. Colvin and French photographer, Remi Ochlik, age 28, were killed instantly. Two other foreign journalists, including a New York Times photographer, were severely injured but escaped.

It was actually a line about Marie's early years in one of the movie's reviews that got us to wonder about a possible link to Teamsters Local 237. Our research paid off because we discovered that fresh out of college, she was hired to write our newsletter. To think that Marie Colvin once walked the halls of our building, rode in our elevators and ate donuts from the shop across the street, gave me pause. Marie Colvin worked here. She started her career here. Marie Colvin was a Teamster! And although none of us could ever wear her shoes, at least for a while, she walked among us and probably even shared a laugh or two with some of the people still among us.

Marie was murdered in Syria to silence her. She wrote about innocent women and children caught in the crossfire of civil war. She wanted the world to care as much as she did. And she lost her life trying to do this. She was reporting from a country that did not want the true story of suffering to come out. This was a country that called the media, "the enemy of the people." Lately, we've been hearing a lot of that right here, in our own country. Many try to hide their hatred as a call for nationalism. Hate mongers

have spewed this poison for ages, and in some unexpected places. A crowd of 20,000 rallied in Madison Square Garden in February of 1939 to denounce the press and labor unions as controlled by the Jews... and we all know where that went! Journalists, like Marie Colvin, tried to set the record straight. All too often, they paid with their lives. So, at our 2019 Women's History celebration, we honor a courageous woman, one of our own, who tried to do the right thing for people she didn't even know.

In Marie's spirit, we also honor several women who were instrumental in helping others simply because it was the right thing to do. In March of 2010, I sued the City on behalf of our 5,000 School Safety Agents, 70% of whom were women, mostly African-Americans and Latinas. Many were single mothers. Their annual salary was about \$7,000 less than their counterparts, with similar titles, working in other City agencies. Most of them were male. Some called this just a coincidence. I called it discrimination! School Safety Agents have a tough job to do. They help to protect other peoples' children. All they wanted was to put bread on the table for their own children. So I called a meeting of School Safety Agents to tell them about my plan to sue the City. I told them that we needed some volunteers to sign the papers and be the official plaintiffs. Of the 25 women in the room, 22 left. But three remained: Patricia Williams, Bernice Christopher and the late Corinthians Andrews. And for four years, these three gave testimony after testimony. They refused any settlement that did not include retirees. They took days off from work. They took time away from being with their families. They came to our many rallies. At those rallies, despite support from several elected officials, we often felt alone. But the allies who were always there for us boiled down to two people: Hazel Dukes, President of the NYS NAACP and Sonia Ossorio, President of the NYC Chapter of NOW.

I remember the day of the judge's final ruling, Pat, Bernice and Corinthians came into the courthouse and knelt in prayer. And thanks to them, Hazel and Sonia, a historic settlement was reached.

Clearly, Local 237 can boast of having many members whose actions are a testament to the best instincts of humanity. We are especially blessed to have among our members and friends women who care about others and want everyone else to care too. That's who they are. That's their legacy. And we take pride in knowing them. ■

## HERSTORY

For all things  
that matter.



# 2019 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 to 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.”*

## Local 237 NEWSLINE

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e-mail Newsline: [pshafran@local237.org](mailto:pshafran@local237.org)

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### Executive Board

<b>Gregory Floyd</b> President	<b>Ruben Torres</b> Vice President	<b>Edmund Kane</b> Secretary-Treasurer	<b>Jeanette Taveras</b> Recording Secretary
<b>Curtis Scott</b> Trustee	<b>Benedict Carenza, Jr.</b> Trustee	<b>Catherine Rice</b> 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.



## All in the Family

We celebrate the accomplishments and meaningful times in the lives of our members and their families



**Gisela “GiGi” Reyes**, (center) Executive Administrative Assistant to the President, celebrated her birthday with a surprise cake and many well wishers that included Local 237 President Gregory Floyd, friends, colleagues, daughter Angeline and sister Ana.

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:

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS On the Job



Members of Rikers Storehouse 1: **Martin Lee, Ravindra Suhku, Jordan Lowery, Rasijah Stanley, Matthew Dinatale, Lester Boney, Vincent Choi and Javoni Roberts** received a site visit by Citywide Business Agent **George Wade** (left) and Trustee, **Curtis Scott**.



Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** hosted a tour of public housing buildings managed by the Cambridge Housing Authority, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Joining Mr. Floyd was City Council member **Alicka Ampry-Samuel**, the Public Housing Committee Chair, as well as NYCHA resident leaders, advocacy groups and Local 237's Housing staff. The goal of the visit was to learn, first-hand, how the public-private partnership of the Cambridge Authority has instituted many positive features that might be applicable to New York City's Housing Authority.



School Safety Agent **Shavonne Roundtree** and School Safety Agent III **Charles Harper** of the Brooklyn North Community Outreach Unit.



NYCHA workers at Clason Point Gardens:

**Maggie Oquendo, Joe Nesbitt, David Feliciano, Jerry King Sr. and Denise Pryce.**



**Greg Ward and Alex Rodriguez.**



Public School 94 of Brooklyn South School Safety Agents **Elizabeth Cortez** and **Margarita Knight** with Assistant Principal **Christina Gonzalez** (center).



The Supervisors of Traffic Device Maintainers oversee the installation, removal, and maintenance of all traffic/parking devices throughout the 5 boroughs. In the picture (left to right): **Larry Danulevith, Joseph Ronessi, Glenn Bryce, Dave Vitalo, Eric DeAbreu, Hank Schimmel, Nika Jean, Louis Acevedo, Christopher Bucca, James Minelli, Joe Reklis, Robert Gallagher, Michael Fratianni, Jon Mazzolla and Vish Mohan.**



HRA custodial staff: (front row) **Antonio Pineda, Calvin Lee, Manuel Bordoy, Yvette Davis, Richard Sciortino, Michael Towner;** (back row) **Charles Hollman, Ernest Roberts Jr., George T. Williams, Luis Guerrero and Stacey Jones,** visited by **George Wade**, Local 237's Citywide Business Agent (first row, left) and **George Geller**, Special Assistant to President Floyd (second row, right).



