



LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 53, No. 3

Fall 2019

SKIP THE GREETING CARD. NO PRESENTS NEEDED. LABOR DAY—A HOLIDAY LIKE NO OTHER AND WHOSE IMPORTANCE LASTS BEYOND A SINGLE DAY

By Gregory Floyd

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



It's not so easy to find a holiday that crosses all religious, racial, ethnic and gender lines. Your political party, favorite color and years of education matter little too. For sure, it's not easy to find a holiday which most Americans celebrate in similar ways—usually involving a hot dog or two. Yes, Labor Day is a rarity: A holiday we can agree upon.

Congress created Labor Day in 1894 by making the first Monday in September a national holiday. But it only did so in response to the death of 34 striking Pullman workers from the American Railway Union at the hands of U.S. Army soldiers and Marshals.

And then there's the Labor Day Parade. It's not held on Labor Day, when so many of us are sad about the summer's end and trying to get in those last rays of summer sun, a swim at the beach, flipping burgers on the BBQ, or hunting for "Back to School" sales. Instead, the parade is held a week later.

New York City hosted the nation's first parade by labor—organized by the New York City Central Labor Council—in 1882, when 25,000 took off from their jobs in celebration of workers, and marched from Union Square to City Hall. Through the years, Labor Day and the parade have come to symbolize the long-lasting presence and indestructible power of the labor movement despite the efforts—which today are ever-increasing—to do us in. Currently, union membership is at an all-time low of only 10.7% nationwide (equaling one in 10 workers) as compared with peak years of the mid-1950s when membership was 40% of all American workers (or four out of every ten workers). New York State leads the nation with the highest percentage of union workers, at roughly 24%. Of that number, nearly 70% are public sector workers, with African-Americans making up the largest component of that group.

At Teamsters Local 237, we understand the value of unity. And our commitment to it is both practical and moral. We know, for example, that non-union workers earn on average 20% less than union members. We know too that the 40-hour work week, health benefits, paid vacation and family leave, and the \$15-an-hour minimum wage are just some of the hard fought—and won—battles. We also know that workers' rights and civil rights are unquestionably intertwined. Let's not forget that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, when he joined striking sanitation workers—men who made \$1.65-an-hour

and were treated by their bosses like the garbage they collected. Dr. King believed 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."

It seems that many Americans are starting to agree—again. In fact, the approval rating of labor unions has recently increased to 64%—up 16% from 2009—and, not surprisingly, a recent MIT study found that 46% of non-union workers would like to join a union. This increase may have a link to the elusive quest of achieving the "American Dream." The phrase, coined by historian James Truslow Adams during the Great Depression, symbolizes the desire for a better future that could be obtained in this country through hard work. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his 1933 inaugural address, famously described the challenges of troubling times: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" and continued in his speech to emphasize the spiritual qualities underlying the "American Dream" by saying: "Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement."

However it is defined, for some, the "American Dream" remains just a dream; for others, especially many new immigrants, the "Dream" has become a nightmare. In 1997, 72% of Americans thought the "American Dream" was possible. In 2017, and with a new administration in Washington, only 48% still held onto the possibility.

And, here's where labor unions come in. Just like our role in helping to build the middle class in America, we are both the ramrod and equalizer... and the bridge to the "American Dream." We fight for the rights of workers while helping to create a level playing field where the "American Dream" is not the sole property of the corporate 1%. We help give everyone a chance. We help give everyone hope.

This is why we marched. We joined our union brothers and sisters in the recent Labor Day Parade to send a strong message to our elected leaders and to the public at-large: **"You can bash us. You can try to bust us. We are not going away. We're labor strong. Be our friend, not our foe. We have a voice and a vote."**



These are the pictures of the proud Local 237 members marching in this year's Labor Day Parade. More pictures are in the centerfold.

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
Carl Giles, Housing Director

SPECIAL PROJECTS, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Debbie Coleman, Esq., Special Projects Director

LONG ISLAND DIVISION

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

RETIREE DIVISION, 8th Fl.

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

LOCAL 237 DEPARTMENTS

(Citywide and Housing)

SKILLED TRADES, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

HEALTH AND SAFETY, 2nd Fl.

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

MEMBERSHIP, 3rd Fl.

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

WELFARE FUND, 3rd Fl.

212-924-7220
The Fund administers the eligibility,
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 workers
also work hard by connecting peo-
ple to much needed assistance and
resources. With this in mind, Local 237
has introduced a new Social Ser-
vices Department featuring free
social work services that are available
to all members. The union knows
that its members have tough jobs
and that when encountering tough
personal challenges, learning about
possible solutions to those challenges
would make things that much easier.
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 primary
residence, wills, adoptions, credit
and consumer problems, tenant
rights and bankruptcies.
Office Hours:
Mon.- Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Mary Sheridan Esq., Director
Kenneth Perry Esq.,
Deputy Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 5th Fl.

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

PERSONNEL, 5th Fl.

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

POLITICAL ACTION &

LEGISLATION, 5th Fl.

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-RETIREES

NYCERS

(New York City Employees Retirement System)

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

NYCERS Internet

www.nyclink.org/html/nycers

NYC Department of Education Retirement System

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

Social Security Administration

800-772-1213

NY State and Local Retirement Systems

518-474-7736

A message from the President



By Gregory Floyd

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

NOW IS THE TIME

Here's a sad but true fact: Labor unions in America are weaker than in other industrialized nations. Today, in America, just 10.5% of all workers are in a union, and in the private sector, only one in 16 workers are in a union. This is largely because corporations have become very skilled and aggressive at fighting unionization. The negative consequences are enormous. They are evident in countless ways, from diminished workers' rights to the diminished political power of labor unions. For example, of the three dozen industrialized countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States has the lowest minimum wage as a percentage of the median wage at just 34% of the typical wage compared with 62% in France and 54% in Britain. We also have the second highest percentage of low wage workers, behind Latvia, which is number one. As far as policy power, all of the country's labor unions combined spend about \$48 million a year lobbying in Washington, while America's corporations spend approximately \$3 billion annually. There is no question that America's workers are losing out in their political influence and, most important, their pocketbooks. It's no wonder that a recent M.I.T. study found that 46% of nonunion workers say they would like to be in a union. Clearly, opportunity does exist to expand union membership—an opening that many nonunion groups are keenly aware of. However, the action of some are counter-productive. For example, the New York City branch of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) has expressed dissatisfaction with unions as not being aggressive enough on worker issues and presented its members with a plan to gain entry into six of our most powerful unions to organize members to become their own. Vincent Alvarez, President of NYC Central Labor Council said it best: "It makes no sense that at a time when solidarity is needed to fight for real gains in economic opportunity and social justice for working families that the DSA would sow the seeds of disunity by targeting some of the most progressive unions in our city with plans for infiltration and disruption."