NYCHA workers: HPTs **Bunita Butts** and **Camelot Bush** with Heating Division Maintenance Workers **Walter J. Grant** and **Francis Albert.**



School Safety Agent **Denise Robinson** of Public School 6, Brooklyn South has been greeting everyone of the Flatbush community with a smile and positive words for 25 years.

# MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

## Above and Beyond

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



Building good community relations at Adlai Stevenson High School, in the Bronx, site of a basketball game between the NYPD's School Safety Division and students.



School Safety Agents and Local 237's Law Enforcement Business Agent, **Derek Short** (second row, left) gathered at Kings County Supreme Court to support the deceased crime victim daughter of **SSA Stacy Maples**.



Bronx East School Coordinators at Public School 333 organized a toy drive for the students. Pictured: **SSAs Tynes, West and Achampong**, Law Enforcement Business Agent **Charlie Cotto** and **SSA Herrera**. **SSA Spence** is Santa.

Public School 22 on Staten Island was the site of the NYPD/ School Safety Division Outreach Unit's "Outreach Read To Me".



**SSA Leslie Marshall**, (left) author of the book, "Mommy Do You Work Tonight" pictured with Assistant Principal Rappatori distributed a signed copy of the book to all of the students. **SSA Marshall** took the occasion to personally thank Local 237 and President Floyd for sponsoring the publishing of the book.

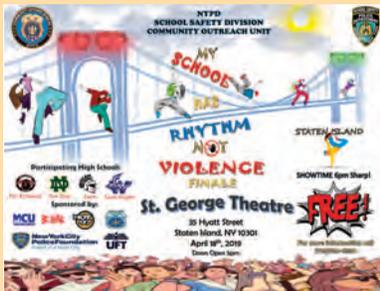
Crime dog **McGruff** was on hand to participate in the festivities.



Bronx District Attorney **Darcel D. Clark** (center) was the guest speaker at the Black History Month celebration hosted by NYC Health and Hospital's North Central Bronx. She is pictured with **Sgt. Victor Morales** and **Vito Aleo**, NCB's Director of Hospital Police.



The HRA Color Guard was featured at the recent HRA/DSS/DHS Black History Month celebration at Hunter College. Left to right: **Sgt. Mildred Palmer**, **PO Annette Vasquez** and HRA Color Guard Commander, **Lt. Wanda D. Carrington**.



NYPD/School Safety Division inspired "My School Has Rhythm Not Violence" underscores the best qualities of our student body, defying the headlines that often portray the public school system, and the students it serves, in a negative light.



To help support the SSAs organizers and to promote participation in the event, are **SSA III Terence Elmore** (left), of the Community Outreach Unit, New York State Assembly member from Staten Island, **Nicole Malliotakis**.



School Safety Agent **Tiffany Loarte**, who works in the Bronx West Command, is a female high school football official. **Loarte** also works with the NFL as a football referee.



School Safety Agent III, **Kangela Moore**, spoke with former First Lady **Michelle Obama** at Barclay Center during Mrs. Obama's book tour.



Bronx community members came together for a basketball tournament with a special goal of remembering youngsters who have died due to gun violence. School Safety Agent **Stephanie Garcia** of the Special Services Unit in the Central Headquarters, is a driving force in efforts to teach children how to avoid the senseless and often deadly violence that took her own son's life.



School Safety Agents helped to provide a safe and secure environment at many large events throughout the City. Pictured at one such successful, incident-free event are SSAs with NYPD/SSD **AC Ruben Beltran**, **AC Ramon Garcia** and NYC School Deputy **LaShawn Robinson**.



Local 237 members joined a bikers' holiday toy drive at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center which helped to buy toys for needy children in the community.

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



**Charlene Harris**, Caretaker E, retires after 10 years of service working in Long Island City. She received well wishes from **Norberto Luna**, Housing Business Agent.



**Denise Crenshaw**, Housing Assistant at 90 Church Street is retiring after 39 years of service. Shop Steward **Luis Soler** presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Local 237.



**Fernando "Dr. Q" Quintero** worked for 40 years at the Housing Authority. At a retirement dinner held in his honor, he was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Norberto Luna, Housing Business Agent.



**Bennett Heller**, HHC Supervisor of Stock workers at Woodhull Hospital, retired after 34 years on the job. Citywide Business Agent **George Wade** (left) and the Director of the Citywide Division, **Donald Arnold** were on hand to thank him for his many years of service.



**Leroy Scotland**, Property Manager, serviced for 25 years in public housing. Wishing him well are Local 237's Vice President on the Executive Board, **Ruben Torres**, **Kevin Norman**, the Director of the Housing Division, **Manny Cuebas**, retired Secretary Treasurer of the Local 237 Board, and **Jeanette Taveras**, Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent.



**Russell Giaccio**, Supervisor of Stock workers at Seaview Hospital has retired after 14 years of service. Presenting him with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Local 237 are **Jeanette Taveras**, Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent and the Director of the Citywide Division, **Donald Arnold**.



**Jacqueline Dixon**, working for 25 years as a Level 3 School Safety Agent in Brooklyn South has retired. She was joined by the Director of the Citywide Division, **Donald Arnold** (left), **Jeanette Taveras**, Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent and **Edmund Kane**, Secretary-Treasurer to accept Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Local 237.

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



**Gregory Floyd**, (right, second from the end), President of Local 237, was on hand to congratulate the new officers inducted in March, 2019, along with **Charlie Cotto**, (next to Floyd) Law Enforcement Business Agent and **Derek Jackson**, (on the left) the Director of 237's Law Enforcement Division.



**Charlie Cotto** attended the December graduation on behalf of President Floyd and extended well wishes for a successful career in law enforcement.

## 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:



School Safety Agent Level III **Sandra Reid** was acknowledged with high praise for having perfect attendance during her 10 years on the job.



The NYPD/School Safety Explorers program was commended at a recognition ceremony attended by Local 237's **Derek Jackson** (left), Director of Law Enforcement and **Derek Short**, Business Agent (right). They were on hand to congratulate the SSA advisors along with Assistant Chief **Ruben Beltran** and Principal **Laura Van Deren**.