Now is the time for unions to get back to basics.

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." We must also 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. 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 said that America was better off because of unions and that "Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice."

Now is the time for unions to fight back.

The Labor Day parade along Fifth Avenue is great, but in this political climate, parades are not enough. We can't let union membership become an endangered species. Unlike pandas or dolphins, union members still have opportunity and resources to fight back. 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 need to use every opportunity to remind them that labor still has a powerful voice and millions of votes. That always seems to get their attention. And one more thing: In New York, there is a sense that whether you're in a public or private union 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 attack on democracy perpetrated by the special interests of the well-funded corporate 1%.

The labor movement needs to approach future challenges, like the upcoming Census, with the same unity and fervor. We also need to fight our fights for our own on our own. That does not mean we shouldn't seek allies. But simply: There is no substitute for labor unions. Sometimes we forget that. Some never knew that or ignored the fact. But history reaffirms: The 40-hour work week, health benefits, \$15 an hour minimum pay, paid vacation and family leave are just some of our hard-fought — and won — battles.

Now is the time to understand that unions ARE aggressive. Unions ARE progressive. Our history proves it. Our history didn't begin today. And, for tomorrow, now is the time to act.

The time



for labor to
act together
is NOW!



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:



Representing more than 60 years of experience training uniformed and civilian members of service, School Safety legends, Level III, **Joseph Purvis** (left) and **Vernon House**.



Local 237 President, **Gregory Floyd**, met with Captains working for NYC Health and Hospitals. Pictured: left to right. (Seated) **Giselle Walker**, Capt., Bellevue Hospital; **Tanya Moore**, Capt., Kings County; **Shaneeeka Speights-Hall**; **Sharon Rodriquez**, Capt., Bellevue; (standing) **Charlie Cotto**, Local 237's Law Enforcement Business Agent; **Dwayne Montgomery**, Local 237's Director of Integrity; **Moises Suero**, Capt., Jacobi; **Jose Semorile**, Lt., Bellevue; **Edward Santiago**, Capt., Lincoln; **Jeff Egerton**, Capt., Kings County; Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd**; **Shawn S. Stewart**, Capt., Woodhull; **Barry Felton**, Capt., Kings County; **Adrian Melendez**, Capt., Metropolitan; **James Bing**, Capt., Sea View; **Andre Green**, Local 237's Assistant Director of Law Enforcement and **Donald Arnold**, Local 237's Director of the Citywide Division.



The Maintenance staff at Melrose Houses in the South Bronx, with the Supervisor, **Paul Hamilton** (left) and the Assistant Super, **James Scott** (third from the left).



School Safety Agents at New Utrecht High School were visited by **Terence Elmore**, SSD/Community Outreach Unit (third from the left) and **Derek Short** (right) of Local 237's Law Enforcement Division. SSA I A. Villanueva, SSA I W. Cheung, L3 Elmore, SSA I J. Araujo (SCA), SSA I R. Walfield, L3 M. Millner and SSA I N. Riley.

Local 237 NEWSLINE

216 West 14th St., New York, NY 10011
646-638-8501
Website: www.local237.org
e-mail Newsline: pshafran@local237.org

Local 237 Newsline (USPS 700-000 ISSN 1083-3536) is published quarterly by Local 237, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 216 West 14 Street, New York, NY 10011. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY. Postmaster: Send address changes to Local 237 Newsline, 216 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011.

Executive Board

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

Phyllis S. Shafran
Editor

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

IF YOU MOVE – Please send your change of address in writing to **Membership** to insure that you continue receiving your newspaper.



Local 237's **Len Proctor**, Deputy Director of the Welfare Fund (I), visiting Woodside Houses and talking with workers including **Roseann Balletta**, Senior Caretaker and **Jose Quiles**, Caretaker X.

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

9-11 WE'LL NEVER FORGET

As the nation mourned that horrific day, so did members of Local 237, who paused to remember and reflect upon those who made the ultimate sacrifice or gave service and subsequently suffered serious health illnesses — including the brave brothers and sisters in our union.



Manhattan South Command



School Safety Agents on Staten Island



New recruits at the Police Academy in Queens

BRIDGING THE GAP

Coordinated by **Shaquanna Rasin**, SSA III, this annual basketball tournament, now in its 3rd year and held in Brooklyn, helps to promote team spirit in the community.



The School Safety Agents who helped to make the event successful.



Derek Jackson, Director of Local 237's Law Enforcement Division, **SSA III Shaquanna Rasin**, **Gregory Floyd**, President of Teamsters Local 237 and **Derek Short**, Business Agent of Local 237's Law Enforcement Division.

EXPLORERS FUN DAY



NYPD School Safety Law Enforcement Explorers Post #2241 hosted a fun day at Springfield Park. NYS Senator, **Leroy Comrie** (center), a long-time supporter of the Post, was present to join in the festivities.

TEEN SELF CARE DAY



Coordinated by SSA III **Terri Ghee**, PBMN, and her partner, **Javon Peters**, a DOE staffer, Teen Self Care Day was dedicated to establishing self-esteem and critical thinking skills for girls 13-18 years of age. Held at Thurgood Marshall Academy HS with the financial support of Local 237, the teens were treated to a day of informative guest speakers, fabulous performing artists and stimulating interactive activities. A great time was had by all.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Helping students with first day of class jitters at Meyer Leven High/JHS, were NYC Basketball great (from Newton HS), **William Henry Parker**-aka "Smush", (second from the right); Public Advocate, **Jumaane Williams** (second from the left) and **Terence Elmore**, SSA III/Community Outreach Unit (right).

SAVES A LIFE



On July 6, 2019, Officer **Kelly Walsh**, an 8-year veteran of the 19th Division Hospital Police at Woodhull Hospital, was responding to the Pediatric Emergency Room for routine patrol. Upon checking the restrooms, she observed the sister of a pediatric patient at the time attempting to commit suicide by hanging herself. Without hesitation PO Walsh immediately grabbed the young girl and stopped the young lady from causing any more harm to herself and got her immediate medical attention. PO Walsh saved a young girl's life due to her fast response and actions.

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE



The 67th Police Precinct Clergy Council hosted its 9th annual Reducing Gun Violence Summit dedicated to preventing youth gun violence. The informative program was held at Downstate Hospital and welcomed NYS Assemblywoman, **Latrice M. Walker** (center) pictured with **Terence Elmore**, SSA III/Community Outreach Unit and a School Safety Agent participating in the event.

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:



In August, 2019, NYC Health+Hospitals graduated a class of new recruits to join the ranks of proud public hospital police. The eager new grads were cheered on by their families, friends and instructors, who congratulated them for the perseverance that resulted in their achieving this great accomplishment.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Members Promoted, Congratulations

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

In the presence of proud families and friends, the Department of Homeless Services hosted a ceremony in August to mark the successful completion of training and subsequent graduation of DHS Peace Officers as well as the promotion of Officers to the rank of Sergeant. **Charlie Cotto**, Business Agent for Local 237's Law Enforcement Division was on hand to congratulate the Peace Officers.



The new class of DHS Peace Officers



Six new DHS Sergeants

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 is a member recently recognized for her professionalism and performing a job well-done:

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Khristal Wilton, a Special Officer, New York Hospital Police / NYC Health+Hospitals/Kings County, was named “Employee of the Month” in July. Khristal has long earned the reputation, echoed by her superiors and colleagues many times, of being an extraordinary person, who is reliable and diligent. But on March 23, 2019, she added another accolade: a life saver. It was on that day that she spotted a patient in the hospital’s main lobby experiencing diabetic shock. Khristal’s professional skills and innate compassion enabled her to successfully interact with the patient and swiftly reach out for the much-needed medical help. Congratulations! Khristal.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

All in the Family

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

WALL STREET HONORS SSA's DAUGHTER

On July 17, 2019, **Nyliah Morrison**, daughter of School Safety Agent **Celeste E. Morrison** of Julia Richman High School in Manhattan North, was granted the honor of ringing the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange. The 11th grade, XQ student at Brooklyn Laboratory High School, was given this honor—usually reserved for heads of State and major celebrities—on behalf of Churchill Capital Corporation. The event can be viewed on Livestream.com.



Nyliah rings the opening bell.



Nyliah Morrison at the stock exchange.

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



Hortense Mangaroo, (second from left) after 29 years as a School Safety Agent, has retired. Upon receiving a plaque of appreciation for her years of dedicated service, Hortense expressed gratitude to Local 237 saying: “most important is our union which gives us the support we needed to get us through the difficult times.” She is pictured with **Ruben Torres**, Local 237’s Executive Board Vice President (left); **Jeanette Taveras**, Local 237’s Executive Board Trustee and Business Agent in the Law Enforcement Division and **Donald Arnold**, Local 237’s Director of the Citywide Division.



After 30 years of service, **Sgt. Anthony Sanchez**, a Hospital Police Officer at North Central Hospital, has retired. In recognition of a job well done, Sgt. Sanchez received a Local 237 citation. Wishing him well are Director of Hospital Police, **Vito Aleo** (left); the Executive Director of North Central Hospital, **Christina Contreras** and Local 237’s Business Agent in the Law Enforcement Division, **Charlie Cotto**.

Personal Notes

Carl Giles has been appointed Director of Housing/Safety Coordinator, effective July 29, 2019. His new salary will be \$1,700.00 per week (\$88, 400.00 per year).

Condolences

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

To the family of **Sandra Williams**, a retired clerical staff member of the Welfare Fund. Known as “Red” among her many friends — she served Local 237 with grace and distinction.



To the family of **Adrian Ambrose Larrier**, a Hospital Police Officer working at Jacobi Hospital, who was known for his quiet demeanor, engaging smile and willingness to lend a helping hand.



To the family of **Lorraine Sherry-Ann Brooks**, a School Safety Agent whose drive and professionalism enabled her to proceed through the ranks to her last assignment with the Mobil Task Force.



To **Liz Perez**, an Evidence and Property Control Specialist in the 102nd Police Precinct, on the passing of her beloved mother, Elena Diaz Cruz. Mrs. Diaz Cruz will not only be missed by family and friends, but also by members of the NYPD—her holiday cooking was always a huge hit at the 102nd.

To **Len Proctor**, Local 237's Deputy Director of the Welfare Fund, on the death of Carrie Elizabeth Proctor, his most cherished mother.

To the family, friends, colleagues, students and staff of Millennium High School-Manhattan South, on the tragic death of the much-beloved and respected **Naire McCormick**, a 15 year veteran with the NYPD/School Safety Division.



A student memorial in her honor

TRAVELING “ROADS TO SUCCESS” WITH HELP FROM LOCAL 237



Students with President Gregory Floyd and Local 237 staff.

From July 8, 2019 until August 16, 2019, nine students in NYC high schools and colleges, ages of 16 – 20, participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program. The program is dedicated to helping young people discover the self-esteem, self-reliance and empathy necessary to become future leaders and driving forces of positive change. Local 237 was a proud partner of “Roads”, welcoming the students to its headquarters to offer them real world knowledge about unions and their importance to working families. Each student was assigned a Local 237 mentor that mirrored his or her career goals. At the end of each work day, students met to discuss what they learned during the course of the day, and to give feedback on how we can continue to enrich their time with the Local. This type of mentorship is critical to any young person living in New York City or any urban area and may help produce future union members and advocates.

The students also experienced field trips including: Attending legal disciplinary hearings, visiting an eyewear manufacturing plant, and appearing on Mr. Floyd's radio show, “Reaching Out with Gregory Floyd” (570/AM and 970/AM, Broadcast throughout New York City, Long Island and in Westchester on Saturdays, 4:30pm and 7pm respectively).

The students were most excited—and nervous—about appearing on a radio show. Mikaela Gorman, age 17 said: “Something that surprised me was how easy the interview was... I was kind of nervous so I think my voice came out shaky.” Kevin Wander, age 17 noted: “The president was exceedingly approachable and made our experience there on the radio very enjoyable.” Nerissa Wright, age 17, recalled: “It was great to receive feedback from a person who manages such a grand organization... Thank you for your interest in making the work experience meaningful for the youth in this program.” Chanelle Ferguson, age 20, said: “I enjoyed the radio show, it felt as if I was having a natural conversation with Gregory Floyd... Thank you for the opportunity to connect with you, President Floyd.” Justin Joseph, age 20, noted: “I was surprised to see how much work goes behind running a radio show, with the strict time and the amount of audio equipment used for it. I enjoyed watching the audio engineer adapt to what was going on during the radio show, adjusting various settings to optimize the experience.” Himel Uddin, age 17, said: “Questions the president asked were a bit more philosophical, so that means I learned quite a lot about the way my coworkers think and view life.” Deshearra Irby, age 18, expressed that: “I enjoyed the radio show because I was able to experience something new. I was a little nervous at first, but then I felt better.” Chloe

Webster, age 18, said of the experience: “I found it interesting how the engineer was directing the interview, like how to hold the mic, when to talk and when not to talk, also the technology and the way he used it to direct the interview was something that I observed.” Christian Davis, age 20, noted: “I enjoyed seeing how a studio functions, the importance of speech tones and the thought process.”