The Tristate Law Enforcement Foundation held its Eagle Recognition Awards dinner and Teamsters Local 237 was on hand. (Left to right) **Lawrence Bosley**, **Andre Green**, **Derek Jackson**, honoree **Det. Kenny Spark**, 237's President **Gregory Floyd**, **Derek Short**, **Jeanette Tavares**, **Martha Bodhnarain**, **Diana Doss** and **Charlie Cotto**. The Foundation was established to provide support to children of fallen law enforcement officials through scholarship grants and individual achievement awards.



Bronx East/West School Safety School Coordination Agents were honored at a recent Breast Bar Presentation ceremony conducted by the Bronx Command. **Charlie Cotto** (left) Local 237's Law Enforcement Business Agent attended the event, commending the Agents for their professionalism.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

# Members Promoted

## Congratulations

We commend our members who have succeeded in achieving higher rank within their agencies. Here is one member recently promoted.



**Mark Sipzner**, Shop Steward, NYPD Stock worker, was promoted to Supervisor of Stock workers at a ceremony at 1 Police Plaza. **NYPD Commissioner McNeil** (left) is pictured as he awarded the promotion to Sipzner.

## Unlimited Paid Sick Leave for Employees with 9/11 Related Illnesses

As part of the City's effort to implement the new unlimited sick leave benefit for employees who participated in 9/11 rescue, recovery, and cleanup, we are making attempts to ensure that those employees who may be eligible are able to access the benefit.

We want to inform you of a new program that provides sick leave benefit to employees who participated in World Trade Center (WTC) rescue, recovery and cleanup operations and need to take leave from work due to a 9/11-related illness.

### You may qualify for the benefit. Who Qualifies:

Employees are eligible for the benefit if they:

- Participated in WTC rescue, recovery and cleanup operations as verified by an approved "Notice of Participation" from their retirement system; and
- Contract a "Qualifying World Trade Center Condition" as defined in Section 2 of the NYS Retirement and Social Security Law or a "9/11 Related Illness" covered under the Federal WTC Health Program which renders them unable to perform their duties; and
- Are not currently eligible for unlimited sick leave pursuant to applicable law and/or collective bargaining agreements.

The diagnosis of a Qualifying WTC Condition is made by a medical doctor in a WTC Clinical Center of Excellence that is part of the WTC Health Program. If you are not enrolled in the WTC Health Program, we strongly encourage you to visit <https://www.cdc.gov/wtc/apply.html> to apply.

### How to Access the Benefit

If you qualify for the benefit and need to take leave from work to cope with your illness, you may request 9/11 sick leave through City Time. You will need to visit our Human Resources Office and furnish documentation confirming your diagnosis. ■

## MEETING NOTICES

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

### HOUSING AUTHORITY

SHOP STEWARDS .....	TUES., APR 2, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
HOUSING ASSISTANTS .....	TUES., APR 2, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - SM RM
CARETAKERS .....	TUES., APR 9, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
MANAGERS .....	TUES., APR 16, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
ASSISTANT MANAGERS.....	TUES., APR 23, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - SM RM
SUPV. ELEVATOR MECH	
ELEVATOR MECH & HELPERS .....	TUES., APR 23, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
STORES.....	TUES., APR 30, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - SM RM
SUPV. PLASTERERS & PLASTERERS .....	TUES., APR 30, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
SUPERINTENDENTS .....	TUES., MAY 7, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
SUPV. OF GROUNDS .....	TUES., MAY 7, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS.....	TUES., MAY 14, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
SUPV.ROOFERS & ROOFERS .....	TUES., MAY 21, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - SM RM
CARETAKER P'S .....	TUES., MAY 28, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
SHOP STEWARD .....	TUES., JUNE 4, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
MAINT. WORKER (TRADITIONAL).....	TUES., JUNE 11, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
SUPV. BRICKLAYERS	
BRICKLAYER/MASON HELPERS .....	TUES., JUNE 11, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
HEATING PLANT TECHNICIAN & *MAINT. WORKER (HEATING).....	TUES., JUNE 18, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
SUPV. OF CARETAKERS .....	TUES., JUNE 25, 2019 - 5:30 P.M - MF RM
EXTERMINATORS.....	TUES., JUNE 25, 2019 - 5:30 P.M MF RM

# Black History Mo

**O**n February 22, Local 237 celebrated the history and culture of African Americans. Among the highlights of the evening was an awards ceremony to acknowledge the many accomplishments of our own members of African American descent. The event was kicked-off with a moving rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" sung by Pamela Boylan, Supervisor of Grounds at the Harlem River Houses, followed by the Star Spangled Banner beautifully sung by Shanell Grayson, Assistant Director of the Education Department. The spirit of the event was captured in these words of "Lift Every Voice and Sing":

*"Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope the present has brought us,  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won."*

Throughout the evening, Local 237 President Gregory Floyd reiterated the theme of history and hope. The evening's Masters of Ceremonies were **Debbie A. Coleman, ESQ.**, Director of Special Projects/Sr. Counsel and **Curtis Scott**, Trustee on Local 237's Executive Board and Housing Business Agent.



Taj Brown with Gregory Floyd.

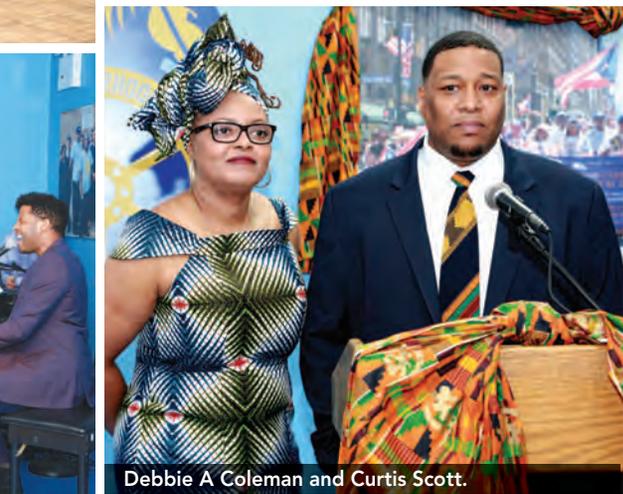


Charles Robinson with Gregory Floyd.

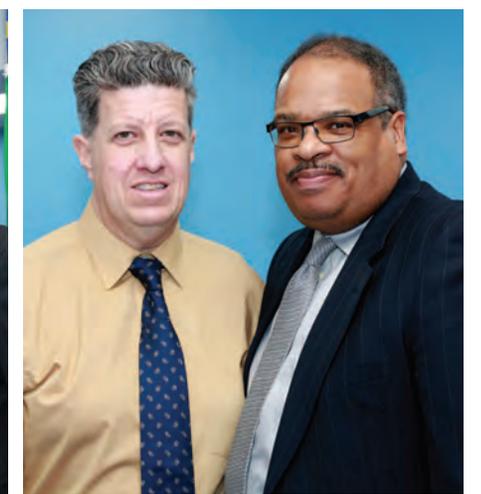


Shannon Edmond

# Month Celebration



Debbie A Coleman and Curtis Scott.



s-Smith with Gregory Floyd.



Vera Ooft with Gregory Floyd.



Taneka Johnson with Gregory Floyd.



Shavelle Knox with Gregory Floyd.



Irene Szczesny with Gregory Floyd.





# LONG ISLAND REPORT



Brentwood Food Service members who work so hard all day posing for a picture.



Brentwood school district custodial staff at Southwest elementary keeping the kitchen spotless.



Brentwood school district Security guards **Ray and John** always keeping the students and staff safe.



North Babylon custodial members **Tony and Chris** stopping at the union office to advocate for the members.



North Babylon school district Bus Drivers and Bus Mechanic always on the job.



**Pat** who is a Bus Driver for the North Babylon school district. These bus drivers all work hard to ensure the safety of the students!



**Tony Timpone** retires from the Islip Housing Authority. Tony was a great Shop Steward who always looked to help the members. Pictured with him is **Stephanie** who also works at the Housing Authority



**Patricia O'Connor** retires from the Town of Islip Housing Authority. Pictured are her great co-workers at the Housing Authority.



**Sue** who works as a cashier at OTB. She is a good member who does a great job for OTB.



Proud Teamster member **Donald** from Half Hollow Hills School District. Donald is also one of our great Stewards at Half Hollow Hills!



Plainview Old Bethpage Rep for her building, **Donna**. She does a great job helping out her members at Mattlin Middle school!



Town of Babylon members **Kevin, Vinnie and Jimmy** keeping the town in great shape.



Half Hollow Hills school member **Robert Rock** retires. Pictured with him are his two brothers **Casey and Tommy** who also work for the Half Hollow Hills school. Between the brothers they have 102 years of service to the district and also 102 years as Teamsters total! Great job and good luck in retirement.



Town of Babylon members **Carlo and Steven** wearing their proud member shirts! Happy to see new members getting involved with the union! We welcome all to be active to advocate for all!



Plainview Old Bethpage school Teamster Rep **Lisa** and member **Jodi** at Stratford Road elementary school. They both do great work.



Town of Babylon member **Benny Rivera** doing a great job!



Long Island union office staff and **Richie Hendershot, Charlie Cotto, GG and Ana**.

## POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

### Gov. Urges Reproductive Rights in State Constitution



NYS Governor, **Andrew Cuomo**, fearing that the landmark Supreme Court ruling of 1973, *Roe v Wade*, could possibly be overturned by the current, conservative-leaning Supreme Court, is pushing for a constitutional amendment that would codify abortion rights in New York State. The Governor was joined by former Secretary of State, **Hillary Clinton** (pictured right) at a rally at Barnard College, where he made the pitch for an amendment that would not only complement the State's Reproductive Health Act, but further guarantee a woman's right to access abortion services. ▮

### Thank you! JC16



NYC Council members **Rafael Espinal** and **Carlos Menchaca** (center) recently visited a meeting of Teamsters Joint Council 16 to thank the Delegates and members of the Executive Board (left to right: **Gregory Floyd**, **George Miranda**, **Harry Nespoli** and **Demos Demopoulos**) for their continued support. Both Council members discussed issues in their districts that might be of concern to Teamsters and pledged to fight on our behalf. ▮

### 50/50



City and State, a popular news outlet, hosted an awards dinner honoring 50 New Yorkers, age 50 and over, for their contributions to the City. The honorees included a wide range of leaders. Among the honorees was **Phyllis Shafran**, Local 237's Director of Communications and Political Coordinator. Pictured: **Mike McGuire**, **Joanne Passaro**, **Jeffrey Plaut**, **Rick Ostroff**, **Phyllis Shafran**, **James Sterngold**, and **Mark Schienberg**. ▮

## GREGORY FLOYD – A RESPONSIBLE LEADER



City and State, a widely read news outlet, honored Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** at an awards luncheon that celebrated its list of 100 of the most responsible New Yorkers. As described in its journal, the honorees are: Socially responsible leaders in New York who

are setting new standards of excellence, dedication and leadership in improving their communities and making transformative change. They are 100 New Yorkers from 10 sectors who embody one or more of the core principles of corporate responsibility. ▮

### MAD OVER RAD

Local 237 President, **Gregory Floyd**, went to Washington DC to discuss his opposition to RAD (Rent Assistance Demonstration) with Congresswoman **Maxine Waters**. The Federal program was intended to help preserve the nation's affordable housing plagued by chronic underfunding and an aging housing stock in need of massive repair. Many argue that in fact, RAD has resulted in the privatization of public land by developers with questionable long-range benefits to current residents. The Congresswoman, back in 2014, wrote to President Obama and then in 2015, to the Comptroller of the Government Accountability Office (GAO), to register her concerns about the program. In her letter to the President, the Congresswoman wrote: "While the program is well-intended, its primary reliance on private capital allows privatization of an asset that has always been, and should continue to be, publically owned." To the GAO, she wrote: "First and foremost, I am concerned about tenants' rights not being properly protected throughout the conversion process to RAD." President Floyd (left) accompanied to the meeting by **Pastor Patrick Young**, told the Congresswoman his concerns about the RAD program, which is accelerating in New York City. In discussion with Waters, Floyd shared his testimony at a City Council hearing on privatization where he