In all, “ROADS TO SUCCESS” was a huge success, receiving high marks from both the students and Local 237 staff who worked with the youngsters. **Bertha Aiken**, Local 237's Director of Education and Training, whose division oversaw the program, said of it: “This made me realize we do have a bright future out there with young kids and adults who want to do great things.”



Students on “Reaching Out With Gregory Floyd” (l-r) Deshearra Irby; Gregory Floyd; Chloe Webster; Kevin Wander; Mikaela Gorman; Chanelle Ferguson; Justin Joseph; Nerissa Wright; Christian Davis; Himel Uddin and Shanell Grayson, Deputy Director of Education



Students with Local 237 program supervisory staff: (left) Julie Kolbi, Assistant Director, Retiree Division; Bertha Aiken, Director of Education and Training Division; and (right) Shanell Grayson, Deputy Director, Education and Training Division and President Gregory Floyd.

SKIP THE GREETING CARD LABOR DAY— A HOLIDAY LIKE NO OTHER AND W



Mario Ciento, President, NYS AFL-CIO; Janiella Hinds, Secretary-Treasurer, NYC Central Labor Council; Parade Chair, Ernest Logan, President, AFSA; Grand Marshal, Elizabeth Shuler, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO; Gregory Floyd, President, Teamsters Local 237 and Vincent Alvarez, President, NYC Central Labor Council



Gregory Floyd with NYC Council Member Costa Constantinides



Gregory Floyd with NYC Council Member Michael Blum



D. NO PRESENTS NEEDED. HOSE IMPORTANCE LASTS BEYOND A SINGLE DAY





LONG ISLAND REPORT



Town of Babylon DPW Mason Crew floating and creating contraction joints in the newly poured sidewalk for residents in Deer Park.



Benny Carenza with Brentwood Nurses new Union reps **Cathy** and **Kristin** looking forward to helping out the members.



Benny Carenza with North Babylon School district members overwhelmingly ratify their new contract. Great job!



West Islip School District Secretarial Unit end of year party. Great new members who we are proud to represent.



Jakes 58 Security Guard **Adam Prince**. Good member who does a great job.



Brentwood annual barbecue was a great event. Food was great! Nice job!



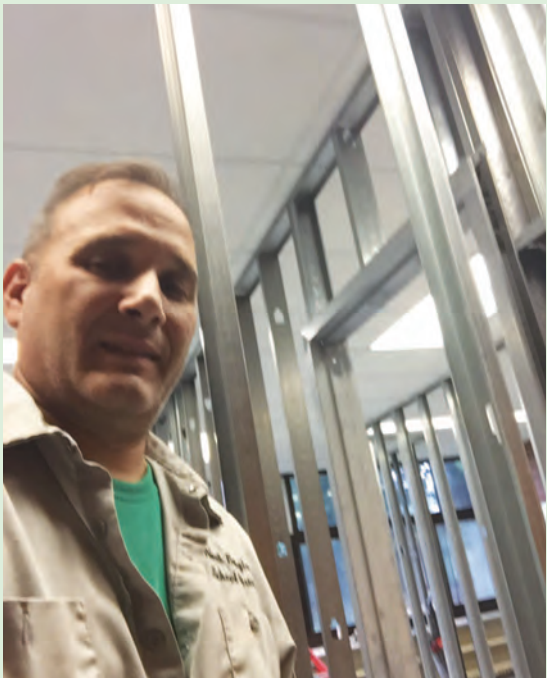
Benny Carenza with Half Hollow Hills Head Custodian **Ruben Torres** who retired after 36 years. Congrats!



Half Hollow Hills custodian **Craig Urso** gets the schools ready for the new school year.



Half Hollow Hills custodian **Don Renalds** doing major cleaning at High School East.



North Babylon School District Maintenance Worker **Lou Ferrandino** constructing new rooms in the schools.



Plainview School District grounds man **Craig Corbett** keeping the school looking good.



Brentwood electrician **Ray Krumenacker** works on an electrical panel.



Brentwood Schools Locksmith **Mike Adamo** repairs a lock.



Plainview Custodian **John Hammer** strips and waxes floors for the new school year.



Brentwood Schools Custodian **Chris Nitti** works hard to get the schools in shape for the new year.



Enjoying the parade are members of the Long Island Division with **Gregory Floyd**, President of Teamsters Local 237.



Cathy Rice, OTB Business Agent and Executive Board Trustee, with her husband, **Howie**.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

Retired Local 237 Steward Appointed to NYCHA Board



Joseph Adams

In June, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the appointment of three new members to the Board of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), including one retired Local 237 member, and a 20-year NYCHA resident, **Joseph Adams**. The NYCHA Board is comprised of seven members appointed by the Mayor, including three members who are current residents of public housing and have a direct say in NYCHA's operations.

Adams' extensive experience in advocating on behalf of the community is reflected through the jobs he has held and his volunteer work over the past few decades. He is a member of New York Communities for Change, was Vice President of John Jay College's Able Forces Club (which advocates for students with disabilities), and served for many years as a Union Shop Steward and Grievance Representative at the Teamsters Local 237 union. A School Safety Agent for over 15 years, he later worked at his alma mater, CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice, as a Research Assistant for a professor in the Department of Africana Studies and as a Research Coordinator in the Women's Center's Department of Counseling. While overcoming a learning disability, Adams obtained his High School Equivalency Diploma. He later earned his bachelor's degree and Master of Public Administration degree from John Jay College. Adams received certification in public advocacy and leadership from the Joint Public Affairs Committee's Institute for Senior Action. He raised four of his six children as a single parent while living in public housing, and was proud to see them graduate from elite high schools and universities, including Harvard University and the University of Chicago. Upon learning of his appointment, Adams said: "I've called NYCHA my home for years, and I am proud to serve as a voice for the thousands of other New Yorkers who also call NYCHA home." "I would like to thank Mayor de Blasio for appointing me to the board and I look forward to working with other members to ensure every resident has a say in the way NYCHA is managed." Local 237 President, **Gregory Floyd** greeted the appointment with optimism, saying: "I welcome the appointment of Joe Adams and look forward to the improvements that Joe's insider knowledge and experience of NYCHA's many challenges will bring." ■

Local 237 Hosts Leadership Academy

In August, Local 237 served as host to the IBT's Leadership Academy that welcomed Teamsters from throughout the nation and Canada to discuss ways to help union membership not just survive, but to thrive. The emphasis of the two-day event was to tackle issues and provide insights on ways to overcome challenges that the labor movement faces daily by learning new skills and making better use of our existing assets.



Ruben Torres with Sara P. Payne.