Gregory Floyd, Maxine Waters and Pastor Patrick Young.

told members: "Programs like RAD are nothing more than a land-grab by private developers under the guise of saving public housing. Nothing could be further from the truth. Money supposedly generated by RAD is insufficient and unproven and does not justify a wholesale giveaway of public property for private profit. Gentrification is the result, displacing NYCHA residents and robbing them of their community. NYCHA is a broken system and our members have tried to fix it. They have worked hard despite diminished funding, limited resources and years of gross mismanagement at the highest level. Now our members are also worried about losing their jobs or being displaced." The Congresswoman vowed to continue her fight to save public housing, and to also continue the dialogue with Greg Floyd. ▮

### Labor Roundtable with Congressman Nadler

Congressman **Jerry Nadler**, the new Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, invited members of the labor community to a roundtable discussion, hosted by RWDSU. In the free-flowing conversation that ensued, in which the Congressman updated those present on challenges that his committee faces and some of the strategy that is being considered, issues that concern union members took center stage. Local 237 was on hand to hear the Congressman's remarks and

to share with him our view on Federal issues, such as RAD (Rent Assistance Demonstration), that are of concern to our members. The discussion was mutually insightful and ended with plans to follow up. ▮



## RAISING A RED FLAG



NYS Governor, **Andrew Cuomo**, signed into law a provision meant to restrict access to guns by those who are deemed to be too dangerous to themselves or others to possess a gun. This "red flag" provision will be part of a broader package of gun control measures in New York State. But, the Governor lamented, guns come across state lines and are a national problem saying "New York's gun control laws can only be as strong as other states." Congresswoman **Nancy Pelosi**, the Speaker of the House, was on hand to applaud the Governor's actions (seated next to the Governor). She vowed to work for passage of similar legislation on the Federal level. The Speaker called upon the President to address rampant gun violence, especially at schools, noting:

"Mr. President, if you want to talk about emergencies, this is an emergency." Also at the bill signing was Lt. Governor **Kathy Hochul** (right), bill sponsors Assembly Member **Jo Anne Simon** (second from the left) and Senator **Brian Kavanagh** (to her right) as well as the parents of children who lost their lives due to gun violence, including **Linda Beigel-Schulman** and is her husband, **Michael Schulman**, (to the left of Hochul), parents **Scott Beigel**, a teacher who was killed in the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida and (on the end left), **Mark Barden**, the father of a murdered 7-year old boy from the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Newtown, Connecticut. ▮



## Special 2019 Transfer Period

By **Mitch Goldberg** *Director of the Welfare Fund*

The Special 2019 Health Benefits Program Transfer Period begins April 1, 2019 and ends April 30, 2019. Health plan changes requested during this Transfer Period will be effective the first day of your first full payroll period in July 2019.

During the Special Transfer Period, employees may transfer into any health plan listed below for which they are eligible, add or drop the Optional Rider, or add or drop dependent(s). To make changes, complete a Health Benefits Application.

To obtain an application, contact one of the following offices: NYCAPS Central (212.487.0500) for employees of NYCAPS centralized agencies, HR Connect for employees of the Department of Education, or your agency Health Benefits or Personnel Office.

An application is also available on our website at [nyc.gov/olr](http://nyc.gov/olr). Employees with access to employee self-service may participate in some transfer period activities on-line. Please use this time to review your health care and prescription drug needs. Visit the Summary Program Description (SPD) at [nyc.gov/olr](http://nyc.gov/olr) for plan summaries.

For more information about health plans, see the list of phone numbers and websites below. Contact your union welfare fund about other benefits available to you. If your union welfare fund provides benefits similar to some of those listed in the Optional Rider for your plan, those specific benefits will not be available through that Optional Rider (in certain plans) and payroll deductions will be reduced accordingly.

If your health plan's Optional Rider consists only of a prescription drug plan and your welfare fund provides this benefit, your deductions will not be adjusted if you elect the rider.

To elect the Medical Spending Conversion Enrollment (MSC) Buy-Out Waiver Program or to change your health premium contribution tax status, you must

**New York City**  
Health Benefits Program

Special Transfer Period for **Active Employees**  
**April 1, 2019 - April 30, 2019**  
Effective July 1, 2019

For more information  
and to download the  
Summary Program  
Description (SPD)  
visit: [nyc.gov/hbp](http://nyc.gov/hbp)

The City of New York  
Office of Labor Relations  
Employee Benefits Program

HBP  
Health Benefits Program

fill out both a Health Benefits Application and a MSC Buy-Out Enrollment/Change Form or MSC Premium Conversion Form. For information about how to obtain forms, contact NYCAPS Central (212.487.0500) or your agency Health Benefits or Personnel office. The annual incentive payments for the MSC Health Benefits Buy-Out Waiver for Plan Year 2019 will be \$500 (individual) and \$1,000 (family).

Each health plan has prepared a Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. To review the SBC of a particular plan, please visit the Health Benefits Program website or contact the health plan directly. ■

### Health Maintenance Organizations

CIGNA HealthCare	(888) 992-4462	<a href="http://www.cigna.com">www.cigna.com</a>
Empire HMO	(800) 767-8672	<a href="http://www.empireblue.com/nyc">www.empireblue.com/nyc</a>
GHI HMO	(877) 244-4466	<a href="http://www.emblemhealth.com/city">www.emblemhealth.com/city</a>
HIP PRIME HMO	(800) 447-6929	<a href="http://www.emblemhealth.com/city">www.emblemhealth.com/city</a>
MetroPlus Gold	(800) 303-9626	<a href="http://www.metroplus.org">www.metroplus.org</a>
Vytra Health Plans	(800) 447-8255	<a href="http://www.emblemhealth.com/city">www.emblemhealth.com/city</a>