Workshops and presentations centered on how to develop better communications among members, using diversity to our advantage, and learning organizing principles and practices. On hand to greet the guests was **Ruben Torres**, Vice President on the Board of Local 237, pictured with **Sara P. Payne**, Associate Director and Western Region Coordinator Training and Development Department. ■

Local 237 Contracts Overwhelmingly Ratified

Recently, Local 237 Citywide members, as well as CUNY Blue Collar members ratified their respective contracts. A short while prior to those ratified, both Local 237's School Safety Agents and Peace Officers working in TLC/Special Officers (Local Law 56) titles voted in favor of their union negotiated collective bargaining agreements. Cement Masons and Horse-shoers also ratified new contracts. In addition to the many positive provisions of the individual contracts, all contracts include paid family leave, and enhanced welfare fund benefits with no givebacks. ■



Cement Masons approved the Citywide Pattern option for their current contract.



The Citywide contract passed unanimously.



Delighted School Safety Agents overwhelmingly ratified their new contract.



Thumbs up from TLC/Local Law 56 officers and staff.



A wide margin of CUNY Blue Collar members voted in favor of the contract.

GOVERNOR CUOMO SIGNS LEGISLATION TO DELIVER PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS TO 9-11 FIRST RESPONDERS, VOLUNTEERS AND WORKERS

Gov. Andrew Cuomo used the 18th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks to sign a new law that will help countless civilians who have gotten sick because of their work at Ground Zero. The law extends disability benefits to men and women who responded to Ground Zero, including eligible Local 237 members. "They're going to need their health benefits and their pension benefits, and we're not going to leave them alone because they're also American heroes," said Cuomo. Lawmakers who argued for the bill to become a law said that many first responders who were not wearing a police or firefighter uniform as well as other volunteers were excluded from health and pension coverage. Many of them have since developed illnesses. The new disability benefits law takes effect immediately.

Before the bill signing, the Governor led 700 motorcyclists down the West Side Highway in tribute to 9/11 first responders and to commemorate the legacy of NYPD Detective Luis Alvarez. The deceased detective, who was raised and laid to rest in Astoria in June, spent the last weeks of his life urging Congress to make the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent. His testimony on June 11 gripped the nation and he died just over a week later at the age of 53 from complications related to colorectal cancer, which he traced to the three months he spent at Ground Zero following the attack. His wife, Alaine Parker Alvarez, rode on the back of Cuomo's motorcycle to the ceremony at the Javits Center where her late husband was posthumously awarded the Public Service Medal. ■



The Governor leads a motorcycle tribute to 9-11 First Responders with Mrs. Luis Alvarez.



The Governor signs legislation in support of 9-11 First Responders and volunteers, as well as awarding the Public Service Medal to Mrs. Luis Alvarez and family.



Maintenance Choice – a Closer Look

By Mitch Goldberg

Director of the Welfare Fund

The Maintenance Choice or MChoice program began on July 1, 2015. If you take maintenance medicine regularly to treat a condition like arthritis, asthma, diabetes or high cholesterol, the Maintenance Choice® program lets you enjoy two ways to save and pay the same amount either way. You can choose to use either Aetna Rx Home Delivery® mail-order pharmacy or a CVS/pharmacy* near you the next time you get your prescription filled. Fill a 30-day supply at any retail pharmacy in our network. You are covered for the original prescription and one refill. After that, to get full coverage, you must fill prescriptions for 90-day supplies at Aetna Rx Home Delivery or at a CVS Pharmacy.

The MChoice program offers several options which add a convenient way to receive your prescriptions. You can pick up your order in a CVS store. You can have orders delivered to your home if you live within 10-mile delivery radius of CVS retail store. Delivery Hours are 9:00am to 8:00pm. Orders must be placed by 4:00pm to be received within 4 hours on the same day, otherwise they will be delivered the next day by noon. On Demand delivery would arrive within a 4 hour window and cost \$7 for delivery. There is a separate delivery charge to you the member, which is not part of claim adjudication or your pharmacy copay. Next Day delivery requests are delivered the following day and the cost is \$0, yes **FREE**.

Members can have maintenance and acute Rx delivered but excluded are controlled substances, cold-chain (refrigeration required) medications and specialty medications. Medications are delivered in tamper proof packaging without drug or personal info displayed and are delivered by a professional courier. A limited catalog of general merchandise items can be added to your order. Those items may vary by store, so inquire in the store you use which items are included. In order to use this service you can call into the store to place your order with a CVS Pharmacy employee. You can also place and track your order through the CVS Pharmacy app or setup your order in a store with a CVS staffer.

Hopefully, one of these options will help you receive your medication in a way that best suits your choice. In today's world of high tech, let this program work for you and make receiving your medication convenient and hassle free. ■



Know Your Rights Under NYC's New Rent Laws

By Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.

Director Local 237-Legal Services Plan

Major rent law legislation was enacted in Albany this summer reversing decades long erosion of rent protections. The legislation, called Housing Stability & Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (HSTPA), is sweeping and makes major changes in the rent laws.

For instance, the law makes changes relating to a landlord's ability to increase rents due to Individual Apartment Improvements (IAIs) and Major Capital Improvements (MCIs). In another major victory for tenants, there is no more vacancy, high rent/high income deregulation. Rent demands must now provide tenants with a 14 day time period to make payment. These are only a sampling of the law changes.

**Local 237 will be hosting a free
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN HOUSING COURT
seminar for members and retirees on
Tuesday, December 10, 2019
at the Union Hall starting at 5:30PM.**

In addition to summarizing major changes on rent overcharges, preferential rents, Major Capital improvements, Individual Apartment Improvements and High-Rent/Income Decontrol, members will learn the ins and outs of a housing court proceeding and what to do if your landlord refuses to make repairs. ■

**Call the Legal Services Plan at (212) 924-1220 to RSVP.
Know Your Rights!**



Mindfulness Stress Reduction

By Ayana Ali

Director Local 237- Social Services

Everyone deals with stress; it's a part of life and some degree of stress can be helpful as it can motivate and push you to keep going when met with a challenge or obstacle. But how do you know when you're overstressed?

Listen to your body. Do you frequently feel muscle tension or shoulder and neck pain? Do you often suffer from headaches, sore temples or upset stomach? Do you feel nervous more often than you would like to? Maybe you even start to sweat or experience dry mouth when anxious and stressed. Is it hard to fall asleep or to stay asleep because you think "too much"? Does your heart beat too fast at times or do you feel out of breath when thinking about problems or concerns? Do find yourself frequently susceptible to colds and infections due to feeling "run down"? If so, your stress is manifesting itself physically and it is likely time to think about how to better get it under control.