### Point of Service, Exclusive Provider Organization, and Participating Provider Organizations/Indemnity Plans

Aetna EPO	(800) 445-8742	<a href="http://www.aetna.com">www.aetna.com</a>
DC37 Med-Team (DC37 members only)	(212) 501-4444	<a href="http://www.emblemhealth.com/city">www.emblemhealth.com/city</a>
Empire EPO	(800) 767-8672	<a href="http://www.empireblue.com/nyc">www.empireblue.com/nyc</a>
GHI-CBP/Empire BlueCross BlueShield		
Group Health Incorporated:	(212) 501-4444	<a href="http://www.emblemhealth.com/city">www.emblemhealth.com/city</a>
Empire BlueCross BlueShield:	(800) 433-9592	<a href="http://www.empireblue.com/nyc">www.empireblue.com/nyc</a>
HIP Prime POS	(800) 447-6929	<a href="http://www.emblemhealth.com/city">www.emblemhealth.com/city</a>



## Money Troubles?

By **Ayana Ali** *Director Local 237- Social Services*

Are you having trouble paying your rent or mortgage? Are you constantly falling behind in your bills? Do you always have to rob Peter to pay Paul? New York City is an expensive place to live and unfortunately, many people living here can find it hard to make ends meet. In a perfect world, no one would ever fall behind on their bills, but that is not always the case.

If you have found yourself in this predicament, please don't let embarrassment or shame cost you your housing and/or well-being. Although one can understand the desire to push unpleasant thoughts to the back of your mind, you should not ignore the issue and continue to let your financial troubles go addressed. You have to take action.

- 1) Always pay your rent first-** A cardinal rule of good financial stewardship is that you pay your housing costs before you anything. We all have bills that we consider essential, but what good is it to pay your cable bill if you have nowhere to watch that show?
  - 2) Make a budget and stick to it-** There are several apps that you can download on your phone to help you track spending. Digit, Personal Capital, Mint and You Need a Budget (YNAB) are some popular ones. Or if you're old-fashioned, using a budget created on an Excel spreadsheet also works.
  - 3) Eliminate waste-** Track spending for at least a week. Note any unnecessary habits. Do you really need those three movie subscription services? Write a list before you go shopping – and stick to it. Food waste is money waste. Turn off the lights in rooms that you are not occupying. You're being charged for the energy consumption whether you're in the room or not.
  - 4) Save on meals-** If you don't already, begin to eat breakfast at home. Whenever possible, bring your lunch to work. Last night's dinner may make a great lunch today and can save you tremendous amounts of money. Don't be above leftovers. Travel with snacks whenever possible, it will cut down on outside spending.
  - 5) Consider automatic billing-** Knowing that the funds to cover a bill will come out of your account whether you hit "submit payment" or not may help you to ensure that enough money is in your account and decrease frivolous spending. Overdraft fees can get expensive and may serve as a natural deterrent to spend on things other than necessities.
  - 6) Make more money-** Consider alternate means of bringing in funds. Do you have a marketable skill that can help you to earn money on the side? Do you do taxes? Do you braid hair? What can you do to make more money?
  - 7) Stop Using Credit-** This is a tough one, but it can be done. Practice this rule: if I can't pay cash, I can't buy it. Don't spend what you don't have. Period.
- Lastly, **seek the help of a professional-** There are various resources available to you through the union. If you find yourself constantly behind in your bills and are struggling, please contact Ayana Ali in the Social Services Department at **212-924-7220** or **aali@local237.org** to explore your options. ■



## Getting The Landlord To Make Repairs

By Sara Wagner, Esq.

Assistant Director of Local 237, Legal Services Plan

If you have conditions or violations in your home which need to be repaired, including lack of heat and hot water or lack of other services, or have other emergency conditions, you may begin a proceeding against the landlord to force the landlord to make repairs and correct building violations. This is called an HP proceeding, or HP Action.

Before you do this, you should contact the landlord and let the landlord know that the conditions exist, that you want them repaired, and that you will go to court unless the repairs are made. If you write to the landlord, keep a copy of the letter so that you can bring it to court. After you have contacted the landlord, and if the conditions are still not repaired, go to court in the county where your apartment is located, to begin an HP proceeding against your landlord.

When you come to court be sure to bring the name and address of the landlord, or the managing agent, or both. The clerk will give you forms to fill out called an “Order to Show Cause Directing the Correction of Violations (HP Action),” and a “Verified Petition in Support of an Order to Show Cause Directing the Correction of Violation.” In your petition you should list all the conditions in need of repair in each room of the apartment and public areas. You should also request an inspection of the conditions from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development by filling out a Tenant’s Request For Inspection. If you are seeking emergency repairs, you may not be able to have an inspection prior to the hearing date.

You must submit your signed and completed forms to the HP clerk along with payment of the court fee of \$45.00. The fee must be paid by cash, certified check, money order or bank check. Personal checks will not be accepted. If you cannot afford to pay the fee to start this case, you may fill out a “waiver form” to apply to proceed as a poor person. After you pay the fee to the cashier in the clerk’s office you will be given an index number. If the HP Judge approves your application to proceed as a poor person, you will be given a free index number.

The clerk will notarize your petition, and your application to proceed as a poor person if also submitted. The clerk will also assign an inspection date if you requested one. Your papers will be given to the HP Judge, who will review and sign your application. The clerk of the HP part will then assign a hearing date and a date by which you must serve these papers.

After obtaining the signed Order To Show Cause and the Petition from the clerk, you must have the papers served on the respondent and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) (and the New York City Corporation Counsel’s Office if you are proceeding as a poor person). Check the Order to Show Cause for the directions as to how and by when the papers must be served. It may direct that the papers be served by certified mail, return receipt requested. The HP clerk will give you envelopes for service of these papers. Once you have served the papers you must fill out an Affidavit of Service, which is a sworn statement that is filled out after someone is served. This proof of service may be filed with the HP clerk before the court date, or with the clerk in the courtroom on the date of the hearing. The HP clerk will file the original of the petition with the court and give you a copy of the papers. Bring your copy of the papers with you to court on the hearing date, as well as any other records you think are important to your case.