Ironically, a frequent issue is that when people decide to try to manage stress, they often get overwhelmed about the process! The good news is that stress management does not have to be overwhelming or complicated. In fact, a particular form of stress reduction called mindfulness has been well studied and proven to help people to significantly and effectively combat feelings of stress. While mindfulness is an extension of an ancient Buddhist philosophy, it has been simplified and incorporated into modern day stress and anxiety reduction approaches.

Some of the simplest techniques of mindfulness are breathing, walking, and observing your body:

Breathing- begin by sitting or standing still with your feet planted firmly on the ground and your hands on your lap or simply hanging down. Close your eyes and focus on your breath, plain and simple. Pay attention to the in and out of your breath. Breathe slowly and deeply. Focus on nothing else, but your breath. You can do this for as long or a short a period of time as you want to. If you get nervous about doing the technique, set a timer for one minute. When the timer goes off or simply when you feel done, open your eyes and ask yourself how you feel. If you feel ready to, go about your day. If you feel like you're still feeling uneasy, try it again. You can do this as many times a day as you would like or as many times that you feel that you need to. You can do this technique anywhere. At home. On the job while at your desk or sitting at the lunch table. On the train. In the bathroom. All it takes is a minute. If you're doing it while outside and you can't close your eyes, do it with your eyes open. While seemingly simple, this technique is actually proven to bring stress levels down and to slow panic and anxiety.

Walking Meditation- take a walk. Walk around the block or building and concentrate on your walk only. How do your steps sound? Is there a soft click or a loud tap when you put your foot down? Do you hear anything at all? How do your feet feel against the pavement or the tiles beneath you? How do your shoulders feel as you continue to walk? How do your hips and back feel as you move your body? Note these things and pay attention to the sensations in your body as you walk. Try to slow your pace if you are rushing or pushing yourself. Try to get your breaths to match your pace. You can do this as you walk from one corner to the next, as you walk around the office corridor. You can do it while you walk to the bathroom or kitchen. Or you can take an extended walk. The timing and location isn't important. Just that you move and observe. When you are done, ask yourself how you feel?

Observing your body- close your eyes and think about your body. Start at the crown of your head. How does it feel? Do you feel any tingling or pain? Does your head itch? What about your forehead? Does it feel tight or sore? Do you have a headache? How do your ears feel? Hot? Cold? Continue to check the areas of the body- neck, shoulders, chest, arms, hands, legs, knees, feet, etc. all the way down to your toes. What are the sensations that you feel in the different areas of the body? Pay attention to each thought regarding each area, but don't get stuck. Think the thought, note the sensation, and then move to the next area. Again, you can do this as slowly or as quickly as you want to. When you are done, ask yourself how you feel?

These are three basic mindfulness techniques, but there are many more. If you're feeling stressed out and that it is starting to manifest itself physically or otherwise negatively, you may want to try to incorporate these techniques into your day. Start off slow. Maybe try each one for a few days in a row? Do they help? Even for a few minutes? While they are not a cure all and you should follow-up with your medical doctor and perhaps even a therapist too, they can be used by anyone at any time, and they work.

If you have more questions about other mindfulness techniques, meditation or anything else mentioned here, please reach out. As always, if you are concerned about your well-being or someone that you care about and need assistance with finding treatment or learning how to access mental health benefits via health insurance, contact me, Ayana Ali, LCSW at 212-924-7220 or aali@local237.org There is nothing embarrassing about taking steps towards getting better. ■



Keeping you in the know

From NYCERS

World Trade Center (WTC) Disability Retirement Process

Have you submitted your Notice of Participation for WTC benefits?

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

To be eligible to apply for a disability retirement or for reclassification under the WTC Law, you must have filed a Notice of Participation in WTC Rescue, Recovery or Clean-Up Operations with NYCERS (Form #622, available on NYCERS' website at www.nycers.org). Your agency must verify your participation in Rescue, Recovery or Clean-Up operations at a WTC site.

The current deadline to file Form #622, Notice of Participation in WTC Rescue, Recovery or Clean-Up Operations, is September 22, 2022.

Track your Notice Online

Members with a registered MyNYCERS account can log into MyNYCERS and track the status of the verification of their WTC Notice of Participation online. The tracker displays the date NYCERS received the Notice, along with status updates during the verification process (e.g., Pending with Agency, Verified, Not Verified, etc.) Sign up or log in here: www.nycers.org

WTC Filing Requirement

With the exception of vestees and retirees applying for reclassification, you, a person acting on your behalf, or your agency head must file an application for disability retirement under the WTC Law either: (1) while you are active on City payroll; (2) within 3 months after you were last paid by your employer; or (3) within 12 months after you receive notice that your employment was terminated for medical reasons if you were on an approved medical leave of absence prior to termination.

WTC Reclassification

Individuals who are already retired for service or for a non-WRC disability benefit can submit an application for reclassification under WTC Law along with all required participation and medical evidence. If an applicant's participation is verified, the Medical Board finds that the member is disabled from a qualifying WTC condition, and the NYCERS Board of Trustees finds that the WTC Law presumption is not rebutted, then the applicant will be approved for a tax-free WTC benefit that is payable from the date the NYCERS Board of Trustees approves the application.

Additional WTC benefits and information

Individuals who have experienced WTC-related health conditions (except for psychological conditions) can apply for additional benefits through the provision of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). To determine what benefits may be available, in addition to NYCERS WTC disability retirement or death benefits, go to the VCF website at <https://www.vcf.gov/index.html> or call the VCF at 1-855-855-1555.

Visit www.nycers.org/wtc for more information on WTC benefits and filing requirements. You may also sign up for MyNYCERS, the secure online portal to your NYCERS account. MyNYCERS is not required for the WTC disability process, but it will enable you to log in any time to view your account information, change your address, and file certain forms online. ■

Remember: The current deadline to file NYCERS Form #622, Notice of Participation in WTC Rescue, Recovery or Clean-up Operations, is September 11, 2022.

From NYCERS

5@55 Legal Checklist Five Documents You Need by Age 55 (But No Later than Your Retirement)

Retirement planning is much more than filing your retirement papers and getting a pension check each month. Planning includes, among other things, setting up a MyNYCERS account, naming beneficiaries, keeping your own and your beneficiaries' addresses up-to-date and considering a buy-back of previous City and State service time.

Another key part of retirement planning is to make sure you are prepared for the health and legal needs you may face. Completing these five key documents by age 55, but no later than retirement, will help you have peace of mind. These documents can be complicated, so you may want qualified legal and estate planning assistance in preparing them.

Health Care Proxy:

A Health Care Proxy is a document in which you assign a "Health Care Agent" who has power to make medical decisions on your behalf when you are unable to make decisions on your own.