On the hearing date, an HPD lawyer will get your testimony about the conditions and the judge will order the repairs to be done by a certain day, or you can sign a stipulation of settlement (agreement) with the landlord that the repairs will be done. If the repairs are not done, you must go back to court and tell the judge so that the judge can fine or punish the landlord.

Although the Legal Services Plan does not appear for you in an HP proceeding, we do represent you when your landlord is suing you for nonpayment of rent and/or eviction. You can reach the Legal Services Plan at (212) 924-1220. ▮

## 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 **Gregory Floyd**, President of Local 237 and his family on the untimely passing of his beloved brother, Reginald “Reggie” Keith Floyd. Follow-



ing in the footsteps of his father Willie and brother Greg, Reggie served in law enforcement for many years. He worked at Queens Hospital as a hospital police officer while simultaneously working at Metropolitan Hospital as a Lieutenant. Reggie left law enforcement in April of 2003 to pursue another career as an environmental specialist for the Department of Citywide Services. Reggie was a devoted family man and an inspiration to all.

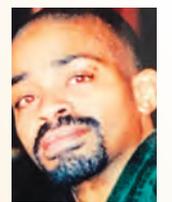
To the family and colleagues on the death of **Lieutenant Michael Pierre** (aka “Tiny”), who served as a well-respected and greatly-liked member of TLC’s Enforcement Division of the Uniformed Services Bureau.

To **School Safety Agent III, Jason Hartridge**, of Community Outreach, on the passing of his cherished mother, Margaret Plummer.

To **Collette Nelson**, Receptionist from the Welfare Fund, on the death of her beloved husband, Kurt Devon Julian.

To **Mary Sheridan, Esq.**, Director of the Legal Services Plan on the death of her much-loved father, Christopher J. Sheridan.

To **Donald Arnold**, Director of the Citywide Division, his wife Deloris and the entire Arnold family on the untimely death of their precious son, Keenan Lloyd.



To **School Safety Agent, Level III, Samantha Bannister**, from Brooklyn South Command, on the passing of her devoted mother, Mary Bannister.

To the family of retired **Housing Business Agent, Armando Neves** on the death of this well-liked member of Local 237.

To the family of **Tyrone Powell**, long time Local 237 member and on the Board of the Civil Service Bar Association, who graduated cum laude in the top 10% of his class at law school. Tyrone was also a talented musician, composer, arranger and producer.



## Thank You for the Thanks

By Kevin Norman

Local 237 Director of Housing

Overcoming challenges often seems as a never-ending uphill battle. No matter what you do for a living or how good you are at it, there will always be “those days that make you want to stop.” But our members, overwhelmingly, rise to the challenge. The truth is however, that many of them may not feel appreciated enough for their efforts. And here’s another truth: Although it is recognized by our leadership that the work of our members is invaluable, there are two words that would make a difference: “Thank you”. Those words are probably not said enough to get the point across—our members help improve the lives of countless New Yorkers. Even though we hear a lot about “unsung heroes”, many of our members are that, plus more. They work on behalf of the public, which can be a tough crowd to please, and short on showing appreciation, even when they are grateful.

But expressing and receiving thanks is not limited to one particular group. Anyone can do it and just about everyone appreciates having it. In fact, many of our members have called or written us to say “Thank you”. They recognize that Local 237 has their backs. This outreach signifies a belief and commitment to making their jobs, their union, and the public they serve know that they are up to the challenges of these tough times. This exchange of thanks can only lead to more successes. Appreciation is contagious. While we still have much to do, we remain focused on finding ways to maintain and/or improve benefits, salaries, and the quality of life of our members. So, thank you for your thanks and thank you for being members who keep it real and keep us at the top of our game. ▮

## Personal Notes

Effective February 25, 2019, **Shavelle Knox** was appointed new Business Agent. Her salary is \$1,512.00 per week (\$78,624 per year). Her monthly car allowance is \$860.00 per month (\$10,320.00 per year). She was released from the City without pay. Local 237 provides her with health benefits.



# Teamsters Local 237 Celebra el Mes de la Historia de la Mujer 2019

**E**n todo el país, durante todo el mes de marzo, hubo almuerzos de premiación, concursos de ensayos y desfiles para marcar los logros de las mujeres en los Estados Unidos. Pero es seguro decir que pocos superaron la cantidad de orgullo, gratitud y admiración de la celebración del Local 237 porque rindió homenaje a una mujer muy especial, Marie Colvin. La Sra. Colvin es una corresponsal de guerra asesinada que comenzó su carrera como escritora del periódico sindical. **Marie Colvin** era un Teamster. Como dijo el presidente del Local 237, **Gregory Floyd**, a la multitud desbordada que se había reunido para la ocasión: *"Marie una vez caminó por los pasillos de este edificio. Ella montaba en estos ascensores y comía rosquillas de la tienda al otro lado de la calle. Ella trabajaba aquí, y aunque ninguno de nosotros podría usar sus zapatos, al menos por un tiempo, caminó entre nosotros. Incluso compartió una risa o dos con algunas de las personas en esta sala"*.

Marie fue asesinada en Siria para silenciarla. Escribió sobre mujeres inocentes y niños atrapados en el fuego cruzado de la guerra civil. Quería que el mundo se preocupara tanto como ella. Ella perdió su vida tratando de hacer esto.