Living Will:

A Living Will is a written statement to ensure that your medical wishes are honored if you are unable to express informed consent. It states how you should be cared for in an emergency or if you are otherwise incapacitated.

Power of Attorney:

A Power of Attorney appoints a person known as your "agent," who handles your legal and financial affairs should you become incapacitated. Please refer to your State's Durable Power of Attorney Standard Form. The standard form for New York residents is known as the New York State Statutory Short Form Power of Attorney. This form includes a Statutory Major Gifts Rider, which contains important powers necessary for making lifetime gifts as well as implementing tax and Medicaid planning.

Last Will & Testament/Living Trust:

A Will provides instructions on the distribution of your assets upon your death and goes through probate in the Surrogate's Court of the County in which you resided. You should review and update your Will every few years, adapting it to changes in your family situation, assets or state laws.

A Living Trust can take the place of or be executed in addition to a Will. A Living Trust bypasses probate, which can be costly and time-consuming. It enables your named trustee to carry out your instructions as you have documented in your Living Trust if you become incapable of managing your financial, healthcare and legal affairs or upon your death. A Living Trust can be important if your assets are in more than one state, you have complex family circumstances or you anticipate a challenge to your Will. A Living Trust can also shelter your assets from creditors and provide for special needs of disabled heirs.

Location of Key Documents, Accounts and Online Accounts:

Keeping a list of all your important papers, accounts and online accounts, including their locations, is important to assist your family or agent in the event you become incapacitated or die. Your list should include the following along with their locations:

- Will, power of attorney, health care proxy, trust agreements
- Names and contact information of people to notify if you are incapacitated or pass away
- Safe deposit box and key
- Combination or key to safe
- Life, health, long-term care, homeowners, car insurance policies
- Car ownership papers
- Banking and savings accounts
- Credit and debit cards
- Brokerage accounts
- Retirement and deferred compensation/IRA accounts
- Employment contracts
- Titles and deeds
- Notes and mortgages
- Tax filings
- Stored and loaned items
- Your birth certificate
- Military discharge papers
- Marriage certificates, divorce and separation papers
- Spouse and children's records
- Passport
- Copies of NYCERS applications (beneficiaries, retirement option)
- Social Security Card

The list of your online accounts should include:

- Website address of each account
- Name of each account
- Your user name and password for each account
- All of your email addresses

The documents listed above can be complicated, so you may want to seek qualified legal and estate planning assistance in preparing them. ■

Resumen En Español

OMITA LA TARJETA DE FELICITACIÓN. NO SE NECESITAN REGALOS. DÍA DEL TRABAJO: UN DÍA FESTIVO COMO NINGÚN OTRO Y CUYA IMPORTANCIA PREVALECE MÁS ALLÁ DE UN SOLO DÍA

Por Gregory Floyd

Presidente de Teamsters Local 237 y Vicepresidente General de la Junta General de la Hermandad Internacional de Teamsters



NO ES FÁCIL encontrar un día feriado que coincida con las líneas religiosas, raciales, étnicas y de género. Su partido político, color favorito y años de estudio importan muy poco. Definitivamente no es fácil encontrar un día festivo, en el cual todos los estadounidenses celebren de la misma manera —usualmente involucrando un perro caliente o dos. Sí, el Día del Trabajo es una rareza: Un día festivo en el que podemos coincidir.

El congreso creó el Día del Trabajo en 1894 al hacer un día festivo a nivel nacional el primer lunes del mes de septiembre. Pero fue en consecuencia a la muerte de 34 trabajadores en huelga de Pullman de la Unión Americana Railway en las manos de soldados del Ejército de EE. UU. y Oficiales.

Entonces existe el Desfile del Día del Trabajo. No es celebrado en ese día, cuando tantos de nosotros estamos tristes porque el verano se ha terminado, tratando de disfrutar esos últimos días de rayos de sol, nadar en la playa, asar hamburguesas en la parrilla o buscando ofertas de “Devuelta a la Escuela”. En cambio, el desfile es celebrado una semana después.

La Ciudad de Nueva York fue anfitriona del primer desfile, organizado por el Consejo Central del Trabajo de Nueva York, en 1882 cuando 25.000 personas salieron de sus trabajos en celebración a los trabajadores y marcharon desde Union Square hasta la Alcaldía. A través de los años, el Día del Trabajo y el desfile han pasado a simbolizar la presencia permanente y poder indestructible de la movilización obrera, a pesar de los esfuerzos—que hoy en día se incrementan—por derrotarnos. Actualmente la afiliación sindical es la más baja de todos los tiempos en un 10.7% a nivel nacional (igual a uno de cada diez trabajadores) comparándola con picos en los años 1950 cuando la afiliación era de un 40% de todos los trabajadores estadounidenses (o bien, cuatro en cada diez trabajadores). El Estado de Nueva York lidera a la nación con el porcentaje más alto de trabajadores sindicales, con a penas un 24%. De ese número, cerca de 70% son trabajadores del sector público, con afroamericanos siendo los mayores componentes de ese grupo.

En Teamsters Local 237, entendemos el valor de la unidad. Nuestro compromiso es tanto práctico como moral. Por ejemplo, sabemos que trabajadores no sindicalizados ganan en promedio 20% menos que miembros sindicalizados. Igualmente sabemos que trabajar 40 horas a la semana, beneficios de salud, vacaciones pagas, permisos familiares y el salario mínimo de \$15.00 son sólo algunas de las batallas peleadas y ganadas. Asimismo, sabemos que los derechos de los trabajadores y derechos civiles están indudablemente entrelazados. No olvidemos que el Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fue asesinado en Memphis en 1968 cuando se unió a una protesta de trabajadores de sanidad, hombres que

ganaban \$1.65 por hora y eran tratados por sus jefes como la basura que ellos colectaban. Dr. King creía que “el movimiento obrero no disminuyó la fuerza de la nación, sino que más bien la aumentó. Al aumentar los estándares de vida de millones de personas, el trabajo creó milagrosamente un mercado para la industria y elevó a toda la nación a niveles de producción inimaginables. Esos que atacan a la clase obrera olvidan estas simples verdades, pero la historia recuerda”

Parece que muchos estadounidenses comienzan a coincidir de nuevo. De hecho, el índice de aprobación de los sindicatos ha aumentado recientemente a 64% —de un 14% del 2009— y no sorprendentemente, un estudio reciente del Instituto Tecnológico de Massachusetts encontró que el 46% de los trabajadores no pertenecientes al sindicato les gustaría unirse a uno. Este aumento puede tener enlace con la búsqueda evasiva de lograr el “Sueño Americano”. La frase creada por el historiador James Truslow Adams durante la Gran Recesión, simboliza el deseo por un mejor futuro que podría ser obtenido en este país a través del trabajo duro. El Presidente Franklin D. Roosevelt en su discurso de inauguración en 1933, famosamente describió los retos de tiempos difíciles como: “A lo único que le debemos temer es al miedo en sí” y continuó su discurso para enfatizar las cualidades espirituales subrayando el “Sueño Americano” al decir: “La felicidad no se haya en la mera posesión de dinero; se haya en la alegría de tener logros”.


De cualquier modo que sea definida, para algunos, la frase “Sueño Americano” simplemente es un sueño; para otros, especialmente nuevos inmigrantes, el “Sueño” se ha convertido en una pesadilla. En 1997, 72% de los estadounidenses pensaban que el “Sueño Americano” era posible. En 2017, y con una nueva administración en Washington, sólo 48% todavía se aferraba a la posibilidad.

Aquí es donde los sindicatos de trabajadores tienen lugar. Así como nuestro rol en ayudar a construir la clase media de Estados Unidos, somos ambos la baqueta y el equalizador... y el puente al “Sueño Americano”. Peleamos por los derechos de los trabajadores y al mismo tiempo ayudamos a crear un campo de juego nivelado donde el “Sueño Americano” no es sólo propiedad del 1% de la corporación. Ayudamos a darle una oportunidad a todos. Le damos esperanzas a todos.

Esta es la razón por la que marchamos. Nos unimos a nuestros hermanos y hermanas sindicalistas en el reciente Desfile del Día del Trabajo; todo esto para enviar el fuerte mensaje a nuestros líderes elegidos y a la gran población que: **“Nos pueden atacar. Pueden intentar atraparnos. No nos iremos. Somos la fuerte clase obrera. Sé nuestro amigo y no nuestro enemigo. Tenemos voz y voto.”** 1



Estas son las fotos de los miembros orgullosos del Local 237 marchando en el Desfile del Día del Trabajo de este año. Más fotos en la página principal.



Keeping you in the know

2020 CENSUS


What's at stake: With \$73 Billion for New York State and the possible loss of at least three Congressional seats, New Yorkers can't afford not to be counted.

WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT 2020

Once a decade, America comes together in the decennial census, creating national awareness of the census and statistics. This census provides the basis for reapportioning Congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing billions of dollars in federal funding to support your state, county, and community's vital programs.


Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.




It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.




Census data are being used all around you.


Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, which create jobs.



Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.

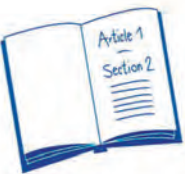


Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.



It's in the Constitution.


The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living here. The first census was in 1790.



Your data are confidential.


Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.

By law we cannot share your information with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.




It's about redistricting.

After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.



It means \$675 billion.


Census data determine how more than \$675 billion are spent, supporting your state, county and community's vital programs.



Your data are confidential.


Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.

By law we cannot share your information with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.




2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.



GET THE SHOT



NOT THE FLU!


From WorkWell NYC

Workwell NYC is excited to partner with Teamsters Local 237 to bring free flu shots to all municipal employees and their families.

To schedule an apppointment visit: www.apschedule.com/nycflu.

To host a work site flu shot clinic or to access a toolkit, go to: <http://bit.ly/fluambassadors>.

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
AT NEW YORK, NY



NEWSLINE
Local 237, IBT
216 W. 14 Street
New York, NY 10011

DATED MATERIAL FALL 2019

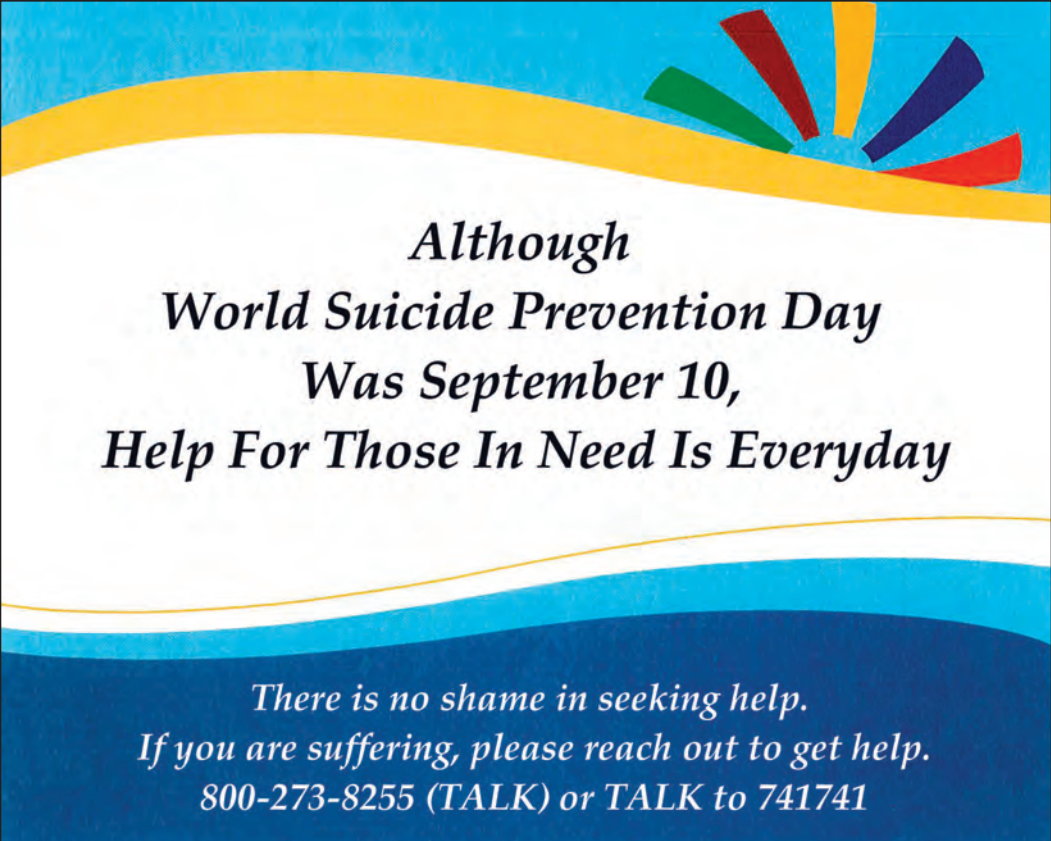
Are you moving?

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

Name _____ Zip _____

New Address _____ State _____

City _____



**Although
World Suicide Prevention Day
Was September 10,
Help For Those In Need Is Everyday**

*There is no shame in seeking help.
If you are suffering, please reach out to get help.
800-273-8255 (TALK) or TALK to 741741*