Marie estaba informando desde un país que no quería que saliera la verdadera historia del sufrimiento. Como señaló Floyd: *"Este era un país que llamaba a los medios de comunicación, 'El enemigo del Pueblo'. Últimamente, hemos estado escuchando mucho de eso aquí, en nuestro propio país. Muchos tratan de ocultar su odio como un llamado al nacionalismo. Los traficantes de odio han escupido este veneno durante años y en algunos lugares inesperados. Por ejemplo, una multitud de 20,000 se reunieron en el Madison Square Garden en febrero de 1939 para denunciar a la prensa y los sindicatos como controlados por los judíos... ¡y todos sabemos a dónde fue eso! Periodistas, como Marie Colvin, intentaron aclarar las cosas. Tratan de hacer lo correcto para las personas que ni siquiera conocen."*

*"Con demasiada frecuencia, pagaban con sus vidas."*

En la memoria de Marie, el Local 237 honró a varias mujeres que contribuyeron a ayudar a otros simplemente porque era lo correcto. Los últimos **Corinthians Andrews**, **Bernice Christopher** y **Patricia Williams**, fueron Agentes de Seguridad Escolar que se ofrecieron como voluntarios para firmar como demandantes principales en una demanda colectiva que el Presidente Floyd presentó contra la Ciudad, en marzo de 2010, en nombre de nuestros 5,000 Agentes de Seguridad Escolar. Estos oficiales de paz, el 70% de los cuales eran mujeres, a quienes se les pagó \$ 7,000 menos que sus contrapartes, con títulos similares, trabajando en otras agencias de la Ciudad, la mayoría de los cuales eran hombres. Como Floyd dijo a la audiencia: *"Algunos lo llamaron simplemente una coincidencia. ¡Lo llamé discriminación!"*

Las festividades también reconocieron a otras dos mujeres que jugaron un papel para ayudar al Local 237 a ganar un acuerdo histórico con la Ciudad: **Hazel Dukes**, Presidenta de la Sección de Nueva York de la NAACP y **Sonia Osorio**, Presidenta de la Sección de la Ciudad de Nueva York de NOW. Al describir la larga batalla de 4 años con la Ciudad y los innumerables mítines que conllevó, Floyd dijo: *"Tengo que mencionar algo sobre esos mítines. A veces, nos sentimos bastante solos. Sí, tuvimos el apoyo de varios funcionarios electos, pero nuestros aliados que siempre estuvieron allí para nosotros se redujeron a dos personas: Hazel Dukes y Sonia Osorio. Por eso también los estamos honrando hoy"*. Floyd concluyó diciendo: *"Claramente, el Local 237 puede presumir de tener muchos miembros cuyas acciones son un testimonio de los mejores instintos de la humanidad. Así que para nosotros fue fácil identificar a los galardonados por el Mes de la Historia de la Mujer. Somos especialmente afortunados de tener entre nuestros propios miembros y amigos, mujeres que se preocupan por los demás y quieren que todos los demás también se preocupen por ellos. Eso es lo que son. Ese es su legado, y nos enorgullecemos de conocerlos..."* ■



Gregory Floyd revela la foto de Marie Colvin.



Gregory Floyd revela la foto de la SSA Corinthians Andrews, la SSA Bernice Christopher y la SSA Patricia Williams.



Contralor de la ciudad de Nueva York, Scott Stringer.



La vicegobernadora de Nueva York, Kathy Hochul.



Presidente del Condado de Manhattan, Gale Brewer.



La hermana de Marie, Cathleen 'Cat' Colvin y el Presidente del Consorcio para la Educación de los Trabajadores, Joe Mcdermott.



Destiny Andrews en nombre de su madre, la difunta Corinthians Andrews.



Canta Shanell Grayson.



Hazel Dukes y Gregory Floyd.



Jean Bucaria y Gregory Floyd.

Fotos por Ken Roper

Ver más en la Historia de la Mujer - página 16

Teamsters Local 237

Celebrates  
*Women's* 2019  
History Month



Marie Colvin:  
Courageous War Correspondent.  
Assassinated Journalist. Teamster



Marie Colvin - courageous in the face of danger.

A new movie, "A Private War," is the real life story of Marie Colvin, a war correspondent portrayed by Rosamund Pike in a powerful performance. Marie covered stories many did not want told, in dangerous locations, where few would dare to go.

First she lost her eye and, eventually, her life at age 56. Her bravery was legendary. She stayed behind enemy lines during the Iraq War in 1991; in 1999, she remained in East Timor to document refugees under attack at a U.N. compound by government-backed militias; in 2001, she was blinded in one eye by the blast of a Sri Lankan army rocket-propelled grenade, and fearlessly wore an eye patch as a symbol that she would not stop telling the story of civilians who she said: "Endure far more than I ever will" and cannot escape to the comforts of London, where she lived at the time.

In 2012, Colvin was in Syria, where she was deliberately targeted and killed by artillery fire at the direction of a senior Syrian military officer, who sought to silence her reporting on civilian casualties in the besieged city of Homs as part of a media campaign to keep a worldwide audience in the dark. Colvin and French photographer, Remi Ochlik, age 28, were killed instantly. Two other foreign journalists, including a Times photographer, were severely injured but escaped.

Life for Marie was not always so chaotic. Born in New York and raised in Oyster Bay, Long Island by her school teacher parents, shortly after graduating from Yale University, she took her first job...with the Teamsters at Local 237, where she wrote the union's publications. Marie went on to become a United Press International (UPI) reporter who was promoted after a time to Foreign Desk Editor and then Paris Bureau Chief. From there, she went on to the Sunday Times in the UK, where she remained for more than 25 years. There's an old adage: "Tell me what you were and I'll tell you what you are." Marie Colvin was a Teamster.

The late  
Corinthians Andrews,  
Bernice Christopher  
and Patricia Williams



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

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 exhausting 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.

Hazel Dukes &  
Sonia Ossorio

National Pay Equity Rally  
on the Steps of City Hall



On April 8, 2014, we came to the steps of City Hall to mark National Pay Equity Day. That day represents how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. It has been estimated that, at this pace, it would take 45 years for women to catch up. That's too long for women to wait! We knew that we did not have to look too far for examples of pay imbalance, because Local 237 had been fighting for more than four years for the City of New York to rectify an injustice concerning School Safety Agents. Nearly 70% of that workforce are women. They were earning \$7,000 less than their counterparts in other City agencies, about 70% of whom are male.

We held many rallies until an historic settlement was finally reached in August of 2014. Our members, and especially the three School Safety Agents who volunteered to be official plaintiffs—the late Corinthians Andrews, Bernice Christopher and Patricia Williams—were always on hand to lend their support. We also had the unwavering support of two community leaders who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us until we won our fight: Hazel Dukes, President of the NYS Chapter of the NAACP and Sonia Ossorio President, of the NYC Chapter of NOW.

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